

**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 March, 2023

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, all members present

PUBLIC HEARING FOR THE 2023-2024 BUDGET

Roll call taken, all members present

Supervisor Housler presented the budget and gave a brief overview, noting the biggest change this year in the budget is the work planned for improvement to the cemetery and maintenance projects for the township hall made possible by the ARPA funds.

We will be looking to increase the levy for the curbside garbage pick-up for next year as cost are increasing. And will be looking into renewing our road millage for another 10 years.

A motion was made by Trustee Sable, seconded by Trustee Barnett to adjourn the Public Hearing. Ayes-5, Nays- 0

REGULAR ORDER OF BUSINESS

Trustee Barnett made a motion to approve the Board Meeting Minutes from February 09, 2023. Seconded by Trustee Sable. Ayes- 5, Nays- 0

GUEST SPEAKERS

Marlene Housler- Clare County Commissioner- The County Sherriff Department wants to hire a security officer for Mid-Michigan College campus. The Sherriff Department has also bought a boat for the emergency dive team.

The Clare County Clerks office is working on an inter-governmental agreement to present to the townships within Clare County for a proposed cooperative for early voting as required by the passing of Proposal 22-2 last November.

A member of the public asked Commissioner Housler who would be the replacement for our Drain Commissioner? She did not know, but will look into it.

TREASURERS REPORT

A motion was made by Trustee Sable, seconded by Trustee Barnett to approve regular checks 016312 - 016326. Ayes – 5, Nays - 0

SUPERVISOR'S COMMENTS

Supervisor Housler asked that agenda item #3 in his comments, the Planning Commission Ordinance Change, be held over to the April meeting for further research and in its place a discussion about the planned maintenance and improvement to the township hall.

Treasurer Lackie made a motion to adopt the Budget for 2023-2024, seconded by Trustee Sable. Roll call vote taken. Ayes-5, Nays- 0

Update on the Shadowbrook blight issue- Marc A. Davis is the owner of record as determined at the hearing on January 11, 2023. He was given 60 days to bring the property into compliance, which is March 11th. Since that is a Saturday, we will be filing paperwork with the judge on Monday March 13th, and will find out what our next step is and how to enter the property for clean-up.

Don Mann has been actively getting bids and bringing in contractors to look at our proposed projects for the Township hall. So far he has brought in bids for painting the interior, flooring, new exterior doors, electrical and plumbing. As a board we are very pleased with his due diligence and support. We are not able to close off one of the bathrooms to create storage space, so will be looking into an exterior storage building.

Supervisor Housler reminded the public of Board of Review Appeal Hearings on Monday March 13, 2023 1-4pm and 6-9pm and Tuesday March 14, 2023 9am – Noon, and 1-4pm

CLERK'S COMMENTS

We have received more of the Emergency Weather Radios from Jerry Becker; they are available for Freeman Township residents in the clerk's office.

Clerk LaFave gave an update on Proposal 22-2, 9 days of early voting. We have been in talks with the Clare County Clerk, they have a proposal for the county to run the early voting and the cost to be divided among the townships, but this would require any of our voters who want to vote early to drive to Harrison to vote. We have also considered consolidating with Lincoln Township to share cost and responsibilities. When we get more solid information and costs, it will be brought to the board for approval.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Planning – Robert Eckardt: Planning Commission had their first meeting of the year on March 6th. They are starting our 5 year review of the Master Plan. When that is complete, they will start the 5 year review of Ordinances. Meetings are open to the public.

Zoning & Blight – Harold Logan - absent

COMMENTS/CONCERNS FROM CITIZENS

A discussion began about the condition of some of the gravel roads in Freeman Township, with the thaw and re-freeze. Supervisor Housler committed to contacting the County Road Commission for information.

Adjourn: Motion by Trustee Sable, seconded by Trustee Barnett to adjourn the regular meeting. Ayes- 5 Nays-0

TIME: 7:51 p.m.

Alan Housler, Supervisor

Lacinda LaFave, Township Clerk

