

FREEMAN TOWNSHIP BOARD CLARE COUNTY, MICHIGAN

At a meeting of the Freeman Township Board of Clare County, Michigan, held at 7280 Mannsiding Road, Lake, Michigan on

Regular Meeting, Thursday, the 9th of January, 2020

Present Board Members: Supervisor Housler, Clerk Lightfoot, Treasurer Lackie, Trustees Barnett & Sable.

TIME: 7:00 p.m. Call to Order and Pledge to the Flag

Roll Call was taken with all members present, along with 9 citizens.

A motion was made by Trustee Sable, seconded by Trustee Barnett to approve the regular board meeting minutes from December 12, 2019. Ayes 5, Nays 0.

GUEST SPEAKERS

Lori Martin, Clare County Clerk & Register of Deeds, was present to give her update on County business. The March 10th ballot is ready. By law you must select a Republican, Democratic, or Proposal only ballot. There are two proposals on the ballot: Mid-Michigan College is asking for .62 mills for 10 years and Transit is asking for .2 mills. The Register of Deeds has their new software and it is in motion. You can now access land records online for \$6.95 and print a copy for \$1.00. It has the highest security level on it. Collections for 2019 for Restitution (money to those who were offended)...In 2017 it was \$49,000 and in 2019 it was \$122,000, so we are getting more money back to the people.

Dale Majewski, Clare County Commissioner, was present to give his update on County business. Highlights included: They had the 2nd Public Hearing concerning the Road Commission. Most people want a 5 member board. They are still moving forward with this. There was a public hearing on updating the 911 plan. Sheriff's Department-backfill a non-union deputy recruit thru existing funds. Restore Emergency Management Director to Full Time (reversed from part-time). Read and understand the upcoming mileages!

Sheriff Wilson was present to give us the statistics and breakdown on incidents in Freeman Township for 2019. We had 872 runs for 2019 and are toward the bottom of the list. Traffic stops (145) and crashes (58) are our highest numbers mainly due to M-115. Also, ambulance/rescue runs – 165. Now that marijuana is legal, more meth is coming in from Mexico. We have one new dispatcher. (Other dispatchers were working 100 hours in 2 weeks due to overtime.) County is receiving an increase on rental for Federal inmates.

Supervisor Housler expressed his appreciation to the Department for the 4 times deputies came to our meetings. They did a fabulous job and represented the Department well.

TREASURERS REPORT

A motion was made by Trustee Barnett, seconded by Trustee Sable to approve check numbers 15355-15371. Ayes 5, Nays 0.

SUPERVISOR'S COMMENTS

Supervisor Housler discussed adjustments to Special Assessment Tax Roll deleting vacant and non-habitable properties. He noted the Township is considered the District. Vacant and non-habitable properties are not assessed. After the computer generated the list, we've come across properties that had assets but not a habitable property. The following 4 need to be removed from the list.

Raymond Beach – 7620 Monroe
William/Diane Morris – 10874 Ashard
Harry/Sheila McDowell – 548 S. Cook Avenue
Gerald Prater – 6755 Mannsiding Road

Motion made by Treasurer Lackie, seconded by Trustee Sable to remove the 4 above listed properties from the Special Assessment Tax Roll. Ayes 5 (Housler, Lackie, Barnett, Sable, Lightfoot), Nays 0.

Supervisor Housler spoke about the litigation against the Township in regards to curbside pickup. We have been notified by our attorney that as of today, the Plaintiff's (Veronica Bohannon/William Batz/"Friends of Freeman Township") have withdrawn their lawsuit. Within the end of the week it should be filed with the Court and approved.

Supervisor Housler spoke on the recycle bin we had at the Township hall for about a week till full. We have been diligently calling Waste Management and Northern Oaks trying to get the free recycle bin set up, but we can't get anyone to return our phone calls. We will stay on top of this until it is answered. Supervisor Housler asked the board whether we want to continue with the American recycle bin (which costs us) until we can get it settled with Waste Management...the consensus was yes.

Supervisor Housler talked about the cemetery property that has been cleared. The property behind the hall and to the side of the current cemetery has been cleared and we received money for the trees that were taken out. We will use the money received for the stump removal and grading. We have received a request from a citizen to take the wood that is there. Our attorney recommended having a waiver signed in case someone gets hurt. If the Board is agreeable, we can open this up to any Township resident. (**PLEASE NOTE:** The 8' logs that are on the property will be taken out by the Logger and should **NOT** be taken by residents!)

Motion by Supervisor Housler, seconded by Trustee Sable, to allow Freeman Township residents access to the wood on the expanded cemetery property, SUBJECT TO receipt of a signed waiver. Anyone taking without signing the waiver will be considered trespassing. Ayes 5, Nays 0.

Supervisor Housler also discussed what direction we want to go....in back of the current cemetery or to the side (Westerly). Clerk Lightfoot noted that going West leaves the area open for traveling around the curve, plus the logger already made a driveway, plus we can continue

fencing. Supervisor Housler noted that we are eventually going to need money for improvements, engineering, etc. We may need to start putting money away now.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Planning – John Phillips: Absent
Building – Werner Mantei: Absent

Zoning & Blight – Harold Logan: Zoning Permits – 0, but received several calls. 2801 Grass Lake – the stockade fence has been removed-trailer has license. Monitoring 9 blight areas and several will be removed once another inspection is done.

COMMENTS/CONCERNS FROM CITIZENS

Dorothy Burdo asked if we could use money from the dump for the cemetery. Supervisor Housler said no and Clerk Lightfoot noted that with governments we have to abide by Governmental Fund Accounting procedures which doesn't allow us to use funds from another area. Supervisor Housler noted in some circumstances you can borrow from one fund to another, but it has to be paid back.

Bob Eckardt noted that there have been positive comments at Lake of the Pines for the recycling.

Adjourn: Motion by Trustee Barnett, seconded by Trustee Sable to adjourn the regular meeting.
TIME: 7:50 p.m.

Alan Housler, Supervisor

Julie Lightfoot, Township Clerk