

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 March 13, 2018 at 7:58 p.m.

Roll Call: Kenneth Vredenburg, Elizabeth G Carr, Carolyn Towsley, John Brockway, and Sandra Mayo. There were two guests present.

Public Comment: Tom O'Neil, County Commissioner-One of the counties, Osceola, has backed out of our Morgue Authority. This leaves us seven counties instead of eight participating in our Morgue.

Minutes: Moved by Sandra Mayo, supported by John Brockway, to accept the minutes with the correction to #2 Pension "salary increase for 2018-2019." Motion carried.

Financial Report: We received the Swampland Tax and Charter Communication checks. The Township General Account Balanced. The Taxes from the Property Tax Account balanced and were distributed on March 1st. The Cemetery Account only received interest and balances. There were six dog tags sold. Delinquent Taxes are \$4,565.01. Accepted subject to audit.

Payment of the bills: Moved by Sandra Mayo, supported by Carolyn Towsley to approve for payment check #'s 9203-9215, and to add check # 2016 Printing System's Inc for \$423.87 after the shipment of election supplies has arrived, and also check # 2017 to HomeWorks Tri-County Propane after the discrepancies on the invoice have been resolved. Motion carried.

Unfinished Business:

1. Assessor and Supervisor's Report: There was one petition at the Board of Review so far. Board of Review hours are 1-4 p.m. and 6-9 p.m. on Wednesday, March 14, 2018. Austin Township's taxable value is approximately \$59 million.
2. Treasurer's Report: There was \$565.00 in interest and penalties in the property taxes and \$44.00 in overages. 19 people used the credit card machine. 89% of the taxpayers paid 96% of the tax dollars for the summer taxes. 83% of the taxpayers paid 97% of the tax dollars for the winter taxes. 73 delinquent tax notices were sent. 44 taxpayers responded for a total of \$473.00 delinquent taxes collected. \$35.73 was spent on postage.
3. Clerk's Report: I have received the ballots for the Morley Stanwood School Election in May. I completed the training for the new QVF last month and have Election Update Class on March 27th. Marcee Purcell, the County Clerk, has various Election Inspector Training Days scheduled for the first week in May. FOIA Requests can be fulfilled by email. The Mecosta County Road Commission will have an informational meeting next month on April 26th. Four board members will attend. The QuickBooks in the Clerk's office will need to be updated this year. It was suggested by the Board that the Clerk explore other options through Intuit and see if there is a less expensive option.
4. Township Hall Floor: We will contract to have the floor refinished before the end of April if a congenial date can be found.
5. Roads: Moved by Sandra Mayo, supported by Carolyn Towsley for Kenn Vredenburg to write a letter to the County Road Commission expressing our desire to not see the stop signs removed on 8 Mile Road. Possible road projects include replacing a section of road on 140th Ave and a gravel project.
6. Cemetery: Cemetery Rake Day will be April 17, 2018 with a rain date of April 24th.
7. Fire Department and First Responders: Many pros and cons were discussed on our options with the proposed dissolution of the Mecosta Austin Fire Department. Moved by Carolyn Towsley, supported by Sandra Mayo to add the Austin Township Fire Agreement Proposal to the minutes

and to send a copy to Mecosta Township. Motion carried. John Boyd and Tom O'Neil will try to represent our views to the Mecosta Township Board. See below for the proposal.

“Austin Township Board would like to continue to work with Mecosta Township Board and the Mecosta Austin Fire/Rescue Department and would like to propose the following as a foundation to continue this community asset:

1. Revenue Plan: Each township to contribute .5 of a mill on a Taxable Value basis annually to support the annual Fire/Rescue Budget.

(Estimate of 2018 Taxable Value, Austin Township \$59 million, Mecosta Township \$114 million)

2. Fire/Rescue Board: Representation on a 7-member board, 4 Members from Mecosta Township and 3 members from Austin Township, at least one must be an elected township official from each Township.
3. Annually Vehicle Review: Trucks will be evaluated on an annual basis as to the need of repair and or replacement. Any capital improvement outside of the fire budget would be recommended back to each Township Board for approval.
4. 20 Year agreement with first option to exit at the end of 5 years, then with one year's notice, the agreement may be terminated.

These are some of our Ideas:

Look into feasibility of a hose tower for fire hall

Replace 6x6 with another tanker truck within 3 years

Replace grass rig within 3 years

The Austin Township Board”

Kenn Vredenburg _____

Elizabeth Carr _____

Carolyn Towsley _____

John Brockway _____

Sandy Mayo _____