

**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 11th of April, 2024

Present Board Members: Supervisor Housler, Clerk LaFave, Treasurer Lackie, Trustee Mann

TIME: 7:00 p.m. Call to Order and Pledge to the Flag

Roll Call was taken, Trustee Barnett absent, all others present

A motion was made by Trustee Mann, seconded by Supervisor Housler to approve the minutes from the March 14th, 2024 Board Meeting. Ayes- 4 Nays- 0

Motion was made by Treasurer Lackie, seconded by Trustee Mann to approve the minutes from Special Board Meeting minutes for March 27th, 2024. Ayes- 4, Nays - 0

GUEST SPEAKERS

Marlene Housler- Clare County Commissioner – Clare County is working on a couple of millage proposals for the August and November ballots, one for Spongy Moth treatment and one for Animal Control, one for Senior Services and one for Emergency Services

The Commissioners are also working on the 2024-2025 Budget.

Clare County has property in Redding Township that will be going up for sale.

Clare County Courthouse is tightening their security, everyone except judges and department heads must go through metal detectors before entering the courthouse.

Clare County Clerk, Lori Mott is asking for \$5000 for a program to faster and more accurately report election results.

TREASURERS REPORT

A motion was made by Trustee Mann, seconded by Supervisor Housler to approve early check # 016534 and regular checks #016535-016546. Ayes – 4 Nays - 0

SUPERVISOR'S COMMENTS

Motion was made by Treasurer Lackie and supported by Trustee Mann to accept the Code of Ethics presented by the Planning Commission as a Policy for all township employees rather than an Ordinance. Roll call vote taken, Ayes – 4, Nays – 0

Motion was made by Clerk LaFave and seconded by Treasurer Lackie to lower the Fire Mileage from 1.25 mills to .75 mills for this year to avoid a fund balance overage. Roll call vote taken Ayes – 4, Nays – 0

The township owns a parcel of land, approximately 6 acres off Twin Lakes Rd. We have received an offer in the amount of \$16,444.18 to buy this property from Northgate Land Partners LLC.

Motion was made by Clerk LaFave and seconded by Trustee Mann to except and submit the offer. Roll call vote taken, Ayes – 4, Nays – 0

Motion was made by Treasurer Lackie and seconded by Trustee Mann to accept the bid from Blain Excavating for the final landscaping for the cemetery addition. Ayes 0 4, Nays-0

The Township Hall parking lot is in need of maintenance and we have received a bid from Rite-Way Asphalt Paving, Inc for bond coating, resurface and re-stripe. Motion was made by Clerk LaFave and seconded by Trustee Mann to accept the bid. Ayes – 4, Nays – 0

A motion was made by Supervisor Housler and seconded by Clerk LaFave to appoint Douglas Johnson as Zoning Administrator and Code Enforcement. Ayes – 4, Nays- 0

Supervisor welcomed Douglas Johnson and newly appointed Deputy Treasurer Connie Broski, both will be taking their oaths after this meeting.

We will this following week be writing the ballot language for the proposed road millage for Freeman Township. The board discussed the difference of renewing the millage for the Headly amount or a completely new millage for the full 3 mills allowed, and the value of placing on the August ballot or November ballot. The board will be scheduling a special meeting, to be announced, to approve this language that will be on the August ballot.

CLERK'S COMMENTS

Anyone filing for a township office may do so now and the paperwork is available, see Clerk LaFave at township hall. Filing deadline to be on the August ballot is April 23rd, 2024

And just for your information – Freeman Township had a 26.32% turnout for the Presidential Primary in February and 6 people used the early voting option. 170 people early voted in Clare County in the minimum 9 days of early voting required by Proposal 22

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Planning – Robert Eckardt: The March meeting was canceled and rescheduled for April 1st 2024. The Planning Commission has a seat open, vacated by Don Mann when appointed to the board as Trustee. The Planning Commission resubmitted a revision about mobile home skirting to the board for consideration. The commission received a complaint about excessive noise, from a semi-truck idling overnight. Upon review of the Ordinances, they decided that a new Ordinance was not required, the present ones cover this. The Commission also considered abandoned and dilapidated travel trailers used as hunting cabins in the township. This was tabled until the new Code Enforcement officer is in place.

Zoning & Blight – Harold Logan – 2 zoning permits for March to report and multiple calls about blight.

Harold is retiring after 15 years. Supervisor Housler commented on behalf of the board our sincere thank you to Harold Logan for his service to Freeman Township.

COMMENTS/CONCERNS FROM CITIZENS-

Don Mann asked is anyone has received information from the Conservation District about Spongy Moth spraying for 2024. County Commissioner Housler provided the audience with a map for spraying this season.

Adjourn: Motion by Treasurer Lackie, seconded by Clerk LaFave to adjourn the regular meeting. Ayes -4 Nays - 0

TIME: 7:47 p.m.

Alan Housler, Supervisor

Lacinda LaFave, Township Clerk

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