

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 December 11, 2018 at 7:37p.m.

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

Public Comment: Kenn Vredenburg asked Tom O'Neil why the Parks Administration is thinking of asking for another millage.

Minutes: Moved by Sandra Mayo, supported by Carolyn Towsley to accept the minutes with corrections. #3 Treasurer's Report should read: "The funds from the buy-out of the Mecosta Austin Fire Department will be invested in the CDARS program at Isabella Bank. Moved by Carolyn Towsley, supported by Sandra Mayo to create Resolution 2018-05 CDARS to expand our investment to the Isabella Bank CDARS program." Also New Business: #2 should read: "Moved by Carolyn Towsley, supported by Sandra Mayo to spend up to \$1,700.00 to replace the Clerk's laptop." Motion carried.

Financial Report: The Clerk's office and the Treasurer's office balance on the Township, Cemetery, and Property Tax Funds. We received an MML refund, Charter Communication check, and the next Revenue Sharing check from the State of Michigan this month. Accepted subject to audit.

Payment of the Bills: Moved by John Brockway, supported by Sandra Mayo to pay Township check #'s 9418-9436 and Cemetery check# 1624. Motion carried.

Unfinished Business:

1. Fire Department Report: The titles to all the truck are signed. Mecosta Township is asking that we pay part of the Surety Bond to get a title on the 2004 pumper. Mecosta Township sent a check for the Austin Township share of the MAFD and First Responder bank accounts. However, there was no itemization to support the amount of bills that were paid. We will be contacting our attorney for assistance in these matters. Austin Township is asking for a list of the Firefighters so that we can send them "Thank You" cards for their years of service to Austin Township.
2. Assessor and Supervisor Report: There was a Board of Review meeting on Tuesday, December 11, 2018 at 4 p.m. Chemical Bank called with an offer to return our investments to their bank.
3. Treasurer's Report: The Treasurer attended a webinar hosted by our website developers. They covered various topics. They do back-ups of our information weekly, monthly, and yearly. They also offer Data Management Solutions for software storage at a secondary site. Their Cloud Storage is \$3,500.00/year.
4. Clerk's Report: The new desktop, laptop, and two monitors are purchased and installed along with a five-year protection plan for next day service on the computers if necessary. The total cost was \$3078.31. Austin Township will contact Comprenew to find out what kind of old office equipment they can recycle. Equature and DSS also contacted us with offers of information about digital security and firewalls. Doug Wohlberg our auditor gave me a checklist on office security. I can make copies for anyone interested.
5. Telephones: The Treasurer talked at length with a representative from Verizon. They feel that the slow-downs we are experiencing is a result of our equipment and set-up. We can purchase a new router for \$200.00. We can keep our One Talk system. It would cost \$20.00-\$25.00/month. If we choose to stay with One Talk, we could purchase one cordless phone to share throughout the office. We can also switch our fax to a fax-to-email system. There would be a one-time set-up fee of \$150.00 for a 3-year plan. There are also other companies that offer the fax-to-email system.

Moved by Kenneth Vredenburg, supported by Sandra Mayo to switch our internet carrier to Casair. Motion carried.

6. Marijuana: Moved by Carolyn Towsley, supported by Sandra Mayo to adopt Ordinance 2018-01 to opt out of having a Retail Marijuana facility in Austin Township. Shall this Ordinance be adopted?

Carolyn Towsley-no

Sandra Mayo-no

John Brockway-no

Elizabeth G Carr-yes

Kenneth Vredenburg-no

Ordinance failed. It is suggested that the Mecosta County Township Association contact speakers to talk on this subject at their next meeting in January. Until the State of Michigan establishes their guidelines it is very difficult for townships to know the correct thing to do.

7. Foreclosed Property: Moved by Carolyn Towsley, supported by John Brockway that Austin Township hereby rejects any and all properties from the State of Michigan which were not sold at public auction. Motion carried.
8. AT&T: Moved by Carolyn Towsley, supported by John Brockway to extend the contract with AT&T for another 5 years to 2023. Motion carried.
9. BOR: Moved by Kenneth Vredenburg, supported by Carolyn Towsley to appoint Ron Jensen, Jim Hoisington, and Gloria Parker to the Austin Township Board of Review. The Township is still looking for someone to be an alternate. Motion carried.
10. Budget: The Budget needs to be adjusted per the decisions made at the former Board Meeting in October.
11. Uniform Chart of Accounts roll-out has been postponed until January 2020.
12. Roads: Possibly turn 140th south back into gravel. Consider repaving 175th from Angling Road to 12 Mile Road.

Adjourned at 9:38 p.m.

Elizabeth G Carr

Austin Township Clerk