

FREEDOM TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES
Approved with corrections Minutes of the Regular Meeting
October 9th, 2018 8:00 pm

1. Call to Order/Roll Call

Supervisor Weidmayer called the meeting to order at 7:59pm

Members present: Weidmayer, Bristle, Layher, Schaible, Huehl absent: 20 were present in the audience.

2. Pledge of Allegiance.

3. Change to Agenda:

4. Approval of Minutes: Moved by Huehl supported by Schaible to:

Approve the September 11, 2018 Township Board minutes.

Motion carried with all Ayes. CARRIED

5. Treasurer's Report: Moved by Schaible supported by Huehl to: Approve September 11, 2018 Treasurers report.

Roll call vote was unanimous. Aye: Bristle, Schaible, Layher, Weidmayer, Huehl Nay: none CARRIED

6. Communications: September Sheriff's Report had 25 calls- 13 state, 3 sheriff, 9 cleared. Board of Appeals will hold a public hearing on Oct. 22nd at 7:30pm to review a barn on Bethel Church Rd.

7. Public Comment: Shannon Beeman introduced herself as a candidate running for Washtenaw County Board of Commissioners in District 3. Jessica Roberts asked what the rules are for setting off fireworks. They are allowed on national holidays as well as the day before and the day afterward. Catherine and Jessica Roberts asked about the shooting coming from the StoneCo Pit #9. Stating it was incredibly noisy and goes against our noise ordinance. Officer Andrews stated that the Pittsfield Township police department has had an agreement with StoneCo for 6 years now to use an area of the gravel pit for shooting training. They hold officer training and recertification for about 4 days in the late summer/early fall and use the gravel pit roughly 10 days a year and notify Harvey (with StoneCo) 5-7 days before they plan to be there. Other residents asked if they could notify township residents when this would be happening and why they don't use a shooting range. Officer Andrews said he would contact the board as well when they planned to use the gravel pit and that shooting ranges don't allow them the current set up for the training they are conducting.

8. Reports:

Planning Commission report: At the meeting last week a public hearing was held for Ceres Farms LLC to rescind the conditional use permit on the old DuRussel property. It was approved to rescind the conditional Use permit on the 20 acres they plan to sell to the neighbor. There are 4 buildings that need to be addressed, 3 will be demolished and the 4th will be remodeled as a single family dwelling. A \$10,000 check needs to be given to the township within 60 days from the date of their meeting as a performance guarantee that all work will be completed by Dec. 30th, 2019. Due to the general election the Nov meeting will be moved to Nov. 8th. Ordinance 32 and fee schedules need to be reviewed. A full copy of the PC minutes is available through the clerk's office.

Ordinance Enforcement Officer: Alvin reported complaints with the shooting at the gravel pit. No updates on the Fowler trailer.

Zoning Inspector- Jim submitted a report with 3 zonings issued for the month of September - Solar arrays at 13301 Pleasant Lake Rd, a garage at 11516 Waters Rd and a new house and pole barn at 6625 Schneider Rd.

Library- report submitted said the library is busy and doing well with over 20,000 books available.

Clerk report: The next election will be the General election on Nov. 6th, 2018. There will be no straight ticket voting so there could be longer lines at the polls. Clerk received a FOIA request regarding the American Aggregate gravel pit. Clerk and Treasurer are working with the accountant to get the township audit wrapped up.

9. Unfinished Business:

FOIA Policy- The following resolution was offered by Weidmayer, and seconded by Layher to adopt the FOIA policies and procedures guidelines for processing FOIA requests and the related forms.

Roll call vote was unanimous. Aye: Layher, Bristle, Schaible, Huehl, Weidmayer Nay: none CARRIED

Town Hall Rental Fees- The Motion by Weidmayer supported by Huehl: To set the new town hall rental charges as such: Maintenance and Breakage Deposit \$200, Non-Township Residents rental \$600, Local Residents w/Liquor \$300, w/out Liquor-Half day \$100, w/out Liquor Whole day \$200, Man. Senior Center and local 4-H clubs will be free and Local Community Organizations Mon-Thurs \$25/day and Fri-Sun \$75/day. Effective Jan. 1, 2019
Roll call vote was unanimous. Aye: Bristle, Huehl, Weidmayer, Layher, Schaible Nay: none CARRIED

10. New Business:

Safety Committee Update-Matt Little- Gave an overview of the things they would like the board's approval on to keep moving forward.

Motion by Bristle supported by Huehl: To have the safety committee continue and contact the American Red Cross and look into the town hall being used as an emergency shelter, gather quotes on a back-up generator for the town hall, gather quotes on installing and maintaining emergency sirens in the township, and have the committee start working on grants related to these projects.

Roll call vote was unanimous. Aye: Huehl, Layher, Weidmayer, Schaible, Bristle Nay: none CARRIED

Consent Judgment-Troy Busha – The current consent judgment was written that Troy Busha was to have his business moved by September 30, 2018 and pay the township \$100/day he was in violation of that. Troy would like an extension to Jan. 1, 2019 due to his assets being frozen while settling his divorce. From April 2017-Oct. 5, 2018 he was not able to purchase new property to move the business to. He has a couple of properties he is looking at and feels it will not be a problem now to move the business by the Jan. 1, 2019 date.

Motion by Huehl supported by Schaible: To have Township Supervisor act on behalf of the township to enter into a Second Amendment to the Consent Judgment with Troy Busha and receive \$2500 plus any attorney fees minus any money left from his deposit into the escrow account.

Roll call vote was unanimous. Aye: Schaible, Huehl, Layher, Bristle, Weidmayer Nay: none CARRIED

175th Anniversary Account- There is roughly \$600 left in this account and the Supervisor is wondering what we can use the funds for and then close the account. The account was opened in July 2009 but we are not sure if there were limits to what the funds could be used for. The board will contact Ray Berg and Bob Miller to get the cost of printing more Freedom Township history books. Question if the balance could be moved into the general fund and sit as a budget line item to be used for a future event such as the 200th Anniversary celebration. Beth Heuser said that funds collected, in 2009, for the anniversary celebration was also used to purchase the portable sign that is used out front. The sign is in poor condition and really needs to be replaced. A new one would cost \$329.

11. Warrants: Motion by Schaible supported by Huehl: To approve the online payments for the 941 tax withholding and warrants 4059-4077.

Roll call vote was unanimous. Aye: Layher, Huehl, Bristle, Weidmayer, Schaible Nay: none CARRIED

12. Public Comment: Carol Westfall asked about the storage containers outside of the Pleasant Lake School. There was a leak in the roof and belongings being stored in the school needed to be removed. She also asked the board to consider purchasing the new portable sign that Beth had suggested earlier.

Motion by Bristle supported by Layher: To purchase a new portable sign for the town hall.

Roll call vote was unanimous. Aye: Huehl, Bristle, Schaible, Weidmayer, Layher Nay: none CARRIED

Adjourned at 10:36 pm

Valisa L. Bristle, Clerk, Freedom Township