

**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 April, 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 5 members present.

A motion was made by Trustee Barnett, seconded by Trustee Sable to approve the regular board meeting minutes from March 11, 2021. Ayes 5, Nays 0.

A motion was made by Treasurer Lackie, seconded by Trustee Sable to approve the special board meeting minutes from March 31, 2021. Ayes 5, Nays 0.

GUEST SPEAKERS

Dale Majewski, Clare County Commissioner, was present to give his update on County business. Highlights included: At their last board meeting Melissa Townsend of the Gypsy Moth Program let them know what will be sprayed in Clare County. 70 people opted out which includes 600' buffer zone. (So if you're next to a neighbor who doesn't want the spray, you most likely will not get any either. If you do want spray, you'll have to contact Melissa.) The County is receiving \$3 million from the American Rescue Plan Act. \$1.5 million will be paid this year and \$1.5 million will be paid next year. The board wants to put back the money they spent during COVID back into Fund Balance. They would also like to do some infrastructure projects, such as HVAC and maybe paying off some debt. Townships will also be receiving some of that money.

TREASURERS REPORT

A motion was made by Trustee Barnett, seconded by Trustee Sable to approve Early Checks #15641-15650 (void 15647) and regular check numbers 15651-15660. Ayes 5, Nays 0.

SUPERVISOR'S COMMENTS

Supervisor Housler noted he met with the Planning Commission and went over their work schedule. Since nothing is pressing, they decided to have their meetings every 2nd month unless the Board needs them to handle a specific issue, then they would call an extra meeting.

Due to the unfortunate passing of John Phillips, there is a vacancy on the Planning Commission and Zoning Board of Appeals Boards. If anyone is interested in the positions, please submit a resume to Supervisor Housler. You can drop them off at the Township Hall.

Supervisor Housler next discussed the contract with the Clare County Road Commission for road improvements. He noted that we've had a millage for improvements. The current millage will expire in 2025. We've been concentrating on limestone throughout the Township. We have reached our original goals fairly well, with only a few left in Lake of the Pines and a few where there are only 1 or 2 people that live on the road.

He has been working with the Road Commission to transition to hard surface roads. In December we entered into a contract to do limestone on the last few roads in Lake of the Pines. We've been after the Road Commission to try hard surface over limestone. Originally looked at Ashard off M-115 to where the old dump was as a test site. That never got done because of factors at the Road Commission and the contractor didn't want to put down if it didn't last and then his reputation was on the line. About 2 weeks ago the Road Commission approached us. US-127 is going to have blacktop taken up and replaced. The Road Commission has purchased 40,000 tons of material (blacktop taken up then crushed). They would then use the crushed blacktop and seal over to put over the limestone. 4 inches of scarified blacktop compacted, then a double seal, then a fog seal on top. When done it should mimic regular blacktop road. Supervisor Housler asked them to put together a contract proposal. The recommendation is for Pinehurst from Ashard to the end. Recommendation for Pinehurst because of the campground, boat launch, Lake of the Pines complex, and a large amount of full-time residents living there. Our share would be \$37,521.75 (50/50 deal), and would be done this summer. We have been getting to the point where we need to transition from limestone to hard surface from here on out. We have sufficient funds in the road account for both the limestone and Pinehurst this year.

A motion was made by Clerk Lightfoot, seconded by Trustee Barnett to approve the contract with the Clare County Road Commission for Pinehurst hard surface. Ayes 4 (Lightfoot, Housler, Sable, Barnett), Nays 0, Abstain 1 (Lackie).

Supervisor Housler informed the public of the letter he received from Consumers Energy. They are starting a program this summer that will reward the public for NOT using electricity during peak hours for items such as laundry, air conditioning, etc. They want you to do these types of things from 7pm to 10pm. It will on average save your \$2/month.

Supervisor Housler noted he may not be at the next meeting (May) due to family business.

CLERK'S COMMENTS

Clerk Lightfoot informed the public that our new website is up and running. Please notice that the calendar and special notices are still on the home page but may be in a different place. Please let her know if you see anything that needs to be updated, or have suggestions for the website.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Planning – Robert Eckard: Had first meeting since last year. Long term agenda is due for 2023 and will be working on that. Ordinance #39 is in draft mode and waiting for board to respond. June 7 will be next meeting at 10:00 a.m.

Mr. Eckard also noted that the Planning Commission is saddened that former Chairman John Phillips passed away and wish condolences to his family. John did a great job on the Planning Commission!

Zoning & Blight – Harold Logan: It was a busy month. Had 3 zoning permits. There is a person living in the travel trailer on Cook. Owner lives in Grand Rapids. Mr. Harmon bought on land contract, but owner will receive the fine.

4111 Ridgeway has not changed since last Fall and going to Court. Need to contact attorney on how to proceed.

10700 W. Ashard – 30x60 building – no permit – isn't responding to Township or the County. Placed has been red tagged.

Blight – 9 places that he is monitoring – 20 unlicensed or inoperable vehicles throughout township. 4 receiving notices – the worst place is moving in bigger vehicles to hide the smaller ones.

COMMENTS/CONCERNS FROM CITIZENS

Steve Barry asked how deep the paving on Pinehurst will be. Supervisor Housler noted 4". Mr. Barry also asked if they would process or crush. Supervisor Housler noted it would be crushed. Mr. Barry also asked who the contractor was and Supervisor Housler noted he did not know at this time. Mr. Barry said he will be interested to see how this turns out.

Adjourn: Motion by Trustee Sable, seconded by Trustee Barnett to adjourn the regular meeting.
TIME: 7:37 p.m.

Alan Housler, Supervisor

Julie Lightfoot, Township Clerk