

**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 June, 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 11 citizens.

A motion was made by Trustee Sable, seconded by Trustee Barnett to approve the regular board meeting minutes from May 9th, 2019. Ayes 5 Nays 0.

A motion was made by Trustee Barnett, seconded by Treasurer Lackie to approve the special board meeting minutes from May 13th, 2019. Ayes 5 Nays 0.

A motion was made by Trustee Sable, seconded by Trustee Barnett to approve the special board meeting minutes from May 30th, 2019. Ayes 5 Nays 0.

GUEST SPEAKERS

Dale Majewski, Clare County Commissioner was present and gave the following highlights: Jennifer Martin of 44 North came in to review the Inmate Program. The County is required by law to have healthcare for the inmates. He also noted there were a few budget adjustments. Carl Parks talked about the Tobacco Drain Project. They received a grant approved by the State for \$2.2 million. 30 percent of the drain is in Clare County and 70 percent is in Isabella County. He further noted that the Neighborhood Watch Expo will be held this Saturday from 9 am to 3 pm in Lake George.

There were questions whether Commissioner Majewski could do anything about getting Lake Station opened. It was noted that the Road Commission is waiting on a DEQ permit. Donald Kowalski recommended calling our State Reps to get on DEQ to issue the permit. Supervisor Housler is going to call the DEQ tomorrow.

TREASURERS REPORT

A motion was made by Trustee Sable, seconded by Trustee Barnett to approve early check #15225-226 and regular check numbers 15227-15246. Ayes 5, Nays 0.

SUPERVISOR'S COMMENTS

Supervisor Housler talked about the Ashard Road Test Strip. He noted they are going to do a 500' flexible membrane prime and double seal, easterly of M-115. We have been advised that

any hard surface would be bad mistake because of the high water table and muck. We would pay half of the bill at approximately \$2500. If successful, we would intend for them to finish the rest of the road. The Contractor will be back in late summer or early Fall to do the test strip.

Next Supervisor Housler noted that we have a tree problem from the storm that happened last August. We have received a quote to remove the pines/poplars and some bad hardwoods. We would receive approximately \$4200 for the wood and would use that to pay contractor. We also are asking for the contractor to put all the limbs, branches, etc. into a pile and then burn in the Fall/Winter. Supervisor Housler checked with Fire Chief Majewski to make sure this would be ok and it is acceptable. It is our further intent to have someone take out all the stumps so we can get the property ready for future cemetery plots.

Treasurer Lackie moved to approve the contract with Sprague Farms for the removal of the trees and piling limbs/branches, etc. Seconded by Trustee Sable. Ayes 5 (Housler, Lackie, Lightfoot, Barnett, Sable.) Nays 0.

Supervisor Housler discussed the Township 401K program and noted that we are switching from John Hancock to Municipal Employees Retirement System of Michigan (MERS). This program is cheaper for the Township. With John Hancock all the fees were charged to the Township, but with MERS the fees will be charged to the employee. In addition, the fees are a lot cheaper with MERS.

Motion made by Trustee Sable, seconded by Trustee Barnett to approve the following resolution.

This Resolution is entered into under the provisions of 1996 PA 220 and the Municipal Employees' Retirement System of Michigan ("MERS") Plan Document, as each may be amended.

WHEREAS, the participating entity desires to adopt the MERS Defined Contribution Plan for its designated employees;

WHEREAS, the participating entity has furnished MERS with required data regarding each eligible employee and retiree;

WHEREAS, as a condition of MERS membership, and pursuant to the MERS Retirement Board's power as plan administrator and trustee under Plan Document Section 71 and MCL 38.1536, as each may be amended, it is appropriate and necessary to enter into a binding agreement providing for the administration of the Defined Contribution Plan, the reporting of wages, and the payment of the required contributions of a participating entity and withholding of employee contributions; now, therefore,

IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED:

On behalf of the participating entity, the governing body of Freeman Township adopts the MERS Defined Contribution Plan in accordance with Plan Section 4 for its eligible employees as described in the MERS Defined Contribution Adoption Agreement, subject to the MERS Plan Document and as authorized by 1996 PA 220, as both may be amended;

Motion carried. Ayes 5 (Housler, Lackie, Lightfoot, Sable, Barnett) Nays 0.

