

**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 12th of September, 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 Trustee Barnett, seconded by Treasurer Lackie to approve the minutes from the August 08th, 2024 Board Meeting. Ayes- 5 Nays- 0

GUEST SPEAKERS

Marlene Housler- Clare County Commissioner – Commissioner Housler informed us that the commission did pass a motion to approve the proposal by Priority Health. They also approved a renewal agreement for MSU Extension. Lori Phelps and Rick Fancon were appointed to the Materials Management Planning Commission, to manage and regulate garbage disposal.

The Board of Commissioners wanted the public to know that our Prosecutor dismissed a child rape case in order to attend a hearing, that was not mandatory, on a motion to dismiss the lawsuit that she has brought against the Board of Commissioners. This lawsuit has cost Clare County \$70,000 and now a prosecution of a child rapist. This prosecutor is running for 55th Circuit Judge.

Karyn Tomczyk – Candidate for 55th District Judge for Clare/Gladwin. Karyn has been in private practice for 12 years; her current office is in Gladwin. Her practice includes criminal defense, civil cases, divorce, child custody. All of the areas that an incoming judge will need knowledge in, to hit the ground running. She also won't be conflicted out of any cases that she has prosecuted. Karyn hopes to be the judge that everyone who appears in her court thinks of as the judge who listened. Not that they will always agree, but feel that they were heard.

TREASURERS REPORT

A motion was made by Trustee Barnett , seconded by Trustee Mann to approve regular checks #016612-016626 Ayes – 5 Nays – 0

SUPERVISOR'S COMMENTS

Motion was made by Clerk LaFave and supported by Treasurer Lackie to add an addition to our Special Assessment District for an extra garbage can at property ID# 009-340-114-00.

Ayes – 5, Nays – 0

Supervisor Housler passed out the proposal on our upcoming insurance renewal. Our coverage has remained the same but the premium has increased by \$1,148. Supervisor Housler made a motion to renew our policy and to send the payment next week, seconded by Clerk LaFave. Roll Call vote taken, Ayes – 5 Nays – 0

We have received a purchase agreement for the approximate 6 acres of land the township owns. It is the same property that a buyer inquired about earlier this year, and we never heard back.

This offer has expired before our meeting tonight, but if the board is interested, we can pursue it. The board came to the consensus that if they are truly interested in buying we will hear from them again, and we will let it lay for now.

We approved at our last meeting to secure bids for security cameras for inside and outside the township hall. Trustee Mann took on the project and got three bids. All three were in the general area of \$7,000. We decided that was a little high and with the board's approval, would like to table the bids we received and look into purchasing equipment and installing ourselves. We have looked at the same cameras offered in the bids, and by pulling the wires and mounting the cameras ourselves, we could save approximately \$3000-\$4000. We may have to hire someone to hook everything up and get us running.

CLERK'S COMMENTS

We are preparing for the November 5th General Election; Absentee Ballots will be mailed out the last of September

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Bob Eckardt – Planning Commission – Last meeting was September 9th. With a few minor changes they have completed the Cemetery Ordinance that includes the new addition, and will present to the township board in November. The Planning Commission discussed Bed & Breakfasts, short term rentals in Freeman Township. Bob has been researching what other townships have put in place that the Planning Commission may want to consider, regarding noise, number of occupants, parking. There are several bills being considered at the State level, but they feel we should have our own ordinance. Next meeting will be November 4th, 2024 at 10am, public welcome.

Doug Johnson – Zoning and Blight – He issued 3 zoning permits this month, 7 last month. One of those was for a new home, we will be welcoming a new resident. Doug is following 10 properties for blight violations right now, and making some progress, not always as fast as we would like, but progress.

COMMENTS/CONCERNS FROM CITIZENS-

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

TIME: 7:32 p.m.

Alan Housler, Supervisor

Lacinda LaFave, Township Clerk

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