

FREEDOM TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES
APPROVED Minutes of the Regular Meeting
August 8, 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 Schaible supported by Huehl: to Approve the July 11, 2023, Township Board minutes with no corrections. Motion carried with all Ayes **CARRIED**

5. Treasurer's Report: Moved by Huehl supported by Bristle: to Approve the July 11, 2023, Treasurer's report. Roll call vote was unanimous. Aye: Schaible, Layher, Lindemann, Bristle, Huehl Nay: none **CARRIED**

6. Communications: Supervisor Lindemann reported receiving a letter from the Washtenaw County Water Resource Commissioner regarding boundary adjustments for The Saline River District. DTE will hold various public hearings in Lansing, this month, to try and recoup costs. The monthly MTA magazine was received. MTA will be holding a training on emergency services that the fire department may attend. Supervisor Lindemann, Planning Commissioner Chair Matt Little and the township planner Rodney Nanney met with the new owner of the Pleasant Lake School property. She is considering a community resource center of some kind. They asked that she review the township zoning ordinance of approved uses and bring a few proposals to the township for discussion.

7. Public Comment: offered at 8:16pm with two comments. Beth Heuser asked Treasurer Layher for the name of the owner of the grey house across the street from him. She would like to send them a Pleasant Lake Property Owners Association newsletter. She has also noticed they have flood lights on their house that are pointed towards the lake and carry across the lake and shine into her bedroom. She was advised to speak with the homeowner, they may be unaware of the positioning of the lights. Next, Melinda Ring spoke sharing with the board the timeline of what she feels is an illegal fence that was constructed on the line between her property and a private road that residents in their lake subdivision have deeded access to. There was discussion on if it was a private road or easement property and it was concluded that it was a plotted private road. There is no record of a zoning compliance permit being issued for the fence so the ordinance enforcement officer will send a notice of violation to the party who put the fence up that they are out of compliance. Public comment closed at 8:48pm.

8. Reports:

State Police/Washtenaw County Sheriff Report: July Wash. Co. Sheriff Report had 34 calls with 4 traffic stops, 2 citations, 15 handled by the state, 15 county and 4 administratively cleared.

Manchester Fire Department Report: May report had 5 calls and in June there were 7 calls.

Planning Commission report: Matt Little reported the PC held a public hearing last Tuesday for Stoneco regarding the Burmeister gravel pit, they want to expand their mining to the west towards Bethel Church. There were many residents present in opposition of the mining expansion. The PC has asked Stoneco for further information justifying the need and will have it on their September agenda. During their regular meeting a land division was approved for Lawrence Cameron. A public hearing has been set for September 5th at 7:30pm to review the proposed amendments to the Lake District Article 3.0 and Ordinance 43-B. The ZBA held a public hearing on July 18th and approved a variance for Mary Herschelman for a 6ft. fence. The township planner has been asked to review the fence zoning ordinance for commercial property vs. residential in agricultural zoned areas. A full copy of the PC minutes is available from the clerk or on twp. Website.

Ordinance Enforcement Officer- Austin Helber reported that on July 17, 2023, a meeting was held at 11445 Waters Road, with himself, Supervisor Lindemann, Clerk Bristle, Chris Brooks (renter) and Else Heller (the property owner). Pictures were taken and a walk through of the property was done to point out areas that still needed to be addressed. Austin did a final inspection on Monday, August 7th and found that all the areas in violation had been cleaned up except

the valid registration on the motor home. Chris Brooks claims he has the valid tabs and registration just has not put it on the motor home yet. He sent a photo of the tabs later that day.

Moved by Lindemann supported by Layher: to proceed with legal action if the motor home at 11445 Waters Road is not properly in compliance with all zoning ordinances by August 15, 2023.

Motion carried with all Ayes

CARRIED

He next reported updates on the shipping container violations within the township. Jon Vincent is selling his back to the company and will get it removed asap. Cameron Bure has asked about the required paperwork needed but not submitted it yet. Austin was advised to send him a citation that it is out of compliance with the township ordinances.

Zoning Inspector – Jim Coval reported one zoning for the month of July. A new pole barn at 5959 Kothe Rd.

Library- No report.

Clerk report- Freedom Township will be entering into an agreement with the Washtenaw County Clerk's office to administer the 9 days early voting option. The audit for 2021-2022 is completed and we will begin the 2022-2023 audit next. The audio/visual equipment for the town hall has been purchased and will be installed in the next couple weeks with a cabinet being built to enclose the tv screen.

9. Unfinished Business:

Burn Ordinance-Currently Freedom Township does not have an open burning ordinance and it was recommended by the Manchester Fire Department. The board would like to review a few other sample ordinances from MTA. Tabled until next meeting.

Fireworks Ordinance– Currently, Freedom Township does not have a fireworks ordinance. The board would like to review the ordinance that Lodi Township has adopted and the sample ordinance from MTA may have. Tabled till next meeting.

Town Hall Blinds – Supervisor Lindemann gathered a quote for new blinds for the town hall windows from Esquire Interiors, Inc for \$6,250 and they amended it to \$2,768.50 with the use of a different product. He will get a couple more quotes and the board can discuss them at the next meeting.

10. New Business:

Publication Notices – Currently we are using The Sun Times, but it was suggested that we give The Manchester Mirror a chance due to less cost and wider Manchester circulation.

Moved by Huehl supported by Layher: to use The Manchester Mirror as the township's newspaper for public notices.

Motion carried with all Ayes

CARRIED

Fall 2023 Newsletter- Clerk Bristle suggested a fall newsletter. The board and public in attendance would like to see updates on recycling, hall improvements, broadband and everbridge notification service. Bristle will have a draft at the next meeting.

11. Warrants: Moved by Lindemann supported by Schaible: To approve the online payments for the 941-tax withholding and warrants 5307-5330 and journal entries.

Roll call vote was unanimous.

Aye: Huehl, Lindemann, Schaible, Bristle, Layher

Nay: none

CARRIED

12. Public Comment: offered at 10:28pm with no comments. Closed at 10:28pm

Adjourned at 10:28pm

Valisa L. Bristle, Clerk, Freedom Township