

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

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

Supervisor Weidmayer called the meeting to order at 8:00pm

Members present: Weidmayer, Bristle, Layher, Huehl, Schaible      absent: none    12 were present in the audience.

**2. Pledge of Allegiance**

**3. Change to Agenda:**

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

Approve the September 10, 2019 Township Board minutes.

Motion carried with all Ayes. CARRIED

**5. Treasurer's Report:** Moved by Huehl supported by Schaible to: Approve September 10, 2019 Treasurers report.

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

**6. Communications:** Supervisor Weidmayer reported he received the latest MTA magazine. Wash. Co. Sheriff's report for Sept. had 36 calls- 17 handled by the state and 19 by the sheriff's office. The WWCA permit meeting, last Saturday, reported the department has sufficient funds to now open a savings account. Dale Behnke will be stepping down as the soil erosion inspector and WWCA will be seeking new applicants. There will be a transportation forum for Western Washtenaw County on Saturday Oct. 19<sup>th</sup> from 10am-noon at the Chelsea Senior Center.

**7. Public Comment:** Beth Heuser asked the board to consider doing something similar to what the state did with regulations on fireworks within the township.

**8. Reports:**

Planning Commission report: Larry Lindemann reported the P.C. approved a land division for Mark Johnson.

StoneCo gravel extraction renewal was tabled. P.C. reviewed the allowable land uses in the lake district and will continue to review them at next month's meeting. OHM will be at the next Township Board meeting to present on updating the township zoning maps. There was discussion on alternate energy sources such as solar energy. A full copy of the PC minutes is available from clerk.

Ordinance Enforcement Officer: Austin Helber reported just receiving several calls with questions for the month.

Beth Heuser asked him to look into the port-a-john on the Fowler property on Elmdale Dr.

Zoning Inspector- Jim Coval submitted his report for the month of September that he had 2 zonings. A solar array at 4754 S. Fletcher Rd and a solar array and hoop barn at 2700 S. Fletcher Rd.

Library- Susan Layher submitted a report with some upcoming events such as a Family Search Lock In on Oct. 19<sup>th</sup>, Identity Theft presentation on Oct. 23<sup>rd</sup> and Senator Theis will be hosting a coffee hour on Oct. 24<sup>th</sup>.

Clerk report: There may be an election on November 5th for Chelsea school district voters.

**9. Unfinished Business:**

Short-Term Rentals- The Township Supervisor and Clerk have been in contact with the township attorney and planner regarding the issue of short-term rentals. While our zoning ordinance does prohibit the use it is not as clearly stated as the board would like for clear enforcement purposes. Discussion was had on the idea of creating a regulatory ordinance. Recommendations from the township planner were reviewed as well as ordinances that several other townships have passed. The board discussed a variety of factors such as limiting the number of vehicles (to address parking issues), the number of occupants, a permit application/fee, as well as a yearly inspection of the septic system. The board does not wish to take away rights of what an individual can do with their property but to set standards to provide for and protect the welfare of full-time residents. That a short-term rental would be located and constructed that the average neighbor, under normal circumstances, will not be aware of its existence and to discourage the purchasing of property for vacation Rental uses.

Community & Emergency Preparedness Plan- Matt Little was unable to attend this month's meeting to present the plan so it is tabled until next month.

Cemetery Lot Pricing- The following resolution was offered by Layher, and supported by Schaible to adopt resolution 19-05 now therefore be it resolved that the cost for an individual plot at the Freedom Emanuel Evangelical Memorial Cemetery will be \$500.

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

Bridgewater Drain- The Bridgewater drain is almost 100 years old and in need of serious repair. The county is proposing an estimated \$971,453.25 special assessment (for 20 years) to replace the entire drain. The drain runs along the edge of Freedom Township and would cost the township around \$24,000 for its portion. The board will decide at next month's meeting (when we are given the final project numbers) if we want to prepay any/all of the Freedom Township's apportionment of the cost.

Manchester Fire Department Incident Reports- The Manchester Fire Department (MFD) is no longer allowed to provide the township with the contact information needed to invoice the responsible party involved when the fire dept. responds to a 911 call within the township. Currently, the Fire Protection Contract between Freedom Township and the MFD is paid out of the general fund and invoices are sent to individuals who received services from the MFD. Since, the township can no longer invoice for these services, the township will need to consider the general fund budget and the possibility of a fire protection millage to cover the cost of the fire protection contract.

**10. New Business:**

Wash. Co. Road Meeting- The Wash. Co. Road Commission held several meetings in September to discuss a proposed road millage renewal for 2020.

Supervisor Weidmayer will contact the road commission regarding the cost of a flashing warning sign saying, "Stop Ahead" on Schneider Road right before Pleasant Lake Road.

**11. Warrants:** Motion by Weidmayer supported by Huehl: To approve the online payments for the 941 tax withholding and warrants 4328-4348.

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

**12. Public Comment:**

Rick Wilson with Invenergy introduced himself and shared that he and his company were reaching out to land owners within the township and Township Board members discussing commercial size solar energy projects.

Adjourned at 10:19 pm

Valisa L. Bristle, Clerk, Freedom Township