

FREEDOM TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES
APPROVED Minutes of the Regular Meeting
July 14, 2020 8:00 pm

1. Call to Order/Roll Call

Supervisor Weidmayer called the meeting to order at 7:59pm outside in the town hall parking lot
Members present: Weidmayer, Bristle, Layher, Huehl, Schaible absent: none 10 were present in the audience

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Change to Agenda: Moved by Huehl supported by Bristle:

To add the town hall rental agreement to new business. Motion carried with all Ayes. CARRIED

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

Approve the June 9, 2020 Township Board minutes with corrections. Motion carried with all Ayes. CARRIED

5. Treasurer's Report: Moved by Bristle supported by Schaible to: Approve June 9, 2020 Treasurers report.

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

6. Communications: Supervisor received the monthly MTA magazine. There was a permit meeting last week and the WWCA office was closed for 9 weeks and now is operating regular hours at the window. The next SWWCOG meeting will be Aug. 26th, at 7pm at Freedom Twp. hall. Consumers Energy had a last minute/unexpected venting of gas on a Sunday night. There were no safety concerns with this release but we will be working with them on communication issues. The Board of Review will be at the town hall July, 21st 4-6pm.

7. Public Comment: Carol Westfall shared her concerns/frustrations with Consumer Energy's notices of gas releases and offered suggestions on ways to improve communication with residents. She asked that the board would consider, in next year's budget, a recording secretary for the township board meetings like we have for planning commission. And she asked if the owners at 5202 Happy Hollow Dr. had submitted paperwork to operate as a short-term rental. Clerk answered no paperwork had been submitted at this time. Beth Heuser thanked the board for the early brine on Hieber Rd but felt the application did not last as long as residents had hoped. Board responded this is due to no rain shortly after application. She shared communications from The Carson's with concerns of 5202 Happy Hollow Dr being used as a short-term rental. Over the weekend of July 9-12, four tents were seen on the property and 12 vehicles along the driveway and private drive. Jennifer, the property owner at 5202 Happy Hollow Dr, shared that they had family and friends over and used the tents as a way to social distance. They are not using their home as a short-term rental and have no plans to do so. Pat Reddis is concerned with people living in the house at 11174 Hieber Rd and it has no running water. The property needs a new well, septic tank and drain field. Mark Boone asked about the draft for alternate energy that the planning commission is reviewing. It will be on their August agenda.

8. Reports:

Planning Commission report: Larry Lindemann reported that the PC met last week. They are waiting on new maps for the StoneCo Burmeister pit conditional use permit application. Larry sent a letter requesting the information. The August meeting is moved to Aug. 10th due to the election. Rick Wilson would like to give a power point presentation on commercial solar energy. The gravel pit tour is postponed till this fall. Jim Clarke, owner at 7855 Ernst Rd., submitted a site plan application. He will be working with the p.c., twp planner and WWCA to finalize his paperwork. A public hearing, for a zoning amendment for Paul Parkinson, is set for Aug. 10th at 7:30pm. A full copy of the PC minutes is available from clerk.

Ordinance Enforcement Officer: Austin Helber submitted a report for June. He received a call from the Carson's asking him to investigate if 5202 Happy Hollow Dr. was being used as a short-term rental. He sent a letter to Kristine Stansley, regarding the pig farm and slaughterhouse sign on her property, stating slaughterhouses are zoned commercial. He found out this sign is just for decoration and not an actual operation. He sent out 3 letters to property owners regarding the weed ordinance to mow their lawns around Pleasant Lake.

Zoning Inspector- Jim Coval submitted he had no zonings for the month of June.

Library- Susan Layher submitted a report from their Jun. 22nd meeting. The library is running an online summer reading program. They are offering curbside pickup and are working on plans to open up for appts. by late July.
Clerk report: Next election will be the State Primary Election on Aug. 4th, 2020. We currently are at 314 absent voter ballots requested. If you wish to vote by an absentee ballot you may pick up an application outside the town hall and drop it in the black drop box out front or print one online and mail it to the clerk personally or use the town hall's address. Safety precautions will be taken, on Election Day, for voting in-person at the town hall. Clerk will look into a cleaning service. The township will be working with Consumer Energy on improving communication and gas release notices. And will also contact other gas companies regarding their releases.

9. Unfinished Business:

Upcoming Elections- The county and state have been in communication regarding required supplies needed for the upcoming elections to accommodate more absentee voter ballots and safety measures for in-person voting and supplies have been ordered.

10. New Business:

Broadband Connection at the Town Hall- Clerk will continue to work with JLT Solution and AT&T to get a quote on connecting to existing fiber and getting broadband service at the town hall.

Assessing Contract- Motion by Huehl supported by Bristle: To accept the Washtenaw County Equalization Department's assessing contract to create the 2020 assessment roll.

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

Water Resources- JJ Knapp Drain Maintenance Work- The following resolution was offered by Bristle, and supported by Huehl to adopt resolution 20-05 now therefore be it resolved Freedom Township Board of Trustees is authorizing the Water Resources Commissioner to exceed the statutory spending and assessment limit of \$5,000 per year for the maintenance and repair of the branch of JJ Knapp Drain.

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

Town Hall Rental Agreement- Motion by Bristle supported by Weidmayer: To have Clerk contact the township attorney and insurance representative to review and update the Freedom Township Town Hall rental agreement. And have Clerk collect bids for disinfecting the town hall. Motion carried with all Ayes. CARRIED

11. Warrants: Motion by Schaible supported by Layher: To approve the online payments for the 941 tax withholding and warrants 4530-4547.

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

12. Public Comment: none

Adjourned at 9:37 pm
Valisa L. Bristle,
Clerk, Freedom Township