

**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 October, 2020

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 5 members present.

A motion was made by Trustee Barnett, seconded by Trustee Sable to approve the regular board meeting minutes from September 10th, 2020. Ayes 5, Nays 0.

GUEST SPEAKERS

Dale Majewski, Clare County Commissioner, gave the following update: FY2021 Budget adopted. Auditor has been here and it went well. The cuts they made to the budget made a big difference. Accepted Michigan State Police Grant for \$57,018.70 (Matching grant).

Bill Simpson, Clare County Road Commissioner, gave the following update: New Finance Director and a new Engineer Tech. Working on shoulders on Hemlock when belt broke, but they will get back to finishing it. Oil trucks taking out old oil pipes and damaged Twin Lakes Road, so they hauled in 650 tons of gravel to repair it, at no cost to the taxpayers.

TREASURER'S REPORT

A motion was made by Trustee Sable, seconded by Trustee Barnett to approve early check #15527-15533, and regular check numbers 15534-15545. Ayes 5 Nays 0.

SUPERVISOR'S COMMENTS

Supervisor Housler discussed the Township Liability Insurance package. It is same as last year. Last year's amount was \$6655, and this year's amount is \$6893. Clerk Lightfoot spoke with insurance company about the increase, and they said it is the standard increase...nothing at the township affected the increase. Motion by Trustee Sable, seconded by Treasurer Lackie to approve the liability insurance package. Ayes 5 (Housler, Lackie, Sable, Barnett, Lightfoot), Nays 0.

Supervisor Housler discussed additions and deletions to the Curbside Pickup District and recommended acceptance of the same, as follows:

ADDITIONS

Jon Prisbe
1540 Spring Avenue
009-011-300-24

DELETIONS

Richard Hickey
7627 John R Ct
009-220-108-00

Motion by Treasurer Lackie, seconded by Trustee Sable, to approve the additions and deletions to the Curbside Pickup District. Ayes 5, Nays 0.

Supervisor Housler also noted that October 7th was our 1 year anniversary of the curbside pickup and we have had overwhelming positive comments.

Supervisor Housler gave an update concerning the Magistrate's ruling regarding Anthony Zelinski conducting commercial activity on residential property. Supervisor Housler, Zoning Officer Harold Logan, and our attorney have all been dealing with this landscape business out of Lake of the Pines. Mr. Logan issued tickets, went to court, and at the 2nd hearing, the magistrate ruled in favor of the resident. He stated that the landscaping portion of the "business" took place at "customer's residences" not in Lake of the Pines. We referred this to our attorney, who didn't agree with this analyzation and thus after speaking with Supervisor Housler, filed an appeal. (The appeal had to be done by the next day.)

CLERK'S COMMENTS

Clerk Lightfoot noted that she had received notification earlier this year that our current website manager was going to be retiring at the end of the year. We called around to several different vendors. Originally, we received a price between \$3000-4000 (which according to those in the industry was a fair price.) We continued looking and found a company that would do it cheaper. The website needs to be updated, as it is currently programmed in older language, and it also needs to be updated to be mobile friendly (which has to be programmed in a different manner vs. computer viewing.) After speaking with Supervisor Housler about the different packages, Clerk Lightfoot recommended going with the Platinum package. This package will also give us the ability to be able to send out notices to anyone who signs up through their email. (Remember we had this in the past, however we had to stop it because an individual decided to use people's emails for her own personal use. With this new system, the public will not have access to people's emails.) We are excited about having a mechanism again to notify residents of something important coming up, for example, the recycling bin will not be here this month due to problems, or something to that affect. Clerk Lightfoot also recommended the yearly plan of Fully Managed. Supervisor Housler and she thought the price of \$600/year was a little steep, so Clerk Lightfoot asked the company if they could reduce that since we are a small township, and they gave an offer of \$450/year instead for the same package.

Motion by Trustee Barnett, seconded by Trustee Sable to go with the Platinum package to get the website set up, and then the Fully Managed package for \$450/year. Ayes 5, Nays 0.

Clerk Lightfoot noted that she received notification that we could apply for a grant for up to \$5,000 from a 501 (c) company called Center for Tech and Civic Life. The grant can be used for just

about anything doing with elections. She and Supervisor Housler worked together to answer all the questions for the grant and submitted it. We received notification within a few days that we received the total grant of \$5000. We will be buying items dealing with election administration, election assets, election safety, etc. One of the first items will be a new computer for elections, and a dutch door for the Clerk's office for safety.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Planning – John Phillips: Planning Commissions submitted an Etiquette Ordinance and a letter about multiple campers on one site. He also asked that everyone on the board be given the Board of Appeals manual. They also submitted their budget for 2021-2022. Supervisor Housler noted he would get with the attorney about the multiple campers on one site.

Zoning & Blight – Harold Logan: 3 zoning permits this month. Blight: 620 S. Cook has been cleaned up. 6121 Timberlane, the 3 unlicensed vehicles are gone.

COMMENTS/CONCERNS FROM CITIZENS

None. Supervisor Housler thanked everyone for coming out.

Adjourn: Motion by Trustee Sable, seconded by Treasurer Lackie to adjourn the regular meeting. **TIME: 7:40 p.m.**

Alan Housler, Supervisor

Julie Lightfoot, Township Clerk