

**MORTON TOWNSHIP**  
**Minutes of 143rd ANNUAL MEETING**

**JUNE 16, 2020, 7:00 PM**  
**Morton Township Hall**  
**290 W. Main St., Mecosta, MI 49332**

Call to Order Regular Meeting at 7:00 pm by Clerk Stephanie McNeal

Pledge of Allegiance

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

21 public citizens were in attendance

Motion to close Regular Meeting by Wolfe, second by Ratledge. 5 ayes, 0 nays Motion Carried

**ANNUAL MEETING**

Motion to open 143rd Annual Meeting Ratledge, second by Wolfe. 5 ayes, 0 nays Motion Carried

1. Motion to approve minutes of previous Annual Meeting on June 11, 2019 by Wolfe, second by Ratledge. 5 ayes, 0 nays Motion Carried
2. Motion to approve Regular Meeting dates for 2020/2021 by Bellingar, second by Ratledge. 5 ayes, 0 nays Motion Carried
3. Motion to approve the date of the next Annual Meeting on June 8, 2021 @ 7:00 pm by Wolfe, second by Wheeler. 5 ayes, 0 nays Motion Carried
4. Approve township official's salaries:  
 Motion to approve Supervisors Salary by Ratledge, second by Bellingar. Roll call vote: Ratledge, yes; Bellingar, yes; McNeal, yes; Wolfe, yes; Wheeler, yes. Motion Carried  
 Motion to approve Treasurers Salary by Wheeler, second by Bellingar. Roll call vote: Wheeler, yes; Bellingar, yes; McNeal, yes; Ratledge, yes; Wolfe, yes. Motion Carried  
 Motion to approve Clerks Salary by Ratledge, second by Bellingar. Roll call vote: Ratledge, yes; Bellingar, yes; Wheeler, yes; Wolfe, yes; McNeal, yes. Motion Carried  
 Motion to approve Trustees Salary by McNeal, second by Wolfe. Roll call vote: McNeal, yes; Wolfe, yes; Wheeler, yes; Ratledge, yes; Bellingar, yes.

**Public Comments:**

Brian Miller, candidate for Mecosta County Sheriff spoke to the group about who he is, his experience in law enforcement and what he hopes to accomplish as sheriff.

Motion to adjourn the 143rd Annual Meeting by Ratledge, second by Wolfe. 5 ayes, 0 nays. Motion Carried

**BUDGET HEARING**

Motion to open the Budget Hearing by Ratledge, second by Bellingar. 5 ayes, 0 nays.

Motion Carried.

Discuss Budget:

Treasurer presented a budget narrative summarizing development of the budget.

Public Comments:

James Taylor, candidate for Mecosta County Sheriff, spoke to the group about who he is, his experience in law enforcement and what he hopes to accomplish as sheriff.

Adjourn the Budget Hearing

Motion to close Budget Hearing by Ratledge, second by Wolfe. 5 ayes, 0 nays. Motion Carried

Morton Township Board of Trustees  
Regular Meeting June 16, 2020

Motion to re-open Regular Meeting by Ratledge, second by Wolfe. 5 ayes, 0 nays. Motion Carried

Consent Agenda:

Approve Agenda of today's meeting June 16, 2020, 7:00 PM

Approve Minutes of Regular Meeting Tuesday, May 12, 2020 @ 9:00 am

Approve Minutes of Special Meeting to Discuss Assessing Tuesday, May 18, 2020 @ 1:00 pm

Approve Minutes of Special Meeting to Discuss Assessing and Change Date of Annual Meeting Tuesday, May 26, 2020 @ 1:00 pm

Approve Minutes of the Committee of the Whole Minutes on June 2, 2020 @ 9:00 am

Approve Minutes of Special Meeting to Discuss COVID-19 Response and Preparedness Plan on June 5, 2020 @ 9:00 am

Approve Minutes of Special Meeting to Approve COVID-19 Response and Preparedness Plan on June 8, 2020 @ 3:00 pm

Motion to approve Consent Agenda by Wheeler, second by Bellinger. 5 ayes, 0 nays. Motion Carried

Submit Treasurer's Report

Fund Disbursements:

Payment of bills includes May 14, 2020, in the amount of thirteen thousand, six hundred nineteen dollars and eighty-eight cents (\$13,619.88); paid bills on June 1, 2020 in the amount of thirty-five, four hundred two dollars and eighty-two cents (\$35,402.82); and bills paid on June 9, 2020 in the amount of fourteen thousand, twenty-eight dollars and ninety-nine cents (\$14,028.99) for a grand total of sixty-three thousand, fifty-one dollars and sixty-nine cents (\$63,051.69).

