

FREEDOM TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES
DRAFT Minutes of the Regular Meeting
September 12, 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 6 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 August 8, 2023, Township Board minutes with no corrections. Motion carried with all Ayes **CARRIED**

5. Treasurer's Report: Moved by Bristle supported by Huehl: to Approve the August 8, 2023, Treasurer's report. Roll call vote was unanimous. Aye: Huehl, Layher, Bristle, Schaible, Lindemann Nay: none **CARRIED**

6. Communications: Supervisor Lindemann reported receiving the monthly MTA magazine. Consumer Energy will be holding a public hearing in Lansing on September 13th to try and recoup costs. An invite for the Washtenaw 100 Annual Dinner and Fundraiser to be held October 19th was received. Annette Zsenyuk sent an email opposing the special assessment for Pleasant Lake. MTA will be holding a supervisors professional development retreat. There will be a meeting at Lyndon Township Hall on gravel road basics on September 27th at 6:30pm and the entire board is invited to attend. A letter from the Washtenaw County Water Resource Commissioner regarding the Columbia lake drainage district.

7. Public Comment: offered at 8:16pm with one comment. Steve Carson shared receiving a citation with a fine then a letter of violation for an illegal fence. He asked the fine to be waived since it was his first violation notice and he has removed the fence. The board responded that only the letter of violation should have been sent and the citation with a fine was sent in error.

Moved by Lindemann supported by Schaible: to waive the citation fine sent to Steve Carson regarding the illegal fence.

Roll call vote was unanimous. Aye: Huehl, Layher, Bristle, Schaible, Lindemann

Nay: none **CARRIED**

Public comment closed at 8:25pm.

8. Reports:

State Police/Washtenaw County Sheriff Report: August Wash. Co. Sheriff Report had 27 calls with 15 handled by the state, 2 county and 9 administratively cleared. There also were 4 traffic stops and 2 citations issued.

Manchester Fire Department Report: July report had 11 calls.

Planning Commission report: Matt Little reported the PC held a public hearing last Tuesday for the proposed amendments to the Lake District Article 3.0 and Ordinance 43-B. There were many comments for and against the changes. The PC will discuss the proposed changes at their next meeting. During the regular meeting they discussed the Stoneco (Burmeister gravel pit) conditional use application and will continue next month after they hear from Bethel Church. Review of the master plan was tabled until next meeting. A full copy of the PC minutes is available from the clerk or on twp. Website.

Ordinance Enforcement Officer- Austin Helber submitted a report with four letters sent out for the month of August. The first was a letter of violation along with a citation to Steve Carson for an illegal fence. A letter of violation, first notice, to 6060 Esch Road for a vehicle without a license plate. A letter of violation, first notice, to 7855 Ernst Road for yard maintenance. And a first citation notice to 4725 Pleasant Lake Road for an illegal storage container.

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 submitted a report with five zoning for the month of August. A new address at 6125 Ernst Road, a pole barn at 2502 Lima Center Road, a swimming pool at 2502 Parker Road, a storage shed at 7688 Eisman road and a storage container at 4725 Pleasant Lake Road.

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 2022-2023 has started. The audio/visual equipment for the town hall has been installed. The clerk will complete the clerk statement for the county with information from the L-4029 forms. And a FOIA from Tom Pigott has been received requesting information regarding the old Kuebler property/C&T gravel pit and information regarding Stoneco Burmeister gravel pit.

Moved by Bristle supported by Lindemann: To allow clerk to execute the agreement between Washtenaw County and Freedom Township to administer a joint early voting site.

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

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 several quotes for new blinds for the town hall windows. Creative Windows in Ann Arbor, Top Treatment out of Dexter for \$3,250, and Esquire Interiors, Inc for \$2,768.50. The board will vote on them at the next meeting.

10. New Business:

Water Resource Stormwater Program Agreements- The board has received agreements to share the cost associated with repair to two culverts on Bemis Road.

Moved by Schaible supported by Layher: To approve and have Supervisor Lindemann sign the Bridgewater and Freedom Township Agreement for Bemis Road Culvert, west of Eisman (C1432066) and Bemis Road, east of Ernst (C1433002).

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

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. To repair it with poly foaming it would cost roughly \$16,000 and prolong the life of the culvert up to 12 years. The cost of replacing the culvert is approximately \$60,000 and this could be a good candidate for the second round of ARPA grants. Tabled until next meeting.

Fall 2023 Newsletter- Bristle shared a draft for the fall newsletter. It includes updates on recycling, hall improvements, broadband and upcoming elections. Bristle will add everbridge update/warning siren and have a final draft at the next meeting.

11. Warrants: Moved by Schaible supported by Huehl: To approve the online payments for the 941-tax withholding and warrants 5331-5349 and journal entries.

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

12. Public Comment: offered at 10:06pm with one comment. Closed at 10:10pm

Adjourned at 10:10pm

Valisa L. Bristle, Clerk, Freedom Township