

FREEDOM TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
APPROVED Minutes of the Regular Meeting  
May 11, 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      5 were present in the audience

**2. Pledge of Allegiance**

**3. Change to Agenda:** Moved by Huehl supported by Layher to: add to new business a sign for the cemetery, a new flag for the town hall, a memorial gift for Dale Weidmayer and resolution opposing HB4722.

Motion carried with all Ayes

CARRIED

**4. Approval of Minutes:** Moved by Huehl supported by Layher to: Approve the April 13, 2021 Township Board minutes with no corrections.

Motion carried with all Ayes

CARRIED

**5. Treasurer's Report:** Moved by Bristle supported by Schaible to: Approve April 13, 2021 Treasurers report.

Roll call vote was unanimous. Aye: Schaible, Bristle, Layher, Lindemann, Huehl

Nay: none

CARRIED

**6. Communications:** Supervisor Lindemann reported there will be three house bills introduced this week regarding sand and gravel mining regulations. MTA sent an email with information on Federal COVID-19 relief funding. He spoke with the Washtenaw County Health Dept. regarding a pop-up COVID clinic at the town hall and they said they would be in touch if needed. Information shared from the last WWCA meeting- an increase in the fee for soil erosion permit, a new computer system is in place and a raise was approved for inspectors. The homeowner on the corner of Waters and Schmitz Rd was issued a violation for digging and moving over an acre of soil without a soil erosion permit, they have since submitted an application.

**7. Public Comment:** Beth Heuser would like to thank the board and other township officials that helped to get her land split/variance completed. Cathy Moore asked if the safety committee would be reformed and address concerns with cyber attacks. Chris Mikesell asked about a mailer or newsletter to go out and tell people how to sign up for everbridge and other safety information like the siren on Consumer Energy's property. A newsletter committee could spearhead this effort. Supervisor Lindemann thought it was a good idea and asked those in attendance if they would like to work on a township wide newsletter to share information with residents on safety and other issues. Chris Mikesell, Cathy Moore and Beth Heuser were all interested and Clerk Bristle will be the point person from the board. Lon Nordeen asked if a group was able to find state or federal funds for safety issues if the board would support this and Supervisor Lindemann answered yes.

**8. Reports:**

State Police/Washtenaw County Sheriff Report: Sup. Lindemann shared the Apr. report. There were 16 calls with 9 handled by the Mich. St. Police, 0 by Wash. Co., and 7 were administratively cleared.

Planning Commission report: Matt Little reported at the April 22<sup>nd</sup> meeting PC worked on the extraction renewal application for the Stoneco Burmeister Pit. American Aggregates/Levy needs to get annual report taken care of. They plan to open/start mining in next month. At the May 4<sup>th</sup> meeting a land division for Vershum/Jedele was approved. The PC approved the extraction renewal permit for Stoneco Burmeister Pit and they will need to go before the board for a variance request to Ordinance 32. A public hearing has been set. They also discussed an ordinance for alternate energy sources for commercial use. 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 April with no calls but he did mail a letter to 11093 Bethel Church Rd for yard maintenance and vehicles and scrap metal to clean up. A complaint had been submitted to the clerk for vehicles at 6251 Lima center Rd and that information was passed on to Austin to investigate.

Zoning Inspector –Jim Coval submitted four zonings for the month of April. A T-Mobile upgrade at 6680 Schneider Rd, cattle barn at 14255 Bethel Church Rd, 10x18 storage shed on Saline Waterworks Rd (waiting on drive way permit to issue an address) and a pole barn at 13500 Bemis Rd.

Library- Susan Layher and Elissa Weidmayer submitted a report from the Apr. 26<sup>th</sup> meeting. The Manchester Library is still providing curbside services only until further notice. After regular computer maintenance it was discovered that 3 of the library's computers need to be replaced. Six chrome books were purchased for use outside on the library's property. The Hoopla streaming service is now up and running. The building will be getting a new roof this summer so they plan to reserve pavilion space at local parks to hold summer activities.

Clerk report: Clerk Bristle reported she is still working with the township auditor to prepare the F-65 report and complete the 2019-2020 township audit. It is very close to completion just in time to start the audit for the 2020-2021 year. The Washtenaw Co. Broadband Task Force presented to the Wash. Co. Board of Commissioners, last month, with information on the Rural Digital Opportunity Grant Fund that was announced last year. The two companies awarded the grant are Midwest Energy & Communications and Mercury Wireless. They will have up to 6 years to complete their build outs. The American Rescue Plan Act funding could be used towards areas un-served by the grant. More information is available at [www.washtenaw.org/broadband](http://www.washtenaw.org/broadband) .

## **9. Unfinished Business:**

Pipeline Communications- Sup. Lindemann shared a community outreach program offered by Wolverine pipeline called Partners in Pipeline Education or PIPE. He will reach out to them regarding this program. Last year they held an Emergency Response Drill in Marshall; this may be something they could organize in Freedom Township in the future. Clerk Bristle will continue communication 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.

Manchester Fire Department Contract/Billing – Discussion on the current fire contract cost and billing issues. Clerk will look up the past motion to stop billing the \$750 for fire runs and see if we are still able to bill for additional services required by the Manchester Fire Dept. when responding to a call. Denny will contact Ron Milkey, Manchester Twp. Supervisor, regarding a meeting to discuss billing options.

## **10. New Business:**

Public Hearing for Stoneco Variance Request- A public hearing has been set for Thursday, May 20<sup>th</sup> at 7:30pm at the town hall.

Resolution opposing HB 4722- HB4722 would seek to eliminate a municipality's ability to regulate short-term vacation rentals. The following resolution was offered by Lindemann, and supported by Bristle to adopt resolution 21-10 now therefore be it resolved that Freedom Township Board of Trustees ask that HB 4722 be rejected and that local zoning decisions be left in the hands of local government where they belong.

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

New Flag for Town Hall – Motion by Bristle supported by Layher to purchase a new American Flag for the Freedom Town hall outdoor flag pole.

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

Sign for Cemetery- Discuss on purchasing a sign for the Freedom Emanuel Evangelical Memorial Cemetery. The board will gather some simple designs and costs to present at the next meeting.

Memorial Gift for Dale Weidmayer- Discussion on purchasing a gift to be displayed at the town hall in memory/honor of the 44 years Dale Weidmayer served Freedom Township. The idea of a tree or bench was brought up. Many other members of our community have served Freedom Township and the idea of a plaque with their names and years served was discussed. The board will continue to think of different ideas and continue discussion at the next meeting.

**11. Warrants:** Motion by Schaible supported by Layher: To approve the online payments for the 941 tax withholding and warrants 4754-4771.

Roll call vote was unanimous.

Aye: Lindemann, Scabile, Layher, Huehl, Bristle

Nay: none CARRIED

**12. Public Comment:**

Adjourned at 10:13 pm

Valisa L. Bristle,  
Clerk, Freedom Township