

FREEDOM TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
APPROVED Minutes of the Regular Meeting by electronic remote access  
September 8, 2020 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    17 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 August 11, 2020 Township Board minutes with no corrections.      Motion carried with all Ayes      CARRIED

**5. Treasurer's Report:** Moved by Schaible supported by Bristle to: Approve August 11, 2020 Treasurers report. Roll call vote was unanimous. Aye: Layher, Weidmayer, Bristle, Huehl, Schaible      Nay: none      CARRIED

**6. Communications:** The Freedom Township Board all received a packet from the PLPOA with 140 signed letters requesting support and action on two areas of concern to the township and residents: the need for a viable safety plan and warning system(s) and high-speed internet service. Clerk Bristle shared that she is on the Washtenaw County Broadband Task Force and working with the team to try and get high-speed internet access to Freedom Township (just one of the 15 municipalities within Washtenaw County that do not currently have access). Scott Burke asked for contact information for the Wash. Co. Broadband Task Force or companies to approach on bringing service to the township.

**7. Public Comment:** Jessica Roberts asked the board to consider contacting Spectrum for internet service. There is an importance in communication and safety concerns and a siren could help with that.

Bruce Greene - Consumer Energy was able to get access to fiber on Pleasant Lake Road and it runs down Fletcher Rd. High-speed internet is a necessary. Lon Nordeen- there are lots of people within the township that want broadband and have concerns with safety. He would like to see a siren installed and make some progress on safety issues. Hattie Carson has concerns with 5202 Happy Hollow operating as a short-term rental property without proper permits and authorization. She has noticed on 4 separate dates 4-14 people using the home and property without the homeowners present. And several of the guests would change their clothes in the yard or behind a shed down by the lake. She has called the ordinance enforcement officer with her complaints.

**8. Reports:**

Planning Commission report: Larry Lindemann reported that the P.C. met Sept. 1<sup>st</sup> via zoom. He shared the monthly update on construction being completed at the Consumers Energy Freedom Compressor Station. StoneCo will have a special public hearing on Sept. 10<sup>th</sup>, at 7:00pm via zoom, for their conditional use permit. Jim Clarke's application is still missing information before a decision can be made. Rick Wilson shared a presentation on commercial solar energy. The gravel pit tour is postponed until further notice. Marcus, with OHM, will revise the reclamation amounts for the gravel pits within the township. The recording secretary resigned from the P.C. and someone from the p.c. board will need to take minutes or they will need to find a replacement. A full copy of the PC minutes is available from clerk.

Ordinance Enforcement Officer: Austin Helber submitted his report for the month of August. He sent a letter to the Fowler property for yard maintenance. A letter to 11181 Pleasant Lake Rd for yard maintenance. A letter to 11174 Hieber Rd for brush piles in the yard and their RV is parked along the side and in the road. A letter to 9211 Pleasant Lake Rd for property maintenance and issues with storage on the property (storage containers are illegal). And he received calls wondering if 5202 Happy Hollow was operating as a short term rental.

Zoning Inspector- Jim Coval submitted he had 2 zonings for the month of August. A new address at 4191 Schneider Rd and a storage building at 7021 Ernst Road.

Library- Susan Layher submitted a report from their August 24<sup>th</sup> meeting. The library is open for in-person appointments and curbside pick-ups.

Clerk report: Ballots for the General Election on Nov. 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2020 have been ordered. Absent voter ballots should begin to be mailed by the end of September. Clerk is working on getting the hotspot, for internet access in the parking lot, set up.

#### **9. Unfinished Business:**

Town Hall Water Softener- We need to record how much salt the water softener is using in a given time. Salt used is based on amount of water used which is currently very little due to rentals being down because of Covid-19. The board will contact a company to come out and evaluate the system.

Safety Committee wrap-up- Matt Little, safety committee chair, went over the final questions needed answered to complete the continuity and emergency preparedness plan. This plan is a temporary plan (30 days or less) during an emergency situation. Most likely the emergency will be evaluated if the county or state will need to take the lead over the township. The board came up with the successors needed and a few changes that need to be made. Clerk Bristle will work with Matt to get a revised copy for the next meeting and it will be sent to Dave Halteman, the director of Wash. Co Emergency services, for approval.

Matt also shared that the county is no longer using Nixle for emergency alerts but a program called Everbridge. Nixle accounts do not transfer to Everbridge, meaning residents will have to create an account on the new platform. To register for a new account, visit [washtenaw.org/alerts](https://washtenaw.org/alerts). You can receive the emergency alerts from the county via your cell phone or landline. They are working on a feature that would allow an alert to go out from Consumers (through Everbridge) sharing, for an example, a notice of a scheduled gas release. This feature is 45-60 days out of being functioning.

#### **10. New Business:**

SWWCOG Meeting- Meat Processor- At the last SWWCOG meeting an interested party spoke about the need for a meat processor within Washtenaw County and his desire to find property to establish a meat processing facility. He has approached the Freedom Township Planning Committee before. That is an industrial zoning within Freedom Twp. The P.C. gave him some suggested locates that are zoned industrial as well as a few in Manchester and Bridgewater Townships. Board members shared their support of this business if the business owner can find the right location for such an operation.

MTA Online Training- Motion by Huehl supported by Bristle: To purchase the "Plus Package" from MTA for 15 online training topics that the entire Freedom Township team can access for a whole year for \$1,000.00. Roll call vote was unanimous. Aye: Bristle, Huehl, Weidmayer, Schaible, Layher Nay: none CARRIED

**11. Warrants:** Motion by Huehl supported by Schaible: To approve the online payments for the 941 tax withholding and warrants 4581-4603. Roll call vote was unanimous. Aye: Weidmayer, Layher, Huehl, Schaible, Bristle Nay: none CARRIED

**12. Public Comment:** Weidmayer shared there is a new Covid-19 clean-up cost on the town hall rental agreement that the township will collect and pay to the town hall manager quarterly based on the number of rentals. Clerk will look into the use of zoom further and the different host abilities such as sharing screen shots of the agenda and other helpful tips.

Adjourned at 9:26 pm

Valisa L. Bristle,  
Clerk, Freedom Township