

FREEDOM TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES
APPROVED Minutes of the Regular Meeting
March 8, 2022, 8:00 pm
In Person at the Freedom Township Hall

BUDGET HEARING

Supervisor Lindemann called the public hearing to order at 7:30pm

Members present: Lindemann, Bristle, Layher, Huehl, Schaible absent: none 1 was present in the audience

Supervisor Lindemann asked Clerk Bristle to present the proposed 2022-2023 budget.

Adjourned at 8:00 pm

1. Call to Order/Roll Call

Supervisor Lindemann called the meeting to order at 8:04pm

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 February 8, 2022, Township Board minutes with no corrections. Motion carried with all Ayes CARRIED

5. Treasurer's Report: Moved by Huehl supported by Bristle to: Approve February 8, 2022, Treasurer's report. Roll call vote was unanimous. Aye: Huehl, Bristle, Layher, Lindemann, Schaible Nay: none CARRIED

6. Communications: Supervisor Lindemann reported that the Wash. Co. Road Commission has put a weight restriction on a bridge on Bemis Road west of the one we just replaced. He received an email from Rural Reach to ask for a letter of support for fiber optic construction. The board would like to see him properly report other projects in the township first. He has a copy of the WWCA 2021 audit if anyone would like to view it. The Wash. Co. Road contract for 2022 has been received and the supervisor will schedule the meeting between the township and the road commission to discuss it.

7. Public Comment: Beth Heuser asked if the Verizon tower on Parker Road was operating yet, it is not. She asked if the house being built at 11240 Hieber Road is following the rules for deck measurements and was told that the zoning inspector and township planner have reviewed the site plans and did not sign off until all township requirements were met. And she has a retaining wall on her property with dirt falling on it from the neighbor's side during this construction. The contractor should have insurance to cover any damages and she could contact them. Concern with cement Trucks going down Hieber Road after frost laws went on and it is possible, they had partial loads putting them under the weight limits or received a permit from the Road Commission allowing it. Tara, with Consumers Energy, shared that the Compressor Station is planning to vent gas on April 1st in a process called flaring to burn off ethane. When she has all the final details, she will forward them to the township board and contact the Manchester Fire Department and the County Emergency Manager so an Everbridge alert can go out.

8. Reports:

State Police/Washtenaw County Sheriff Report: February Report showed there were 13 calls with 7 handled by the Mich. St. Police, 3 by Wash. Co., and 3 were administratively cleared.

Manchester Fire Department Report: Waiting for the February report.

Planning Commission report: The P.C. met last Tuesday and Matt Little shared that the planning commission decided not to move forward with the alternate energy ordinance. Lindemann will contact the township planner to see if the board needs to vote to accept the P.C. decision. The letter from Jessica Roberts was discussed and the P.C. decided there were no further actions to take. They are in the process of reviewing conditional use permits issued to those in the township. A full copy of the PC minutes is available from clerk or on twp. website.

Ordinance Enforcement Officer: Austin reported that he has sent 3 letters with the third one being a citation with a fee attached to Else Heller (landlord) and Chris Brooks (tenant) for failure to clean up the property. Lindemann

will contact the township attorney on direction for the process moving forward. Austin will be sending out several other letters to property owners for issues with needing to clean up properties within the township.

Zoning Inspector – Jim Coval submitted 1 new zoning issued for the month of February. A new house at 11240 Hieber Road.

Library- Alex McKay reported on the Mar. meeting. Hours for the library have expanded and they are increasing programming offered. They are pursuing a lease for additional space in the lower level of the building.

Clerk report: Clerk and Treasurer are working with BS&A on the new software programs for payroll, accounts payable and general ledger for the township. Bristle is collecting quotes for audio/video equipment for the town hall to be used during meetings. 2022-2023 budget has been created. Ballot containers will be re-certified next week at the county office. Clerk will contact the township auditor to schedule the annual audit.

Township BS&A Training– Motion by Bristle supported by Layher to accept the BS&A proposal for an additional training day.

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

9. Unfinished Business:

Cost recovery Ordinance– Motion by Lindemann supported by Bristle to repeal Ordinance 15 Fire and Emergency Medical Charge and Ordinance 46 Emergency Services.

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

Motion by Lindemann supported by Huehl to adopt Ordinance 51 to establish cost recovery charges for the fire department and other emergency services by authority under PA 246 of 1945 to protect public health, safety and welfare, and under PA 33 of 1951, as amended, being MCL 41.801 ET. Seq, and to provide methods for collecting those charges.

