

**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 August, 2020

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 5 members present, along with 9 citizens.

REGULAR ORDER OF BUSINESS

A motion was made by Trustee Sable, seconded by Trustee Barnett to approve the regular board meeting minutes for July 9, 2020. Ayes 5, Nays 0.

A motion was made by Trustee Barnett, seconded by Trustee Sable to approve the special board meeting minutes for July 23, 2020. Ayes 5, Nays 0.

GUEST SPEAKERS

County Commissioner Dale Majewski was not in attendance, however he informed Supervisor Housler to pass on the following information: Things are quiet at the County except they are still working on the budget, which they will work on for the next couple of months.

Douglas Jacobson – Running for Trustee on Mid-Michigan College. Has been Chair for 20 years and on board for about 25 years.

TREASURER'S REPORT

A motion was made by Trustee Barnett, seconded by Trustee Sable to approve early check number 15488 and regular check numbers 15489-15508. Ayes 5, Nays 0.

SUPERVISOR'S COMMENTS

Supervisor Housler informed the Board that there are two more residences that need to be added to the Curbside Pickup Special Assessment District.

Masey Hales – Parcel #009-011-400-03
Sadl Farms – Parcel #009-023-100-03 (2 additional assessments)

A motion was made by Trustee Sable, seconded by Treasurer Lackie to approve the addition of the 2 above parcels to the Curbside Pickup Special Assessment District. Ayes 5 (Housler, Lackie, Barnett, Sable, Lightfoot), Nays 0.

Supervisor Housler discussed the recycling and noted that it continues to be problematic. We think it may settle down in September. Each month we are having a mess to clean up from people just dumping their recycling on the ground. We will see what happens once the summer is over, but we are need of a long term solution. If we continue the recycling, we may look into putting together a flyer setting the guidelines for recycling. Some people are just throwing their items into whatever bin is empty and cross contaminating what is in the bins, which means it will just get dumped in the trash. We are still considering the cameras. If we stay with recycling, we will need to get so we can determine who is just leaving their recycling on the ground, and then they will be issued a fine. The Clerk notified some residents out in the parking lot last time that the recycling bin was late, but they still left all their recycling on the ground for us to clean up. An audience member suggested doing away with the newspaper area since most people don't use that area. As a reminder, if we would go to American Waste (and not this free one from Waste Management), the cost would be around \$425-450/month, which we currently do not have the funds for.

Supervisor Housler noted that there are 2 types of people when it comes to recycling. The true recyclers that do it right...rinse out all their containers, flatten down boxes and plastic, etc....and then there are the others that think they are doing things right and aren't. Unfortunately, the second group ruins it for the first.

If we determine that it is the summer folks that are the issue, we may consider stopping the recycling bin from being delivered for June, July & August.

Supervisor Housler noted that the Township had received a complaint on a house that had 16 dogs. He noted that we had received complaints for this house in the past. He called Animal Control so they could enforce our ordinance. They came and there were actually 10 dogs in the house, but believed some may have been hidden. Resident has been notified that they have 30 days to bring the count of dogs down to 4. (None of the dogs have licenses). You can't have a kennel license in this Township and will have to bring all the dogs into Animal Control to make sure the dogs are healthy and get licenses.

Supervisor Housler noted that Clerk Lightfoot received a FOIA request the True the Vote, a political action committee out of Texas. We have put together a response along with a prepared estimate. They have requested a waiver of fee, but our attorney is saying no. Our attorney also told us to pass a resolution to NOT waive the fees.

A motion was made by Supervisor Housler to deny the True the Vote's request to waive the fees, seconded by Treasurer Lackie. Ayes 5 (Housler, Lackie, Sable, Barnett, Lightfoot), Nays 0.

Dorothy Burdo asked what the residents of the township get out of this FOIA request. Supervisor Housler noted, absolutely nothing. We just have to spend hours and hours researching all of the information for them.

Supervisor Housler gave an update on road construction noting that the chip and seal has been finished on Hemlock Road. It looks nice, is a lot smoother and they put a top layer on it.

Don Kowalske asked about the test are on Ashard road and whether it was still going to get done. Supervisor Housler noted that we keep getting pushed off by the Road Commission.

Supervisor Housler also noted that this year's limestone projects should be done in August.

CLERKS COMMENTS

Clerk Lightfoot thanked all of her election workers for the wonderful job they did. This election was definitely more stressful due to all the safety precautions due to COVID-19, and she appreciated all the election workers who stepped up and were willing to work during these situations. Clerk Lightfoot also noted that we have plexiglass screens, sanitizer, gloves, and a cleaning person available, and will have that again in November. She also noted that out of everyone that came to vote, only 3 people refused to wear a mask.

Clerk Lightfoot asked everyone to get their absentee ballots in as early as possible. If you decide to wait until close to the election, please drop them off at the Township hall versus mailing them. (This way you know they arrive on time.) She also noted that the Secretary of State is going to send out a mailing of postcards to everyone that is not on the permanent absentee list encouraging them to vote by absentee ballot.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Planning – John Phillips: Absent

Zoning & Blight – Harold Logan: 2 zoning permits. 4411 Trailridge is operating a business in a residential area. Show cause hearing 8-21-20. Monitoring 4 properties for blight. 6121 Timberlane – 3 unlicensed vehicles (had 2 weeks to remove so sending violation tomorrow).

COMMENTS/CONCERNS FROM CITIZENS

Kirk Curtiss read his letter noting his concerns with being turned down by the Zoning Board of Appeals, and asked the Township Board to overturn the decision. (Letter and photos filed in Zoning Board of Appeals book.)

Supervisor Housler noted that the Township Board doesn't have the authority to overrule the Zoning Board of Appeals.

Supervisor Housler also noted that he will follow up on the building that Mr. Curtiss was talking about regarding his neighbor that received a permit from the DEQ.

Mr. Curtiss just noted that they would like a shed to store things in because they can't afford a garage.

Harold Logan noted that the gazebo in question obtained a permit and variance.

Mr. Curtiss said he is trying to clean up area after tornado and doesn't understand why denied. Supervisor Housler again noted that we don't have the authority to overturn the Zoning Board of Appeals decision, whether good or bad. He would check with our attorney to see if Mr. Curtiss' next step would be to take it to Circuit or District Court.

Adjourn: Motion by Trustee Sable, seconded by Trustee Barnett to adjourn the regular meeting.
TIME: 7:53 p.m.

Alan Housler, Supervisor

Julie Lightfoot, Township Clerk