

**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 13th of October, 2022

Present Board Members: Supervisor Housler, Clerk LaFave, Treasurer Lackie, Trustee Barnett & Trustee 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 Sable, seconded by Trustee Barnett to approve the minutes from the September 8th, 2022 Board Meeting. Ayes- 5 Nays- 0

GUEST SPEAKERS

Dale Majewski, County Commissioner –

Commissioner Majewski reported that a new judge was appointed by the Governor, Tara Hovey. The Board of Commissioners has reduced the set back for spraying for Gypsy (Spongy) Moths from 600 feet to 100 feet for those who opt out.

A First Responders Grant was approved for the Sheriff's department at the last meeting and they will receive \$54,000 for training and other needs.

The 2022-2023 Fiscal year budget of \$13,700,000 for Clare County was approved with no increase in taxes.

Commissioner Majewski concluded his update with praise for Lori Phelps, the new Clare County Administrator and the leadership she has demonstrated.

TREASURERS REPORT

A motion was made by Trustee Barnett, seconded by Trustee Sable to approve regular checks 016232 - 016249. Ayes – 5, Nays - 0

SUPERVISOR'S COMMENTS

Supervisor Housler asked to change the order of the items for discussion on the agenda and move item 1 to 4. No objections.

Supervisor made a proposal to the board for additional streetlights. We have 11 street lights in Freeman Township. We have money in our Metro Fund which is to be used for road right of way purposes, safety. Additional street lights would fit that purpose. The Board was provided a map with the current locations of street lights and was asked to get input from the public and perhaps drive around the township at night and see where additional street lights would be helpful and to bring that information to our November meeting to vote. Supervisor Housler stated that it may be possible to add up to 10 new street lights in the township.

Supervisor Housler will have a meeting with the Clare County Road Commission to go over possible road improvements for next year. We have already been told that there are not any millings available for projects. Freeman Township has used more millings than any other township in Clare County. So we may be looking at other options for improvements such as limestone and hard surfacing. He will be getting estimates from the Road Commission on chip seal and hot mix. We will know better after that meeting on what to plan.

The next item on the agenda was the approval of our insurance package. Clerk LaFave made a motion to approve as written in the amount of \$7,953 without the additional options, seconded by Treasurer Lackie. Roll call vote taken. Ayes-5 Nays-0

Supervisor Housler gave some background on a situation that was brought to our attention on Shadowbrook Drive in Lake of the Pines neighborhood. Approximately two week ago a couple of individuals were observed moving household items onto an empty lot, there were two tents set up. Supervisor Housler visited them and informed them that they were not allowed to dump trash on the property. They were being evicted from a residence in the Lake of the Pines Villa, they said all items would be stored in the tents out of site. The next day it was apparent that was not the case. Supervisor Housler, Clerk LaFave and a member of LOP board visited them again. Supervisor Housler informed them that they have 5 days to show improvement on cleaning up the property and 10 to have completed.

It was reported to the township that the individuals were living on the property without proper waste facilities and the Clare County Health Department has been called. They said they would visit and inspect the property.

The deed on the property is listed in the name of Conrad Blain. He has been contacted and told of our concerns. We, the township will be giving Conrad Blain a letter citing the violation of our Blight Ordinance and posting the property with the violation. He will be given 15 days to have the property cleaned up. After 15 days if property is not cleaned up a citation will be issued which will take us into court.

Supervisor Housler was made aware that Lake of the Pines board is apprised of the situation and has sought legal council as well. Lake of the Pines also made Freeman Township aware of the support for action in their community to have the property cleaned up. A large crowd showed up to their October board meeting to voice their concerns and approximately 25-30 Lake of the Pines members were present at our Township meeting tonight to offer support for action and offered to attend court to testify to their concerns

Unfortunately, this action will incur some expense but we believe it is warranted.

CLERK'S COMMENTS

Clerk reminded the audience of the November 8th Election; polls will be open 7am-8pm and also to Absentee voters to sign and date the envelope before returning their ballots. And requested voters to please research and read the ballot proposals before voting.

A discussion ensued among the audience on proposal 2 and the difficulties it would bring to our township if passed.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Planning – Robert Eckardt: Gave a report on the Planning Commission’s recent meeting. They changed their bylaws to better assign and define positions for their board. They proposed an update to Ordinance 8 section 11.02 and 12.02, for mobile home skirting that allowed 6 months for the skirting to be installed to immediately be installed. Also the submitted a draft of Ordinance 39 to the Township Board for their review. They had a tabled discussion about Air B&B’s and Bed and Breakfasts. Their next meeting will be November 07, 2022 10 am.

Zoning & Blight – Harold Logan - absent

COMMENTS/CONCERNS FROM CITIZENS

A citizen brought to the attention of the board that there is a car in LOP Villa that has no license plate and hasn’t for 20 years. Another citizen stated that they did plate the car last year after a conversation with Harold Logan.

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

TIME: 7:53 p.m.

Alan Housler, Supervisor

Lacinda LaFave, Township Clerk