It is also necessary for the Board to approve a resolution naming signatories for MERS documents.

Motion made by Supervisor Housler, seconded by Trustee Sable to approve the following resolution.

This Resolution is entered into under the provisions of 1996 PA 220 and the Municipal Employee's Retirement System of Michigan ("MERS") Plan Document, as each may be amended.,

This resolution applies to reporting unit(s) #(will be assigned later)of the participating municipality listed below.

WHEREAS, Freeman Township ("Employer") is a participating municipality with the Municipal Employees' Retirement System of Michigan ("MERS") and has adopted one or more retirement, insurance, investment or other post-employment benefit products administered by MERS;

WHEREAS, MERS requires signatures of an authorized representative of the Employer to execute contracts with MERS, the entry of which is authorized by the governing body and permitted under the applicable MERS Plan Document(s);

WHEREAS, The Employer wishes to designate certain job position(s), the holder(s) of which may sign MERS' contracts relating to the adoption, amendment and termination of MERS' products, and defined benefit service credit purchase approvals on behalf of Employer to implement decisions and actions of the governing body;

WHEREAS, this Resolution is not intended to apply to MERS forms or any other MERS document except as specifically mentioned herein,

Therefore, the Governing Body resolves:

The holders of the following job position(s) are hereby *Authorized Officials* that can sign: (1) MERS Adoption Agreements, Resolutions, Participation Agreements, Administrative Services Agreements, Withdrawal Agreements and any other contracts between MERS and the Employer with respect to Employer's participation in any MERS-administered product and any amendments and addendums thereto, and (2) MERS Defined Benefit service credit purchase approvals:

1. Clerk

Optional additional job positions:

2. Treasurer

This Resolution may be revoked in writing or amended by the Governing Body at any time, provided that it will not be effective until such writing or amended Resolution is received by MERS. The Governing Body agrees that MERS may rely upon this Resolution as conferring signing authority upon the holders of the above job position(s) to bind Employer with respect to MERS.

Motion carried. Ayes 5 (Housler, Lackie, Lightfoot, Sable, Barnett) Nays 0.

Supervisor Housler informed those present that we have received a bid from American Waste for curbside pickup. (No others bid). He noted that it is getting to be a problem at the Transfer Station. Besides the problem of trying to find employees to work, the operation is extremely inefficient. The compactor right now is 50% full, but we have to send it back because it will not leave us enough room for Sunday. The recycle is also a mess. We had someone monitor it one day making people abide by the rules and we only filled 2 of the 4 dumpsters. The next dump day we filled all four dumpsters. We had people leaving dirty baby diapers all over the ground in front of the recycle bin instead of taking them to the compactor. Main problem is a lot of people don't break down their boxes or squish down plastic bottles so these items all take up more room, which causes the containers to be filled faster and cost us more money. For this and many more reasons we are looking at curbside pickup versus updating the transfer station. We estimate now that it might cost upwards of \$130-160 for people if we make the updates to the transfer station. If those updates were made, it still doesn't solve the problem of finding enough people to work the transfer station. The bid is for \$141/property per year plus administration charge for inhabitable properties (not vacant properties).

Vicki Brauner noted that Saturday there was carpet and other materials left outside the dump blocking the entrance. Two weeks ago someone left a couch and blocked the entrance. This happens fairly often. If we figure out who it is they will be fined.

If anyone is curious to see, we have a dumpster at the Township Hall that will be provided to each residence by American Waste. It can easily fit 6 trash bags.

We are still looking into whether we want to offer recycling. That will be an extra cost. The 3rd weekend of the month, Lincoln Township has a recycle dumpster located in the parking lot across from their hall.

With American Waste you can leave one large item a week for them to pick up, if you let them know ahead of time.

If the curbside special assessment district is approved, curbside pick up will be provided and is not optional. The transfer station will then be closed.

Just to note that no matter which route we take, taxpayer's costs are going to go up.

Supervisor Housler noted that the public hearing will be July 13th, 2019 at 10:00 a.m. The letter concerning the public hearing will be mailed Monday.

Motion by Supervisor Housler to accept the bid by American Waste subject to the passing of the special assessment district, seconded by Trustee Barnett. Ayes (Housler, Lackie, Lightfoot, Barnett, Sable), Nays 0.

