

FREEDOM TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
APPROVED Minutes of the Regular Meeting  
November 14, 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, Schaible absent Huehl 21 were present in the audience.

**2. Pledge of Allegiance**

**3. Change to Agenda:** none

**4. Approval of Minutes:** Moved by Layher supported by Schaible: to Approve the October 10, 2023, Township Board minutes with no corrections. Motion carried with all Ayes **CARRIED**

**5. Treasurer's Report:** Moved by Lindemann supported by Bristle: to Approve the October 10, 2023, Treasurer's report. Roll call vote was unanimous. Aye: Schaible, Bristle, Lindemann, Layher Nay: none **CARRIED**

**6. Communications:** Supervisor Lindemann reported receiving an email from Summer Roberts with the Washtenaw County Conservation Office on the possibility of sharing a land preservation presentation at a future meeting. HB5120 and HB5121 have passed giving more control to the state of Michigan to regulate commercial solar operations. We have a year to put an ordinance in place if we choose before the house bill will take effect. The supervisor, clerk and planning commission chair attended a tour this afternoon at the Freedom Compressor Station to see the upgrades that have been completed. The MTA sent a mailer on their next training for Dec. 6<sup>th</sup>.

**7. Public Comment:** offered at 8:11pm with one comment. Beth Heuser thanked the board for putting out the latest newsletter and suggested that in the next one it could add something about the warning siren being tested the first Saturday of every month at noon.

Public comment closed at 8:18pm.

**8. Reports:**

**State Police/Washtenaw County Sheriff Report:** October Wash. Co. Sheriff Report had 32 calls with 19 handled by the state, 1 county and 10 administratively cleared. There also were 2 animal complaints.

**Manchester Fire Department Report:** October report had 5 calls with 1 odor investigation, 1 car accident, 1 EMS response, 1 call for an arcing wire and 1 canceled enroute.

**Planning Commission report:** Matt Little was absent, and Supervisor Lindemann reported on the last PC meeting. They set the gravel pit bonds for 2024. Review of the master plan has started. . The Stoneco Conditional Use Application for mining expansion at the Burmeister site will be discussed at the next meeting. A full copy of the PC minutes is available from the clerk or on twp. Website.

**Ordinance Enforcement Officer-** No report for the month of October.

**Zoning Inspector** – There were 2 zonings issued for the month of October. One for a pole barn at 1330 Bemis Road and an addition to a deck at 11844 Hieber Road.

**Manchester District Library-** Elissa Weidmayer submitted a report from the November library meeting. The audit of the library's financial records has been completed. The library millage renewal will be on the August ballot and has dropped to 0.999.

**Clerk report-** The election held on November 7<sup>th</sup> for all Manchester School District voters had 246 voters from Freedom Township and that was a 25% voter turnout rate. The next election will be in February 2024 and the county hopes to have in place the 9 day in-person early voting set up. Voters from Freedom township who wish to vote in-person early can go to the Sharon Township town hall to do so.

**9. Unfinished Business:**

**Eisman Road Culvert-** Lindemann shared information he received from the Wash. Co. Road Comm. to repair the Eisman Road culvert, south of Bethel Church Road over trib to River Raisin. He will talk with the Road Commission,

and this will be addressed at a future meeting when we have more information.

**Burn Ordinance**-Currently Freedom Township does not have an open burning ordinance and it was recommended by the Manchester Fire Department. The board will use the ordinance Sharon Township has as a guide to draft one for Freedom. Tabled until next meeting.

**Fireworks Ordinance**– After discussion the board has decided to not create an ordinance since we do not have a local police officer to help enforce the ordinance.

**10. New Business:**

**Pleasant Lake Improvement Project**- Theo Eggermont, from the Washtenaw County Board of Public Works, came and shared the details around the third special assessment for Pleasant Lake. This is an invasive weed management assessment for Pleasant Lake with a goal for less weeds each year. There are 165 parcels around the lake and 111 signed a letter showing their support for the assessment.

Moved by Bristle supported by Schaible: To adopt resolution 2023-11 to initiate a lake improvement project for the township of Freedom through the Washtenaw County Board of Public Works.

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

**Metro Act Permit Application**- Midwest Energy & Communication applied for access to and ongoing use of public ways by telecommunication providers under metropolitan extension telecommunications right-of-way oversight act 2002 PA 48 MCL sections 484.3101 to 484.3120 by Midwest Energy & Communications.

Moved by Lindemann supported by Layher: To approve the metro act permit application for Midwest Energy & Communication.

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

**The East Branch of the Pleasant Lake Drain**– Supervisor Lindemann wanted to share that the estimated cost to repair the culvert is \$37,500.

**11. Warrants:** Moved by Lindemann supported by Layher: To approve the online payments for the 941-tax withholding and warrants 5366-5386 and journal entries.

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

**12. Public Comment:** offered at 10:02pm with no comments. Closed at 10:02pm

Adjourned at 10:03pm

Valisa L. Bristle, Clerk, Freedom Township