

**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 May, 2017

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

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

Roll Call was taken with all members present, along with 19 citizens.

A motion was made by Trustee Barnett, seconded by Trustee Wells, to approve the regular board meeting minutes of April 13, 2017. Ayes 5, Nays 0.

GUEST SPEAKERS

Dale Majewski, Clare County Commissioner, was present and gave a report on the Animal Shelter, noting there were 977 complaints, 759 animals handled, and an 89% adoption rate. He also noted that the County Planning Commission has been dissolved. He further noted there was a meeting with Representative Jason Wentworth where unfunded mandates, personal property taxes, and the \$122 million surplus for the State, which is not going back to the Townships, were discussed.

Our next guest speakers were Deepak Gupta (Engineer-Manager) and David Sunday (Foreman) of the Clare County Road Commission. Mr. Gupta noted that he had passed out the 2017 construction maps to those present. He also noted the following: Asphalt prices are the lowest in many years; they are working Fridays and Saturdays in order to get all of the Township work completed during this construction season; in future years they may have to start charging the townships for tree removal; they've started brush cutting in the county and in the NE corner of the county they will be spraying to keep the brush down that was cut previously; once the whole county is brush cut, they should be able to cut the whole county in one year; the estimated start date for the limestone projects in Freeman Township is around July 24th; the Road Commission may do another bus tour in September.

Because Mr. Gupta and Mr. Sunday needed to leave for another meeting, Supervisor Housler asked that we move up the approval of the Clare County Road Commission road project contracts instead of waiting until the Supervisor's Comment section. Supervisor Housler did note that there would be about \$30,000 left over from this year's road budget, and since the road commission is so busy with projects this year, the remaining \$30,000 would be carried over to next year. Trustee Wells moved, seconded by Treasurer Lackie, to approve the contracts with the Clare County Road Commission. Ayes 5 (Housler, Lightfoot, Lackie, Barnett, Wells), Nays 0.

The next guest was Lori Martin, Clerk for Clare County. She discussed the following: they are in the process of selecting a vendor for the new voting equipment; school election

reimbursements; working on NSF checks, noting no personal checks will be accepted in the future for Fines and Restitution; visited local schools for voter registration; the drug court is encouraging people to use those who have to do community service to help put out flags on veterans' cemetery plots; there is one opening on the Democratic side for Board of Canvassers; the Dower Rights have been abolished by the State; now have lobby in Clerks and Treasurer's offices so there is more privacy instead of standing in the hallway.

TREASURERS REPORT

A motion was made by Trustee Wells, seconded by Trustee Barnett, to approve check numbers 14688-14692 (Early checks done for year-end that should have been approved at April meeting) and check numbers 14730 through 14748 (voids - none). Ayes 5, Nays 0.

SUPERVISOR'S COMMENTS

Supervisor Housler discussed the contract with Clare County Equalization Department, which provides the taxing and assessment preparation services, and recommended approval of the same. The cost for this maintenance contract is \$2539. Trustee Wells moved, seconded by Treasurer Lackie, to approve the maintenance contract. Ayes 5 Nays 0.

Supervisor Housler then discussed the contracts with I-Deal Asphalt Sealcoating for sealcoating the township hall and the transfer site. Motion made by Supervisor Housler, seconded by Trustee Wells to sign and approve the contracts. Ayes 5 Nays 0.

Supervisor Housler next discussed the response from the State Tax Commission regarding Township Assessing Procedures. He further noted that the assessor would resketch and remeasure parcels, annually inspect, the Board would annually pick 13 parcels at random for the Assessor to inspect and would put these inspections in our files. He also noted that the discussion of 1 mil being assessed for assessing purposes is not legal, that it would have to be done by a vote of the people to increase the General Fund.

Supervisor Housler noted that the Township now had legal authority to proceed with cleaning up the Rude property. Supervisor Housler hoped to have quotes ready for the June meeting for the board to approve.

Supervisor Housler also noted that we are scheduled for brine the week before Memorial Day, and Consumers Power representative would be coming to the June meeting to discuss the Smart Meter.

CLERK'S COMMENTS

Clerk Lightfoot reminded those present that the Open Top Dumpster would be available on Sunday, May 28, 2017. She also reminded everyone that no construction materials, tires or yard waste can be dumped in the Open Top Dumpster.

Clerk Lightfoot also reported that she received a letter of information for anyone having problems with video or cable disputes. The letter with the contact information will be posted on the bulletin board in the hall.

Clerk Lightfoot reported that Direct Deposit was used for the first time for most of the payroll checks this month and it went well. She encouraged anyone currently getting a check to switch to direct deposit.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Planning-Leo Stevens: Mr. Stevens reported that they are still working on the Master Plan; they are working on amending the Cemetery Ordinance; and finally, they are looking into a Landlord Tenant Ordinance.

Building-Werner Mantei: Mr. Mantei noted he had 5 permits for this month.

Zoning & Blight – Harold Logan: Mr. Logan noted he had 3 zoning permits this month. He is currently working on or monitoring 14 properties. Two he was not able to contact at all.

COMMENTS/CONCERNS FROM CITIZENS

Mr. Don Kowalski asked how the board was going to bid out the cleaning up of the Rude property. Supervisor Housler noted he would get 3 quotes, and if he could not get 3 quotes, he would put it out for bid. Mr. Kowalski noted he had a party that was interested in bidding. Supervisor Housler asked him to get him the information on the company that would like to bid.

There being no further business, a motion was made by Trustee Wells, and seconded by Trustee Barnett to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. **Time: 8:03 p.m.**

Alan Housler, Supervisor

Julie Lightfoot, Township Clerk