

**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 September, 2018

Present Board Members: Supervisor Housler, Clerk Lightfoot, Treasurer Lackie, 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 17 citizens.

A motion was made by Trustee Barnett, seconded by Trustee Sable to approve the regular board meeting minutes from August 9, 2018. Ayes 5, Nays 0.

GUEST SPEAKERS

Dale Majewski, Clare County Commissioner/Fire Chief - Highlights included: They are still working on the budget and hope to have finalized next Wednesday. They are running really close and taking \$200, 000 out of Fund Balance to balance the budget. Roger Diederich asked if the \$2 million the Clerk is working on getting has come back yet. Commissioner Majewski noted only some of it has been returned. The healthcare costs are going up and they are currently 70% vested in the MERS pension system; however they would like to be 80% funded.

In regards to the Fire Department, Norway was hit the hardest with lots of power lines and trees down. He couldn't stress enough that residents need to stay at least 25 feet or more away from down power lines. They give us 440 volts of electricity and should not be messed with.

Supervisor Housler took the time to express his and the Board's deep appreciation to the Fire Department for clearing brush off the roads and guarding power lines. Fire Chief Majewski noted that they watched the outage map by Consumers Energy and it was very accurate and Consumers did a phenomenal job during this storm. 178 power poles were replaced in Clare County.

Tom Pirnstill, Clare County Transit: Mr. Pirnstill gave a presentation on the Transit System, highlighting the history, funding, fixed assets, and other information.

TREASURER'S REPORT

A motion was made by Trustee Sable, seconded by Trustee Barnett, to approve account payable checks. Regular Checks #15044 – 15060. No Voids. Ayes 5, Nays 0.

SUPERVISOR'S COMMENTS

Supervisor Housler talked about the liability insurance premium for the year starting October 1, 2018, and recommended acceptance of the insurance and to approve payment. He noted there was a \$175 increase over last year.

Motion by Treasurer Lackie, seconded by Clerk Lightfoot, to approve the insurance premium and to approve payment of such. Ayes 5 (Housler, Lackie, Barnett, Sable, Lightfoot) Nays 0.

Supervisor Housler gave an update on the recent storm. He noted there had been damage in the cemetery, with 3 trees coming down. There doesn't appear, at this time, to be damage to the headstones; however, we will know more once the trees are removed. The sign out front was also damaged. (Sign poles were not rotted; it was all due to wind. Sign was found in the back parking lot.) The insurance adjuster was out last Friday. We've received an estimate from the Township Sexton for removal of the trees and are waiting on an estimate for replacing the sign. He noted that we may have to have a special board meeting later to look at the bids and get them taken care of.

We received an estimate during this board meeting from the Sexton, Delos Blain, to remove the trees and brush in the cemetery at a cost of \$1500.00. Motion by Supervisor Housler, seconded by Treasurer Lackie to approve the estimate for \$1500.00, subject to final approval from the insurance company. Ayes 5, Nays 0.

Supervisor Housler discussed the garbage rates for the upcoming tax year. He noted that we lowered them last year, but may have lowered them too far. This past summer we have had a huge volume increase. We are having to have the recycle bin emptied almost every time, which costs \$425 every time it is dumped. The costs, due to the increase in garbage, has increased so much that we will have a difficult time making ends meet. We are also looking into the possibility of a 2nd recycle bin when the 1st one is full. We also want to address the problem with the extremely hot days. The compactor has been filling up in a day or day and half, so that also needs to be looked into. Our volume has doubled from prior years. We need to remain fiscally responsible and have monies for future improvements, as soon as next year. We are currently at \$32/year and we need to raise it to \$40/year. (This is still less than the original \$49/year.) This will bring in an estimated \$16,776 more per year. This will help protect us from a deficit and have funds for improvements.

Motion by Treasurer Lackie, seconded by Trustee Sable, to move the yearly garbage fee from \$32/year to \$40/year. Ayes 5 (Lackie, Housler, Sable, Barnett, Lightfoot), Nays 0.

Supervisor Housler noted that the Board had received a copy of the Master Plan last month as presented by the Planning Commission. Motion made by Trustee Sable, seconded by Trustee Barnett, to approve the Master Plan with the presented changes effective September 13, 2018. Ayes 5 (Housler, Lackie, Barnett, Sable, Lightfoot) Nays 0.

Supervisor Housler discussed Ordinance #11. It creates an Office of Enforcement Officer and covers a wide variety of ordinances. It has conflict with current State law with police officers. The Planning Commission is going to look into it and reword.

CLERK'S COMMENTS

Clerk Lightfoot informed all present that the 6th Circuit Court issued an order staying the lower courts order in the straight party ticket case. Therefore on the November 6, 2018 ballot you will **NOT** be able to vote straight party ticket.

Clerk Lightfoot also informed those present that she will be working with the website developer to try and get a sample ballot on the website, along with the Register to Vote application. She will keep the public updated when that happens.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Planning-John Phillips: Nothing to add since Supervisor Housler covered it all before. Supervisor Housler thanked him for their service.

Building-Werner Mantei: He had 9 building permits this month.

Zoning & Blight-Harold Logan: He had 4 zoning permits this month. He had 2 notices – people agreed to take care of but nothing has been done yet. If nothing done, then they will receive a citation. Mr. Logan noted that with the change to the zoning ordinance, inoperable vehicles are now included. Most of those are currently in the Villa. All but 2 are still there and will get notices. Sheyla Young asked if anything being done at the end of Patsy Place. Mr. Logan noted he is trying to work with the individual, but nothing is getting done, so he will get notices soon.

COMMENTS/CONCERNS FROM CITIZENS

Roger Diederich noted that the Attorney General said there is no legal violation of the County in court settlements...it's a constitutional issue. He contacted the Clare County Prosecutor and the Prosecutor has acknowledged and will take a look at it for fair distribution of awards. We have also been advised to contact our attorney.

Tom Pirnstill noted that their church has a free clothing giveaway the 2nd & 4th Tuesdays. (Located in old Chemical Bank building across from Red's Party store.)

Don Kowalske asked whether it would cost less to put recycle in regular dumpster. He also inquired whether it's just going into a landfill, or is actually getting recycled. Supervisor Housler noted he will check into it and make sure it is being recycled.

Adjourn: There being no further business; a motion was made by Trustee Sable, seconded by Trustee Barnett to adjourn the regular meeting. **TIME: 8:10 p.m.**

Alan Housler, Supervisor

Julie Lightfoot, Clerk