

**Approved Minutes**  
**MORTON TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING**  
**Tuesday, August 3, 2021 9:00 AM**  
**Morton Township Hall, 290 West Main Street, Mecosta MI 49332**

**Call to Order/Pledge at 9:03 am**

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

Allen Sutherby, Joe Lanz, Wanda Ratledge, Linda Howard, Annette Kirk, Gene Sperry, Art Diehm, Ann McFeggan and Joe Lissuzo were also present. (9)

**Public Comments:**

Linda Howard reported that the Village of Mecosta is moving forward with looking into allowing Marijuana dispensaries in the village. She noted her opposition to allowing the dispensaries.

Annette Kirk commented that she supports Linda's comments regarding the dispensaries being allowed in the village.

**New Business:**

Ann McFeggan – Guest network issues, the installation of a new Firewall and VPN service that would allow better access to our system for those working remotely:

We need a firewall and a new guest office network. Ann distributed diagrams showing what she proposes for upgrading our IT. Motion on next week's agenda to approve upgrades to township's IT system.

**Unfinished Business:**

Recycle Building: Forklift maintenance agreement has been made. Overhead doors are installed. Getting quotes on signs. Stephanie will do a walk through with JBS to look at construction. Gravel will be installed by August 14<sup>th</sup>.

Gypsy Moth Tri-Lakes SAD: Public Hearing Notice will be published in The Pioneer by Friday, August 6, 2021. Letters to property owners will be mailed by Friday as well.

**Reports:**

1. Joe Lisuzzo, Recreation Committee: The CSX Trail is 98% finished. Need signage. Jim Diehm, Art Diehm and Gene Sperry have worked very hard to get the trail completed. Met with Tim Nestle last week. Most logical and least expensive route is down Pierce Road to move trails towards Stanwood (White Pine Trail). There are 3 ½ miles that falls into Morton Township and 6 ½ miles in Austin Township to connect to the White Pine Trail. Road commission is looking at adding the shoulder on in 2 years. Next Rec Comm meeting is in two weeks. Road commission is currently working on 14 Mile Road in Martiny Township so there will be another 2 miles of connecting bike trails. MDOT will stripe the crossing at 90<sup>th</sup> Avenue and M20 with signage to indicate that there is a trail crossing. MDOT/Road Comm reps will let us know what is needed from us to accomplish. Rec Comm needs to determine names of trails for signage and grant opportunities. Our Rec Comm will participate in Trash Bash on Little Muskegon Tuesday, August 10<sup>th</sup> at 10 am.

2. Allen Sutherby, Fire Chief: July was extremely busy. Emailed maintenance issues to board of trustees. Pump assembly on Engine One needs replaced. Rescue Two needs to be replaced. Looking at options for replacement of Grass Rig.
3. Joe Lanz, Fire Administrative Committee: FAC met last Tuesday. Several motions are proposed for next week's Board of Trustees meeting. 17 lengths of hose, replace of lost tools from Blue Lake fire, additional hand tools for consideration, and several medical equipment purchases. Many medical equipment purchases are related to purchases of new state-of-the-art equipment that has been purchased.
4. Mark Klumpp, Supervisor: Not in attendance.
5. Maureen Wolfe, Treasurer: Questioned when Blue Lake Tavern will be cleaned up. Need to add a conflict-of-interest policy to our policy manual. Audit will be the week of September 27, 2021. According to policy manual, the office will be closed December 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> this year. Christmas falls on a Saturday. Some budget adjustments need to be done. Diane is getting bids on carpet cleaning.
6. Stephanie McNeal, Clerk: Annual Clean Up Day organization items, township logo needs to be digitized and employee recognition at next week's board of trustees meeting.
7. Jeff Ratledge, Trustee: Next Planning Commission meeting is August 18, 2021, at 6:30 pm. Public Hearing to discuss proposed ordinances. Defining sign ordinance, fireworks (possible), small sheds, and defining setbacks.
8. Yo Bellingar, Trustee: ZBA meeting scheduled for August 23, 2021, at 6:00 pm. Park looks good.

**Public Comments:**

Linda Howard commented that Stephanie and the Remus Historical Society have been working together on Morton Township Cemetery. Need a meeting date. Remus Museum is working with Ferris State University on digitizing local history. Morton Township and the Morton Township Library have a large number of photos that should be digitized.

**Adjourn at 10:52 am.**

Respectfully Submitted,

Stephanie McNeal, Clerk