

**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 9<sup>th</sup> of May, 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 16 citizens.

A motion was made by Trustee Barnett, seconded by Trustee Sable to approve the regular board meeting minutes from April 11<sup>th</sup>, 2019. Ayes 5 Nays 0.

A motion was made by Trustee Sable, seconded by Treasurer Lackie to approve the special board meeting minutes from April 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2019. Ayes 5 Nays 0.

A motion was made by Trustee Barnett, seconded by Trustee Sable to approve the special board meeting minutes from May 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2019. Ayes 5 Nays 0.

**GUEST SPEAKERS**

Lori Martin, Clare County Clerk & Register of Deeds, was present and gave the following highlights: There will be election training in June; May have a November election, but probably not in Freeman Township; She also noted that Clerk Lightfoot did an excellent job with her election; They have new program for text messaging reminder in Circuit Court – done twice a month – this has shown a huge influx in revenue last month. Cost is \$250/year, so as long as it brings in revenue, will continue; Jury Duty questionnaires going out soon for 2020. If you don't fill out you could be in contempt of court; Register of Deeds side is getting new software. (For \$30 of fee, \$5 must go to technology upgrade fund and this is where money for new software is coming from.) They are starting the Veterans Honors Program. She will work with businesses to give discounts to veterans. The veteran would receive a Veterans Honors Card and would be able to get these discounts. Starts in 2020. Also, a service the office will be providing is scanning in your Copy 1 or Copy 4 of a veteran's DD214 and keeping it on file. No cost to file and no cost for veteran to get a certified copy.

Dale Majewski, Clare County Commissioner was present and gave the following highlights: MSU Extension came to board meeting and gave an update on 4H. Pete Preston from the Equalization Department gave their annual report. Department running very well under him. He reported in past how State reduced the personal property tax for utilities, gas companies, etc., thus greatly reducing the amount some Townships received. He received news the State is going to reinstate some of the monies and give the Townships a Local Stabilization Refund based on the first year they were withheld the monies.

## **TREASURERS REPORT**

A motion was made by Trustee Sable, seconded by Trustee Barnett to approve early check #15207 and regular check numbers 15208-15224. Ayes 5, Nays 0.

## **SUPERVISOR'S COMMENTS**

Supervisor Housler informed those present that MTA (Michigan Township Association) has put forth a resolution that Townships may approve which would give Townships the option to have its elected offices appear as nonpartisan on the ballot. Clerk Lightfoot noted that those items that are typically a party stance, such as voting rights, women's rights, equal pay, etc. are voted on at the State or Federal level and not a Township level item. If the legislation passes, you would vote for the person you want for the position and no parties would be listed in conjunction with that person. The following resolution was moved/supported for adoption.

At a meeting of the Freeman Township Board, the following resolution was offered by Clerk Lightfoot and supported by Trustee Sable.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Freeman Township Board is on record in support of legislation that would allow township boards the option to have its elected offices appear as nonpartisan on the ballot. The reason(s) for the board's position is/are as follows:

Township level items are not partisan related.

The motion was declared adopted. (Ayes 5 – Housler, Lightfoot, Lackie, Barnett, Sable – Nays 0.)

Supervisor Housler informed all present that we have a vacancy on the Zoning Board of Appeals due to the resignation of Roger Bogenschutz. It isn't an immediate issue because we have an alternate that can fill in, but we would like to get the position filled. Anyone interested should contact the Clerk or the Supervisor.

Next Supervisor Housler discussed the maintenance agreement with the Clare County Equalization Department. This agreement is the same as in past years and covers the printing of tax bills, personal property statements, mapping, assessment change notices, etc. Supervisor moved, supported by Treasurer Lackie, to approve the maintenance agreement with Clare County Equalization Department. Ayes 5, Nays 0.

