

**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 13th of April, 2017

Present Board Members: Clerk Lightfoot, Treasurer Lackie, Trustee Wells and Trustee Barnett. Supervisor Housler was absent.

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

Roll Call was taken with all members present, along with 14 citizens.

A motion was made by Treasurer Lackie, seconded by Trustee Barnett, to approve the regular board meeting minutes of March 9, 2017. Ayes 4, Nays 0.

A motion was made by Treasurer Lackie, seconded by Trustee Wells, to approve the special board meeting minutes of March 15, 2017.

GUEST SPEAKERS

Dale Majewski, Clare County Commissioner, was present and reminded those present about the Health Fair at Farwell High School. He also let everyone know that the County Board is looking at the budget early this year and getting input from all departments.

TREASURERS REPORT

A motion was made by Trustee Barnett, seconded by Trustee Wells, to approve check numbers 14693 through 14723, (voids - none). Ayes 4, Nays 0.

SUPERVISORS COMMENTS

Due to the absence of Supervisor Housler, Trustee Wells is running the meeting and taking care of the Supervisor's Comments.

Trustee Wells noted that a Siren Test is to be conducted on the first Thursday of every month at 3:00 p.m. He noted this month's test was not conducted due to 911 being overloaded with calls.

Trustee Wells also informed the public about the need for our township to comply with the State Tax Commission requirements. We are working on becoming compliant with the State's requests. We are also researching the level of this compliance as it stands to cost a lot of money each year. Clerk Lightfoot also informed those present that the Assessor or his designee would be out taking pictures of each property, so don't be alarmed if you see someone taking pictures of your property. She also mentioned that we are not the only township having issues with the costs of this compliance. Supervisor Housler was going to attend the local MTA meeting on Monday night to speak with other townships about this issue and also with our Representative Jason Wentworth.

Trustee Wells presented the 2017 road projects and noted with the price of limestone this year and the \$20,000 match by the Road Commission, we would have about \$30,000 left over. The Board will see if there is another project we can do for that amount of money. Clerk Lightfoot noted that she spoke with Engineer-Manager Gupta of the Clare County Road Commission and he noted they will be very busy again this year with projects. Keeping that in mind, if we are not able to get another project done this year due to time constraints and/or workloads, we will just carry over the \$30,000 until the next budget year.

Trustee Wells noted to all in attendance that there is a flier on Solar Farms in their packet. Our Township has been approached on whether we would allow this in our township. Supervisor Housler has asked the Planning Commission to look into this. Mr. Logan, Blight/Zoning Officer, gave a brief presentation on the Solar Farms. He noted there is a lot of positive information out there, but he's going to research further and call other townships that have these solar farms, to see if there are any negatives to having them in the township.

Trustee Wells requested the Planning Commission examine our Township Cemetery Ordinance and look into setting dates for Spring and Fall cleanup, as these are currently not listed in the ordinance. Leo Stevens, Chair, accepted the request for the Planning Commission.

Clerk Lightfoot reminded the board that the local MTA meeting will be held this Monday, April 17, 2017, at the County Building. Supervisor Housler was going to attend. All Board Members are welcome to attend also.

Clerk Lightfoot also reminded everyone in attendance that the Transfer Site would be closed this Sunday in observance of the Easter holiday.

Clerk Lightfoot noted that the Township is going to start offering direct deposit for payroll checks and asked for authorization for the Clerk and Treasurer to sign the agreement with Chemical Bank for setting up direct deposit.

Trustee Wells moved, seconded by Trustee Barnett, to authorize the Clerk and Treasurer to sign the agreement with Chemical Bank for direct deposit. Ayes 4 Nays 0.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Planning (Leo Stevens) – Noted that Surrey Township has new Landlord/Tenant rules with steep fines. He also noted the importance of having the proper ordinances and gave an example where our ordinance saved the township from a possible problem.

Building (Werner Mantei) – Noted he had 4 permits this month.

Zoning & Blight (H. Logan) – One zoning permit this month and working on 7 blight properties.

COMMENTS/CONCERNS FROM CITIZENS

Marilyn Woolsey asked additional questions about complying with the State Tax Commission. Roger Diederich asked if the agenda could be put out on the website before the meetings. Don Kowalski asked about site cleanup for the Rood property and how the township will be hiring someone to clean the property up. Treasurer Lackie noted the township would be going out for bids.

There being no further business, a motion was made by Trustee Barnett, and seconded by Treasurer Lackie to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. **Time: 7:40 p.m.**

Trustee Wells, Acting Supervisor

Julie Lightfoot, Township Clerk