

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 September 11, 2018 at 7:35 p.m.

Present were: Kenneth Vredenburg, Elizabeth G Carr, Carolyn Towsley, John Brockway, and Sandra Mayo. There was one guest present.

Public Comment: Tom O'Neil, County Commissioner-there was a slight delay in the road projects due to storm clean-up, but the Road Commission is back to work on the roads again.

Minutes: Moved by John Brockway, supported by Sandra Mayo to accept the minutes as presented. Motion carried.

Financial Report: The Township, Cemetery, and Tax accounts balanced. The Township received two Charter Franchise checks and a check for a land division. There was one lot sale for the Cemetery. No distribution checks have been written so far in September. There was a Land Bank sale. It was very complicated to record.

Payment of the Bills: Moved by Kenneth Vredenburg, supported by Carolyn Towsley to pay Township check #'s 9352-9371 and Cemetery check #'s 1616-1620. Motion carried.

Unfinished Business:

1. Assessor and Supervisor Report: The L4029 is completed. The Township tax rate is: 1.2453 mils. MTA on the Road will discuss Assessing Reform next month at their conference in Big Rapids. There were two land divisions. At the Zoning Board of Appeals Routleys will ask for a variance to separate the house from the business.
2. Treasurer Report: 62% of the tax payers have paid 71% of the taxes. There were three properties sold at the foreclosure sale. The Mecosta County Development Board and Ferris are working cooperatively to create a scholarship endowment.
3. Clerk's Report: There will be four Township Board Members going to the MTA on the Road Conference on October 30, 2018 in Big Rapids. The Make-A-Wish Foundation sent a thank you card for the use of the Township parking lot as a rest stop for their Wish-A-Mile Bicycle Tour. An Epson printer was purchased to be prepared for the FOIA Request for a copy of all the 2016 Presidential Ballots. The ballots are 9 ¼ X 19 inches and required a larger screen. The ballots for the November Midterm Election should be here by September 23rd.
4. Roads: The County Road Commission is hoping to have the gravel on 7 Mile done by next month. The second brining is finished, and we should receive the \$2,900.00 bill soon.

New Business:

1. Website Links: Unless it is a governmental utilities link, like 211, we will not be accepting links to our website.
2. FOIA: The Township received a FOIA Request near the end of August. The request asked for a copy of all the 2016 Presidential Ballots and any related material. Currently the Township has a \$10.00/hour cap on the reimbursement wages for time spent fulfilling the request. The State set a cap at \$12.50/hour. Does the Township want to amend their policy to match that? Tabled until October until we can draft a resolution.
3. Copying and Rate Policy: A policy will be decided next month to establish specific rates for copying.
4. Closed Session: Moved by Carolyn Towsley, supported by Sandra Mayo to go to a closed session at 8:40 p.m. to discuss the sale of the Mecosta Austin Township Fire Department with our legal

counsel. Moved by Carolyn Towsley, supported by Sandra Mayo to come out of the closed session at 9:15 p.m. Motion carried.

5. Fire Department and First Responder Report: Moved by John Brockway, supported by Sandra Mayo to approve an offer to Mecosta Township of \$470,000.00 based on material compiled by Austin Township and presented by the Austin Township attorney.

Sandra Mayo-yes

John Brockway-yes

Carolyn Towsley-yes

Elizabeth G Carr-yes

Kenneth Vredenburg-yes

6. Parking Lot: The Township will ask B & E for estimates to get rid of the grass and to seal it for 5 years.

Adjourned at 9:38 p.m.

Elizabeth G Carr

Austin Township Clerk