

**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 11th of April, 2019

Present Board Members: Supervisor Housler, Treasurer Lackie, Clerk Lightfoot, 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 12 citizens.

A motion was made by Trustee Sable, seconded by Supervisor Housler to approve the regular board meeting minutes from March 14th, 2019. Ayes 5 Nays 0.

A motion was made by Trustee Barnett, seconded by Trustee Sable approve the special board meeting minutes from March 28th, 2019. Ayes 5 Nays 0.

A motion was made by Trustee Sable, seconded by Treasurer Lackie approve the special board meeting minutes from April 1st, 2019. Ayes 5 Nays 0.

GUEST SPEAKERS

Dale Majewski, Clare County Commissioner, was present to give his update on County business. Highlights included: Approved Central Dispatch to purchase an updated phone system (includes 911). The last update was 15 years ago. Reappointment of Terry Acton to Airport Board. Approved Resolution 19-08 - Employers with 50 or more employees have to have paid sick leave for part-time employees. The Non-Union/Union/Elected employees received a lump sum payment instead of a raise. Commissioner Majewski noted that this item was not budgeted and he did not vote in favor of it. He noted that many departments submitted requests for items such as new computers, etc. and that was voted down, so why did we give them a lump sum payment.

TREASURERS REPORT

A motion was made by Trustee Sable, seconded by Trustee Barnett to approve regular check numbers 15195-15206. Ayes 5, Nays 0.

SUPERVISOR'S COMMENTS

Supervisor Housler informed those present that the Road Commission would be doing their brush spray program between August 1 and September 15, 2019. It will be advertised in the Clare Review in April and June/July. If you want to opt out of having the ditches sprayed in front of your property you will need to contact the Road Commission and fill out the appropriate

form. They will then give you a sign to put in your yard so the company knows not to spray in that location.

John Phillips asked about the ditch on Ashard where water goes into Lake Tahoe. Is it harmful for that ditch to be sprayed? Supervisor Housler said he would call the Road Commission on this lake access and others in the Township.

Supervisor Housler next discussed the operations at the Transfer Station. The Township Board has met a couple of times. We are having difficulty with sequencing the compactor and recycle bin. The volume of trash and recyclables has skyrocketed. We are at the point where we have to send back the compactors when they aren't full because we have to have enough room for the next trash day. We are looking into getting a 2nd compactor so we can totally fill the first one before it is taken out. The cost for the additional compactor is between \$30,000 and \$45,000. This is an extremely high expense for the Township. As conversations continued, we approached the idea of curbside pickup before we spend a large amount on a 2nd compactor. We also are having a big problem with coming up with people to work the transfer station, which is just as important an item as the financial end of this.

Supervisor Housler had a meeting with the Attorney and asked her to do an analysis for us. He has given the Board a copy of the 19 page document to review. We will need solid legal footing before we proceed.

We are also getting figures on our number of people in the Township, along with the associated road map. American Waste will also look at what days they could do pickup in our area.

No decision has been made at this point. We're trying to get all of the information in order and do everything correctly.

There have also been questions on the recycling, which is part of the discussion too. We also need to look at the open tops that were typically available on holiday weekends.

Final note: The Transfer Station will be closed on Easter Sunday.

Supervisor Housler informed the Board that the MTA Meeting is this coming Monday, April 15, 2019, at 6:30 p.m. at the Clare County Courthouse.

He also noted that the enlarged gas meter has been installed (to run the generator.)

Lastly, he noted that back at the November Board meeting he talked about the Road Commission pay and benefits. The Supervisor's Group has met and they will be on the agenda for the Board of Commissioner's meeting this coming Wednesday.

CLERK'S COMMENTS

Clerk Lightfoot reminded everyone about the School Election on May 7th. A change has been made this year by the County Clerk. She felt we have enough voters so we will not be combining with Lincoln, but instead we will be holding the election on May 7th **at our (Freeman) Township Hall.** (In the past school elections were combined with Lincoln Township and our residents voted at the Lincoln Township Hall.)

Clerk Lightfoot also noted that this election is for a Bonding Proposal for the Farwell School District, therefore this tax will **not** be exempt if you have a Principal Residence Exemption (PRE). (Those that have a PRE are only exempt from the 18 mills for General Operating millage for the schools).

Clerk Lightfoot also noted that absentee ballots are available to everyone wishing to have one. You no longer have to meet the special criteria, such as age 60 or over, or unable to get to the polls due to health reasons, etc. This changed with the passing of Proposal 3 last November. If you would like an absentee ballot, please come in and see her and she will get you an Application to fill out.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Planning-John Phillips: They are looking at pole barns under Ordinance 8. May need a few new definitions. They've received a call from the Lincoln Township Planning Board about short term (or any type of rental) ordinances. Mr. Phillips wondered whether we need to look into this for our township and whether there have been any problems. They are also reviewing the Code of Ethics.

Building-Werner Mantei: He had 4 building permits this month.

Zoning & Blight – Harold Logan: He had 5 zoning permits this month. He noted 5 people will be receiving written notices in the next week. He has talked with the guy on M-115 and Lake Station. He has started moving cars. He's also talked with fellow in Lake Tahoe that has the green pole building. He is currently drawing up plans to expand the living space. He also let him know there will be fines for not getting permits in advance. He's also in the process of putting in plumbing, wiring, etc. Mr. Logan noted that now that the snow is gone and he can see, more will be getting blight write-ups.

COMMENTS/CONCERNS FROM CITIZENS

Donald Kowalske asked if Supervisor Housler had a chance to check in to the paving costs that he requested. Supervisor Housler said he hadn't had a chance but will definitely do this month.

Commissioner Majewski said that he would love to hear any comments about the Road Commission. Donald Kowalske asked why in past years they have packed down the limestone with the rollers on the grader after they graded the road, but they didn't do this past year?

Adjourn: Motion by Trustee Sable, seconded by Trustee Barnett to adjourn the meeting.
TIME: 7:40 p.m.

Alan Housler, Supervisor

Julie Lightfoot, Township Clerk