

**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 9th of September, 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 Treasurer Lackie, seconded by Trustee Sable to approve the regular board meeting minutes from August 12, 2021. Ayes 5, Nays 0.

A motion was made by Trustee Sable, seconded by Treasurer Lackie to approve the special board meeting minutes from August 16, 2021. Ayes 5, Nays 0.

GUEST SPEAKERS

Dale Majewski, Clare County Commissioner was present and gave the following updates: The County has received \$3 million ARPA COVID monies. They still need to clarify on how you can use them. The prosecutor has requested another attorney due to the workload and this is one thing you can spend the COVID money on. The Prosecutor also wanted another clerk. After 2024 when the COVID funds are done, Commissioner Majewski asked how will we be able to pay for them. The Board passed it anyways. The Board approved a polycom system for the jail (arraignments by video). Animal Control has a part time person to fill in for vacations. The budget has been balanced with a \$14,000 surplus (mainly due to COVID monies). Lots of talk for Road Patrol and operating tax increase. Commissioner Majewski wants everyone to live within their means and not tax the people more. The Sheriff's Department members did receive Premium Pay due to having to work during COVID (again this is something you can use the COVID monies on.) The County will also get \$3 million next year. Also, the HVAC system in the jail is being replaced (with COVID monies), plus sanitation equipment for cars and jail cells.

Supervisor Housler asked whether any money was being set aside for Fund Balance. Can us ARPA money. They used \$880,000 which was just approved by the Board. They now have a \$1.5 million Fund Balance.

TREASURERS REPORT

A motion was made by Trustee Barnett, seconded by Trustee Sable to approve Early Check #15736, (Void check 15737) and regular check numbers 15738-15750. Ayes 5, Nays 0.

SUPERVISOR'S COMMENTS

Supervisor Housler discussed the liability insurance and the special board meeting the board had with the agent. We have different options we can add to the base insurance. One item we were looking at is increasing the Zoning Litigation limit. Currently it is \$10,000. We were close to that in last litigation so we may want to look into increasing that. The next step is \$25,000 at a premium cost of \$150. Supervisor Housler asked if the Board had any comments. Treasurer Lackie recommended we go for the \$25,000 zoning litigation coverage. Clerk Lightfoot asked about the \$41 premium for the terrorism insurance. She noted that all it takes is for one of our computers to get hacked and need to money to unlock it. For \$41 it would be worth the protection.

Motion by Treasurer Lackie, seconded by Trustee Sable to add the Terrorism (\$41) and Zoning Administration (\$150) extra coverages to our base liability insurance package (\$7026), and have Supervisor Housler sign the documents. The Clerk should pay the invoice as soon as possible so it is received before October 1. Ayes 5, Nays 0.

Next Supervisor Housler discussed the Curbside Pickup assessment and the adds/deletes we do throughout the year. We currently have one that needs to be deleted because it only has a storage shed on it.

Sue & Steve Pipesh
009-036-400-07
Unoccupied storage shed

Between now and the 3rd week of September we will submit all the adds/deletes to equalization to make the changes on the December tax roll.

Motion by Supervisor Housler, seconded by Treasurer Lackie to remove curbside pickup from the Sue & Steve Pipesh property listed above. Ayes 5, Nays 0.

Supervisor Housler discussed setting a special board meeting date, after September 14th, to name the new Township Clerk. Motion made by Trustee Sable, seconded by Trustee Barnett to set the special board meeting as Wednesday, September 15, 2021, at 10:00 a.m. Ayes 5, Nays 0.

Supervisor Housler gave an update on our ARPA-COVID funds. He believes all of the counties have received their funds and the larger townships have started receiving theirs. We will have to be patient as ours are still forthcoming. We have filled out all the necessary forms and they have been approved. We have until 2024 to spend the money, but we have to declare by 2022 how we will use it. You have to make sure you use it according to the rules, because these monies will be audited, and if you don't use it correctly, you will be required to pay it back!

Supervisor Housler gave an update on the damage we received from the storm we had Tuesday. Clerk Lightfoot and he took pictures of all the damage at the cemetery and have sent them all to the insurance company and contacted them and will fill out the appropriate paperwork. We have contacted our Sexton to do the cleanup and haul away everything at the hall and cemetery. Once all the storm damage is removed, we will assess any damages to the stones. Our maintenance crew will then do any further cleanup that is needed.

Supervisor Housler discussed our emergency siren and the fact it didn't go off during Tuesday's storm. The gentleman worked on it about a month ago and had it working, and then we paid the bill. We have been working on this siren since last Fall. Three times he was out. We finally had to send him a letter which he didn't respond to. Supervisor Housler contacted Jerry Becker at the County and he said you can open up the box and there's a button. Supervisor Housler tried that and nothing worked and the battery is new. Our guy is Nick and we have no confidence in him. There is a company in Mt. Pleasant that would work on it. Jerry Becker said he has a list of different companies we could contact. We might go back and ask Nick for money back.

CLERK'S COMMENTS

Clerk Lightfoot informed everyone that this is her last official board meeting as Township Clerk, though she will be working until October 14th. She thanked everyone for allowing her to serve the residents of Freeman Township and she wishes the next Clerk the best. Please be patient with the new Clerk as there is a LOT to this job and it will take time to learn everything.

Supervisor Housler thanked Clerk Lightfoot for all her work and a huge accomplishment was bringing the Township up to date with technology, as we did not have that in the past.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Planning – Robert Eckard: Absent

Zoning & Blight – Harold Logan – 2 Zoning Permits; 4470 Ridgeway will be having a court hearing Monday at 3:00 p.m. He has been doing things to irritate us again; 9836 W. Ashard – citation issued – court has done nothing; 7700 Karen Drive – 2 unlicensed vehicles – talked to him and will take care of it.

Supervisor Housler noted that it is discouraging to Township that courts are so slow for these type of items.....not high on their priority list.

COMMENTS/CONCERNS FROM CITIZENS

Geri Shaw – asked when Shadowbrook is being paved. Supervisor Housler noted in the Spring. The Road Commission ran into scheduling problems. If they have any free time in the next few months, we'd like to have it done, but if not, first thing in Spring.

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

Alan Housler, Supervisor

Julie Lightfoot, Township Clerk