

**Morton Township Board of Trustees  
Committee of the Whole Meeting  
Tuesday, November 5, 2019 @ 9:00 am  
Morton Township Library, 110 James Street, Mecosta MI 49332**

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

**Pledge of Allegiance**

**Roll Call:** M. Wolfe, J. Ratledge, S. McNeal, D. Wheeler were present. Y. Bellingar was absent.

Four public citizens present.

**Public Comment:**

None.

**New Business:**

Policy Manual Update:

McNeal and Wolfe offered suggestions for policies to add to our township's policy manual. These suggestions include holiday decorations, employee orientation, travel expense limitations and grant writing. McNeal and Wolfe will work on a draft of policy language and present to the board of trustees to for discussion.

**Unfinished Business:**

- **ZBA, PC and Board of Review Appointment:**  
Wheeler presented a summary of current board members and proposed appointments for the Zoning Board of Appeals, Planning Commission, Board of Review and Construction Board of Appeals. A motion will put on next week's agenda to approve proposed appointments.
- **Station Two Roofing Proposal:**  
McNeal presented a roofing proposal for replacing shingles on Fire Station Two in Mecosta. The roofing project has been advertised for over a month and this is the first proposal we have received. A motion to accept this proposal will be placed on the regular board of trustees meeting next week.
- **Tom Sage Invoice:**  
After a short discussion, the board collectively decided to move forward with a letter to Tom Sage requesting \$752 that overpaid to him for work on the Long Lake Assessor's Plat.

**Reports:**

1. **Joe Lisuzzo, Recreation Committee Chair:**  
Bike lanes on Buchanan and 90<sup>th</sup> Avenue are in and we are waiting for markings and signage. Recreation Committee worked on the CSX Trail last Wednesday. They identified where the parking lot will go and cleaned up a lot of dead trees.  
A proposal to pave the CSX Trail was presented to the trustees.

- Grand opening for trail will take place next spring possibly in conjunction with the youth center.
2. Allen Sutherby, Fire Chief:  
49 total runs for October  
Notified that we did not receive either FEMA grant that we applied for.  
Counter offer on the rescue truck was not accepted. The \$15,000 bid had already been negotiated and the purchaser was not willing to go any higher. There will be an agenda item to approve the \$15,000 purchase price at next week's regular board of trustees meeting.  
Two Firefighter applicants are presented to the board of trustees for approval. There will be a motion on the agenda for November 12, 2019 to approve firefighter applicants Joe Edwards and Tim Visser.  
Sutherby is looking at other options for turnout gear.
  3. Joe Lanz, Fire Administrative Committee Chair:  
There was no meeting of the FAC in October. The next meeting of the FAC will be Tuesday, November 26, 2019 at 3:30 pm at Fire Station One.
  4. Dick Wheeler, Supervisor:  
The assessor's office has caught up on the long list of items that needed attention in the absence of an assessor. The new assessor is working out nicely so far.  
Mecosta County received a grant for \$200,000 from EGLE for tire clean up.  
The final inspection for the installation of the blinking light at the intersection of Buchanan and 100<sup>th</sup> Avenue was approved on October 28, 2019. We are now waiting on Consumers Energy to connect electricity to the light.
  5. Maureen Wolfe, Treasurer:  
94% of summer taxes have been collected to date.  
Youth Center will be given the remainder of their funds available from their millage.  
Service Master invoice increase \$180 for the year.  
Audit report is complete. We need to be sure that we are making budget adjustments before money is spent.  
Carpet cleaning of township hall should be scheduled.  
Replacing carpet in offices should also be scheduled. Possibly replace with vinyl planks.  
Special assessment for Blue Lake Dam will be assessed on the winter tax bills per the drain commissioner.  
Phone system – need voicemails from assessor's phone. Ann has a software that can do so and it should only take a couple of hours.
  6. Stephanie McNeal, Clerk:  
Mecosta County Development Corporation (MCDC) has submitted an invoice for payment. The board discussed what benefits we receive from the MCDC. Collectively the board does not feel that we receive many benefits.  
Reuther Music Pavilion invoice will be an agenda item for the next meeting.  
Township Focus cover article "Rethinking Your Board's Decision-Making" is an excellent article and recommended it to the other board members.

7. Jeff Ratledge, Trustee:

Real estate signs – the Planning Commission asked the board of trustees how we want them to handle the zoning ordinance for real estate signs in the road right of ways. The board supports the PC looking at the ordinance and deciding if changes need to be made.

Public Comment: None

Adjourn at 10:33 am.