Supervisor Housler discussed the current situation with the trees that fell in the cemetery (extended portion) due to the storm last August. He has found someone who will remove all the downed trees and also all the other pine and poplar trees in the extended portion of the cemetery. He will also move all related brush to one or two locations and once the snow comes this winter, he will burn that brush. This saves us a significant amount of money. The approximate value of the trees is \$4275 which will leave us some money to pay someone to remove the stumps. We want this area cleaned up so we can extend our cemetery to this area. We only have a limited amount of cremation plots left, so we will need to extend the cemetery and design it with more cremation plots (besides burial plots), since more people are leaning toward cremation due to the costs. The tree person is prepared to have a contract for the board at the next meeting. He is prepared to do the removal towards the end of June.

Next Supervisor Housler gave an update on the curbside pickup. He noted we are looking into this due to 2 main items. 1). There is a lack of efficiency due to the increase in volume and sending the compactor back 75-80% full. (Need to send back because can't take chance next day it will fill up and we won't have enough room for that day's trash.) Also, the recycle bin is very expensive. Every time it is moved/emptied it's \$425. In the summer especially we have to move it twice a week. 2). Manpower: It is getting harder and harder to get and keep people.

If we were to get a 2<sup>nd</sup> compactor, we would have to pay for the compactor, pave some of the lot, put in additional electrical, etc. which would come to around \$40,000-\$50,000. (This would run taxpayers approximately \$100-\$110/year). Our fear is that if we put in all this money to this project and then we can't find anyone to run the transfer station, then we would be forced to go to curbside anyways, and residents would be paying for the cost of the original project PLUS the cost of curbside. For these reasons we have chosen to explore the curbside pickup.

In a very rough estimate, we are thinking curbside pickup would cost between \$130-155/year. This includes the tote provided by the company. It would also allow you to put out one large item each week (although you must call the company first to alert them to this fact.) We will need to take bids for the curbside pickup.

To start the process, we need to have a couple of public hearings. Supervisor Housler noted if we approve a notice tonight, he anticipates the process being completed and curbside pickup being started around October, 2019.

Supervisor Housler noted that the Board would like to make the public hearing on Saturday, July 13, 2019, at 10:00 a.m. so even the weekenders and people who work during the week would have an opportunity to attend. The second public hearing would be some time in August. After a 30 day referendum, then the curbside pickup could start around October.

Scott Wiltse asked about the vacant properties that are currently getting assessed the \$40. Supervisor Housler noted that only habitable properties will be charged for curbside pickup, not vacant land.

Dorothy Burdo asked what will happen with recycling. We are still up in the air about that. Our language in the bid documents will include the option for it if we decide to do it. It is a very costly item, and thus will increase the yearly rate charged to taxpayers. Unfortunately, recycling is starting to cost more than you get for the recycled items. In addition, China is not buying a lot of the recyclables anymore, so the companies are struggling to find buyers.

Donald Kowalske made the comment that the curbside will end up being within \$30-40 of what we're going to end up paying for the current trash situation once the needed improvements were made.

Supervisor Housler informed everyone that the volume of trash in this township has at least doubled in the last 18 months. Clerk Lightfoot noted that she receives monthly information pertaining to voting files of those moving in and those moving out of the township. She noted that almost every month 75% are moving into the township while only 25% are moving out. So we have definitely seen an increase in permanent residents in our township, which has also been reflected in the amount of trash we accumulate.

Bob Eckardt made the comment that there has been an increase in boxes due to more people using mail order. Marilyn Woolsey made that comment that we are one of the last few in the area that bring our trash to a site.

There being no other business pertaining to the transfer site, Supervisor Housler asked for approval of Notice #1.

Motion made by Trustee Barnett, seconded by Trustee Sable to approve the following Notice #1. (Ayes 5 – Housler, Lackie, Lightfoot, Barnett, Sable) Nays 0.

**NOTICE #1  
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING  
FREEMAN TOWNSHIP, CLARE COUNTY, STATE OF MICHIGAN**

**TO:** ALL RECORD OWNERS OF, AND PARTIES IN INTEREST IN, LAND IN FREEMAN TOWNSHIP, STATE OF MICHIGAN WHICH IS THE PROPOSED SPECIAL ASSESSMENT DISTRICT, AS BELOW:

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN** that the Township Board of the Township of Freeman, Clare County, State of Michigan, (the “Township”), at a meeting thereof on May 9, 2019, upon the Board’s own initiative and not upon property owner petition, has resolved to provide for the collection, disposal, and recycling of garbage and rubbish.

**NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN** that the Township Board will meet beginning at 10:00 a.m. Eastern Time on July 13<sup>th</sup>, 2019 at the Township Hall at 7280 Mannsiding, Lake, MI 48632, and during such meeting will conduct a public hearing to hear objections to the plan to provide for the collection, disposal, and recycling of garbage and rubbish, to this public improvement , and to the special assessment district tentatively designated by the Township of Freeman Board against which the cost of garbage and rubbish collection, disposal, and recycling is to be assessed, which district consists of all lands contained in Freeman Township.

**PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE THAT** preliminary plans describing the project will be on file with the Township Clerk on and after May 15, 2019, at 7280 Mannsiding Road, Lake, MI 48632, for public examination during regular business hours and will be available for inspection at the public hearing.

**PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE THAT** the Township may proceed to carry out the plan to provide rubbish and recycling removal unless written objections to the plan are filed with the Township Board at or before the hearing by the record owners of land constituting more than twenty (20%) percent of the total land area in the proposed special assessment district. If sufficient written objections are filed, the Township Board will not proceed until there is filed with the Board a petition signed by the record owners of land constituting more than fifty (50%) percent of the total land area in the special assessment district, which is the entire Township. Record owners shall be determined by the records in the Register of Deeds office as of the day of filing of the petition or if written objections are filed at or before the hearing, then on the day of hearing. In determining the sufficiency of the petition, lands not subject to special assessment and lands within a public highway or alley shall not be included in computing the frontage or an assessment district area. A filed petition may be supplemented as to signatures

by the filing of an additional signed copy of copies of the petition. The validity of the signatures on a supplemental petition shall be determined by the records as of the day of filing the supplemental petition.

Written objections may be mailed to the Clerk of the Township, 7280 Mannsiding Road, Lake, MI 48632.

Mailed written protests must be received by 9:00 a.m. on the date of the hearing. Written protests submitted at the hearing will be accepted through the conclusion of the hearing on July 13th, 2019.

Next, Supervisor Housler gave an update on 2019 road projects. Due to the Clare County Road Commission having a special meeting where they reclassified projects, we will NOT be having one mile of our limestone projects done and our second mile may be cut. Supervisor Housler will be attending the Road Commission meeting next Wednesday. There seems to be a mess going on at the Road Commission. Grant Township got all of their 2019 and 2020 projects cut. It is felt these actions are due to the Supervisor's Group bringing up the salary and benefits of Road Commissioners.

Supervisor Housler asked the Board to take a look at the projects we had approved last year and prioritize what we want done this year due to the Road Commission cancelling some projects.

Supervisor Housler also noted that Ashard Road will be paved on or about May 20, 2019. Brine will also be done at our normal times, including the August date instead of right before Labor Day.

Donald Kowalske asked if Supervisor Housler had the information for paving a local road. Supervisor Housler noted he did receive the information from the Road Commission and for an existing limestone road, with minor grading and no drainage it would cost approximately \$200,000/mile.

### **CLERK'S COMMENTS**

Clerk Lightfoot noted that the school bond did NOT pass. She noted we had 190 voters, with 105 being absentee voting. She thanked all of her election workers for their excellent work. She also noted that at the election she had the greeter give people the option to be on the permanent absentee voting list for future elections. About 7 or 8 people took advantage of this.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Planning-John Phillips: They have reviewed the Code of Ethics and working on definition in Ordinance #8. Thanked Werner Mantei, Building Inspector, for his help with Ordinance #8.

Building-Werner Mantei: Absent.

Zoning & Blight – Harold Logan: Absent.

**COMMENTS/CONCERNS FROM CITIZENS**

Marilyn Woolsey commented on the places on Norway that have not been cleaned up since last summer's storm. She said one rental home was destroyed and not habitable. Treasurer Lackie noted that the lady is working on getting a demolition permit.

**Adjourn:** Motion by Trustee Sable, seconded by Trustee Barnett to adjourn the meeting.  
**TIME: 8:00 p.m.**

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Alan Housler, Supervisor

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Julie Lightfoot, Township Clerk