

**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 14th of January, 2021

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.

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

GUEST SPEAKERS

Dale Majewski, Clare County Commissioner, was present (VIA ZOOM) to give his update on County business. Highlights included: Gypsy Moth contract discussion, Board Member resolutions for past BOC members, Jack Kleinhardt, David Hoefling, Mark Fitzpatrick, Leonard Strouse. Approved BOC meeting dates for 2021. BOC Reappointed Mike Tobin to Region 7 Council on aging governing board. Register for Covid19 Vac. shots thru Central Michigan Health Dept. website if you want one.

TREASURERS REPORT

A motion was made by Trustee Sable, seconded by Trustee Barnett to approve early check #'s 15585-15588 and regular check numbers 15600-15612. Ayes 5, Nays 0.
(Please note that check #'s 15589-15599 have been voided. The reason being we started with a new accounting software on 1-1-21 and they have a different format for checks.)

SUPERVISOR'S COMMENTS

Supervisor Housler discussed two properties regarding Trash Pickup. The first property on Ashard Road for Mr. Ron Croskey had paid for garbage assessment in 2020, however he did not have a tote. The second property on Cadillac Drive is for David & Lleellyn Goethe who paid for two garbage assessments, however one of the buildings on their properties was not habitable. Recommendation for the Treasurer to issue new tax bills for the correct amounts after these changes.

Motion by Trustee Barnett, seconded by Trustee Sable, to issue new tax bills to the above mentioned individuals. Ayes 5 (Housler, Lackie, Sable, Barnett, Lightfoot), Nays 0.

Supervisor Housler discussed the potential changes to the poverty exemption procedures. With the changes, if nothing has changed in a person's financial situation, we could allow them to not have to file paperwork every year. If there's ever a question on their finances, then the Township

would have to perform an audit according to the State's guidelines. As of yet, the State doesn't even have any audit guidance rules written.

Clerk Lightfoot noted that an audit for this wouldn't be cheap. Supervisor Housler noted we only have 2 people right now. They are getting 100% forgiveness of their taxes, except for special assessments. Seems like they should be able to do a little paperwork to get this forgiveness.

Clerk Lightfoot added that how would the Township even know if a person's tax situation changed?

Supervisor Housler noted that if we could just get a little evidence it wouldn't be bad, but if we have to go through a full blown audit, that will cost us money.

Clerk Lightfoot noted that she is not for changing the procedures and other board members agreed.

Motion by Treasurer Lackie, seconded by Clerk Lightfoot that after looking at the proposed changes, the Board is NOT in favor of adopting the new changes. Ayes 5 (Lackie, Lightfoot, Housler, Sable, Barnett), Nays 0.

Supervisor Housler noted that Trans-Canada notified us that the pipeline has plans to remove 18 older less efficient wells and associated pipelines. The well removal begins in May and the pipeline removal in June.

Supervisor Housler reminded everyone that we had received an election grant and had decided to use the money towards multiple items, one being a dutch door for election safety purposes for the Clerk's office. We enlisted the help of Mr. David Hatton. The Board suggested the Clerk send a letter of appreciation, as he donated his time. He also installed the Treasurer's plexiglass on her desk.

CLERK'S COMMENTS

None.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Planning – John Phillips: Absent
Building – Werner Mantei: Absent

Zoning & Blight – Harold Logan: Absent

COMMENTS/CONCERNS FROM CITIZENS

Adjourn: Motion by Treasurer Lackie, seconded by Trustee Barnett to adjourn the regular meeting.

TIME: 7:20 p.m.

Alan Housler, Supervisor

Julie Lightfoot, Township Clerk