

FREEDOM TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
APPROVED with corrections Minutes of the Regular Meeting  
August 14th, 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:              36 were present in the audience.

**2. Pledge of Allegiance.**

**3. Change to Agenda:** Motion by Bristle supported by Huehl to add Consent Judgment to new business.

Motion carried with all Ayes.                      CARRIED

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

Approved the July 10, 2018 Township Board minutes.

Motion carried with all Ayes. CARRIED

**5. Treasurer's Report:** Moved by Huehl supported by Bristle to: Approve July 10, 2018 Treasurers report.

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

**6. Communications:** Several calls regarding dust control. It would cost roughly \$20,000 to apply gravel to Bethel Church Rd where the slag was put down before. There will be a Safety Planning Seminar on Aug. 25<sup>th</sup> at 11am at the Freedom Township Town hall.

**7. Public Comment:** Carol Westfall shared that herself and several other lake residents have been approached by the Manchester Christmas in the Village committee about lake residents hosting home tours on Dec. 1<sup>st</sup> noon-8pm.

**8. Reports:**

Planning Commission report: At the meeting last week they discussed the Kuebler Pit lease ~~and The Kuebler's are responsible for cleaning up the gravel pit now that the lease is void.~~ Conditional Use Permit valid for extraction. Land division for Ceres Farm was denied due to a conditional Use permit still being attached to the property. Mike Bossory's final site plan was reviewed with minor questions answered. StoneCo has applied to combine the two lakes at Pit 9 into one lake. Ordinance 32 may need to be reviewed at a future meeting. A full copy of the PC minutes is available through the clerk's office.

Ordinance Enforcement Officer: 2 calls in the month of July regarding noise around the Fourth of July. Alvin could not locate the trailer in violation on Pleasant Shore Dr. but was told tonight where it is located by other lake residents and correction it is a pickup camper not a travel trailer. The berm on Saline Waterworks Rd has been removed.

Zoning Inspector- Jim submitted his report with 2 zonings issued for the month of July. A pole barn at 7357 Steinbach Rd and a new address at 3300 Parker Rd. On July 31, 2018 he along with Doug Parr went over to 11866 Hieber Rd to inspect the existing 3 car garage. It was built according to the approved plan in 2008.

Library- no report

Clerk report: The election on August 7<sup>th</sup> had a voter turnout rate of 39%. The next election will be the General election on Nov. 6<sup>th</sup>, 2018. A letter from the auditor revealed that additional accounting/bookkeeping work needs to be completed before they can continue. The Clerk will reach out to an account to complete the work. Information from Colonial Life Insurance was received and no one is interested in it at this time.

**9. Unfinished Business:**

**10. New Business:**

Washtenaw County Sheriff's Office- Lisa King- Manchester schools approached them regarding a contracted deputy to patrol the schools and sporting events. The Sheriff's office wanted to see if Freedom Township was interested in collaboration between Freedom Twp and Manchester schools or Freedom Twp, Manchester Village and Lodi Twp. The cost of a deputy would be \$160,649.28. The only way Freedom Township could afford that is with a millage voted on by the residents of the township. Currently the Michigan State Police respond to our area.

Special Assessment District Renewal (Pleasant Lake Weed Management Project) - Evan Pratt, Water Resource Commissioner, gave a brief overview of the current special assessment for Pleasant Lake. Currently \$325 is being collected from lake front properties, \$125 from back lots and \$425 from industrial lots. They will evaluate if they have enough funds collected to complete the treatment plan for the year and see if they don't need to collect as much this last year of the program. If the township board approves the special assessment district the Water Resource department will hold 2 public hearings regarding the details of the special assessment and all residents are invited to

attend and voice their opinions. Dr. Doug Pullman reviewed the Pleasant Lake Management Plan and explained the focus on the plant system (rooted plants) specifically Milfoil and Pondweed.

Larry Schwab asked where all the frogs, turtles and crawfish went. Dr. Pullman said shoreline habitats are important.

Rudy Layher asked about application of herbicides used at different depths and distance from the shoreline.

Dr. Pullman shared that roughly 20% of Pleasant Lake is treated.

A Resident asked if this was an ongoing treatment plan. Yes, these weeds will continue to grow.

A Resident asked about farmland run off into the lake? Evan Pratt said Horning Farms has been inspected and their fields slope away from the lake. Anyone is free to come to his office and look at the maps that show the topography of the land and that the fields slope away from the lake. Dr. Pullman said it is not phosphorus causing the weeds to grow in the lake.

Carol Westfall- approves a renewal of the SAD and how good it has been working with Dr. Pullman and the county.

Jan Richards- a 30 yr. resident is in favor of continuing the SAD

Char Stewart (shared by Beth Heuser)- in favor of continuing and commented how nice and clear the lake is and the fish population has increased.

Beth Heuser- is in favor of the SAD and how nice it has been working with the county and the applicators.

Gerald Swartout- believes that Horning Farms has run off flowing to the lake.

Don Whitsitt- is in favor to continue the SAD and shared that he fishes daily and the lake gets better every year.

Jessica Roberts- the lake is the best it has ever looked and boat's propellers don't have milfoil tangled in them.

Shawn Eichinger- he supports the SAD and the lake is the best it has ever been with an increase in fish numbers.

John- the lake is the best it has been in the past 5 years. He supports the SAD.

Dave Merias supports the SAD.

Kevin Walker- supports the SAD and said that culverts are used to carry farmland run-off to the lake.

Catherine Roberts- supports the SAD.

Harvey VanRyn- thanks those working on the lake and is in support of the SAD.

Larry Schwab- doesn't want to see chemicals in the lake.

Ron Nitchie- supports the SAD and would like to see scientific data handed out on the weed management program.

Ron Smith- would like to see all those in the SAD to have a voice and a vote.

Dennis Pieper- would like to see no chemicals used and that all people should have a vote.

Beth Heuser (on behalf of PLPOA) - they made an attempt to contact all property owners in the SAD.

Resident- we need to spend this much time and money on the manure run-off going into the lake.

Catherine Roberts- more people need to plant buffer strips between their lawns and the lake.

Dan Schaible asked if the weeds were becoming resistant to the chemicals.

Rudy Layher asked if the special assessment will ever go down. It will vary on the intensity of the weeds present.

How do you determine the threshold? In the spring they go out and do an assessment of the target weeds to find their location and amount present.

Valise Bristle shared only 2 lake residents had reached out against the special assessment. PLPOA turned in 108 signed letters in support of continuing the special assessment of Pleasant Lake.

The following resolution was offered by Huehl, and seconded by Bristle to initiate a Pleasant Lake improvement project for the township of Freedom through the Washtenaw County board of public works and renew a special assessment district for 5 years.

Roll call vote Aye: Schaible, Huehl, Bristle, Weidmayer Nay: Layher Vote 4-1 CARRIED  
Layher made a motion to amend the motion and add not to tax over the current tax collected amounts. Motion dies for lack of a support.

Consent Judgment- Consent judgment between the Township and Robert Eichinger has been received from our attorney and it is being reviewed by Mr. Eichinger's attorney regarding the garage at 11866 Hieber Rd.

**11. Warrants:** Motion by Huehl supported by Schaible: To approve the online payments for the 941 tax withholding and warrants 4010-4038.

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

**12. Public Comment:** none

Adjourned at 10:47 pm

Valisa L. Bristle, Clerk, Freedom Township