

**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 8th of June, 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 Wells, seconded by Trustee Barnett, to approve the regular board meeting minutes of May 11, 2017. Ayes 5, Nays 0.

A motion was made by Treasurer Lackie, seconded by Trustee Barnett, to approve the special board meeting minutes of June 1, 2017. Ayes 5, Nays 0.

GUEST SPEAKERS

Dale Majewski, Clare County Commissioner made the following comments: A bill passed by the House concerning carrying concealed weapons. No training and no CPL license. Needs to pass Senate yet.; Commissioners working on budget; Sheriff Department – 2 vacancies; Resolution for MSU Extension 100 year anniversary; Note from Clerk Martin that the maximum townships should incur for new election equipment is \$295.

TREASURER'S REPORT

A motion was made by Trustee Wells, seconded by Trustee Barnett, to approve check numbers 14753-14770, including early check 14749 (U.S. Postal Service for stamps for tax season) (voids - none). Ayes 5, Nays 0.

SUPERVISOR'S COMMENTS

Supervisor Housler noted that Clerk Lightfoot had received an email from Mr. Roger Diederich regarding the possibility of the Transfer Station being open only one day a week and how much money would that save in costs. Mr. Diederich also mentioned that very few townships offer twice a week collection or drop off anymore and there is no mandate on how many times this has to be done.

Supervisor Housler noted this discussion was brought to a board meeting to discuss, and not taken care of through an email, otherwise this would be a violation of the Open Meetings Act. Decisions of this nature must be made at a public meeting.

Next, Supervisor Housler noted that he took a survey of the neighboring townships and their trash collection. He noted that Surrey has trash collection 4 days a week; Garfield has it 2 days

a week with 7-8 hour shifts; and Redding has it 2 days a week in the summer and 1 day a week in the winter. He also noted that Lincoln and Greenwood have door to door pickup.

Other comments included that 1 day would not change the “volume” of the trash and if trash collection was changed to 1 day, we would have to increase the hours the transfer site was open in order to avoid traffic backup, etc. A rough estimate of savings by going to 1 day and increased hours would be about \$150/year.

Several citizens noted they liked the 2-day collection and those who don't get out of work until 5:00 p.m. miss the Wednesday pickup and therefore like the Sunday pickup. Clerk Lightfoot noted that she attends church on Sunday and doesn't always make it back in time for Sunday pickup if she stops for lunch or shopping before coming home and therefore likes having Wednesdays too for pickup. Treasurer Lackie noted that with one day collection, the compactor could be full and could actually end up costing the Township more money. She also commented that if we went down to one day, most likely people would just throw their trash in front of the dump if they couldn't make the one day.

With the overwhelming comments from citizens and the board that they like the 2-day collection, Supervisor Housler moved to maintain our current trash collection schedule, seconded by Trustee Wells. Ayes 5 Nays 0.

Supervisor Housler brought to the board the consideration of purchase of tax reverted properties from Clare County. There being no properties that the Township would like to purchase for Township use, a motion was made by Trustee Wells and seconded by Trustee Barnett to waive our first right of refusal. Ayes 5 Nays 0.

Supervisor Housler gave an update on the Rude property. He noted that our employee is doing the metal cleanup. The advantage to this is that if he is hurt, he will be covered by our insurance.

Supervisor Housler informed those present that Consumers Energy representative was going to be present tonight to talk about the new meters, however she had a family issue and was unable to come to our meeting tonight. Since our meters will most likely all be installed by the time the next meeting occurs, we will let her know that she doesn't need to attend next month.

Supervisor Housler also noted to all present that we are going to full direct deposit and therefore are offering either direct deposit for anyone receiving a paycheck, or you also have the option to receive a debit card with the amount of your net check on that debit card.

CLERK'S COMMENTS

Clerk Lightfoot reminded the Board that the MTA Meeting is June 19, 2017 and this month Freeman Township is the host.

Clerk Lightfoot also noted that starting July 1st, 2017, the Clerk and Treasurer will have new work days. (Basically they are switching days: Clerk works Monday and Wednesdays and Treasurer works Tuesdays and Thursday). She did note that July 1st also starts the new tax season, so the Treasurer will be working Monday through Thursday. Once tax season is over, she (Treasurer) will go back to Tuesday and Thursdays.

Clerk Lightfoot invited everyone to the Outdoor Movie Night presented by Mid Michigan Community College on June 23, 2017. Festivities begin at 8:00 p.m. on the lawn of the Harrison Campus and is free to all.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Planning-Leo Stevens: Mr. Stevens noted they have been working on the amendments to the Cemetery Ordinance and should have it ready for approval at one of the upcoming board meetings. He also noted that he looked through Surrey Township's 30 page Landlord Ordinance and that we would not be going in the direction. Marilyn Woolsey asked Mr. Stevens about the garage sale on M-115 and he noted that it wasn't continuous anymore, so there was nothing that could be done at this point.

Building Inspector-Werner Mantei: Mr. Mantei noted that he had 7 permits this month.

Zoning & Blight-Harold Logan: Mr. Logan noted he had 4 zoning permits this month. He had 14 blight properties he was checking on. Two have been cleaned up and one new one added, so he is monitoring 13 at this point. Marilyn Woolsey asked about property on Lake Station near M-115. Mr. Logan said he would check it out.

COMMENTS/CONCERNS FROM CITIZENS

John Phillips asked about the status on Verizon Tower. Mr. Mantei noted that they will need to renew their permit soon if they plan on continuing with putting up the new tower.

There being no further business, a motion was made by Trustee Barnett, and seconded by Trustee Wells to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. **Time: 7:30 p.m.**

Alan Housler, Supervisor

Julie Lightfoot, Township Clerk