

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 April 9, 2019 at 7:30 p.m.

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-I did some research on the gas tax money that was supposed to go to the County Road Commissions. The State of Michigan did make two payments to all the County Road Commissions in Michigan. Then the State of Michigan said that they'd paid out more than they were supposed to. They decided not to ask for refunds, but to reduce future payments. There will be a marijuana meeting April 10, 2019 at Mecosta Township Hall at 6 p.m.

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

Financial Report: The Township, Cemetery, and Tax accounts balance with the Clerk's office. There are two CD's that are up for renewal this month. Accepted subject to audit.

Payment of the Bills: Moved by Carolyn Towsley, supported by Sandra Mayo to pay the Township check #'s 9490-9518, and Cemetery check #'s 1629-1630. Motion carried.

Unfinished Business:

1. Fire Department Report: We have received our next quarterly billing from Morton Township for fire coverage. The Mecosta Township attorney informed us that we hadn't payed our share of the Federal withholding taxes. But we had received their report that everything was paid before we made our final settlement with Mecosta Township. Per our agreement, we are not responsible for any further expenses that were incurred by the Fire Department. Kenneth Vredenburg, the Austin Township Supervisor/Assessor, has filed the paperwork to bring a small claims court case against Mecosta Township for the remainder of the amount that is owed to Austin Township.
2. Assessor and Supervisor Report: There were three people at the Board of Review. There were no changes. Work has already begun on the 2020 Board of Review.
3. Treasurer's Report: The Township needs to review our cyber security practices. Several Townships have been hacked. There are Assessing procedures that the Township Board needs to review and become familiar with that would assist Kenn with the Assessing and the AMAR. The summer newsletter is started. Please submit any articles or revisions that need to be inserted in the newsletter.
4. Clerk's Report: "I am formally submitting my resignation as the Austin Township Clerk effective at the end of the pay period, April 21, 2019. It has been a great privilege to serve our citizens alongside you! It has been wonderful to work with such a group of dedicated officials. I wish you success in all of the future Township endeavors. Sincerely, Elizabeth G Carr, Austin Township Clerk." Moved by Carolyn Towsley, supported by Sandra Mayo to accept the Clerk's resignation. Motion carried. Lisa Lambert, the Deputy Clerk, has indicated her willingness to fill the Clerk's position until the next General Election. The Township will purchase an updated Clerk's Book for her and look for a QuickBooks Training Class. Lisa will get a background check.
5. Marijuana Ordinance: Our attorney, Eric Williams, responded to our questions that we would be responsible for enforcing our own ordinance. There is no potential legal liability in opting in or out with an ordinance. If the Austin Township opts out now, they always have the option to opt back in later should they choose to. Any assigned fines would be penal and would go to the

libraries. There will be a Marijuana Information Meeting tomorrow night, April 10, 2019 at 6 p.m. at the Mecosta Township Hall.

6. Roads: Projects to be considered:
 - 140th Road from 8 Mile south to Pierce Road: paving project. Will ask Mecosta County to match.
 - 170th Road from 6 Mile north to Pierce Road: gravel project.
 - 11 Mile Road from 130th east to 150th Road: gravel project.
 - 170th north of 9 Mile: graded, no gravel.
7. State of Michigan: We received a letter acknowledging that we are due a refund and saying that that if they don't receive other instruction, they will refund the amount due us after the next quarter. However, we have received one of those letters in the past and they have not refunded the money. We still will need to contact them to make sure that we get our refund. We also need to get the interest and penalty money back. That has already been paid.

New Business:

1. MTA Resolution: Moved by Sandra Mayo, supported by John Brockway to support the MTA Resolution 2019-03 "At a meeting of the Austin Township Board, the following resolution was offered by Sandra Mayo, Trustee and supported by John Brockway, Trustee: Be it resolved, that the township board is on record in 4 support, and 1 opposition to legislation that would allow township boards the option to have its elected offices appear as nonpartisan on the ballot. The reason(s) for the board's position is/are as follows: The Austin Township Board's are as follows: 'The Austin Township Board feels that if it was an option for individuals, then yes, it would be ok. But that this should not be a mandatory thing for everyone.'" Roll Call vote:
 - Supervisor Kenneth Vredenburg-yes
 - Clerk Elizabeth G Carr-no
 - Treasurer Carolyn Towsley-yes
 - Trustee John Brockway-yes
 - Trustee Sandra Mayo-yesThe motion was declared adopted.
2. Libraries: Moved by Carolyn Towsley, supported by Sandra Mayo to contribute \$1,300.00 to the Walton Erickson Library and \$700.00 to the Morton Township Library. Motion carried.
3. Picnic Tables: Moved by Carolyn Towsley, supported by Sandra Mayo to spend up to \$1,600.00 to replace our picnic tables. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

Elizabeth G Carr

Austin Township Clerk