

**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 10<sup>th</sup> of August, 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 18 citizens.

**PUBLIC HEARING**

Supervisor Housler brought the public hearing to order to discuss the revisions made to the Cemetery Ordinance. Revisions included setting dates for removal of decorations at cemetery plots by October 1 in the Fall and March 15 in the Spring in order for maintenance to perform cemetery cleanup. There was also an update to clear up language for the price of purchasing a burial plot and the price for the actual burial.

In reference to the price of purchasing plots, it was discovered (after the last Planning Commission meeting) that we also did not have the price of burial for a cremation plot listed. Therefore, it is recommended to add the same type of language listed in Section IV-A, starting with "At the time of burial", to Section IV-B, with the pertinent dollar amounts.

Supervisor Housler moved to add "At the time of burial, \$100.00 (one hundred) dollars will be paid to Freeman Township; \$75.00 (seventy-five) dollars of the \$100.00 will be paid to the Sexton by Freeman Township." at the end of Section IV-B. Seconded by Trustee Wells. Ayes 5 (Housler, Lackie, Barnett, Wells, Lightfoot), Nays 0.

Motion by Supervisor Housler, Seconded by Trustee Barnett to return to the Regular Order of Business.

**REGULAR MEETING**

Roll Call was taken with all members present, along with 18 citizens.

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

**GUEST SPEAKERS**

Dale Majewski, Clare County Commissioner made the following comments: A resident of Freeman received a phone call from the Lincoln Township Fire Department saying they won a cruise. Mr. Majewski wanted to inform everyone this was definitely a scam. He also noted the 2017 Household Hazardous Waste Collection would be taking place on Wednesday, September

13, from 10am to 2pm at the Northern Oaks Recycling and Disposal Facility located at 513 County Farm Road in Harrison. He also noted those items that are acceptable and those that are not. He further noted that the Medical Examiner is talking about charging \$50 for cremation now. He's not sure how they will pass the fee on, whether thru the funeral home or where. The increase in fee is due to the Medical Examiner having to certify the remains and make sure there are no reasons, such as a court case, etc., that could be outstanding where it would make a difference if the person were cremated. In closing, he spoke on the Land Bank Auction and noted it would take place on August 21<sup>st</sup> at noon at the Doherty Hotel. He also noted that you will need to have a \$1,000 cashier's check available that day for them to hold until you pay your auction amount in full.

Lori Martin, Clare County Clerk made the following comments: We are in the process of getting new voting equipment. The Township Clerks will be trained on the new equipment on August 30<sup>th</sup>. She is still working on setting up the two time slots for the day. Also, there is a bill in the House (not yet passed) that will increase the election filing fee, except for County Commissioners. For Township positions the fee will increase from \$100 to \$150; for County positions it will increase from \$100 to \$200; and for the State level it will increase from \$100 to \$400. (Note: This is the amount you have to pay if you don't get the required number of signatures for the specific position you are running for.) She also stated that she sent out 5000 jury letter questionnaires. This is an increase from 4000 last year, as they ran out of eligible jurors last year. She further noted that the Clerk's office redid the mail room so the Circuit Court citizens now have a lobby to wait in when conducting Circuit Court business. She also noted that she is working on getting credit cards accepted for ALL transactions in the Clerk's office, instead of just certain items. That should be done soon. Finally she noted she has spent a lot of time in budget meetings and she was happy to note that her figures came in \$100,000 less than the 2015 figures!

### **TREASURER'S REPORT**

A motion was made by Trustee Wells, seconded by Trustee Barnett, to approve early check number 14790 & regular check numbers 14792-14803, (Voids-None). Ayes 5, Nays 0.

### **SUPERVISOR'S COMMENTS**

Supervisor Housler noted that the public hearing had been held early this evening pertaining to revisions of the Cemetery Ordinance. He asked for a motion to accept the ordinance with the above-mentioned amendment.

Trustee Wells made a motion to approve the Cemetery Ordinance (#14) with the amendment as presented. Seconded by Treasurer Lackie. Ayes (Housler, Lackie, Lightfoot, Wells, Barnett) Nays 0.

Supervisor Housler noted the local MTA meeting will be held August 21, 2017 at the courthouse if any of the board would like to attend.

Supervisor Housler also noted that a called Michigan Calcium Chloride to make sure they were set for this month's brining. He wanted to make sure we weren't forgotten and thus delayed again like in July.

Supervisor Housler noted that we had suspended our blight and dangerous building monitoring due to lack of funding, but also noted that Hayes Township has had to do the same thing. In

fact they also have suspended their noise monitoring and police protection in addition to the blight and dangerous buildings monitoring. They noted the cost of enforcement is too high.

Roger Diederich asked how we pay for our attorney (in relation to these cases). Do we have the attorney on retainer or is it on a case by case basis? Supervisor Housler noted that we pay on a case by case basis.

### **CLERK'S COMMENTS**

Clerk Lightfoot was going to speak on the 2017 Household Hazardous Waste Collection, but noted that Dale Majewski had already spoken about it early in the evening.

Clerk Lightfoot spoke about the Policy regarding the Inspection of Public Records, including Property Tax Records. She noted that nothing major had changed, but updates were needed for the hours of operation, the correct township name being listed, and a few spelling errors corrected.

Trustee Barnett moved to approve the Policy regarding the Inspection of Public Records, including Property Tax Records. Seconded by Trustee Wells. Ayes 5 (Lackie, Lightfoot, Housler, Barnett, Wells), Nays 0.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Planning-Leo Stevens: Mr. Stevens noted they finished the Cemetery Ordinance; looking at amendments to zoning pertaining to trailers and the construction of such; looked at Lincoln Township's garage sale language as part of zoning ordinance. He noted it said you can have a garage sale 3 times a year but no longer than 4 days. He wondered whether the Board would like to add that to the Zoning ordinance. Supervisor Housler noted we would put it on the next agenda for the board to discuss. Several residents asked who is violating it. The property on M-115 was noted. Mr. Stevens noted that when the Planning Commission would like training, they will submit it in writing.

In reference to the trailers, Supervisor Housler noted that the trailer on Twin Lakes is deplorable. It was noted that Lincoln Township has required lap siding and hip roof. It forces a more modern structure. Mr. Stevens has looked into age requirements, but that isn't legal. The Planning Commission is looking into what they can do about trailers.

Building – Werner Mantei – Absent

Zoning & Blight – Harold Logan: Mr. Logan noted he had 4 zoning permits this month. He received a letter from Verizon on the tower. They needed a new permit and it should be constructed in the next 2 months. He also noted 3 blight properties have been cleaned up and 1 new one added. 1 citation has been issued (on Twin Lakes). One property on Pinecroft has received a ticket.

### **COMMENTS/CONCERNS FROM CITIZENS**

Marilyn Woolsey asked if the Township could hold a Junk in the Trunk (garage sale) in the parking lot of the Township Hall. Supervisor Housler noted that the Board would discuss this further at the next meeting when they discuss a possible ordinance for garage sales.

There being no further business, a motion was made by Trustee Wells, and seconded by Trustee Barnett to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. **Time: 7:45 p.m.**

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Alan Housler, Supervisor

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Julie Lightfoot, Township Clerk