

**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 10th of June, 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 May 13, 2021. Ayes 5, Nays 0.

GUEST SPEAKERS

Dale Majewski, Clare County Commissioner, was absent.

TREASURERS REPORT

A motion was made by Trustee Sable, seconded by Trustee Barnett to approve Early Checks #15684 and regular check numbers 15685-15697. Ayes 5, Nays 0.

SUPERVISOR'S COMMENTS

Supervisor Housler gave an update on the Cemetery and the need for additional cremation plots. Lapham Associates has put together a map adding 2 rows in front of the current cremation plots. However, the second additional row is very close to the road, which would mean the road would probably have to be moved over. Clerk Lightfoot noted that she had sold 5 cremation plots in the last 5 years, so adding one additional road should be sufficient and give us plenty of time to get the expansion done on the cemetery. This way we wouldn't have to move the road or have the plots too close to the road. Motion by Clerk Lightfoot, seconded by Treasurer Lackie to add one additional row (plot #26-49). Ayes 5 Nays 0.

Supervisor Housler then discussed the 2021 road projects. The Pinehurst project has started. The bottom layer has been put down and spread into the driveways. The chip and seal layer will be put down about the 2nd week of July. The 6 limestone projects will hopefully be done by the middle of August.

In regards to the Gypsy Moth, we have been contacted by quite a few people, with complaints starting last month. Since last month more calls have been coming in. Supervisor Housler handed out a flier from Clare Conservation District which includes their names and office hours. The main contact is Melissa Townsend (989-539-6401) and their hours are Monday through Friday 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. He also handed out a letter to the Editor that was in the Clare County Cleaver. We are not the only ones complaining about the situation with the Gypsy Moths.

Carol Maas noted she got a call from the people after she filled out a form. They wanted to check out their property. The individuals said they didn't even have to get out of their truck to inspect because there were so many gypsy moths.

Sheyla Young noted the form is on the website. She also noted that they sprayed where the most complaints came in, and there wasn't enough money in the budget.

Vicki Brauner noted she called Melissa. Everything is sprayed and there isn't enough money. She filled out the form and emailed pictures. Since hers are so bad, she was told she would be in the Fall count.

John Mitten asked, wasn't this for ALL of Clare County? Didn't they add something on the ballot about the beautification of Farwell, Clare, Harrison, along with the gypsy moth spraying?

Supervisor Housler noted there were about 4 townships that didn't get any spray.

Geri Shaw asked whether Melissa Townsend could come to our meeting to answer questions. When we voted for this, how much went to Gypsy Moth and what went to other items?

Carol Maas asked whether Melissa is the one who comes out and checks the gypsy moths.

Don Kowalske noted in the past students get out to check the egg masses.

John Mitten asked us to ask Melissa when the last time we were sprayed.

Supervisor Housler noted that as a result of all the complaints, maybe the Board should take a position of being short changed. They should give us a report of what was found in Freeman Township. We may need to go to her Board and the County Board. We need answers from Melissa. We need to make sure that something gets done next year. The Board did not have a problem with the Supervisor sending a correspondence to them.

Supervisor Housler then announced that the Board has received a formal letter from the Clerk noting that she will be resigning due to health reasons effective October 14, 2021. Her health issues should not be talked about as they are protected under HIPAA laws. If you have any questions, please talk to her directly.

From October 14th, the Board has 45 days to make an appointment. This shouldn't be a problem as we have time to look for applicants and interview and appoint someone by late summer. If we don't do an appointment, then we have to have a special election which is cumbersome, lengthy and expensive. Please note that interviews will have to be at a board meeting that is open to the public. The Board now needs to accept the resignation of Clerk Lightfoot. Motion by Supervisor Housler, seconded by Treasurer Lackie, to accept the resignation letter from Township Clerk Lightfoot and received by the Board. Ayes 4 (Housler, Lackie, Barnett, Sable), Nays 0, Abstain-1 (Lightfoot). Note, we will probably advertise and put on the website.

CLERK'S COMMENTS

None

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Planning – Robert Eckard: Absent.

Zoning & Blight – Harold Logan - 4 Zoning Permits. 4411 Ridgeway – show cause hearing 7-12-21 – held in contempt.

Blight: 9836 Ashard – issued citation; 2834 Ashcroft – becoming bad situation, 12 used cars, stripping and selling for parts, man who owns property is in jail so hard to serve; Many unlicensed vehicles in this Township – right now about 25.

Supervisor Housler asked Zoning Office Logan to call the attorney again on the Ashcroft issue and see what we can do to get in court.

COMMENTS/CONCERNS FROM CITIZENS

Vicki Brauner – When is the next time we get brined? The brining last time didn't even last a week. Supervisor Housler said it will be either the 28th or 29th of June. She also asked how much brine vs. water is in the mixture. Supervisor Housler will call.

Adjourn: Motion by Trustee Barnett, seconded by Trustee Sable to adjourn the regular meeting.
TIME: 7:45 p.m.

Alan Housler, Supervisor

Julie Lightfoot, Township Clerk