

The Austin Township Board Meeting was called to order by Supervisor Kenneth Vredenburg at the Township Hall at 14132 Pierce Road, Stanwood, MI, 49346 on April 10, 2018 at 7:30 p.m.

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

Public Comment: Tom O'Neil, County Commissioner-The County Parks are going to be asking for a five-year millage. Projected improvement projects are: playground improvements, picnic area enhancements /canoe launch sites, beach/swim area improvements and play features, mobile stage, additional pavilions, building refurbishments and upgrades, grounds enhancements, trailheads, and watersport rental equipment. The Morgue has had to slow its schedule to hire a full-time coroner since Osceola County has pulled out of their agreement with the Mecosta County Morgue, but they are still on tract. There is a projected start date of 2019 on the Dragon Trail.

Minutes: Moved by Sandra Mayo, supported by John Brockway to approve all the minutes with the correction to the February 13, 2018 minutes. The February 13, 2018 minutes should read: New Business: #2. "Moved by Carolyn Towsley, supported by Sandy Mayo to adopt Resolution 2018-02 to raise the pension contribution from 22% to 25% instead of a salary increase, with the pension increase to begin on April 1, 2018. John Brockway - yes; Sandy Mayo – yes; Carolyn Towsley – yes; Kenneth Vredenburg – yes. Resolution approved." Motion carried.

Financial Report: \$4,565.01 was put into Accounts Receivable. Revenue Sharing was up 7% from last year. The Township, Tax Account, and Cemetery Accounts all balanced. There is \$150.12 in petty cash. All checks have cleared.

Payment of the Bills: Moved by John Brockway, supported by Sandra Mayo to approve for payment Township check #'s 9216-9249, and Cemetery check #'s 1603-1604. Motion carried.

Old Business:

1. Fire Dept. and First Resp. Report: Mecosta Township did not act on our 3-22-18 proposal. They offered a counter proposal of a 90-day extension to the agreement that ended on 03-31-18. Austin Township considered an injunction, but our attorney did not think an injunction against them was feasible. The cost of the injunction would have started at \$10,000.00 and gone up. We countered with a 180-day proposal. Mecosta Township signed the agreement to extend the agreement for up to 180 days, September 30, 2018. They have offered a tentative Fire Department Budget for our review of \$33,325.00. We are returning the Fire Department Budget with a few adjustments for \$32,232.86. We also are sending a proposed First Responder Budget of \$20,731.05. The Austin Township contribution payment would be paid in quarterly payments of \$7,500.00. Moved by Carolyn Towsley, supported by Sandra Mayo to submit a 6-month budget to Mecosta Township of \$37,232.86 for the Fire Department and \$20,731.05 for the First Responders.

Sandra Mayo-yes

John Brockway-yes

Carolyn Towsley-yes

Elizabeth G Carr-yes

Kenneth Vredenburg-yes

Moved by Carolyn Towsley, supported by Sandra Mayo for Austin Township to submit their check to the Fire Department quarterly of \$7,500.00 as per the agreement. Motion carried.

Kenn and Carolyn visited the Morton Township Meeting to continue to assess the possibilities of contracting with them for Fire coverage. Austin Township needs to move forward and have a

plan. Moved by Elizabeth G Carr, supported by Carolyn Towsley to spend up to \$5,000.00 to get an appraisal on the Fire Hall and property. Motion carried.

2. Assessor/Supervisor Report: Mecosta County will still print the tax bills at .37 instead of .50. Carolyn will contact them to see if they can get a better rate than the Township is getting at Ferris Printing. The Cemetery Board Meeting will be April 19th at the Fire Hall at 7:00 p.m. Rake Day will be April 17, 2018. The alternate Rake Day will be April 24th.
3. Treasurer's Report: Quite a few taxpayers paid their taxes with the credit device. Several combined summer and winter taxes were paid with the device also. The tax money will be invested in CD's this month. The interest for the Isabella Bank CD is going up to 1.95%. The Mercantile Bank CD is currently earning 1.75%. The new rate would be 1.85%.
4. Clerk's Report: About 70 AV Ballots were sent out. I've had about 30 AV Ballots returned. Aetna Township will be borrowing two of our Election Inspectors for the May School Election. The Mecosta Township Association Meeting will be April 30th here at the Austin Township Hall at 7 p.m.
5. Brining: Moved by John Brockway, supported by Sandra Mayo to contract with the Mecosta County Road Commission for an extra brining this year. With the initial free brining this will give us two brines this summer. The cost is \$100/mile. With 29 miles of gravel the cost will be \$2,900.00. Motion carried.
6. Roads: The County Road Commission will leave the stop sign up at the corner of 170th and 8 Mile Road. The Road Commission Meeting scheduled for April 26th will be rescheduled for the fall of 2018. We have not received the bid numbers yet for the wedge project on 140th Avenue and for gravel on 7 Mile Road. We estimate the cost will come in between \$40,000.00-\$60,000.00.
7. Floors: Maintenance should be done on the refinished floor. It is recommended that a top scrub and two coats of wax are applied every other year. This will prolong the stripping to an estimated 7 years.

New Business:

1. Ball Field: Moved by Kenneth Vredenburg, supported by John Brockway to contribute \$500.00 towards a matching grant that the American Legion Post 554 has applied for to redo the Knox-Helms Ball Fields. Motion carried.
2. Library: Austin Township will continue to contribute the same amount to the libraries: Walton Erickson Library-\$1,300.00 and Morton Township Library-\$700.00.
3. CenturyLink: Moved by Carolyn Towsley, supported by Sandra Mayo to renew the CenturyLink permit under the METRO Act for an additional five-year period May 12, 2018-May 12, 2023. Motion carried.

Adjourned at 9:55 p.m.

Elizabeth G Carr

Austin Township Clerk