

FREEDOM TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
DRAFT Minutes of the Regular Meeting  
December 10th, 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 19 were present in the audience.

**2. Pledge of Allegiance**

**3. Change to Agenda:** Moved by Bristle supported by Layher to:  
Add Resolution opposing HB 4554 to new business.

Motion carried with all Ayes. CARRIED

**4. Approval of Minutes:** Moved by Schaible supported by Huehl to:  
Approve the November 12, 2019 Township Board minutes.

Motion carried with all Ayes. CARRIED

**5. Treasurer's Report:** Moved by Huehl supported by Bristle to: Approve November 12, 2019 Treasurers report.  
Roll call vote was unanimous. Aye: Schaible, Bristle, Layher, Huehl, Weidmayer Nay: none CARRIED

**6. Communications:** Shannon Beeman, Board of Commissioners representative for District 3, gave an update on issues being discussed by the commissioners, such as reviewing the Wash. Co. Road Commission structure, annual budget and the broadband taskforce. Supervisor Weidmayer reported that someone from WATS will be at our January meeting. MTA monthly magazine was received and a notice for Consumers public hearing in Lansing on Dec. 18<sup>th</sup>.

**7. Public Comment:** Beth Heuser asked about when the port-a-john on the Folwer property and the car on blocks at the Carver property on Happy Hollow Dr. would be removed. Chris Mikesell asked to address the short-term rental issue under old business.

**8. Reports:**

Planning Commission report: Larry Lindemann reported an updated for Consumers Energy is on the township website. He will be contacting StoneCo-Burmeister pit for an update to their extraction renewal permit. The P.C. started to review alternative energy sources such as solar panels and need to address commercial operations. At their next meeting on Jan. 7<sup>th</sup> Rick Wilson will give a presentation on solar energy. They set their 2020 meeting dates for the first Tuesday of the month at 7:30pm. A full copy of the PC minutes is available from clerk.

Ordinance Enforcement Officer: Austin Helber submitted report stating no activity for the month.

Zoning Inspector- Jim Coval reported for the month of November he had 1 zoning, a new house at 11519 Waters Rd.

Library- No report

Clerk report: Working on preparing for the 2020 election cycle.

**9. Unfinished Business:**

Short-Term Rentals- Chris Mikesell shared a letter that she sent to the township board with her opinion on regulating short-term rentals. The board discussed the regulatory ordinance that the township planner drafted for the township and the idea of an amendment to the zoning ordinance to prohibit short-term rentals in certain parts of the township. The board acknowledges that this is a complicated issue and are working to protect the community.

Motion by Huehl supported by Bristle: To have the planning commission review a zoning ordinance amendment for prohibiting short-term rentals in certain areas of the township and have the township attorney and planner review the regulatory ordinance to make sure they coincide.

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

Community & Emergency Preparedness Plan- Matt Little asked the board to review the proposed plan and have an idea of who would be listed to take their place in case of an emergency. This would not be a person to fulfill their position on the board just fill in for them to execute the emergency plan. He asked that the board response by March 2020.

Safety Resolution- The following resolution was offered by Bristle, and supported by Huehl to adopt resolution 19-07 now therefore be it resolved that Freedom Township Board of Trustees support the previous planning and preparation actions by the safety committee to seek grants and funding for a variety of communications systems and emergency planning efforts and activities to enhance citizen protection and preparation.  
Roll call vote was unanimous.      Aye: Bristle, Layher, Huehl, Weidmayer, Schaible      Nay: none      CARRIED

**10. New Business:**

Appointments- Motion by Weidmayer seconded by Layher to appoint Matt Little for a 3 yr. term for Planning Commission.      Motion carried with all Ayes.      CARRIED

Motion by Weidmayer seconded by Huehl to appoint Karen Flahie for a 3 yr. term for Planning Commission.      Motion carried with all Ayes.      CARRIED

Motion by Weidmayer seconded by Layher to appoint Dan Schaible for a 1 yr. term for Planning Commission.      Motion carried with all Ayes.      CARRIED

2020 Meeting Dates- Motion by Weidmayer seconded by Huehl to set the Freedom Twp. board meetings for the second Tuesday of the month at 8:00 p.m. at the Freedom Township hall. Motion carried with all Ayes.      CARRIED

Resolution opposing HB 4554- The following resolution was offered by Bristle, and supported by Schaible to adopt resolution 19-08 now therefore be it resolved that Freedom Township Board of Trustees ask that HB 4554 be rejected and that local zoning decisions be left in the hands of local government where they belong.  
Roll call vote was unanimous.      Aye: Bristle, Layher, Schaible, Weidmayer, Huehl      Nay: none      CARRIED

**11. Warrants:** Motion by Huehl supported by Weidmayer: To approve the online payments for the 941 tax withholding and warrants 4371-4398.  
Roll call vote was unanimous.      Aye: Bristle, Layher, Huehl, Weidmayer, Schaible      Nay: none      CARRIED

**12. Public Comment:**

Adjourned at 9:57 pm

Valisa L. Bristle, Clerk, Freedom Township