

FREEDOM TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES
DRAFT Minutes of the Regular Meeting
April 9, 2024, 8:00 pm
Freedom Township Hall

1. Call to Order/Roll Call

Supervisor Lindemann called the meeting to order at 8:01pm

Members present: Lindemann, Bristle, Layher, Huehl, Schaible absent: none 1 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 March 12, 2024, Township Board minutes with no corrections. Motion carried with all ayes. **CARRIED**

5. Treasurer's Report: Moved by Schaible supported by Huehl: to Approve the March 12, 2024, Treasurer's report. Roll call vote was unanimous. Aye: Schaible, Huehl, Layher, Lindemann, Bristle Nay: none **CARRIED**

6. Communications: Supervisor Lindemann shared receiving the monthly MTA magazine. The Wash. Co. Equalization handles the assessment for the township, and they let us know that we were picked for an audit of our tax rolls, and they will be handling the requirements for the township. Country Expression uses the town hall and would like to plant flowers around the town hall. We will discuss this later in the meeting. Lodi Township sent a notice they are reviewing their master plan.

7. Public Comment: offered at 8:21pm with no comments. Public comment closed at 8:21pm.

8. Reports:

State Police/Washtenaw County Sheriff Report: March Wash. Co. Sheriff Report had 27 calls with 15 handled by the state, 5 county and 7 administratively cleared.

Manchester Fire Department Report: March report had 5 calls with 2 EMS responses, 1 false alarm, and 2 canceled enroute.

Planning Commission report: Matt Little was absent so Supervisor Lindemann reported on the last PC meeting. Stoneco Conditional Use Application was reviewed but an updated site plan is needed. Stoneco has asked to hold a special meeting and submitted the required paperwork and paid the fee to schedule it. Barn Sanctuary PUD application was reviewed, and a public hearing has been set for May 7th at 7:00pm. Review of Commercial Renewable Energy Installations and the Master Plan will happen at future meetings. Gravel Pit Tour will be April 20th. A full copy of the PC minutes is available from the clerk or on the township website.

Ordinance Enforcement Officer- Austin reported posting 3 civil infraction citations for zoning ordinance violations at 11445 Waters Road. He mailed them to Chris Brooks, the tenant at 11445 Waters Road and Else Heller as property owner. The township attorney is aware of the siltation and the citations will be filed with the court. He mailed a 2nd violation letter to Tony Griffth for junk in the yard and unregistered vehicles. He drove by and took pictures of the Carter's property on Altenbrent for unregistered vehicles. He will be mailing a violation letter. A complaint was received regarding the nursery on Saline waterworks road and fans running at night. Austin will send a letter to the owner reminding them of the conditions set in the conditional use permit regarding the time of day that the fans are allowed to be running.

Zoning Inspector – Jim submitted no new zonings issued for the month of March.

Manchester District Library- No report.

Clerk report- Clerk Bristle has purchased the new external hard drives for the clerk and treasurer's computers and the scanner for the town hall. A call was received asking who to contact regarding the Mt. Hope Cemetery and Denny Huehl shared Kim Trinkle is the sexton for that cemetery. New equipment and supplies are needed for the upcoming election so Bristle will have a proposal to present at the next meeting. The fee schedule needs to be reviewed. Lindemann asked that we look at other jurisdictions and we will have it on next month's agenda. Neil Weidmayer has

submitted a ZBA variance application, but more information is needed before a hearing can be set. Scott Diuble will be the chair leading the hearing so he will need to reach out and collect the required information.

9. Unfinished Business:

Chris Brooks/Else Heller Property Clean-Up- The property at 11445 Waters Road is once again in violation of our township ordinances. 5+ citations have been written to the tenant and property owner in 2022-2023 for blight issues and unregistered vehicles. Currently there are still unpaid citation fees, and the junk piles are being returned.

Three new civil infraction citations for zoning ordinance violations and free ranging chickens causing a nuisance at 11445 Waters Road were posted. The citations were mailed to Chris Brooks, tenant at 11445 Waters Road and Else Heller as property owner. The township attorney is aware of the situation and the citations will be filed with the court this week.

10. New Business:

Manchester Library Delegate- Alex McKay submitted his resignation as the Freedom Township Delegate on the Manchester Library Board because he is moving out of the township. A notice will be posted on the township website that we are looking for a new delegate.

2024 Washtenaw County Road Agreement-Two agreements have been received for review, but changes need to be made before they can be approved. These are the projects the township is interested in.

- Waters Road, approach to Parker Road
 - Esch Road, Altenbrent to Bethel Church Road
 - Steinbach Road, Saline Waterworks to Bethel Church Road
 - Ellsworth Road, approach to Parker Road
 - Bethel Church road, approach to Schneider Road
- Supervisor Lindemann will get the updated agreement for next month's meeting.

Lawn Mowing Bid – Motion by Schaible supported by Layher: To accept ER Lawn Service's bid to mow the townhall lawn for \$55 and the Fletcher Road Cemetery for \$70 per mowing. As well as Jeannie Weidmayer's bid to mow the Freedom Emanuel Evangelical Memorial Cemetery as needed at \$70 per mowing.

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

Motion by Lindemann and supported by Bristle: To purchase mulch for the town hall flower beds and have the local 4-H clubs (that use the town hall for their club meetings) apply it and plant flowers around the flagpole.

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

11. Warrants: Moved by Huehl supported by Layher: To approve the online payments for the 941-tax withholding and warrants 5493-5508 and journal entries.

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

12. Public Comment: offered at 9:48pm with no comments. Closed at 9:48pm

Adjourned at 9:48pm
Valisa L. Bristle, Clerk, Freedom Township