

**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 10th of January, 2019

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 13 citizens.

A motion was made by Trustee Sable, seconded by Treasurer Lackie to approve the regular board meeting minutes from December 13, 2018. Ayes 5, Nays 0.

GUEST SPEAKERS

Dale Majewski, Clare County Commissioner, was present to give his update on County business. Highlights included: Health Department presentation on syringe service and MSU Extension Youth Program; Appointment to Soldier Relief Committee; working on Budget.

Lori Martin, Clare County Clerk/Register of Deeds. Highlights included: She plans on reaching out to senior citizens that can't get to the office. She'll hit the 3 meal sites and answer any questions they may have. A Jury Board Member passed away thus making a vacancy. If anyone is interested, contact her. The term ends 2021; pays \$25 per ½ day. Also talked about Circuit Court collections and starting text messaging service to let them know when payments are due; lots of people just say they forget, so this will help bring in more revenue; cost is \$500/year and split with Gladwin County. Concealed pistol licenses can now be purchased online if renewing your license. Looks like we will probably have a May election for either schools or Transit or both; Deadline is early February.

TREASURERS REPORT

A motion was made by Trustee Barnett, seconded by Trustee Sable to approve check numbers 15137-15155. Ayes 5, Nays 0.

SUPERVISOR'S COMMENTS

Supervisor Housler discussed issues at Transfer Site during extreme hot weather. Noted it is tough on workers and we need to set up a system to alter business during this hot weather. Since last board meeting, 3 individuals have volunteered to help. We could get more if we post on website. We have received several different suggestions to help with this problem and will discuss again next Board Meeting.

Some of the problems we have at the Transfer Station is people going over the 6 bag limit and or bags that are over 50 pounds. Another issue we're having in the summertime especially is the recycle bin getting full in one day or day and ½. He plans on calling American Waste to set up a meeting to get prices for extra recycle bin or even 2 compactors.

Supervisor Housler wanted to address the Board about a recent email we received from a citizen regarding our generator purchase. We have received emails from him in the past; some with good suggestions and some in left field. We didn't want to make public, but feel at this time it is necessary. He asked the Clerk to read the email and put it as part of the minutes.

info@freemantwp.org

From: Roger Diederich <roger8151@msn.com> Sent: Tuesday, December 25, 2018 12:58 PM
To: Julie Lightfoot, Township Clerk Subject: Generator system ??.

Things to ponder ??? If a power outage was to occur in Freeman Twp which is quite likely being a red dot designated area, what would be the best response. Have a Township hall that had a full high cost generator system in a building with a small bathroom no shower or tub and no kitchen no beds or TV and a room full of straight back chairs. Is this the place for a prolonged stay in winter or summer for residents to wait it out. Would not the first place a resident consider as a offsite shelter be a neighbors home or extended stay in Clare at a hotel ?? It does seem that a system purchased for possibly a thousand dollars or more over other quality Co quotes is a bad choice to begin with and without a extended 7 year warranty they will offer. It does seem thou that this purchase would be a comfortable addition for the few part time employees that use the building most of the time ??? So they real honest question is without out a (resident survey) who would be the real beneficiaries??? Apparently we have a extra \$ 8500 or more for this than other more universal needed items in this TWP like ordinance enforcement for one ??

Please forward on to Lori, Please.

Cheers
RGD.

Supervisor Housler made the following comments:

There seems to be some political person here and asking us to forward to this person who has run in the past. He feels this email attacks the Board as a whole. This email is in error and we should not be attacked and used against us in future elections.

Supervisor Housler also commented that the bids were taken according to the law. The money for the purchase is out of the Maintenance Fund which was set aside years ago. It is not coming out of the General Fund millage money. We have been trying for 4 years to get grants for the generator and our requests were denied. We have an agreement with the Red Cross for lodging for the Emergency Center. Lincoln Township has the same and has used it in the past. We haven't activated ours because we did not have our power issue taken care of yet. We do have a TV that is mounted on the back wall of the Township Hall and it was purchased for the Emergency Center use. We do have bathrooms, although no showers. We do have a range, microwave and refrigerator. If there was an emergency, would your friend have power or would hotel rooms be available. We do have a 7 year warranty that is written into the contract. There was a hint that this generator was purchased for our own comfort. He takes offense to this statement and sees it as an insult to the Board. Additionally, we had

power outages that were very close to Election Day and it was discussed with the Clerk what would happen if we had a power outage on that day.

This conversation is directed directly to the Board only.

Supervisor Housler gave an update on the Generator, noting that the company's employees were away on training and that he would talk with them again on Monday to find out the latest date for installation.

Supervisor Housler also noted that our survey has been completed and we would like to get going on removal of the trees to prepare for the extension of the cemetery. If anyone knows a company that will remove trees and give us payment for them, please contact one of the board members. This is a great time to have the trees removed as it is less damage to the ground from the large trucks.

CLERKS COMMENTS

Clerk Lightfoot noted that the Board has been receiving comments about the condition of the roads in Freeman Township. Though we can take these calls, it would be better if each individual called the Road Commission and stated their complaint. Four phone calls about a problem on a road versus one phone call from us may get more attention. The Road Commission's phone number is 989-539-2151.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

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

Zoning & Blight – Harold Logan: Mr. Logan noted that he received 1 zoning permit this month, along with several requests. He is currently monitoring 8 blight properties. The Cedar Road property is almost cleaned up. He has one citation set to go to court on January 28, 2019 concerning 3 vehicles that have not been moved for over a year.

COMMENTS/CONCERNS FROM CITIZENS

Roger Bogenschutz noted he used to take recyclables to Waste Management where they had bins for plastic, cardboard and glass. Can we put all of these items in our recycle bin? How do they dispose of them? Supervisor Housler noted they have a regional sorting facility in Traverse City. He plans on visiting it to see how this sorting is done and invited Mr. Bogenschutz to join him when he goes. Supervisor Housler also noted again that our recycle bin is fitting up in a day to day and ½. People are not breaking down boxes and/or putting trash bags full of papers, etc in the bin which takes up a lot of space. Do we need someone to monitor this? Also we're looking into possibly getting a 2nd compactor, although everything has a cost to it.

Adjourn: Motion by Trustee Sable, seconded by Treasurer Lackie to adjourn the regular meeting. **TIME: 7:43 p.m.**

Alan Housler, Supervisor

Julie Lightfoot, Township Clerk