

FREEDOM TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES
APPROVED Minutes of the Regular Meeting
November 12th, 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, Huehl, Schaible absent: none 22 were present in the audience.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Change to Agenda:

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

Approve the October 8, 2019 Township Board minutes.

Motion carried with all Ayes. CARRIED

5. Treasurer's Report: Moved by Schaible supported by Huehl to: Approve October 8, 2019 Treasurers report.

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

6. Communications: Supervisor Weidmayer reported he spoke with the Washtenaw County Road Commission and they conducted a traffic survey on Schneider Rd to address the concerns of vehicles not stopping at Bethel Church Rd and at Pleasant Lake Rd. The Township received a perfect score on the annual audit of our assessing records.

7. Public Comment: Steve Carson asked about a previous house on Pleasant lake that was advertized with an apartment for possible rental and if the township was involved in that situation. Hattie Carson asked if the township board had sent a letter to airbnb.com regarding a "party house" at 5202 Happy Hollow Dr. Chris Mikesell asked the board to consider passed a resolution in opposition of HB4554, which would eliminate a local unit of government's ability to regulate residential properties: including short-term rentals. Jessica Roberts shared that people are contacting home owners around Pleasant lake with cash offers to purchase their home. Beth Heuser stated that she doesn't feel short-term rentals should be allowed in residential areas and wants action to be taken to protect the residents of the township. Hattie Carson asked why the attorney has not been to any meetings. Patricia Redies shared that the house next to her is in foreclosure and she and the neighbor on the other side are working to purchase the home so no one buys it trying to operate a short-term rental property.

8. Reports:

Planning Commission report: Larry Lindemann reported the P.C. will be meeting tomorrow night. He did attend a MTA training in Chelsea and went to sessions on Fix the Roads and Policies for the Township. He also received information on document management that he passed along to the board. He also added for the board to keep an eye on SB 431, that would take away local jurisdictions right to control mining operations in the township. A full copy of the PC minutes is available from clerk.

Ordinance Enforcement Officer: Austin Helber reported sending a letter to June Fowler to remove the port-a-john on her property on Elmdale Dr.

Zoning Inspector- Jim Coval reported for the month of October he had 3 zonings. A new address at 11519 Waters Rd, a new address at 3319 Schmitz Rd. and a storage building at 13655 Waters Rd.

Library- Susan Layher submitted a report.

Clerk report: Election on November 5th, for Chelsea school district voters, had 32 votes cast in Freedom Twp.

9. Unfinished Business:

Short-Term Rentals- The Township board has been in contact with the township attorney, planner, and other municipalities regarding the issue of short-term rentals. While our zoning ordinance does prohibit the use it is not as clearly stated as the board (or courts) would like for clear enforcement purposes. The township planner gave a brief overview of a proposed regulatory ordinance managing short-term transient rentals. The board discussed a variety of factors such as limiting the number of vehicles, the number of occupants, prohibited watercrafts, a permit application/fee, as well as a yearly inspection of the well and septic system. The board does not wish to take away property owners rights 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.

Safety Resolution- Tabled until next month.

Bridgewater Drain- Motion by Schaible supported by Huehl: To pay the total amount due of \$23,700.29 for the Bridgewater Drain when it is invoiced.

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

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. responses to a 911 call within the township.

Motion by Huehl supported by Schaible: To stop billing the \$750 fee for all emergency services, provided by the Manchester Fire Department, in Freedom Township after Oct. 1st, 2019.

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

10. New Business:

New Zoning Maps- Motion by Huehl supported by Layher: To purchase an updated zoning map of Freedom Township and get a .pdf link for the township's website.

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

WCRC Resolution- The following resolution was offered by Schaible, and supported by Weidmayer to adopt resolution 19-06 now therefore be it resolved that Freedom Township supports the existing structure of a separate Washtenaw County Road Commission appointed by the Washtenaw County Board of Commissioners.

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

Snow Removal Agreement - Motion by Huehl supported by Layher to have John Engelbert be responsible for snow removal at the town hall for 2019-2020 winter months.

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

11. Warrants: Motion by Schaible supported by Huehl: To approve the online payments for the 941 tax withholding and warrants 4349-4370.

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

12. Public Comment:

Adjourned at 11:03 pm

Valisa L. Bristle, Clerk, Freedom Township