

**Morton Township Board of Trustees  
Minutes of Committee of the Whole Meeting  
Tuesday, March 5, 2019 @ 9:00 am  
290 West Main Street, Mecosta MI 49332**

**Call to Order** 9:00 am.

**Pledge of Allegiance**

**Roll Call:** Dick Wheeler, Maureen Wolfe, Yo Bellingar and Stephanie McNeal were present.

Jeff Ratledge was on speaker phone.

Five public citizens were present.

Member of the interview committee, Dennis Morawa were present. Allen Sutherby was on speaker phone.

**Public Comments:** None.

**Unfinished Business:**

**Building/Zoning Hiring Process – Recommendations for Moving Forward:**

Discussion regarding interviews took place. D. Morawa outlined characteristics of candidate(s).

Discussion also included hiring part-time vs. full-time and the benefits/drawbacks of both.

Recommendations were made to re-interview the full-time candidate and run the ad for the position again. Stephanie will reach out to Mecosta County Building Official for temporary permit reviews to cover while we are still searching for a candidate.

**New Website Update:**

Only a very few details are needed to finalize website information. The new website will be launched this week. Maureen shared the latest invoice for website work.

**Recreation Committee Update:**

Chair Joe Lissuzo submitted the Recreation Committee Board Report for 2019. Their projects include CSX Parcel clean up, developing CSX rail trail, bike trail segments, 40-acre trail in Morton Township Business Park, a grand opening in August or early September, grant development and the 2020-2021 trail segment.

**Recycling Grant and Expansion Update:**

The grant date has been extended to May 1, 2019 and the funds available have been significantly increased. Yo has been talking to Sara Archer (grant writer) regarding DEQ requirements for the DEQ grant.

**Strategic Plan:**

Stephanie distributed a copy of a Strategic Plan draft. She asked board of trustees to take a look at the draft and offer any suggestions.

**Lighting Update:**

Dick shared quotes for township lighting projects. Include lighting projects on next week's agenda.

**Reports:**

**Dick Wheeler, Supervisor:** All topics were covered in unfinished business.

**Maureen Wolfe, Treasurer:**

97% of winter taxes are collected.

Renewed a CD for \$101,000.

Submitted a new personnel manual with changes.

New server project will begin after the new website is up and running.

**Stephanie McNeal:**

Updated Morton Township Project Update submitted.

McNeal updated bidding status for recycling structure.

She also shared information she received from the Capitol Conference in Lansing last week.

**Jeff Ratledge:**

No Planning Commission this month. Next planning commission meeting March 19, 2019.

Jeff questioned whether we are following up with a better speaker system.

**Yo Bellingar:**

Today is the last day to register for the MTA Annual Conference at the early-bird rate.

**Fire Chief, Allen Sutherby:**

There are two pending FEMA Grant applications. He is working on another FEMA grant application.

Working on Fire Code Ordinance to present to the board of trustees. Working on bids for new wildfire gear (from previously awarded grant). The township's cost will be \$4800. It was a matching grant. Allen asked what is going to happen to the employees that are refusing to take a drug test? The Drug Policy was reviewed and the reasons for termination regarding drug testing were read aloud. The policy states that a refusal to test is a reason for termination.

**Joe Lanz, Fire Administrative Committee Chairperson:**

FEMA grants are for replacing 22 sets of breathing apparatus and a program for distributing free smoke detectors and carbon monoxide detectors. The department is making progress on objectives. The bid process for a rescue truck is taking a long time.

**Public Comment:** None.

Meeting adjourned at 11:00 am.

Respectfully Submitted,

Stephanie McNeal

Clerk