

**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 8<sup>th</sup> of July, 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 June 10, 2021. Ayes 5, Nays 0.

**GUEST SPEAKERS**

Dale Majewski, Clare County Commissioner, was present and gave the following highlights: Mid-Michigan Development gave annual report of new jobs and new businesses; Jerry Becker talked about Broadband funding; Gypsy Moth discussions with Melissa Townsend – discussed a lot of issues and concerns – need questions answered. If you have egg masses, call Melissa and let her know.

Supervisor Housler noted that our Board wrote a letter to Melissa and their Board. He's had 7-8 conversations with Melissa. She said she'd come to a board meeting. His conclusion is they are going to hotspots, which the majority were in Hayes Township. They are taking our tax money with nothing in return. There needs to be a policy on how these moths are to be handled. The Conservation Board needs to come up with a better solution. Four townships had no spraying done, and three got very little. We can't have another year like this.

**TREASURERS REPORT**

A motion was made by Trustee Sable, seconded by Trustee Barnett to approve Early Checks #15698-15699 and regular check numbers 15700-15712. Ayes 5, Nays 0.

**SUPERVISOR'S COMMENTS**

Supervisor Housler noted that our insurance policy is coming due, but we would like to have the insurance rep come to a special board meeting and answer some of our questions. The Board has August 2<sup>nd</sup> or August 16<sup>th</sup> available (12:30 p.m.). The Clerk will send the rep an email seeing if he is available either of those days.

Supervisor Housler discussed an addition to the curbside pickup assessment district. This individual has paid the prorated amount, and the board needs to approve adding him to the tax roll. Motion by Treasurer Lackie, seconded by Trustee Sable to add the following individual to

the Curbside Special Assessment Roll (Ayes 5 (Housler, Lackie, Sable, Barnett, Lightfoot) Nays 0:

Bill Darragh  
1537 Spring Avenue  
Property ID# 009-480-007-00

Supervisor Housler updated everyone on the status of Pinehurst Drive. They have gotten started on the road and have applied the chip and seal. Hopefully sometime this week the slurry seal will be put down to finish the project.

Supervisor Housler gave the board information concerning the poverty exemption requirements per the State Tax Commission. In the past we've just adopted the Federal guidelines and those were sufficient; however now it won't be and we will have to go through extra steps, putting more in writing about the individuals that qualify. He asked the Board to please take a look at these guidelines. He will also give a copy to the Board of Review. We will have to accept a resolution by the September Board Meeting.

Supervisor Housler noted that we opted to do Pinehurst this year. The Road Commission has millings from US-127. We want to take advantage of these millings for our roads. The Road Commission has presented us with two contracts: one for Lake Tahoe Trail (our cost is \$40,327.20) and one for Shadowbrook (our cost is \$36,116.18.)

These will not be chipsealed this year though. Because we don't have enough money for both, the Road Commission has allowed us to delay payment for one of them until December. We are hoping these two projects will be done in the next few weeks.

Motion by Treasurer Lackie, seconded by Trustee Barnett, to approve the 2 contracts with the Road Commission for Shadowbrook and Lake Tahoe Trail. Ayes 5 – (Housler, Lackie, Sable, Barnett, Lightfoot), Nays 0.

Supervisor Housler discussed the American Rescue Act – the COVID money. We were initially excited about how we could use this money, but then the rules came out and there was really nothing the Township could legally use the money for.

Because of that, a lot of smaller Townships have gotten upset that there is nothing they can use the money for, and have thus contacted the Township Association who can put pressure further up. They are asking for the rules to be loosened up so smaller Townships can eventually use the money. We need to get registered now in case we can end up using the money down the road. Unfortunately, the paperwork for this is humongous. Supervisors got together and are talking about hiring a contractor to process all this paperwork. We must have a letter sent in to get our name on the list. The Board needs to authorize the Supervisor to make application on behalf of the Township. Motion by Trustee Sable, seconded by Trustee Barnett to authorize the Supervisor to make application on behalf of the Township. Ayes 5, Nays 0.

### **CLERK'S COMMENTS**

Clerk Lightfoot informed those present that the Real ID deadline (to get a driver's license so you can travel on domestic flights) has been extended to May 3, 2023. Make sure when you go to the Secretary of State's office to get the Real ID, that you have all the necessary paperwork, such as birth certificates, marriage licenses, etc. (You can find all the required documents on the Secretary of State's website.)

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Planning – Robert Eckard: No Planning Commission meeting this month, so no report.

Zoning & Blight – Harold Logan – 4 zoning permits. 4411 Ridgeway Trail – showcase hearing set for Monday at 9:00 a.m. 9836 Ashard Road – no response to citation – will setup meeting with judge. 2834 Ashcroft – finally got a name – they are in process of cleaning up. Unlicensed vehicles in township – we are making progress on these.

**COMMENTS/CONCERNS FROM CITIZENS**

Dorothy Burdo commented that Harold Logan does a great job.

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

**TIME: 7:56 p.m.**

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Alan Housler, Supervisor

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Julie Lightfoot, Township Clerk