

FREEDOM TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES
APPROVED Minutes of the Regular Meeting
February 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, Huehl, Schaible absent none 7 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 January 10, 2023, Township Board minutes with corrections. Motion carried with all Ayes **CARRIED**

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

6. Communications: Supervisor Lindemann reported he received a letter from the Equalization office with the yearly assessing contract and would like to add it to new business. At the SWWCOG Lt. Hunt shared there is a second Washtenaw County wide patrol car. There are CRC poster up with contact information. They would like to be on the April agenda to share information on different resources available. A company will be running fiber optic down Lima Center Road and around Pleasant Lake. They will reach out to each household along the route. The Road Commission has allocated additional funds to cover the township dust control for the year. The Water Resource Department received ARPA funds and are asking townships to submit grant applications to fund projects within their jurisdictions. Applications are due by May 1st. Lindemann will get a quote for an AED for the town hall for the next meeting.

7. Public Comment: offered at 8:32pm with two comments. One sharing her appreciation of the three brines on the roads for dust control and another asking for prayers for those affected by the shooting at MSU on Monday night. Public comment closed at 8:36pm.

8. Reports:

State Police/Washtenaw County Sheriff Report: January Wash. Co. Sheriff Report had 25 calls with 3 traffic stops, 2 citations, 1 animal complaint, 5 handled by the Mich. St. Police, 4 by Wash. Co., and 16 were administratively cleared.

Manchester Fire Department Report: No report for January.

Planning Commission report: Matt Little reported the P.C. held their meeting last Tuesday and started it with a public hearing for Chris Oesterling's (New Leaf Natives Nursery) conditional use. There was a good turn out and he feels a lot of questions were answered. The P.C. will vote on it at the March meeting. The gravel pit annual reports were shared. The gravel pits tour has been set for April 15th at 9:00am starting at the Levy/American Aggregate pit. The Horning land split and Consumer Energy parcel combination applications will be on next month's agenda. The P.C. updated their by-laws and they will be on tonight's agenda for township board approval. Review will continue of the lake district article 3 and Zoning Ordinance 43-B. A few topics discussed were height of buildings, setbacks, slopes, grading, basements, and drainage. A full copy of the PC minutes is available from clerk or on twp. website.

Ordinance Enforcement Officer- Austin Helber reported sending out five violation letters. A propane too close to the property line at 11301 Hieber Road, a storage container at 9211 Pleasant Lake Road, a storage container at 9781 Saline Waterworks Road, a storage container at 9630 Saline Waterworks Road, and a final violation letter to 6251 Lima Center Road for property clean up. Austin will follow up on the property clean up at the Heller/Brooks property.

Zoning Inspector – Jim Coval submitted there were no new zonings for the month of January.

Library- Alex McKay submitted a report for the February meeting.

Clerk report- There will be a special election in May for the Saline School District. Bristle is waiting on a quote from Telsystems for audio visual equipment for the town hall. The board would like to see a quote for a screen, projector (and needed equipment, and microphone to start with. Our budget is around \$15,000.

9. Unfinished Business:

Cemetery Sexton Pay – Motion by Lindemann seconded by Bristle: To approve Freedom Township Cemetery Sexton salary to be paid \$100 annually and \$100 per burial.

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

Cost to add additional township email addresses – Waiting on quote from VC3, tabled until next meeting.

Name Plates – Clerk shared a quote for name plates from Staples for \$18.76. We would need to order 11 to cover the township board and planning commission. The board would like to see a quote for tri-fold cardboard signs as well. Chris Bragg shared he has walnut if wooden signs wanted to be made. Tabled until next month.

10. New Business:

Washtenaw County Equalization Assessing Contract- Motion by Huehl supported by Bristle: To approve the Washtenaw County Equalization 2023 assessing contract for \$21,000.

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

Salaries 2023-2024- Supervisor Lindemann recommended to increase the Clerk and Treasurer's salary by \$1,300, Deputies pay by \$3/hour, Planning Commission Chair salary by \$400, Election Inspector pay by \$3/hour, Board of Review pay by \$1/hour, Ordinance Enforcement Officer salary by \$700, Zoning Inspector salary by \$700, and Town Hall Manager salary by \$200.

Motion to approve salary increases for the 2023-2024 budget.

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

The following resolution was offered by Bristle and seconded by Huehl: resolution 2023-01 to establish township officer's salaries. Now therefore it be resolved that as of 4-1-2023 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 Bristle and seconded by Huehl: resolution 2023-02 to establish township officer's salaries. Now therefore it be resolved that as of 4-1-2023 the salaries of the township board members are as follows: Clerk \$23,000 +\$2,500/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 2023-03 to establish township officer's salaries. Now therefore it be resolved that as of 4-1-2023 the salaries of the township board members are as follows: Treasurer \$23,000.

Roll call vote was 4-1. Aye: Schaible, Lindemann, Huehl, Bristle Nay: Layher **CARRIED**

The following resolution was offered by Bristle and seconded by Huehl: resolution 2023-04 to establish township officer's salaries. Now therefore it be resolved that as of 4-1-2023 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**

Cemetery Plots – Chris Bragg presented the board with history on his purchase of the last plot sold from the Waters Road cemetery and asked the board to consider opening the cemetery up and sell the remaining plots.

Planning Commission By-Laws–Motion by Lindemann seconded by Huehl: To adopt the updated planning commission by-laws dated January 28, 2023. Motion carried with all Ayes **CARRIED**

Township Attorney Fee Agreement –Motion by Lindemann seconded by Schaible: To approve Freedom Township attorney fee agreement with Castleberry and Lucas attorney firm.

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

11. Warrants: Motion by Schaible supported by Huehl: To approve the online payments for the 941-tax withholding and warrants 5185-5207 and journal entries.

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

12. Public Comment: offered at 10:48pm with no comments

Adjourned at 10:50 pm

Valisa L. Bristle, Clerk, Freedom Township