

FREEDOM TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES
APPROVED Minutes of the Regular Meeting
April 13, 2021 8:00 pm
In Person at the Freedom Township Hall

1. Call to Order/Roll Call

Supervisor Lindemann called the meeting to order at 8:00pm

Members present: Lindemann, Bristle, Layher, Huehl, Schaible absent: none 9 were present in the audience

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Change to Agenda:

4. Approval of Minutes: Moved by Schaible supported by Layher to: Approve the March 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 March 9, 2021 Treasurers report. Roll call vote was unanimous. Aye: Huehl, Bristle, Schaible, Layher, Lindemann Nay: none CARRIED

6. Communications: Supervisor Lindemann reported he received the monthly magazine from MTA. The entire board received a letter from the Sierra Club in support of continued work on the safety efforts for the township. WWCA sent a letter to a homeowner on the corner of Waters and Schmitz Rd for violation of digging and moving over an acre of soil without a soil erosion permit. The Saline District Library sent a report. Consumers Energy, will hold another virtual open house this Friday, April 16th 10:30-11:30am. EAGLE will be holding a virtual wind and soil renewable energy in Michigan event on April 27th.

7. Public Comment: Beth Heuser would like to thank the board and Washtenaw County Road Commission for the work done on our township's gravel roads, specifically Hieber Road. She also submitted to the clerk 8 more letters signed by township residents in support of siren and broadband efforts.

8. Reports:

State Police Washtenaw County report: Sup. Lindemann shared the Mar. report received from the Wash. Co. Sheriff's Office. There were 24 calls with 5 handled by the Mich. St. Police, 3 by the Wash. Co., 1 animal complaint and 15 were administratively cleared.

Planning Commission report: The April 6th meeting was canceled due to lack of a quorum and will be rescheduled for April 22nd, held virtually. 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 March with no calls or complaints. The property owner at 9211 Pleasant Lake Rd. has submitted a zoning compliance for a pole barn.

Zoning Inspector –Jim Coval reported one zoning for the month of March. A pole barn at 9211 Pleasant Lake Rd. Library- Elissa Weidmayer submitted a report from their Mar. 22nd meeting. The Manchester Library is planning to re-open to the public on April 19th at 50% capacity. The painting of the library is completed and furniture rearranged to make the space more user-friendly. It was decided to add Hoopla, a library streaming service, for 2 years. And the library is working on plans for outdoor programs for the upcoming months.

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. A letter was received from a title company asking for a HOA letter for a property being sold around Pleasant Lake.

9. Unfinished Business:

Draft WCRC Agreement – Motion by Huehl supported by Bristle to approve the Washtenaw County Road Commission contract for three brines for dust control.

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

Motion by Huehl supported by Bristle to approve the Washtenaw County Road Commission's second contract for three projects, application of gravel, drainage projects, culvert repair and to use the matching funds.

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

10. New Business:

Manchester Fire Department Contract/Billing – Discussion on the current fire contract cost and billing issues. The cost of the contract varies year to year. It is based on a 3 year rolling average made up of township population, SEV values and the total number of calls. It is the largest item on the township budget and a future millage may need to be considered or other billing options to free up township dollars for other projects.

Pipeline Communications- Clerk Bristle attended a zoom meeting, along with Karen Flahie and Lon Nordeen, with the Michigan Public Service Commission, pipeline safety division. They are willing to help organize an emergency planning event with the county, Manchester Fire Department and the 7 pipelines running through the township. We could have two events, one for the township officials and other agencies representatives and one for the community and residents. Clerk Bristle will continue communication and coordination of this event.

Consumer Energy Safety Update will be Friday, April 16th, 10:30-11:30am held virtually.

Washtenaw County Covid-19 Vaccination Host Pop-Up Site-Supervisor Lindemann will make contact with the Washtenaw County Health Department on the availability of the Freedom Town hall as a Covid vaccine clinic.

Washtenaw County Equalization Assessing Contract- Motion by Bristle supported by Layher: To approve the Washtenaw County Equalization 2021 assessing contract.

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

11. Warrants: Motion by Schaible supported by Layher: To approve the online payments for the 941 tax withholding and warrants 4736-4753.

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

12. Public Comment: Clerk Bristle will be attending the next Wash. Co. Broadband Taskforce meeting this Thursday. 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 . Washtenaw County Clean-Up Day in Chelsea Saturday, April 24th, 8:00am-1:00pm. Chris Mikesell shared that now is a good time to start a capital improvement fund or at least a list of potential projects with the America Rescue Act funds coming shortly.

Adjourned at 10:06 pm

Valisa L. Bristle,
Clerk, Freedom Township