

**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 09<sup>th</sup> of May, 2024**

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

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

Roll Call was taken, all members present

A motion was made by Treasurer Lackie, seconded by Trustee Mann to approve the minutes from the April 11th, 2024 Board Meeting. Ayes- 5 Nays- 0

Motion was made by Clerk LaFave, seconded by Trustee Barnett to approve the minutes from Special Board Meeting minutes for April 23rd, 2024. Ayes- 5, Nays - 0

**GUEST SPEAKERS**

Marlene Housler- Clare County Commissioner – Clare County is proposing 4 mileage renewal request for the November ballot –E911 Central Dispatch for .345 mil, Senior Services for .474 mil, Spongy Moth ( Gypsy Moth ) for .988 mil and Animal Control for .296 mil.

The Clare County BOC approved the sale of the Senior Services building in Clare. The money from the sale will go back into the Senior Services fund.

The committee that was formed to help improve ambulance services in Clare County had their second meeting with disappointing results. They have reviewed the problems, but have not come up with any solutions for better, faster service.

Trustee Mann asked Commissioner Housler why they are asking for a renewal for the Spongy Moth, when the DNR is notifying people of the decline of Spongy Moths. Her reply was – with the renewal they can continue to treat and to build the fund and to be ready for the next cycle of outbreak.

Supervisor Housler asked Commissioner Housler asked who started the meetings for the Ambulance Committee? Her reply was Clare County but the Ambulance company MMR is running the meetings. Supervisor Housler wanted to encourage both Commissioner Housler and Trustee Mann, they are both on the Ambulance Committee, to keep trying to guide the committee in the right direction and find a solution for faster more reliable service to the outlying townships like ours.

Michelle Ambrozaitis, the Clare County Prosecutor. She first gave an update on what is happening at her office, and then informed us that she will be on the ballot this year running for Judge for 55<sup>th</sup> Circuit Court

**TREASURERS REPORT**

A motion was made by Trustee Barnett , seconded by Trustee Mann to approve checks # 016547 – 016562 Ayes – 5 Nays - 0

## **SUPERVISOR'S COMMENTS**

Supervisor Housler gave an update on the offer to buy the 6 acre parcel owned by the township that we received an offer on. The news is no news. The deadline has come and gone and we have not heard anything, so we are not anticipating a sale.

The cemetery landscaping project has been completed, ground has been prepped and grass seed planted. The next step is to have the plots marked and staked.

We have received a letter from Clay Basler showing interest in filling the vacancy on our Planning Commission. Supervisor Housler made a motion to appoint Clay Basler, seconded by Clerk LaFave. Ayes – 5, Nays – 0

Supervisor Housler made a motion to appoint Don Mann as Deputy Supervisor, seconded by Trustee Barnett. Ayes – 5, Nays – 0

At our last meeting we approved the bid to have our parking lot at the township hall re-done. We are now waiting to be put on the schedule.

Motion was made by Clerk LaFave and seconded by Treasurer Lackie to sign the contract with Clare County Equalization for option #3, as we have done in the past. Roll call vote taken. Ayes – 5, Nays – 0

We have submitted the language to have our road mileage renewal placed on the August 6, 2024 ballot. We can get the word out to our voters by including a letter in the summer tax bills from the county at a cost of 3 cents per letter. We have a first week in June deadline to prepare the letter.

Treasurer Lackie made a motion and seconded by Trustee Mann to approve the changes to Ordinance # 8.02b, 11.02b, and 12.A4, in regards to mobile home skirting suggested by the Planning Commission. It will require skirting on all mobile homes and must be in place upon occupancy. Roll call vote taken. Ayes – 5, Nays – 0

Just to give everyone the heads up, we will be having some vacancies on the Board of Review for next year. Please let us know if interested in serving on that board.

## **CLERK'S COMMENTS**

Clerk LaFave made a motion, seconded by Treasurer Lackie to add Deputy Clerk Mann and Deputy Treasurer Broski as signers to our Members First CU bank accounts. Roll call vote taken. Ayes – 5 Nays - 0

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Planning – Robert Eckardt welcomed Clay Basler to the Planning Commission. At the last meeting we discussed abandoned trailers with our new Blight officer, Doug Johnson and decided we have sufficient ordinances to enforce removal. Ordinance #45 regarding shipping containers went into effect in January 2024. Next meeting is July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024 at 10am, public welcome.

Zoning & Blight – Doug Johnson, last month he approved 1 zoning permit. As far as blight he has visited 10 properties so far and have put them on notice one was issued a written notice today. The procedure is, they are given a verbal notice of non-compliance, after two weeks if they don't respond they get a written notice, then after 15 days they can be ticketed.

## **COMMENTS/CONCERNS FROM CITIZENS-**

Steve Andrews, Pinehurst Dr, asked Doug Johnson to look into his neighbors building they are staying in on the weekends.

Clay Basler, Cedarhurst Dr, asked if Judge Ferrel is up for reelection? Michell Ambrozaitis answered no, not this year.

Gerry Broski, Pinehurst Dr., asked how the road improvements are selected and who decides where the next road project will be? Supervisor Housler gave a brief explanation on the difference of local roads and primary roads. Ultimately the Freeman Township Board decided which local road to improve using our mileage monies.

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

**TIME: 7:50 p.m.**

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Alan Housler, Supervisor

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Lacinda LaFave, Township Clerk

