

FREEDOM TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES
APPROVED Minutes of the Regular Meeting
March 9, 2021 8:00 pm

In Person at the Freedom Township Hall and Electronic Meeting via Zoom

BUDGET HEARING

Supervisor Lindemann called the public hearing to order at 7:36pm

Members present: Lindemann, Bristle, Layher, Huehl, Schaible absent: none 2 were present in the audience

Supervisor Lindemann welcomed everyone and asked Clerk Bristle to present the proposed 2021-2022 budget.

Adjourned at 8:03 pm

1. Call to Order/Roll Call

Supervisor Lindemann called the meeting to order at 8:08pm

Members present: Lindemann, Bristle, Layher, Huehl, Schaible absent: none 3 were present in the audience

2. Pledge of Allegiance

A moment of silence was held in memory of former Supervisor and Trustee Dale Weidmayer who faithfully served Freedom Township for 44 years. He was a dear friend and a dedicated member of this community. Our sincere condolences are extended to Dale's family, friends and all who knew him. The Manchester Mirror has asked the board for quotes on Dale's service to Freedom Township.

3. Change to Agenda:

4. Approval of Minutes: Moved by Huehl supported by Schaible to: Approve the February 9, 2021 Township Board minutes with no corrections. Motion carried with all Ayes CARRIED

5. Treasurer's Report: Moved by Bristle supported by Huehl to: Approve February 9, 2021 Treasurers report. Roll call vote was unanimous. Aye: Schaible, Huehl, Bristle, Layher, Lindemann Nay: none CARRIED

6. Communications: Supervisor Lindemann reported he received the monthly magazine from MTA. He received a call from John Bulloch, with Consumers Energy, that they would like to schedule another virtual open house. They are currently looking at the end of March. The SWWCOG met virtually last week and it was a good meeting. The Zoning Board of Appeals approved a variance for Beth Heuser last week and the Board of Review was held the past 2 days in person at the town hall and virtually.

7. Public Comment: Lon Nordeen asked when the capital improvement plan/projects would be put on the budget. Supervisor Lindemann answered that a capital improvement plan would be worked on this year and if approved it would not be on the budget until 2022-2023 year. Lon Nordeen asked when township dollars would be given to safety issues specifically sirens. Sup. Lindemann answered the board will continue to work on it and this issue will be on future agendas.

8. Reports:

State Police report: Sup. Lindemann shared the Feb. report received from the Wash. Co. Sheriff's Office. There were 18 calls with 6 handled by the Mich. St. Police and 12 were administratively cleared. There are currently 16 positions available at the Wash. Co. Sheriff's Office.

Planning Commission report: Matt Little reported that the planning commission met last Tuesday via zoom. Little Trust land split was approved. The P.C. tabled the renewal extraction permit for Stoneco Burmeister Pit. Representatives from Stoneco gravel pit and Bethel Church met to discuss vibration concerns with the gravel pit expanding its mining operation closer to the church. There will be a virtual meeting between the P.C. chair, twp. planner, OHM and Stoneco to discuss Pleasant Hills Pit #9. A draft commercial solar energy ordinance was received and discussed. They will continue discussion next month and a public hearing is required before it would go to the board for adoption. American Aggregate/Levy submitted their annual report and Little will ask them to be at the next meeting to present it to the P.C. A letter was received from OHM to consider Pfas testing. One test is \$1,500 but it would be nice to test as a baseline. A full copy of the PC minutes is available from clerk or on twp. website.

Ordinance Enforcement Officer: Austin Helber submitted his report for the month of February with no calls or complaints. He sent a letter to 9211 Pleasant Lake Road that the property owner has until March 29th, 2021 to file a zoning compliance application for a pole barn or remove the storage container.

Zoning Inspector –Jim Coval submitted his report for the month of February with two zonings issued. A new address at 6075 Parker Rd and a new house at 2700 S. Lima Center Rd.

Library- Elissa Weidmayer submitted a report from their Feb. 22nd meeting. She was sworn in as the second representative from Freedom Twp. The library is still operating by curbside only. They did expand their hours to 6pm M-F. The painting of the library should be completed by Mar. 1st. There is discussion about adding Hoopla, a library streaming service. Discussion will continue at the next meeting.

Clerk report: Clerk Bristle reported she is still working with the township auditor to prepare the F-65 report and prepare for the annual township audit. Good news regarding broadband services in Washtenaw County. Two companies (Midwest Energy & Communications and Mercury Wireless) have been awarded the Rural Digital Opportunity Fund federal grant. The two companies will have up to 6 years to complete their build outs. More information is available at www.washtenaw.org/broadband Bristle is working with Dave Halteman, Wash. Co. Emergency Services Director and West Shores Services for updated costs and placements for a proposed siren project. The board will continue working with the county and local pipelines on safety issues/communication.

9. Unfinished Business:

Electronic Files – Bristle has received one quote for a document management program. None of the surrounding townships use a program. Tabled till further information is gathered.

Capital Improvement Plan- Tabled till further information is gathered.

10. New Business:

2020-2021 Budget-The following resolution was offered by Bristle, and seconded by Huehl
Be it further resolved that the total revenues and un-appropriated fund be amended for the 2020-2021 fiscal year. Township Matching FICA increased to \$6,650, Election Supplies increased to \$3,400, and Fire Contract increased to \$75,000 for a total increase of \$6,550.

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

2021-2022 Budgets-The following resolution was offered by Huehl, and supported by Bristle to adopt resolution 21-06 now therefore be it resolved the Freedom Township Board of Trustees adopts the 2021-2022 fiscal year budget by cost center.

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

The following resolution was offered by Bristle, and supported by Huehl to adopt resolution 21-07 now therefore be it resolved the Freedom Township Board of Trustees adopts the 2021-2022 Public Improvement Fund budget by cost center.

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

The following resolution was offered by Huehl, and supported by Bristle to adopt resolution 21-08 now therefore be it resolved the Freedom Township Board of Trustees adopts the 2021-2022 Road Millage budget by cost center.

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

Draft WCRC Agreement – Looking at getting 5,000 tons of gravel from Levy. Board would like to see the 3 brines on a separate agreement so we can approve that sooner than the one with gravel and ditching. Lindemann will schedule a meeting between the township and the Road Commission.

WWCA Soil Erosion Inspector- The following resolution was offered by Lindemann, and seconded by Schaible
Be it further resolved to appoint Doug Parr as the soil erosion inspector for Freedom Township.

Motion carried with all Ayes CARRIED

Bristle will send the resolution to WWCA and Eagle.

