

FREEDOM TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES
DRAFT Minutes of the Regular Meeting
January 10, 2023, 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: Moved by Huehl and supported by Bristle to: Add to new business the poverty exemption guidelines hardship application. Motion carried with all Ayes **CARRIED**

4. Approval of Minutes: Moved by Huehl supported by Schaible to: Approve the December 13, 2022, Township Board minutes without corrections. Motion carried with all Ayes **CARRIED**

5. Treasurer's Report: Moved by Schaible supported by Bristle to: Approve December 13, 2022, Treasurer's report. Roll call vote was unanimous. Aye: Huehl, Lindemann, Bristle, Layher, Schaible Nay: none **CARRIED**

6. Communications: Supervisor Lindemann reported he received the monthly MTA focus magazine. The township attorney, Victor Lillich, has joined with Fred Lucas and Burke Castleberry and will continue to provide legal services for the township. The Washtenaw County Road Commission sent out their 2022 Annual report and their road and bridge projects lists for the 2023 and 2024 years. The Bridgewater Township Supervisor reached out to the township with the idea of using ARPA funds and sharing the cost to repair several culverts that are located on Bemis Road that fall on the township line. The Wash. Co. Community Mental Health 2021 millage impact report was received. The Board of Review members are signed up for the required training on February 2nd in Chelsea. Debbie Dingell reached out to Supervisor Lindemann asking if there were any topics that we would like to pursue.

7. Public Comment: offered at 8:25pm with six comments referencing infrastructure for pipeline safety and training, culvert repair on Fletcher Road, question regarding RV across from the Vet Standard, earth moving equipment on Elmdale Drive and self-storage business. Public comment closed at 8:40pm.

8. Reports:

State Police/Washtenaw County Sheriff Report: December Wash. Co. Sheriff Report had 28 calls with 18 handled by the Mich. St. Police, 1 by Wash. Co., and 9 were administratively cleared.

Manchester Fire Department Report: November report had 8 calls and the December report had 7 calls.

Planning Commission report: Matt Little reported the P.C. held their meeting last Tuesday. Chris Oesterling's conditional use application public hearing is postponed. Elections were held and Matt Little will remain the chair, Mike Bossory is the vice-chair, Susan Ochs secretary and Carol Huehl will continue as the recording secretary. Approval was given to Levy's site plan application. The P.C. reviewed their by-laws and made some changes which will be reviewed at next month's meeting. Starting this spring, the township master plan will be reviewed and updated as needed. Stoneco would like to mine another 250 feet closer to Bethel Church. An amended conditional use application would be required, and a public hearing is needed before it would be voted on. Consumer Energy would like to put up an additional building on the northeast corner of the property. An amendment to their site plan (in regard to the berm) was approved by the zoning administrator. Review will continue of the lake district article 3 and Zoning Ordinance 43-B now that GIS mapping of the Lake District is completed. A full copy of the PC minutes is available from clerk or on twp. website.

Ordinance Enforcement Officer- Austin Helber reported no work being done in the month of December. He will follow up with violation notices this month

Zoning Inspector – Jim Coval reported 3 new zoning issued for the month of December. A pole barn at 3319 Schmitz Road, a new home at 10766 Koebbe Road and a home addition at 2358 Loeffler Road. 2022 zonings- 43 permits issued, 7-new homes, 6-pole barns, 1-fence, 13-repairs and 16-roof/sidings.

Library- No report

Clerk report- Statement from Consumer Energy regarding the removal of the pump house on Reno Road (full statement can be found on the township website). A thank you note from Washtenaw County Conservation District

thanking Freedom Township for a successful agricultural tire drive, with 292 tires being collected. It was brought up to the planning commission to purchase name plates for the board members for use during meetings. The board will look into the cost of name plates for the next meeting. Clerk Bristle discovered that a salary for the township sexton was never set so that will be put on next month's agenda. Also, she is working to finish up the 2021-2022 audit, print W-2s and 1099s this month.

9. Unfinished Business:

Consumers Energy Franchise Renewal –

Motion by Lindemann seconded by Schaible: To adopt Ordinance 52 (and repeal Ordinance 13) granting Consumers Energy Company, its successors and assigns, the right and authority to lay, maintain and commercially operate gas lines and facilities including but not limited to mains, pipes, services and on, under, along, and across public places including but not limited to highways, streets, alleys, bridges, and waterways, and to conduct a local gas business in the Township of Freedom, Washtenaw County, Michigan, for a period of thirty years.

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

10. New Business:

Manchester Area Seniors Financial Assistance- Motion by Schaible seconded by Layher to give \$500 to Manchester Area Senior Citizens Council, Inc. per service agreement.

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

Poverty Exemption Guidelines/Hardship Application Resolution- Moved by Bristle seconded by Huehl to approve the 2023 Federal poverty guidelines in the determination of poverty exemptions.

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

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

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

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

Motion carried by all Ayes: Nay: none **CARRIED**

11. Warrants: Motion by Huehl supported by Layher: To approve the online payments for the 941-tax withholding and warrants 5173-5184 and journal entries.

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

12. Public Comment: offered at 10:11pm with no comments

Adjourned at 10:13 pm

Valisa L. Bristle, Clerk, Freedom Township