

The Austin Township Board Meeting was called to order by Supervisor Kenneth Vredenburg at the Township Hall at 14132 Pierce Road, Stanwood, Michigan, 49346 on January 9, 2018.

Roll Call: Kenneth Vredenburg, Elizabeth G Carr, John Brockway, and Megan Giuliani-DT. Carolyn Towsley and Sandra Mayo were absent. There was one guest present.

Public Comment: Tom O'Neil-County Commissioner-Two more counties, Oceana and Lake, have joined our Morgue Authority. That brings the total counties to five: Mecosta, Newaygo, Montcalm, Oceana, and Lake.

Minutes: Moved by Kenneth Vredenburg, supported by John Brockway to accept the minutes with corrections: Sandra Mayo was absent, and #4 should read "the Xerox cannot do wireless fax." Motion carried.

Financial Report: The Township balanced at \$250,710.38. The Cemetery balanced at \$5,504.80. There is \$151.11 in the Property Tax Account. Accepted subject to audit.

Payment of the Bills: Moved by John Brockway, supported by Kenneth Vredenburg to pay the Township check #'s 9172-9184, 9205. Check # 9185 is voided. Check # 9205 is out-of-sequence because of Clerk's error. And to pay Cemetery check # 1600. Motion carried.

Unfinished Business:

1. Fire Department and First Responder Report: The next Fire Board Meeting is January 17, 2018 at 7 p.m. at the Fire Hall. The Joint Township Meeting is January 18, 2018 at Mecosta Township Hall at 7 p.m.
2. Assessor and Supervisor Report: The AMAR corrective plan has been sent. The State of Michigan foreclosed properties have been refused.
3. Treasurer Report: 86% of taxpayers have paid 93% of the Summer taxes. 43% of taxpayers have paid 29% of the Winter taxes. The "Past Due" Summer tax bills that were sent out are having a positive effect on taxpayers. About 25-30 people have responded and paid their delinquent summer tax bills.
4. Clerk's Report: Training will begin next month for the new voting systems. The Frontier account is closed. The new Xerox has been received and installed. The Verizon Internet was not working well today.
5. Road Commission: The Road Commission will provide the Township with estimates for the proposed gravel projects.
6. Joint Township Meeting: The Joint Township Meeting will be January 18, 2018 at the Mecosta Township Hall at 7:00 p.m. Mecosta and Austin Townships will be reviewing their Fire contract and discussing budget issues. Where should the boundary be for the 1st Responders? What is the status of the boat? Any updates on the Dragon Trail? Have they been able to replace the lost titles to the trucks?

New Business:

1. Equalization Printing: The County Equalization office has contracted out the mailing. The new rate will be .30.
2. Wages/Pension: We will discuss a possible pension increase next month.
3. Hall Maintenance: Moved by Kenneth Vredenburg, supported by John Brockway to spend up to \$500.00 out of Capital Outlay to get 20 new padded folding chairs for the Township Hall. Motion carried. We will get a couple of bids to redo the floors, replace some of the stained ceiling tiles,

fix the sink in the men's bathroom, and look for a cork strip to put up on a couple of the walls to prevent people randomly tacking things up anywhere.

4. Board of Review: Moved by Kenneth Vredenburg, supported by John Brockway to pay for one ticket to the MTA Board of Review Training with check #9186 for \$89.00, and to pay the penalty to the State of Michigan with check #9187 for \$141.23.

Kenneth Vredenburg-yes

John Brockway-yes

Elizabeth G Carr-yes

Adjourned at 9:17 p.m.

Elizabeth G Carr

Austin Township Clerk