

FREEDOM TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
APPROVED Minutes of the Regular Meeting  
June 14, 2022, 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      10 were present in the audience

**2. Pledge of Allegiance**

**3. Change to Agenda:** none

**4. Approval of Minutes:** Moved by Huehl supported by Schaible to: Approve the May 10, 2022, Township Board minutes with no corrections.      Motion carried with all Ayes      CARRIED

**5. Treasurer's Report:** Moved by Schaible supported by Bristle to: Approve May 10, 2022, Treasurer's report. Roll call vote was unanimous. Aye: Schaible, Layher, Lindemann, Bristle, Huehl      Nay: none      CARRIED

**6. Communications:** Supervisor Lindemann reported receiving a mailer from DTE on natural gas pipeline safety. He also received a census survey, the MTA Township Focus magazine and a mailer from Fleis & Vandebrook law firm. He received an email regarding concern with dogs around Pleasant Lake not on leashes. Maybe we should include something in the newsletter referencing the township S animal control ordinance. Denny Huehl shared that the Engelbert property had been sold to the Barn Sanctuary and that they went to the county to have it removed from the tax roll as a non-profit animal rescue operation.

**7. Public Comment:** Jessica Roberts asked if anyone on the board was notified regarding the GFNY bike race that was held this past Sunday? Freedom Township Officials were not notified. She shared that she had contacted other townships, and no one seemed to have known about it and Washtenaw County did not give permission for the event. Jim Paul asked if the board was aware of a complaint regarding a group of individuals drinking and using inappropriate language in the town hall parking lot on the evening of June 4<sup>th</sup>? The board was not notified of this situation. Apparently, 911 was called and a Washtenaw County Sheriffs Officer was within 2 minutes, but they never showed up and neither did the state police. Discussion on the cost of a deputy to serve the township. Matt Little asked the board and residents to contact their state representatives opposing HB4875 and SB429, SB430 and SB431 that would take away control of graveling mining regulation at the local level.

Jared Mauch, with Washtenaw Fiber Properties, shared he has signed a contract with Washtenaw County to build out broadband fiber cables to part of Freedom Township with work scheduled to begin next month. Carol Westfall shared her concerns with the new home being built at 11240 Hieber Rd and if it fit in the description of homes within the Pleasant Lake zoning district. Section 2.105 Lake (LK) District of the Township Zoning Ordinance states- The Lake (LK) District is hereby established to encourage and permit mixed uses with a rural hamlet scale and character in the Fredonia area of the Township. Uses permitted in this district are intended to be local and neighborhood in scale and intensity, compatible with neighboring residences, and oriented towards pedestrians. The LK District is intended to encourage retention of historic buildings and existing residential structures, either in residential use or in conversion to other permitted uses, and to ensure that remodeled or new structures are consistent in design, orientation, and location with a rural hamlet character. Does this new home sound like it fits this? She suggested that the board or planning commission may need to review the Lake District Zoning description so future homes of this magnitude are not constructed on small lake lots. Beth Heuser agreed with her own concerns over this new construction and the dirt that was moved on the property. Concern with the measurements of room heights and the three-season room on the back of the house and does it meet the lake setback?

**8. Reports:**

**State Police/Washtenaw County Sheriff Report:** no report for the month of May.

**Manchester Fire Department Report:** There were 8 calls for the month of May.

**Planning Commission report:** At the P.C. meeting last Tuesday they approved the Schaible land split. The Horning land split will need to go before the Township Board to have the parcel rezoned, then removed from the PA 116 program then it will go back to the Planning Commission for the split. Due to the August Primary Election, the August

P.C. meeting will be moved from Aug. 2<sup>nd</sup> to Thursday, Aug. 4<sup>th</sup> at 7:30pm. 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 May. He hand delivered and mailed to the property owner and tenant at 11445 Waters Rd. the final notice to clean up property and the next step is filing the violation with the Washtenaw County Court system. A notice to mow the grass at 11721 Pleasant Lake Rd, a notice to clean up the property at 6251 Lima Center Rd. and a notice to remove the storage container at 9211 Pleasant Lake Rd.

**Zoning Inspector** – Jim Coval submitted 3 new zoning issued for the month of May. A pole barn at 2404 S. Fletcher Rd, a pole barn at 9587 Saline Waterworks Rd. and a solar array at 1133 Bethel Church Rd. On Wednesday, June 8<sup>th</sup> he went over to the new home being constructed at 11240 Hieber Road and checked all dimensions of wall heights, deck, etc. and everything checked out to match the blueprint/site plan and conformed to the standards set by the township.

**Library-** Alex Mckay submitted a report on the June meeting. The library elected officers, set the monthly meeting going forward for the second Thursday of the month and approved the 2022-2023 budget and millage.

**Clerk report-** Clerk Bristle reported that the next election for Freedom Township will be Tuesday, August 2<sup>nd</sup>. Any voter on the permanent absent voter list should be receiving an application this week. The applications can be found on the township website. Clerk and Treasurer have an additional BS&A training this Friday. The annual audit will start June 22<sup>nd</sup>.

## **9. Unfinished Business:**

**Audio/Visual Equipment Quotes**– Last month Bristle presented a quote from Integrated Smart Technologies for \$21,495.00 and a quote from National Communications Corp. for \$11,803.74. The quotes cover such things as a projector, screen, speakers, microphones and all the equipment needed to run the system. Bristle is waiting on a quote from TelSystems which should be here by the next meeting. Tabled till next month.

**Washtenaw County Equalization Assessing Contract-** Motion by Huehl supported by Bristle: To approve the Washtenaw County Equalization 2022 assessing contract.

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

**Town Hall Improvements**- Lindemann has received two quotes for landscaping around the town hall. One from My Gardener for \$5,440.00 and the other from McLennan Landscape for \$2,888.46. Discussion over the two quotes and differences in the plants and services provided.

Motion by Bristle supported by Layher: To accept the quote from McLennan Landscape (bid # 0740) up to \$3,000 and remove the barberry and have it replaced with something else.

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

Will gather quotes in the future for power washing the outside of the town hall and painting or residing the building.

## **10. New Business:**

**Summer 2022 Newsletter**- Clerk Bristle with help from Chris Mikesall has been working on the summer newsletter for the township and shared the draft copy with the board. A few additions were made. The Clerk will get the cost to print and mail it for next month.

Motion by Bristle supported by Lindemann: To purchase two security cameras signs for the recycling containers.

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

**Fillable Forms for the Township Website**- Lindmeann will get the cost and information needed to create fillable forms on the township website and have it for the next meeting.

**11. Warrants:** Motion by Linemann supported by Huehl: To approve the online payments for the 941-tax withholding and warrants 5010-5034 and void check 5009.

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

**12. Public Comment:** Jessica Roberts asked the board to consider a special event ordinance and the thought of holding a weekly farmer's market.

Adjourned at 10:23 pm Valisa L. Bristle, Clerk, Freedom Township