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

Regular Meeting and Public Hearing
Thursday, the 08th of October, 2026

Present Board Members: Supervisor Johnson, Clerk LaFave, Treasurer Lackie, Trustee Young, Trustee Eckardt

TIME: 7:00 p.m. Call to Order and Pledge to the Flag
Roll Call was taken, all members present

Public Hearing- Moratorium on Data Centers, Wind Farms and Solar Farms

Supervisor Johnson asked for a motion to open the Public Hearing, Trustee Eckardt made the motion, seconded by Trustee Young. Ayes-5, Nays-0

Supervisor Johnson gave a summary of the Moratorium that was drafted by Tim Kiefer, chairman of the Planning Commission. We cannot ban data centers, wind farms or solar farms from coming into Freeman Township, but the Moratorium will give us a one year pause in order to make sure our ordinances are reasonable for noise, water usage, traffic flow, etc. And to protect the health and safety of our residents as much as possible and to lessen the likely. impact

Clerk LaFave made the motion to open the hearing for public comments, supported by Trustee Young. Ayes -5, Nays-0

Gerry Broski asked if a company did propose a data center to be built here if a residential and environmental impact study would be required? Supervisor Johnson replied yes, we would have one year to do that. The Planning Commission is taking advantage of this time before any interest to put some of the possible reasonable ordinances in place now. And once any proposals, if any, are made we would still have that year to look at the impact depending on the scale of the project.

Gerry Broski also asked if the Moratorium is in effect for a calendar year or when does the year start? Chairman Tim Kiefer stated that the years starts when the board adopts it but there is a provision to extend another year if needed. The Planning Commission is also looking to update the Township Master Plan to include some of the necessary provisions. Supervisor Johnson stated that they have looked at what other townships have done and mirrored some of that and that we are following all of the legal requirements to make the moratorium legal and binding.

Annette Koweck asked if there is a possible location that a data center could be? Supervisor Johnson stated no, there has been no interest shown at this time, but we want to be prepared as possible. There are some locations in our township that could be a conceivable site, so this action is, we believe, necessary.

Connie Crawford asked if any property in the area is a possibility? Supervisor Johnson gave the example of the old boy scout camp property. It encompasses hundreds of acres; it has water and is accessible to major roads. But hopefully the owners would not sell.
Trustee Eckardt made the motion to close the Public Hearing, supported by Trustee Young. Ayes-5, Nays-0

REGULAR ORDER OF BUSINESS

Trustee Eckardt made a motion to approve the Board Meeting Minutes from September 10th, 2026, motion was supported by Trustee Young. Ayes – 5, Nays – 0

Guest Speaker- Marlene Houlser- Clare County Commissioner- Absent, however she did send a message to Roger Diederich who asked at our last meeting if Commissioner Housler could check on who is in charge of picking up the bagged trash from the MDOT highway clean-up for Lake Taho, and why it took so long? She talked to both MDOT and the Road Commission and was told that the procedure is to call MDOT and they will contact the Road Commission for pick-up.

TREASURERS REPORT

A motion was made by Trustee Eckardt and seconded by Trustee Young to approve Early Checks #17067-17069 and Accounts Payable Checks #017070 - # 017085. Ayes – 5, Nays – 0

SUPERVISOR'S COMMENTS

Supervisor Johnson asked for approval of the **Moratorium on Data Centers, Wind Farms and Solar Farms**. Clerk LaFave made a motion to adopt the **Resolution for the Moratorium on Data Centers, Wind Farms and Solar Farms** as written, motion was supported by Trustee Young. Roll Call Vote taken. Ayes-5, Nays-0. Resolution adopted as of October 08th, 2026

At our last meeting a concern was brought to the board about the intersection at Lake Station and M115. At her suggestion Supervisor Johnson called MDOT and talked to one of their road engineers and was told there has been an up-tic in calls from people voicing their concerns, and that the more people that call does help promote action. And that they would first trim trees to widen the visibility, then they will look at changing the angle of the road intersection before considering doing a study for a roundabout or a light. Annette Koweck asked to speak, she stated that she sent a letter to MDOT in Lansing and received a call back from a MDOT representative, Jack Hofwedzer, who gave her a telephone number to pass on, **989-621-0192**, for people to call. They have applied for a safety grant and looking to put a roundabout on Lake Station and M10 in Lake and also at an intersection on M115 near Cadillac.

Supervisor Johnson updated us on the possible wedding venue at Lost Lake and the change in zoning. The owners have decided to not go through the change in zoning from residential to commercial and have taken down the sign and will not be using the venue. Supervisor Johnson asked them to first talk to our assessor and see if the change would be that much. They did speak with Frank Gentz and will take the information to the other owners, but at this time they have closed the venue.

CLERK'S COMMENTS

Public Testing for the ballots and election equipment will be Tuesday October 13th, 2026 at 10:00am. 9 days of early voting will be held at the Clare County Courthouse starting October 24th, 2026 9:00am – 5:00pm until November 1st, 2026. General Mid-Term Election will be held November 3rd, 2026. Election Day voting here at the township hall,

7:00 am – 8:00 pm. Clerk LaFave also pointed out the two posters posted in the hall with the official language for the two proposals that will be on the ballot this November and asked for every voter to please attempt to read it before voting.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Planning –Chairperson Tim Kiefer, Planning Commission we are digging into the Ordinances that we think are appropriate to get in place before we are approached with any interest in a Data Center in Freeman Township. And we are still working to update our ordinances for wireless communication towers and fall zones. We are also looking into a zoning request for a one-acre pond. Our next meeting is November 10th,2026 at 10:00am, public welcome.

Zoning and Blight – Doug Johnson – We have issued 4 zoning permits this month. 1 sunroom & deck, 1 pole barn, 1 shed, and 1 carport.

A citation was issued to the auto repair shop on M115 and Lake Station. After several visits and some improvements, the cooperation has come to a stop, and more car parts are being piled up on the residential property next to the shop. The owner is going to pay the fine and has been in talks with Doug and set up a schedule of tasks to comply with the blight ordinances. Doug will continue to monitor the progress.

Please report blight to Doug Johnson, but remember poor housekeeping does not mean blight.

COMMENTS/CONCERNS FROM CITIZENS

None

Motion to Adjourn was made by Trustee Eckardt and seconded by Treasurer Lackie. Ayes-5, Nays-0

TIME: 7:36 p.m.

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Doug Johnson, Supervisor Lacinda LaFave, Township Clerk