

**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 December, 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 5 members present, along with 8 citizens.

A motion was made by Trustee Sable, seconded by Trustee Barnett to approve the regular board meeting minutes from November 8, 2018. Ayes 5, Nays 0.

A motion was made by Treasurer Lackie, seconded by Trustee Sable to approve the Special Board Meeting Minutes for November 12, 2018. Ayes 5, Nays 0.

GUEST SPEAKERS

Dale Majewski, Clare County Commissioner/Fire Chief – Commissioner Majewski wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. He advised everyone that the County Board approved hiring an Assistant Prosecutor to replace the one that left. They also approved the hiring of two corrections officers to replace ones that left or were promoted. Steve Curry from MAC visited the Board and said Senate Bill 1031 pertaining to Personal Property Taxes, where some tax revenue would be taken away from the Townships, is probably not going to go anywhere. Commissioner Majewski also noted that there are three new Commissioners starting January 1. Two of the Commissioners that were not reelected had a lot of years of experience on the board and will be missed for their knowledge.

TREASURER'S REPORT

A motion was made by Trustee Barnett, seconded by Trustee Sable, to approve account payable checks. Early Checks #150107-150111. Regular Checks 15112-15136. No Voids. Ayes 5, Nays 0.

SUPERVISOR'S REPORT

Supervisor Housler discussed the boundary survey that Lapham will conduct for us. He noted they will put property irons and stakes in the ground so we will know where the tree company will be able to cut. The survey should be done by the end of the year.

He also met with the Road Commission about the right-of-way in this area, specifically Birch Drive and Goffer's Drive. In order to vacate the road, you have to have everyone in the

subdivision sign off on vacating it. We may contact our Attorney for help if we want to expand the cemetery.

Consumers Energy recently conducted a survey of the streetlights in Freeman Township and has typed up a contract for us to sign. This contract is standard to what we've had in the past and includes any necessary updates. We get funds from the Metro Fund to help pay for these expenditures.

Motion made by Trustee Sable, seconded by Treasurer Lackie, to approve the contract and have the Supervisor and Clerk affix their signatures. Ayes 5 (Housler, Lackie, Barnett, Sable, Lightfoot), Nays 0.

Supervisor Housler noted the insert from the Planning Commission stating all the business they conducted this year. Highlights include: Amending the Zoning Ordinance; Reviewed Cemetery Costs; Review 5 Year Master Plan; Reviewed/Amended Ordinance No 23.; New Ordinance #36; Repealed Ordinance #11; All Ordinances given 5 year review.

Next Supervisor Housler discussed the Committee Appointments and recommended appointing members to Zoning Board of Appeals, Planning Commission and Board of Review. They are as follows: Zoning Board of Appeals – Roger Bogenschutz, John Phillips, Rick Sieg, Sandy Sable (Alt.); Planning Commission – Carol Barnett, Robert Eckardt, Gary Maas, John Phillips, David Pohoda; Board of Review – Vicki Brauner (Alt), Robert Eckardt, Alan Housler (as Supervisor), Geraldine Shaw, Sheyla Young.

Motion made by Trustee Barnett, seconded by Trustee Sable to appoint the above-mentioned people to their positions. Ayes 5, Nays 0.

Supervisor Housler discussed the situation we had last summer with the extremely warm weather and the employees working at the transfer station. This is an item that we need to handle at our next board meeting. The Board is concerned about the health of the employees in these conditions. He talked with the Supervisor of the Transfer Station, John Lackie, and he noted that they have been opening the transfer station about a ½ hour early. Some ideas for helping the hot weather situation are: Only opening the transfer station; creating a group of 5-10 volunteers to call at short notice – even paying them; cancelling it completely but that would cause chaos. We need some time of criteria that would activate at a certain point (degrees).

Supervisor Housler discussed the establishment of a Supervisor's organization for Clare County. The Clerks and Treasurers have a similar group to discuss issues that pertain to them. The Supervisors met Monday, December 10th to get going on the group. They have named a Chair and Vice Chair. They also decided to have meetings the next 3 months, then go to quarterly meetings.

One of the topics right now is the operation of the Road Commission and the pay for the Road Commission Board. They want to set expectations for maintenance too. The salary of the Road Commission Board was brought up, along with their benefits. They get health insurance, if they take a reduction in salary, and also retirement benefits. One of the Road Commissioners received \$22,600, one received \$7800 (didn't take health benefits) and the 3rd one received \$14,888.98. Some of the Supervisors are upset about this for the amount of work the Road Commissioners do compared to what a County Commissioner or a Township Board member does. Some questions came to mind about when the salary and benefits started. This may become a public issue.

The Supervisor's Group has tasked itself with discussing the amount of maintenance or lack thereof in the county. They are going to make a list of specific complaints, such as potholes, grading, lack of grading/limestone, overhanging trees, grass cutting, etc. Supervisor Housler asked our Board to come up with specific problems/locations to bring to the Supervisor's Group. Once the list is compiled, the Group will give the list to the Road Commission and ask them to categorize them and give them a time table of when these items will be taken care of.

County Commissioner Majewski noted in reference to the Road Commission Board going from 3 to 5 Road Commissioners, that he will represent us for that. He would like to know how the increase would serve the Townships.

Supervisor Housler discussed the 2019 Limestone Road list and noted that the following suggestions have been made (totally about 2 miles). (Woodbridge Ct., Sandlewood Dr., Havenwood Dr., Havenwood Ct., Green Glen Ct., Woodmont Ct., Evergreen Trail, Norwood Dr., and Partridge Ct.)

Motion made by Trustee Sable, seconded by Trustee Barnett to move forward with these roads for Limestone in 2019. Ayes 5, Nays 0.

CLERK'S COMMENTS

Clerk Lightfoot discussed the resolution for setting the Board Meeting Schedule for 2019 and recommended acceptance of the same.

Trustee Barnett moved to hold the Freeman Township Board Meetings at the Freeman Township Hall, 7280 Mannsiding Road, Lake, Michigan 48632, with meetings starting at 7:00 p.m. local time.

The monthly meeting schedule is as follows: (2019) January 10, February 14, March 14, April 11, May 9, June 13, July 11, August 8, September 12, October 10, November 14, and December 12.

Special meetings of the Board will be scheduled as needed and noticed in accordance with State Law.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the above meeting schedule, time and place be adopted.

Seconded by Treasurer Lackie. Ayes 5, Nays 0.

Clerk Lightfoot discussed the publishing of legal notices. She noted that she has had issues with Clare County Review forgetting to publish items, or in the case of the last election when they post items for all the townships, they had wrong information twice. Also, after some research she found that the Clare County Review charges about double what the Clare County Cleaver does. Therefore, in the future, all required advertisements will be done in the Clare County Cleaver.

Clerk Lightfoot discussed the resolution from the County Treasurer to object or accept transfer of unsold properties. If we accept the properties listed we would have to use them for

township business, therefore we are choosing to object to the transfer. (Properties are Lot 337 Birchwood Heights and Lot 89 Lake of the Pines Villa.)

Moved by Treasurer Lackie, seconded by Trustee Sable to object to the transfer of the unsold properties listed above that were foreclosed upon in April of 2018 and did not sell at either County Auction. Ayes 5 Nays 0.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Planning Commission-John Phillips: Absent

Building-Werner Mantei: 3 permits

Zoning & Blight-Harold Logan: 2 Zoning Permits; Monitoring 8 blight properties; issued 5 citations and 4 have been resolved; may have to go to court for the last one.

COMMENTS/CONCERNS FROM CITIZENS

No comments.

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

Alan Housler, Supervisor

Julie Lightfoot, Clerk