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

10. New Business:

Poverty Exemption Guidelines/Hardship Application Resolution- Moved by Bristle seconded by Layher to approve the 2022 Federal poverty guidelines in the determination of poverty exemptions.

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

Motion by Bristle seconded by Layher: To adopt Freedom Townships' poverty exemption guidelines and put the application on file with the township.

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

Motion by Bristle seconded by Huehl: To adopt the policy for inspection of assessing records.

Motion carried by all Ayes: Nay: none CARRIED

Security Cameras Quotes– P.A.L. Burglar Alarm- quote for alarm system is \$695 and \$30/month service, quote for security system is \$2,616. Sonitrol- quote for alarm system is \$905 and \$51.95/month service, quote for security system is \$4,065.15 and \$25/monthly fee. The board would like a little more information comparing the two quotes and have a question about lighting quality, camera upgrades, yearly maintenance fees and monthly charges. American Rescue Act dollars can be used for this project.

Town Hall Sign Quote– JSC (Johnson Sign Co.) proposal for a digital town hall sign is \$33,230.00. The board is considered it may not work out because the placement has to be 83ft from the center of the road and that would put it at the front door of the hall. And there is concern on security for the sign.

2021-2022 Budget-The following resolution 22-01 was offered by Huehl, and seconded by Bristle
Be it further resolved that the total revenues and un-appropriated fund be amended for the 2021-2022 fiscal year. The following funds increased to Township Matching FICA \$7,300, Board of Review \$1,350, Treasurer Mileage \$300, Office Supplies \$15,050, Printing/Newsletter \$3,500, Gas \$1,100, General Govt Expense \$150, Computer Services \$29,500, Zoning Board of Appeals \$1,500, and Fire Contract \$86,200 for a total increase of \$44,450.

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

Salaries for 2022-2023- Supervisor Lindemann recommended to increase the Supervisor, Clerk and Treasurer's salary by \$1,200, Trustees pay by \$10/mtg., Planning Commission Chair salary by \$400, Planning Commission Member's pay by \$5/mtg., Planning Commission Secretary salary by \$50, Board of Review pay by \$1/hr. Ordinance Enforcement Officer salary by \$300, and Zoning Inspector salary by \$300.

The following resolution was offered by Huehl and seconded by Bristle: resolution 2022-02 to establish township officer's salaries. Now therefore it be resolved that as of 4-1-2022 the salaries of the township board members are as follows: Supervisor \$21,700

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

The following resolution was offered by Huehl and seconded by Layher: resolution 2022-03 to establish township officer's salaries. Now therefore it be resolved that as of 4-1-2022 the salaries of the township board members are as follows: Clerk \$21,700 +\$2,000/per election

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

The following resolution was offered by Bristle and seconded by Huehl: resolution 2022-04 to establish township officer's salaries. Now therefore it be resolved that as of 4-1-2022 the salaries of the township board members are as follows: Treasurer \$21,700

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

The following resolution was offered by Bristle and seconded by Lindemann: resolution 2022-05 to establish township officer's salaries. Now therefore it be resolved that as of 4-1-2022 the salaries of the township board members are as follows: Trustees \$235.00 per meeting.

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

2022-2023 Budgets-The following resolution was offered by Bristle and supported by Huehl to adopt resolution 22-06 now therefore be it resolved the Freedom Township Board of Trustees adopts the 2022-2023 fiscal year budget by cost center.

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

The following resolution was offered by Bristle and supported by Lindemann to adopt resolution 22-07 now therefore be it resolved the Freedom Township Board of Trustees adopts the 2022-2023 Public Improvement Fund budget by cost center.

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

The following resolution was offered by Bristle and supported by Huehl to adopt resolution 22-08 now therefore be it resolved the Freedom Township Board of Trustees adopts the 2022-2023 Road Millage budget by cost center.

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

Name Plates- Discussion if the township should purchase name plates for the varies township board members for different meetings. The board decided it was not necessary at this time.

11. Warrants: Motion by Lindemann supported by Layher: To approve the online payments for the 941-tax withholding and warrants 4949-4966 and void 4956.

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

12. Public Comment:

Adjourned at 11:25 pm

Valisa L. Bristle,
Clerk, Freedom Township