

**Minutes**  
**Morton Township Board of Trustees Regular Meeting**  
**October 13, 2020 @ 7:00 pm**  
**Morton Township Hall, 290 Man Street, Mecosta MI 49332**

**Call to Order** 7:00 pm

**Pledge of Allegiance**

**Roll Call:** Maureen Wolfe, Mark Klumpp, Yo Bellingar, Jeff Ratledge, Stephanie McNeal were all present. 12 public citizens were present.

**Public Comment:** None.

**Motion to approve agenda by M. Wolfe, second by Y. Bellingar. 5 ayes, 0 nays. Motion Carried**  
**Motion approve consent agenda by Y. Bellingar, second by J. Ratledge with change on September 8, 2020 meeting minutes changing motion under Planning Commission report from 12-31-2020 to 12-31-2022 for appointment of Steve Brandt. 5 ayes, 0 nays. Motion Carried**

Treasurer's Report submitted by M. Wolfe.

**Fund Disbursement:**

**Motion to approve funds dispersed on September 17, 2020 for the amount of eleven thousand, eight hundred eighty-eight dollars and sixty-three cents (\$11,888.63); September 29, 2020 for the amount of twenty-seven thousand, five hundred fifty-eight dollars and twenty-one cents (\$27,558.21) and October 8, 2020 for the amount of thirty-eight thousand, five hundred thirty-four dollars and eighty-three cents (\$38,534.83) for a grand total of seventy-seven thousand, nine hundred eighty-one dollars and sixty-seven cents (\$77,981.67) by M. Wolfe, second by J. Ratledge. Roll call vote: Wolfe, yes; Ratledge, yes; Bellingar, yes; McNeal, yes; Klumpp, yes. Motion Carried**

Reports:

1. Fire/Rescue, Chief Allen Sutherby: 46 calls for September. Ended quarter for Austin Twp contract services. Invoice was submitted to Austin Twp for \$5000.
2. Fire Administration Committee, Chairperson Joe Lanz:  
**Motion to approve purchase of new Michelin tires from DP Tire for ladder truck by M. Klumpp, second by S. McNeal. Discussion included: We looked at Hankook and Michelin quotes from three vendors. For an additional \$1744.86 we can purchase Michelin Tires rather than the Hankook. Roll call vote: Klumpp, yes; McNeal, yes; Wolfe, yes; Wolfe, yes; Ratledge, yes; Bellingar, yes. Motion Carried**  
Motion to approve purchase of Fire Flash Mobile Training Unit. No motion.
3. Planning Commission, Jeff Ratledge:  
Dennis Morawa was appointed Chairperson of the PC. Steve Brandt was appointed Vice Chair. Next meeting is Wednesday, October 21, 2020.
4. Recreation Committee, Chair Joe Lisuzzo:  
Requesting \$25,000 to place one mile of 8' wide by 3-5" deep of limestone for hard surface trail at CSX trail. Lisuzzo submitted supporting cost documents.  
**Motion to approve up to \$25,000 to install limestone hard surface to complete CSX Trail by S. McNeal, second by Y. Bellingar.**  
**Discussion included acknowledgement of the recreations committee's hard work in developing of the CSX Trail. Roll call vote: McNeal, yes; Bellingar, yes; Klumpp, yes; Ratledge, yes; Wolfe, yes. Motion Carried**

**New Business:** None.

**Unfinished Business:**

- 1. Motion to approve \$500 payment to Mecosta County Economic Development Corporation by J. Ratledge, second by Y. Bellingar.**  
Discussion included what benefits does Morton Township receive from the MCDC and how effective is the MCDC in marketing economic development in Morton Township.  
Roll call vote: Klumpp, no; Ratledge, no; Bellingar, yes; Wolfe, no; McNeal, no. Motion Failed.
- 2. Motion to approve up to \$12,000 for survey of Gypsy Moth infestation in Morton Township by S. McNeal, second by J. Ratledge.**  
Discussion included how great the infestation is in our township.  
Roll call vote: McNeal, yes; Ratledge, yes; Wolfe, yes; Klumpp, yes; Bellingar, yes. Motion Carried.
- 3. Motion to approve the purchase of two Dell desktop computers for Deputy Treasurer and Secretary, and one laptop computer to be used for Zoom meetings, etc. for township office staff not to exceed \$3500 by M. Wolfe, second by M. Klumpp.**  
Discussion included age of current computers.  
Roll call vote: Wolfe, yes; Klumpp, yes; Bellingar, yes; McNeal, yes; Ratledge, yes. Motion Carried.
- 4. Motion to approve Interlocal Agreement for Designated Assessor for Mecosta County by M. Wolfe, second by Y. Bellingar.**  
Discussion included purpose of Agreement and how it would be used if necessary. \$1000 per year divided equally between all entities involved.  
Roll call vote: Wolfe, yes; Bellingar, yes; McNeal, yes; Ratledge, yes; Klumpp, yes. Motion Carried.

**Correspondence:**

Ratledge shared letter from Dave Speaker, Reuther Music Series asking for support for next year's concert series.

**Announcements:**

Klumpp reported that our Building Official/Zoning Administrator resigned effective Friday, October 16, 2020. Morton Township is actively seeking a replacement and will have Mecosta County cover our permits until a replacement is found.

Big Rapids Fire Department lost a fire fighter yesterday. Our department will be participating in the funeral procession and will display colors from the ladder truck.

McNeal announced that almost 2000 absentee ballots have been sent out so far for the November 3, 2020 election and 62% have been returned. In a 10-day period 121 people registered to vote.

Election Commission tested election equipment today.

Public Comments:

Larry Bunker questioned the designated Assessor Agreement and purpose for it.

Art Diehm mentioned he placed trail cameras on the 40 acres to see if there is activity and use of the trail. There is a significant amount of activity.

Dave Lewis thanked the board for their support in resolving the gypsy moth problem.

Jim Diehm thanked the board for their support of the CSX Trail development.

Maureen Wolfe thanked our deputy clerk for her hard work during this election season.

**Meeting adjourned** at 7:45 pm

Respectfully Submitted,

Stephanie McNeal, Clerk