

**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 09th of December, 2021

Present Board Members: Supervisor Housler, Clerk LaFave, 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, the Clare County email system is down, they are trying to retrieve the information and get it back in order. It has been hacked, some information was deleted. If we need to talk with someone at the county, call as the email system is still disabled.

The re-districting will take place. Freeman Township will still be in District 1 and will include Redding Township and Garfield Township. Dale lives in Lincoln Township and will be our representative until the next election

TREASURERS REPORT

A motion was made by Trustee Barnett, seconded by Trustee Sable to approve early check #'s 15788-15790 and regular check numbers 15791-15798. Ayes 5, Nays 0.

SUPERVISOR'S COMMENTS

Supervisor Housler introduced Melissa Townsend from the Clare County Conservation District who was invited to the meeting to discuss and answer questions concerning the Gypsy Moth program.

Melissa started her discussion with how the program was funded through the passing of a special assessment of 1mil. It would take at least 3mil to spray the entire county, and 1mil will only fund the spraying of 20,000 of the 60,000 acres in Clare County,, so we are in a suppression program not an eradication. In Michigan there is zero state funding for gypsy moth suppression so it falls on the tax payers for funding. Melissa stated that she was only able to hire two teams instead of the three she needed to help with the identifying and counting of the egg masses. She showed us a national map with gypsy moth hot spots throughout the country, so it is not just Clare County Dealing with this issue.

A typical outbreak lasts 3-5 years.

A question was asked by a taxpayer on how the egg masses were counted and she stated that they counted everyone in the county, not just the ones who called or reported masses on their property. Another question was asked about where they sprayed and she stated the City of Harrison, Temple, parts of Lincoln Twp. She added that the City of Harrison had withstood 3 years of defoliation and their trees would not survive another year without spraying. Hayes Twp seems under control but they are moving into Lincoln Twp quite heavily. Melissa strongly encouraged everyone to implement mechanical controls, using duct tape around trees starting the week before Memorial Day, tying a cloth around the tree and as it fills up with caterpillars, throw them into soapy water, try to focus on the area close to your house, it will make a difference. Dale Majewski showed pictures of his trees with the duct tape on and he said he believed it helped. Dale also assured the public that the Gypsy Moth milage fund cannot be spent on anything else, it is illegal. Melissa warned not to use Crisco around the base of the trees, it will scar the tree and attract ants, but does not deter gypsy moth worms. She also suggested that we pay attention and treat for Oak Wilt, as this is also a problem in our area, the is the time to trim oak trees.

Melissa stated that the cycle is typically 3-5 years of outbreak and then 10 years off, but weather changes can affect the cycle. A wet spring and cold winter would be helpful for control.

Supervisor Housler concluded that Melissa and her team were faced with an impossible task and not enough funding. He believes, based on his conversations with people in our township and in other townships that another milage will not get passed. And hopefull the Conservation District will be looking into treating the hot spots not previously treated.

Next on the agenda Supervisor Housler a talked about a list of lakes in Clare County, two of which are in Freeman Twp (Doc and Tom and Windover Lake) that were the subject of a letter we received from the County Drain Commission. The letter addresses the lake levels ordered by the court and the special assessments that will be used to fund any improvements needed to comply with the orders. The letter was an advance notice that there will be upcoming public hearings for approval of any special assessments and must be approved by the Clare County Board of Commissioners.

A motion was made by Supervisor Housler and seconded by Trustee Sable to make Clerk LaFave administrator for ACH on our new Members First Credit Union account. And to order a check scanner for Treasurer Lackie. Roll Call Vote Ayes 5, Nays 0

Supervisor Housler added that there will be a Board of Review meeting on Tuesday, December 14th at 10am, here at the township hall.

CLERK'S COMMENTS

Clerk LaFave called for a resolution to accept the schedule for the Freeman Township Board meetings as follows-

January	13, 2022	October	13, 2022
February	10, 2022	November	10, 2022
March	10, 2022	December	08, 2022
April	14, 2022		
May	12, 2022		
June	09, 2022		
July	14, 2022		
August	11, 2022		
September	09, 2022		

All meetings take place at the Freeman Township Hall 7:00pm

Motion made by trustee Sable to accept, seconded by Trustee Barnett Ayes 5, Nays 0

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Planning – Robert Eckardt – The next Planning Commission meeting will be March 07, 2022

Zoning & Blight- Harold Logan – Only 2 permits this month. He is watching 7 properties for blight, of which 3 will become citations

COMMENTS/CONCERNS FROM CITIZENS

Kelly Harrison offered to help with looking into other options for check scanning.

Julie Lightfoot asked for an update on the ARPA money. Supervisor Housler replied that we are still proceeding with caution until we have clear directions on how the money can be spent and that time has not come yet.

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

Time: 8:05 pm

Alan Housler, Supervisor

Lacinda LaFave, Township Deputy Clerk