

FREEDOM TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES
APPROVED Minutes of the Regular Meeting
July 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 6 were present in the audience

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Change to Agenda: none

4. Approval of Minutes: Moved by Schaible supported by Huehl to: Approve the June 8, 2021 Township Board minutes with corrections. Motion carried with all Ayes CARRIED

5. Treasurer's Report: Moved by Huehl supported by Bristle to: Approve June 8, 2021 Treasurers report. Roll call vote was unanimous. Aye: Schaible, Lindemann, Layher, Bristle, Huehl Nay: none CARRIED

6. Communications: Supervisor Lindemann reported receiving a postcard for the upcoming Safety Open House Tour at Consumer Energy on Saturday, August 7th from 9-10am. He received an email from MTA regarding information to apply for the American Rescue Act Plan funds. The deadline to request the funds is July 27, 2021. He received an email from Wash. Co. Commissioner Shannon Beeman asking to host a townhall event at freedom Township hall in the next couple of weeks. She would like to hear resident's feedback on how they feel the county should allocate the American Rescue Act funds that the county will be receiving. A reporter from the Sun Times emailed the supervisor and clerk to ask for an interview regarding safety concerns and broadband issues within Freedom Township. WWCA quarterly meeting was held June 26th and shared that 2 permits were issued for Freedom Twp.

7. Public Comment: Beth Heuser asked if a report was received from the Manchester Fire Department for the explosion/fire on Lima Center Road on July 3rd. And she turned in 19 letters signed by residents in support of a viable safety plan and warning system and high-speed internet service. The Clerk did receive a report from the MFD that they responded to a fire on Lima Center, the homeowners said they were setting off fireworks and the fire was put out by the time the fire department arrived. Lon Nordeen shared people were pleased with the weed treatment applied on Pleasant Lake on June 10th. PLPOA plan to hold their annual meeting at the town hall near the end of Sept. Commissioner Shannon Beeman was in attendance and shared that there is a survey that the Washtenaw County Commissioners are asking residents to take and give feedback on how the County should allocate American Rescue Act Plan funds. Clerk Bristle has the link posted on the township website. Commissioner Beeman would also like to host a townhall in Freedom Township to hear what residents have to say on the matter. Details will be shared once a date is finalized.

8. Reports:

State Police/Washtenaw County Sheriff Report: Sup. Lindemann shared the June report. There were 21 calls with 11 handled by the Mich. St. Police, 1 by Wash. Co., and 9 were administratively cleared.

Planning Commission report: The Planning Commission canceled the July meeting. A public hearing has been set for Aug. 3rd at 7:30pm to review a draft amendment to the zoning ordinance regarding solar/alternative energy sources. A full copy of the PC minutes is available from clerk or on twp. website.

Ordinance Enforcement Officer: no report

Zoning Inspector –Jim Coval reported two zonings for the month of June. A new house and attached garage at 3319 Schmitz Rd and a new house and pole barn at 5959 Kothe Rd.

Library- no report

Clerk report: Clerk Bristle reported a ZBA public hearing is set for Aug. 5th at 7:30pm for Howard Jr and Ann Poley. The survey for the Wash. Co. Commissioners to allocate ARPA funds is posted on the website. It has been brought up in several conversations a need for a server at the town hall for the computer program and IT support. Clerk Bristle contacted IT Right and they will be preparing a quote for IT services and a server. Clerk is working

with Chris Mikesall to put together a summer newsletter for the township and will have a proposed copy at the next meeting. Wash. Co. Clean Up Day Sat., July 31 9am-1pm at the Saline High School. A reporter from the Sun Times emailed the supervisor and clerk to ask for an interview regarding safety concerns and broadband issues within Freedom Township and the Clerk will contact them. Clerk received several complaints about the fireworks/explosion/fire on Lima Center Rd July 3rd and asked about a fireworks ordinance.

9. Unfinished Business:

Pipeline Safety/Communications Event- The Public Safety Event is scheduled for Saturday, September 18th, 2021 at the Freedom Town Hall starting at 10:00am. Clerk Bristle has been in communication with the Michigan Public Service Commission, pipeline safety division and Wash. Co. Emergency Services Dept to start putting together an emergency planning event with the county, Manchester Fire Department and the 7 pipelines running through the township.

Manchester Fire Department Contract/Billing –Denny and Larry met with Ron Milkey, Manchester Twp. Supervisor, and Ron Mann to discuss billing options. It is difficult to get the information needed to bill invoice due to HIPPA laws. The MFD will provide the supervisor with a monthly report of the number of calls for Freedom Twp. If we ever decide to have a fire/police/safety millage it can be based on a special assessment for per household instead of per parcel. It is advised to have a hazmat ordinance so the township could bill for services provided above the normal fire run.

Memorial Gift for Previous Township Officials- Discussion was had on purchasing a gift to be displayed at the town hall in memory/ honor of township officials and committee members who previously served Freedom Township. The idea of a plaque with names and years served along with a tree or bench was discussed. Larry will contact Yesterday's Trophies to see about the cost of an engraved plaque. There is a tree/shrub along the town hall that is leaning and needs to be removed; Denny will take care of this.

BSA Software – The Clerk and Treasurer spoke with BS&A and viewed a presentation on the accounting program and were very pleased with what the program offered. It is a system designed specifically for municipalities and many within Wash. Co. use the system. The total quote to purchase and implement the BS&A software is \$23,140 with \$1,365 being the annual charge.

Motion by Huehl supported by Lindemann: To approve the purchase of the BS&A software for accounting purposes for the township.

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

10. New Business:

Resolution 2021-12- The following resolution was offered by Bristle, and supported by Lindemann to adopt resolution 21-12 now therefore be it resolved that the Freedom Township Board is hereby authorized to take any actions necessary to receive the Township's share of ARPA funds from the state of Michigan.

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

11. Warrants: Motion by Schaible supported by Layher: To approve the online payments for the 941 tax withholding and warrants 4795-4808.

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

12. Public Comment: Lon Nordeen asked that the Capital Improvement List be put on a future agenda again. Rudy will take the old American Flags from the town hall and have them properly disposed of by the VFW in Saline.

Adjourned at 10:34 pm

Valisa L. Bristle,
Clerk, Freedom Township