Motion to approve fund disbursement by Wolfe, second by Bellinger.

Roll Call Vote: Wolfe, yes; Bellinger, yes; Ratledge, yes; Wheeler, yes; McNeal, yes. Motion Carried

Recognition of fire fighter/rescue personnel successful completion of EMT-B and MFR:

CJ Monsivais – Emergency Medical Technician-Basic (EMT-B)

Patrick Overzet – Emergency Medical Technician-Basic (EMT-B)

Ethan McNeal – Medical First Responder (MFR)

Reports:

1. Fire and Rescue Run Reports – Chief Sutherby reported that there were 53 runs for the month of May.
2. Planning Commission – Ratledge reported that there will be a Planning Commission meeting Wednesday, June 17, 2020 @ 6:30 pm.
3. Fire Administrative Committee – Joe Lanz, FAC Chairperson, reported that the FAC will be holding a meeting on Tuesday, June 23, 2020
4. Recycling – McNeal reported that the recycling center was closed for 2 months during the COVID. It has been reopened for six weeks and has been extremely busy.
5. Recreation Committee – Joe Lisuzzo, Rec Comm Chair, reported that the boundary pins on CSX property have not been located. There have two benches put in the Pine Grove Park and the trail at PGP will soon be mowed and treated for weeds.
6. River Park – Bellingar reported that community service workers will be working on the park clean up as soon as they are able.

Unfinished Business:

Mike Carey, Valley Court Special Assessment – Mr. Carey has turned in petitions supporting a special assessment for the Valley Court district. A special meeting will be scheduled with Carey, the township board and a representative from CLPOC to discuss funding and feasibility.

New Business:

Motion to accept Supervisor Wheeler's Resignation effective July 1, 2020 by McNeal, second by Bellingar. 5 ayes, 0 nays. Motion Carried

Motion to appoint Mark Klumpp as new Supervisor effective July 1, 2020 by Ratledge, second by Wheeler. 5 ayes, 0 nays. Motion Carried

Motion to approve Resolution (R-200616), Morton Township Budget Resolution by Wolfe, second by Ratledge. Roll call vote: Wolfe, yes; Ratledge, yes; Wheeler, yes; Bellingar, yes; McNeal, yes. Motion Carried

Motion to approve Resolution (R-200616-A), Resolution to Adjust Budget by Wolfe, second by Bellingar. Roll call vote: Wolfe, yes; Bellingar, yes; Wheeler, yes; Ratledge, yes; McNeal, yes. Motion Carried

Motion to approve Resolution (R-200616-B), Financial Institution Resolution by Wolfe, second by McNeal. Roll call vote: Wolfe, yes; McNeal, yes; Bellingar, yes; Wheeler, yes; Ratledge, yes.

Motion to approve L-4029 by Wolfe, second by McNeal. 5 ayes, 0 nays. Motion Carried

Correspondence: Wolfe shared an email from Mecosta Co Hazardous Waste asking for a donation.

Announcements: Diane Diehm announced that the Veteran's Memorial at School Section Lake dedication will be July 25, 2020 at 1:00 pm.

Public Comments:

Megan Erickson, Mecosta Osceola 911 Director, explained the millage request for an increase in 911 millage that will be on the ballot for the August 4, 2020 election.

Adjourn 8:05 pm.

NOTE: 1 Public Comments are encouraged. For the benefit of the Township Clerk taking the minutes and to conduct an orderly meeting with maximum participation, please stand to be recognized by the chair, speak to be heard, state your name, address and make your comments. The Public Comments-brief period is limited to three (3) minutes.

During Public Comments, the time limit is for one-time recognition of each person - transfer of time to another or accumulation of time because of group action is not permitted.

If the Township Board Members are questioned generally or specifically, the question will only be answered if a Board Member indicates their desire to answer by requesting recognition by the Chair.

Disruptive behavior, swearing, improper language, arguing, or discussion between attendees without proper recognition is prohibited.

NOTE: 2 MEETING AGENDA PARTICIPATION

If attendees or township property owners or residents desire to place an item on the Agenda, they must do so through a Township Board Member, for receipt by the Township Clerk or Board Secretary, by noon the last Friday of the month, before the first Tuesday Committee of the Whole Meeting. When items are included on the Agenda by non-Township Board Members, they will be given a reasonable time for presentation and questions of Board Members.