Supervisor Housler discussed the right of first refusal from the County where the Township has the option to buy foreclosed properties. After taking a look at the properties and noting they have to be used for governmental purposes, that there wouldn't be any properties we would be interested in.

Treasurer Lackie moved to waive our first right of refusal to all of the parcels that were foreclosed on by the Clare County Treasurer in our jurisdiction, seconded Trustee Sable. Ayes 5, Nays 0.

Supervisor Housler noted that we had a vacancy on the Zoning Board of Appeals. Mr. Donald Mann has expressed his interest in becoming a member.

Clerk Lightfoot moved to approve Donald Mann for the Zoning Board of Appeals, effective July 1, 2019, seconded by Trustee Sable. Ayes 5 Nays 0.

Supervisor Housler reminded the Board that the local MTA meeting is this coming Monday, June 17, 2019, at 6:30 p.m.

Supervisor Housler noted that back in December of 2018 the Board approved several limestone projects for the 2019 construction season. Since then the road commission has put forth a new set of confusing rules and we haven't received clarification yet. Our projects are in Tier 2 and 3. Tier 2 might get funded and Tier 3 will not. Approximately 2 miles of limestone was approved last year. They have cut our projects in half. We need to decide now which ones to do. The major ones are Havenwood and Evergreen. We have received comments to not do Evergreen. If Havenwood is on the list, it may or may not get done.

Supervisor Housler moved to approve Havenwood Court submit to the approval of the Road Commission, seconded by Treasurer Lackie. Ayes 5, Nays 0.

Supervisor Housler then gave his personal thoughts on the road commission. He said there is an upheaval there. The Road Board has gone rogue. They are micromanaging and forced out the Engineer. This Engineer worked well with the Townships and made the County look good. The Road Board felt once the Engineer-Manager was gone that they were good, however Supervisor Housler stated that he feels there are problems ahead. Supervisor Housler noted there's a cancer over there and it needs to be cut out. He noted his comments come from the heart.

Clerk Lightfoot asked Commissioner Majewski to look into all of this. She and Supervisor Housler attended the last Road Commission meeting and she noted that the Board acted very unprofessional and it was quite disturbing.

Commissioner Majewski noted they have 3 ways to go: (1) do nothing; (2) appoint 2 more Commissioners, which he noted probably wouldn't fix the problem; and (3) the County Board take over the Road Commission.

Clerk Lightfoot also noted that this was the most unprofessional meeting she has ever been to in her approximately 30 years of working for municipalities.

Supervisor Housler also noted that in his 37+ years of serving municipalities, that this is the worst he's ever seen.

Commissioner Majewski noted that Deepak was still the Engineer at the time of the meeting and Supervisors were asking him questions about road projects and the Road Commissioners just cut him off and wouldn't let him speak.

CLERK'S COMMENTS

None

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Planning-John Phillips: We have a new ordinance – Code of Ethics and they also worked on Ordinance #8 – Section 4.19 about camping on private properties. They had an incident with 6 campers on one site and this is something we can enforce.

Building-Werner Mantei: 4 building permits

Zoning & Blight – Harold Logan: Absent.

COMMENTS/CONCERNS FROM CITIZENS

Dorothy Burdo asked if people were aware of the camping issue. John Phillips noted it is on the website.

Marilyn Woolsey asked about the properties on Norway. Werner Mantei noted one property got a demolition permit today. Ms. Woolsey noted the property next door has 6 cars and 1 license plate. Also across the street is a shack home. Mr. Mantei noted that last Fall the guy filed for insurance but didn't get enough money to fix, so he talked about demoing it, but nothing to date. Mr. Mantei and Supervisor Housler will take a look at this property.

John Phillips asked if we started the new policy of tightening up on giving people one notice and a timeframe and then a ticket. Supervisor Housler noted that we have started this.

Geri Shaw asked what day we anticipate having trash pickup. We wanted Monday, but everyone wants Monday so it would cost more. American Waste said they could do Tuesday.

John Phillips asked how many trucks will run the route. There will be three.

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

Alan Housler, Supervisor

Julie Lightfoot, Township Clerk