

**Morton Township
Minutes
Committee of the Whole Meeting
Tuesday, October 6, 2020 A@ 9:00 am
290 West Main Street, Mecosta MI 49332**

Call to Order 9:00 am

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

Nine public citizens were present.

Public Comment:

Ann Wrobel – On ballot for village president in November. One of her goals is to have a better working relationship with the township. She has 100% business support from the village.

New Business:

Insurance Renewal – Kenn Lind, EMC Insurance Company:

EMC Insurance Company defends its' insured if the insured is sued for COVID-related issues.

EMC uses the phrase "designated value" rather than "replacement cost" for vehicles.

Ken went over possible changes to existing policy including monuments, fire/rescue trucks, township hall, fire station one and accident policy.

Anavon – Phone Quote: Stephanie shared quote and board of trustees wants to take another month to look at options.

Fire Station Floor Maintenance: FAC will look at replacing floor at Fire Station One.

New Flowerpot for Library: Library wants another flowerpot. They are willing to pay for it.

Mecosta County Economic Development Corporation: MCDC is requesting \$500 for annual dues. Will be on agenda for October 13, 2020 Board of Trustees meeting.

Township Policy Manual: Mark Klumpp distributed a packet highlighting items from Section 8 in Morton Township's Policy Manual that he would like the board to address. A meeting to discuss Section 8 of Morton Township's Policy Manual is scheduled for Tuesday, October 13, 2020 at 3:00 pm.

New Township Computers: Request to purchase a two desktop-computers for office staff and one laptop computer for use by clerk and for meetings/presentations at township hall. Will make an agenda item for next week's meeting.

Unfinished Business:

Gypsy Moths: Dave Lewis, Tri-Lakes President distributed information showing counts of Gypsy Moth infestations in the Tri-Lakes area. Mr. Lewis is requesting the township order a survey. Mark Klumpp shared that the township recognizes that there is an issue. The township reached out to the Mecosta County Commissioners and asked them to take the lead on the issue. They declined. A meeting is set up on Tuesday, October 20th at noon with Rick Lucas, Mecosta Conservation, at Morton Township to discuss the Gypsy Moth issue. Approving \$12,000 for a survey of Gypsy Moth infestations in Morton Township will be on the meeting agenda on October 13, 2020.

Special Assessment Valley Court: Clerk will handle organizing meeting with the help of Mike Carey for Tuesday, October 20, 2020 at 6:00 pm.

Building Official/Zoning Administrator Position: Mark Klumpp shared the information he has collected in researching potential replacements for Morton Township's Building Official/Zoning Administrator position.

Inter local Agreement – Designated Assessor: County Clerk sent the proposed Mecosta County Interlocal Agreement for County Designated Assessor. The agreement needs to be approved by all townships and signed by all township supervisors. Will be an agenda item for next week’s meeting.

Reports:

1. Joe Lisuzzo, Recreation Committee: No report.
2. Allen Sutherby, Fire Chief: Looking at auction sites and has found a mobile flash over training trailer. Auction ends in six days. Would consider going up to \$15,000 to \$20,000 with some issues addressed. Would have to be delivered with a semi-trailer. Would enhance our training immeasurably by providing more opportunities for simulated situations.
3. Joe Lanz, Fire Administrative Committee: FAC did not meet in September. Will have a meeting in October. All approved items from BOT meeting in September were ordered. Ladder truck needs new tires for DOT inspection. Tires currently on the truck are originals (12-13 years old).
4. Mark Klumpp, Supervisor: Klumpp received a call and email from Speedwrench for compactor repairs. \$585 to repair hinges. Flag poles will be installed next week. Shrubs were removed from area by generator/air conditioner at township hall. No word back from disgruntled taxpayer regarding delinquent taxes.
5. Maureen Wolfe, Treasurer: Tax collection 93% on summer taxes. Two CDs that came up for renewal in August. Rates are lower than normal. Township audit was very good. What is standing on FEMA grant? We haven’t received a denial letter yet. If you bring in state or federal money over a certain amount, an audit will be required for the monies received. Some online classes are available through MTA. MTA off-the-road is available online.
6. Stephanie McNeal, Clerk: Need a new Michigan flag at Fire Station One. 38% of ballots are returned. Do we want a swearing-in ceremony for elected officials? November 20, 2020 at noon.
7. Jeff Ratledge, Trustee: Dennis Morawa voted in at Chairperson of the Planning Commission and Steve Brandt was voted in as Vice-Chairperson. Mark Klumpp will look at appointing an alternate to the Planning Commission as welling as changing the use of the word alternate to something else. Recommendations for appointment of “alternate” will be submitted to Mark by the end of the day on the 12th. Jeff submitted drawings for using potentially using the recycle area for Spring Clean Up. He has requested estimates for changing the area to accommodate Spring Clean Up.
8. Yo Bellingar, Trustee: ZBA Meeting on Wednesday, October 14th @ 6:00 pm. Need to start thinking about covering up signs at the River Park.

Public Comments:

Dave Lewis – would we consider use of township hall for Tri-Lakes Board Meetings? Yes.

Janet Perrin asked a follow-up question about ordering a second tabulator for an additional AV precinct. The tabulator will not be available before November 3, 2020.

Motion to adjourn by J. Ratledge, second by Y. Bellingar. 5 ayes, 0 nays. Motion Carried