

## Austin Township Board Meeting

October 11th, 2023

The Austin Township board meeting was called to order by Supervisor Kenneth Vredenburg at the Township Hall at 14132 Pierce Rd, Stanwood, MI 49346 at 7:32 p.m.

Board members present: Kenneth Vredenburg, Carolyn Towsley, Sandra Mayo and John Brockway. Billie Barnes was absent.

Guests Present: One guest present: Tom O'Neil.

7:35 p.m. Call to order - Pledge of allegiance

1. Public Comment
  - a. Tom said he had nothing to report this month.
2. Approval of minutes
  - a. Carolyn Towsley moved to approve the September 12th board meeting minutes, as presented. Supported by Sandra Mayo and John Brockway, motion carried.
3. Approval of Treasurer's Township and Cemetery Reports
  - a. General Fund and Cemetery Accounts balance
  - b. Income received from Revenue Sharing. Presented a chart showing where we are this year.
  - c. Distributed checks from property tax money. Chippewa Hills parcel payment was deducted in last distribution 612 parcels @ \$2.50/ea.
  - d. Subject to audit. Motion Carried.
4. Payment of Township and Cemetery Bills,
  - a. The Spectrum Printing bill was reviewed and discussed. Not sure it is a legitimate bill.
  - b. Carolyn Towsley moved to approve Township checks 10608 through 106617. Void check 10614, five direct deposits, cemetery check 1722, supported by Sandra Mayo. Motion carried.
5. Unfinished Business
  - a. Assessor's and Supervisors Report
    - i. Received a call from the Road Commission that they would be brining 140<sup>th</sup>. A later call back said that they would not be doing it now.
    - ii. Legends has sporting clay shooting, so they are going to the Planning Commission to get a special use permit in November. The township board has no objection.
  - b. Treasurer's Report
    - i. 85% of Taxpayers have paid 92% of taxes owed.
    - ii. A Winter Tax newsletter was presented. Proposed to have it printed by KCI, who prints our tax bills, on the backside of the bill. It will cost less than last year's winter bill. The board agreed with a new format and printing option.
  - c. Clerk's Report
    - i. Carolyn presented the Summit Hosting option that the auditor suggested. She talked to a Summit Hosting representative, reviewed a video that described how the program works, and looked up customer reviews. The paperwork also indicated that we need to acquire two QuickBooks licenses. Carolyn called and the salesperson said we already have hosting with our online version of QuickBooks and suggested some options to make it work better for us. After discussion, it didn't seem to be a good fit for us at this time.
    - ii. Read two paragraphs of the Elections Bureau letter. Determined that Billie will handle it.
6. New Business

- a. We need to look to see if or what road projects we may want to include in our budget next year. Suggestions:
  - i. 170<sup>th</sup> Pierce to 9 Mile
  - ii. 140<sup>th</sup> would cost about \$125K - \$150K. Look into splitting the cost 50/50 with the Amish.
  - iii. 12 Mile Road our township section and see if Colfax would want to do their section.
  - iv. 9 Mile Road Blacktop
- b. Look at salaries. Do we want to increase them, especially Elections? Need to decide by January.
- c. Reviewed the Budget vs Actual to date. Kenn moved to have \$40,000 from 925 Uncategorized Expense moved to 265-971. Carolyn supported.
  - i. Reviewed the Budget vs Actual to date. Kenn moved to have \$40,000 from 925 Uncategorized Expense moved to 265-971. Carolyn supported.
  - ii. Roll Call

Sandy - Yes

John - Yes

Carolyn - Yes

Kenn - Yes

- d. Looked at the Fire department budget and it looks good to finish this year.
- e. Road Brine – everyone was satisfied with the work Michigan Chloride Sales has done. Kenn will get a quote by December.
- f. Cemetery. Basically, have lots in the new section on the east side. 10% of them have in the last 4 years. When it is full, what will we want to do? Probably 10-15 years to decide, but we need to be looking for land that would work. Needs to be sandy, not a lot of trees, and 5 acres minimum. The cremation area has 4 plots left and there is room to expand it now.

sold

Meeting adjourned at 8:58 p.m.

Carolyn Towsley for Billie Jean Barnes

Austin Township Clerk