

**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 08th of August, 2024

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

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

Roll Call was taken, all members present except Don Mann, excused

A motion was made by Trustee Barnett, seconded by Treasurer Lackie to approve the minutes from the July 11th, 2024 Board Meeting. Ayes- 4 Nays- 0

GUEST SPEAKERS

Marlene Housler- Clare County Commissioner – Commissioner Housler started by congratulating all who won their primary on Tuesday, and sorry for those who didn't. The Commission has been working through bids for health insurance for county employees. They are considering changing from BCBS to Priority Health, same level of benefits but a savings of \$60,000 per year.

They have gone into full session to negotiate with the unions and will be settled by October 1st. The budget is still being worked on.

TREASURERS REPORT

A motion was made by Trustee Barnett , seconded by Supervisor Housler to approve regular checks #016597-016611 Ayes – 4 Nays – 0

SUPERVISOR'S COMMENTS

Motion was made by Treasurer Lackie and supported by Clerk LaFave to add an addition to our Special Assessment District for an extra garbage can at property ID# 009-060-558-00.

Ayes – 4, Nays – 0

Supervisor Housler informed everyone of a difficult issue we are dealing with at the Township Hall. We had an incident at the hall last week where a couple came in with a complaint, they were not happy with the ruling to the request they brought to the Board of Appeals. The language became very abusive and loud. When asked to calm it down, it escalated to the point that we called 911. It took 20 minutes for the officer to respond. He talked with them outside and then came in and stated that this is a public building and they have a right to express grievances. We called our attorney and asked to clarify our rights and the best protection of free speech.

As a result, we will be making several changes at the Township Hall. Our open office hours for both the Treasurer and the Clerk will be changing starting on the 19th of August, 2024 to Tuesday and Wednesday 9:00am to 2:00 pm or by appointment. Supervisor Housler made a motion to have Trustee Mann look into and get bids for security camera system both inside and outside. And also, to assess making our offices more secure by adding service windows to interact with the public so our office doors will remain locked. Treasurer Lackie seconded that motion. Roll call vote was taken, Ayes – 4, Nays – 0.

It's unfortunate to have to do all of this, but we believe it necessary for the safety and security of our offices.

Supervisor Housler commented how happy he was that the citizens of Freeman Township passed the renewal for our road millage so we can continue to improve the roads.

CLERK'S COMMENTS

We successfully held our Michigan Primary Election this past Tuesday August 6th, and I would like to thank all of the election inspectors who worked. Freeman Township had just under 30% participation in this election.

We are preparing for the November 5th General Election

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Bob Eckardt – Planning Commission – absent

Doug Johnson – Zoning and Blight - absent

COMMENTS/CONCERNS FROM CITIZENS-

Carol Maas commented that we should look into getting signs similar to what hospital and doctor offices have “ Abusive behavior not allowed”

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

TIME: 7:23 p.m.

Alan Housler, Supervisor

Lacinda LaFave, Township Clerk

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