

FREEDOM TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES
DRAFT Minutes of the Regular Meeting
September 13, 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 11 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 August 9, 2022, Township Board minutes with corrections. Motion carried with all Ayes **CARRIED**

5. Treasurer's Report: Moved by Bristle supported by Huehl to: Approve August 9, 2022, Treasurer's report. Roll call vote was unanimous. Aye: Huehl, Layher, Bristle, Lindemann, Schaible Nay: none **CARRIED**

6. Communications: Supervisor Lindemann reported he received the monthly MTA focus magazine. In it was an article regarding the L-4029 form and we need to add this to new business for discussion. A letter was received from the Water Resource Dept. with a map of the new district. The entire board received a letter from a township resident's attorney regarding the home being built at 11240 Hieber Rd. The board is working with the township attorney and planner regarding the situation. Consumer's Energy will be conducting a safety exercise at the Freedom Compressor station this month. This exercise will involve internal employees, county and township emergency personnel and elected officials have been invited to an off-site meeting to learn about Consumers preparedness activities. A letter was received from Jessica Fahlgren asking the board to consider a long-term rental policy/ordinance. The planning commission board is reviewing the lake district, and we may need to look at the lot sizes around the lake. This will be added to new business for discussion on GIS mapping around the lake.

7. Public Comment: Lon Nordeen shared that the PLPOA held their annual meeting on Sunday with 40+ in attendance. It was a successful event with representatives from Consumers Energy, Theo Eggermont and Jaclyn Bates, Washtenaw County Environmental leaders, to review Pleasant Lake Special Assessment District progress 2021-2022 and septic system issues, and Jared Mauch Washtenaw Fiber Properties LLC about bringing High Speed Internet to Freedom Township.

8. Reports:

State Police/Washtenaw County Sheriff Report: No report for August

Manchester Fire Department Report: The August report had 16 calls.

Planning Commission report: Matt Little reported the P.C. held their meeting last Tuesday. A boundary adjustment for Jack Loudin was approved. The P.C. started to review the lake district article 3 and Zoning Ordinance 43-B looking at height of houses and footprint size. Matt wanted to thank Carol Westfall and Chris Mikesell for their work on researching what other lake communities have for zoning around their lakes. At the next meeting the P.C. will continue to review the lake district and will discuss a conditional use application just received, an incomplete site plan for Levy, the fence at the Wolverine pipeline building and a boundary adjustment for Mary Nagel. A full copy of the PC minutes is available from clerk or on twp. website.

Ordinance Enforcement Officer- Austin Helber did not submit a report for the month of August.

Zoning Inspector – Jim Coval submitted 2 new zoning issued for the month of August. Anew home at 6105 Ernst Road and a new home at 6075 Parker Road.

Library- no report

Clerk report- Clerk Bristle reported that ballots have been ordered for the November 8th election and should be received and tested by the end of the month and then absentee ballots will be mailed out. The November board meeting will be on the same day as the election so it would be best to change it to a different day.

Motion by Huehl supported by Schaible: to move the November 8th board meeting to Thursday November 10th at 8:00pm. Motion carried with all Ayes **CARRIED**

9. Unfinished Business:

None

10. New Business:

Horning Land Release of PA116- The Horning Family is selling 18.037ac. to Consumer Energy and needs to have the 18.037ac removed from the PA116 land protection act for the sale to be finalized. The State requires a resolution from the local unit of government recommending this request.

Motion by Huehl supported by Layher: to adopt resolution 2022-08 of a partial termination of a farmland development rights agreement. The Freedom Township Board hereby approves the request to release the following described piece of property from said Farmland Development Rights Agreement, 18.037ac. of the 87.76 total acres of parcel # N-14-21-200-002 and that the Township Board hereby certifies that relinquishment is in the public interest as described in 3611a. (1) (b) (i) of Part 361 of the Natural Resources and Environment Protection Act.

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

Barn Sanctuary Property Tax Exemption- The Barn Sanctuary has bought a farm on Ellsworth Road and have filed for a property tax exemption. The Freedom Township board needs to make a recommendation to the assessing office by the end of the year to approve or deny the exemption request. In determining whether a taxpayer is qualified for the exemption, a three-part test is applied: 1. Is the real estate owned and occupied by the exemption claimant? 2. Is the exemption claimant a nonprofit charitable institution? 3. Is the buildings and other property thereon occupied by the claimant solely for the purposes for which the claimant was incorporated? Discussion was held around these factors and some questions came up that need to be answered by the township assessing office.

Motion by Lindemann and supported by Layher: to contact the assessing office and table discussion on the Barn Sanctuary property tax exemption application until we can gather more information.

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

L-4029 Form- Motion by Lindemann and supported by Schaible: to approve the L-4029 form for Freedom Township that authorizes the township property tax rates of .9965 for the operating fund and .2499 for the road millage for the townships winter tax bill.

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

GIS Mapping around Pleasant Lake- Lindemann will reach out to OHM and get a quote for mapping services around Pleasant Lake. This will give the township information on lot sizes around the lake when discussing ordinance amendments.

11. Warrants: Motion by Huehl supported by Schaible: To approve the online payments for the 941-tax withholding and warrants 5080-5100.

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

12. Public Comment: none

Adjourned at 9:45 pm

Valisa L. Bristle, Clerk, Freedom Township