

FREEDOM TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
APPROVED Minutes of the Regular Meeting  
January 8th, 2019 8:00 pm

**1. Call to Order/Roll Call**

Supervisor Weidmayer called the meeting to order at 8:02pm

Members present: Weidmayer, Bristle, Layher, Schaible, Huehl      absent:              8 were present in the audience.

**2. Pledge of Allegiance.**

**3. Change to Agenda:**

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

Approve the December 11, 2018 Township Board minutes.

Motion carried with all Ayes. CARRIED

**5. Treasurer's Report:** Report was presented by Victoria ST. Charles, the Deputy Treasurer, as part of her training.

Moved by Huehl supported by Bristle to: Approve December 11, 2018 Treasurers report.

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

**6. Communications:** MTA magazine received and the annual conference will be April 2-4 in Grand Rapids. DTE Energy will have a public hearing in Lansing on Jan. 9<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>. The township attorney sent a letter stating his availability to help with ordinances regarding marihuana in the township. The board passed an ordinance last month prohibiting medical or recreational establishments within Freedom Township. Manchester Community Resource Center sent a newsletter that they have moved to a new location. The Nov. Sheriff report had 21 calls- 13 state police handled, 6 by the sheriff's office and 2 were cleared.

**7. Public Comment:** Beth Heuser said it is alarming the damage done on young brains by marihuana use and that there are no stipulations on edibles. Bob Miller shared a little story on Edna Wenk, a Freedom Township resident who had just passed at the age of 101.

**8. Reports:**

Planning Commission report: At the meeting last Thursday there were no amendments from StoneCo submitted. They started to review recommended changes for Ord. 32, will continue next month. Rescinding of the conditional use permit for Demery Dog Kennel is on hold. Set Bonds for the gravel pits- American Aggregates/Levy \$489,600, StoneCo/Burmeister \$492,500, StoneCo/Pleasant Hills \$431,000 and StoneCo/Esch Rd. \$250,000. Elections were as followed- Larry Lindemann will remain chair, Matt Little vice-chair, Dan Schaible will be secretary and Jennifer Alexa will remain the recording secretary. Consumers Energy submitted a revised lay down site plan and hours of operation and they are working on keeping the construction noise and lights down. A full copy of the PC minutes is available through the clerk's office. The Township received a check from American Aggregate for \$3,100 and Dale Sawyer said they have 3,000 tons of gravel for the township. Supervisor will contact the road commission regarding applying the free gravel.

Ordinance Enforcement Officer: Alvin asked about options for the trailer at the end of Pleasant Shore Dr. Property owner can speak with Zoning Administrator or come to the Planning Commission meeting. He can build a 200 square foot building around it as long as he meets setbacks and other zoning requirements.

Zoning Inspector- Jim reported that there was 1 zoning issued for the month of December – an in ground pool at 11800 Bemis Road. He also received a phone call from Chris, at Wash. Co. Equalization office, requesting a faxed copy of a pole barn site plan, for assessing, instead of coming and viewing it in person due to muddy conditions. Supervisor will call Equalization office to make sure they are going out and doing the job we are paying them for. We may need to withhold any permits for Ceres Farms (the old DuRussel property) until we receive the financial guarantee that was stated in the conditions for the land split.

Library- no report

Clerk report: Township audit is finally complete and there were no big issues. It took longer than expected due to state rule changes that caused the township to contract with a CPA to finish some book keeping. W-2s have been mailed and the rest of the tax paperwork will be completed by the end of the month. Chris Brooks has paid off a fire run 9-16-123 and has a previous one, 16-15-103, that he would like us to consider waiving. It was for a recreational

bonfire that he claims he had a burn permit from the Chelsea Fire Dept but not the Manchester one. The board feels it needs to stay on the books at this time.

**9. Unfinished Business:**

Civil Infraction Ordinance- Motion by Bristle supported by Huehl: To adopt the resolution to designate the Township treasurer as Bureau Clerk for the ordinance violation bureau.

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

Town Hall Bathrooms- Supervisor has ordered 4 new sinks for the town hall bathrooms. We will need to get quotes for replacing the stools to see if it is cost effective to replace everything at once to make it ADA complaint.

Motion by Weidmayer supported by Layher: To put in 4 new sinks in the town hall bathrooms for roughly \$1200.

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

**10. New Business:**

River Raisin Watershed- Motion by Layher supported by Weidmayer to pay the \$100 invoice for membership dues.

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

PA 116 -Motion by Huehl supported by Layher to approve Robert Wiard's application to put property in the Farmland and Open Space Preservation Program PA 116.

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

Motion by Weidmayer supported by Layher to send Dale Ganzhorn, the new board of review member, to a BOR training in Chelsea on Feb. 22<sup>nd</sup>.

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

Salaries for 2019-2020- Motion by Weidmayer supported by Huehl to increase Supervisor's salary by \$500, Clerk's salary by \$1500, Treasurer's salary by \$1000 and Trustee's by \$35/mtg., PC chair salary by \$300, Zoning Inspector's salary by \$300, and election workers by \$2.00/hour.

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

**11. Warrants:** Motion by Huehl supported by Layher: To approve the online payments for the 941 tax withholding and warrants 4140-4155.

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

**12. Public Comment:** Bob Miller suggested it may be time to talk with the Wash. Co. Road Commission about repaving Pleasant Lake Road and mentioned how upsetting it is to see trash dumped along Hieber Road and along the recycle bins at the town hall.

Adjourned at 10:06 pm

Valisa L. Bristle, Clerk, Freedom Township