

**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 11th of October, 2018

Present Board Members: Supervisor Housler, Clerk Lightfoot, Treasurer Lackie and Trustee Barnett. Trustee Sable was absent (excused).

TIME: 7:00 p.m. Call to Order and Pledge to the Flag

Roll Call was taken with 4 members present, along with 16 citizens.

A motion was made by Trustee Barnett, seconded by Treasurer Lackie to approve the regular board meeting minutes from September 13, 2018. Ayes 4, Nays 0.

GUEST SPEAKERS

Dale Majewski, Clare County Commissioner/Fire Chief - Highlights included: He informed us about Senate Bill 1031. He reminded us that in about 2013-2013 a bill was passed to reduce the personal property taxes business paid to local entities. Senate Bill 1031 is round 2 of that and would include businesses such as Consumers Energy, DTE, and Trans Canada. For the County of Clare, that would mean a loss of \$500,000 in revenue. For Lincoln Township alone it is a \$300,000 loss. With the old bill some was the loss was reimbursed, but with this new bill there are no reimbursements, which takes revenue away from Townships.

Next he discussed the budget that has been approved for \$13,720,000. Unfortunately they had to take \$110,000 out of Fund Balance in order to balance the budget. Both Mr. Majewski and one other Commissioner voted no.

Karen Hulliberger, Candidate for Clare County Road Commission: Highlights included: If she is elected she will make maintenance in our County the number 1 priority. Communication needs to be there. Foremen need to be accountable and report back to the Public. Also policies and procedures need to be followed.

Lori Martin, Clare County Clerk/Register of Deeds: Highlights included: Renee Haley, Veterans Director, has resigned. Currently they are interviewing for her replacement. November 6, 2018 is the election and we have 3 state proposals on the ballot. In regards to the Collections Program, her office looked at what had been recouped over the last 3 years on a monthly basis and that was an average of between \$2100-2300. In the last 6 months her office has collected an average of \$5500/month and will continue to amp this up. She has also talked to the judge about possibly garnishing State and Federal refund checks since a lot of the people that owe these fees get large refund checks.

TREASURER'S REPORT

A motion was made by Trustee Barnett, seconded by Supervisor Housler, to approve account payable checks. Early Checks #15061-63. Regular Checks 15064-15082. No Voids. Ayes 4, Nays 0.

SUPERVISOR'S REPORT

Supervisor Housler discussed the Metro Act Right of Way Permit Extension for AT&T. He noted we get money from utilities for working in our right of way. Every 5th year this permit needs to be renewed to continue receiving those monies. Supervisor Housler moved to approve the above-mentioned permit, seconded by Clerk Lightfoot. Ayes 4 Nays 0.

Supervisor reminded the Board that the local MTA meeting is October 15th, 2018 at 6:30 p.m. with the topic of marijuana and its effects being discussed. The Public is welcome to attend.

Supervisor noted that our Attorney has prepared the text for Ordinance #36. This ordinance would allow the Township to legally "opt out" of allowing marijuana facilities in the Township. We realize the proposal has not passed or failed yet; however if it is approved on Election Day it will take effect within 10 days and therefore it is too late to pass an ordinance to "opt out". Clerk Lightfoot moved to approve Ordinance #36, seconded by Treasurer Lackie. Ayes 4 (Housler, Barnett, Lackie, Lightfoot), Nays 0.

Supervisor spoke on Ordinance #11. This ordinance allows the Township to employ and Ordinance Administrator. The Board had some discussion on whether we want to do or not. Some portions of Ordinance #11 are now obsolete (constable police). The Planning Commission has amended to clean up any issues where items were not clear or not applicable. We can't afford to hire another person. Our attorney has looked at the fine structure. She also did a study and her conclusion was it wasn't going to pay for itself for us to hire an Ordinance Administrator.

Supervisor Housler noted he wanted to clear up that we didn't receive any ordinance fines. We have received some, though not large amounts. Most recently we received \$13.20 in June, \$85.80 in July and \$24.75 in October. He would like to pursue with the courts to see whether we are getting our fair share.

Supervisor Housler was even more concerned with our small size government that we already have a person who takes care of blight and zoning, and this person is conducting himself in a manner the Board wants. It is not possible to have immediate results because according to the ordinance you have to have set times by giving people verbal notices, then written notices, then a ticket. If the Board wanted him to immediately issue a ticket, we could do though.

Donald Kowalske noted that a Township employee didn't want to lose his Constable authority when the law changed, so that's how this Ordinance #11 came about.

Roger Diederich asked is Harold Logan (blight/zoning) and Werner Mantei (building inspector) can do all of Ordinance #11. What about other items besides blight/zoning/building? Supervisor Housler noted that the other items are handled by the Sheriff's Department. He also noted that Animal Control will be here for our December meeting to talk about their responsibilities.

Treasurer Lackie moved to repeal Ordinance #11. Motion failed due to lack of support.

Treasurer Lackie moved to refer Ordinance #11 to the Planning Commission to write language (another Ordinance) to repeal Ordinance #11, seconded by Trustee Barnett. Ayes 4 (Housler, Lackie, Barnett, Lightfoot), Nays 0.

Next Supervisor Housler discussed the potential purchase of a generator for the Township Hall. He asked Treasurer Lackie to see if there was enough money in the maintenance budget to purchase a generator to keep the hall open for emergencies. It would have to be large enough to run the air and the well/lights. We also have to meet commercial wiring requirements. Clerk Lightfoot made a motion to have Supervisor get some estimates for a generator, seconded by Trustee Barnett. Ayes 4, Nays 0.

Supervisor Housler informed the public that he had a response for a question Donald Kowalske asked last meeting about recycling. (He asked whether the recycling was kept separate from the regular trash, because Waste Management had been accused of mixing the two together, therefore the recycling items weren't getting recycled.) He contacted American Waste and they indeed keep it separate. They have a mechanical separator that separates each different type of recycled item...such as cardboard versus plastic, etc. Supervisor Housler noted that recycling has become so popular that during the summer our recycle bin gets filled up in a week and sometimes in 1 day.

CLERK'S COMMENTS

Clerk Lightfoot noted that she put a sample copy of the ballot in the board packet. She also noted that the sample ballot is now on our website, along with the application for an absentee ballot, the Register to Vote application, deadline dates, and much more information.

They are expecting this to be a large turnout this election. Currently I have about 50% more absentee ballots than I had in August, and 30 more people added to the permanent absentee ballot list. One final note, with this election there is NO straight ticket option.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Planning Commission – John Phillips: Absent

Building – Werner Mantei: Absent

Zoning & Blight – Harold Logan: He had 4 zoning permits this month. 1 zoning violation behind the Buckhorn. Individuals are from Indiana and he was able to catch up with them. They said they will take care of it. He has 16 places he is monitoring for blight. He is currently working with 6 people; has sent 10 notices; has received 6 call backs, 2 complete, 2 have gotten dumpsters to clean the places up, and 4 have had no contact so they will be receiving citations on Monday.

COMMENTS/CONCERNS FROM CITIZENS

Donald Kowalske asked if there was an exemption for a car being for sale.....Harold Logan said no.

Adjourn: There being no further business; a motion was made by Trustee Barnett, seconded by Treasurer Lackie to adjourn the regular meeting. **TIME: 7:50 p.m.**

Alan Housler, Supervisor

Julie Lightfoot, Clerk