

FREEDOM TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES
Draft Minutes of the Regular Meeting
May 10th, 2016 8:00 pm

1. Call to Order/Roll Call

Supervisor Weidmayer called the meeting to order at 7:58 pm
Members present: Weidmayer, Bristle, Layher, Huehl, Schaible

2. Pledge of Allegiance.

3. Change to Agenda: Moved by Huehl supported by Bristle to add civil infraction ordinance to new business.
Motion carried with all Ayes. CARRIED

4. Approval of Minutes: Moved by Schaible supported by Layher to:
Approve the April 12, 2016 Township Board minutes. Motion carried with all Ayes. CARRIED

5. Treasurer's Report: Moved by Huehl supported by Bristle to: Approve April 12, 2016 Treasurers report.
Roll call vote was unanimous. Aye: Schaible, Bristle, Layher, Huehl, Weidmayer Nay: none CARRIED

6. Communications: April Sheriff report had 18 calls, the state handled 4, Washtenaw County responded to 6 and 8 were cleared over the phone. MTA magazine had an article on waterways. The Manchester Fire Department will be at our June meeting. The town hall manager has been replaced with Steve Hoeft and it became effective May 1st. Repairs to the town hall bathrooms have been completed. The supervisor and town hall manager will keep an eye on the recycle bins at the town hall and how full they are.

7. Public Comment: Randy Clark, a Salem township resident, is running for the house seat vacated by Gretchen Driskell. . Bob Miller thanks the board for taking care of the township cemetery on Fletcher Rd. He shared that Ray Berg is working for the Manchester Historical Society. He also shared that Lorna Wenk's son who is from Freedom Township is in the latest issue of National Geographic.

8. Reports:

Planning Commission report: Meeting was held last week. Fence ordinance was tabled. StoneCo requested a quarterly monitoring of the Barrett Pit. There is a consent judgment so Larry would like to talk with the township attorney about a mutual agreement. He would ask that StoneCo pay the fees. Since planning commission files have been moved to the back room he needs a key for access to the files. The Consumers Energy sound test showed that most were below 58-59 decibels. The loudest readings were south of the facility. In an email from MSU Citizen Planner it talked about zoning ordinance moratoriums. A full copy of the PC minutes is available through the clerk's office.

Motion by Layher supported by Weidmayer to allow Larry Lindemann, Planning Commission chair, to speak with Township attorney

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

Ordinance Enforcement Officer: Alvin spoke with Tony Griffin. He went to 12065 Elmdale for a complaint of ducks on the property. He will follow up if it is zoned residential or agricultural. 9755 Ellsworth has a light that is shining into the neighbor's bedroom. Alvin is reviewing if the township has an ordinance that would apply to this situation. They also have a propane tank that is 7ft from the property line and the ordinance says it should be 10ft. MDA says the Streeter's are in compliance with the GAAMPs under The Right to Farm Act. It has been 30 days and the fence still has not been corrected and turned around. A letter needs to come from the township attorney enforcing the township ordinance and the violation. Christy is concerned that the Streeter's manure pile is too close to her well and asked the township to looking to that. Clerk will contact Washtenaw County Health Department.

Zoning Officer: No new zonings were issued. Jim has called the Streeters with no response to setting up a date to have the fence turned around to be in compliance with the townships ordinance.

Library- talked about digitizing pictures of Manchester's history. This is not yet implemented. The library board is planning on a way to evaluate the library supervisors going forward.

Clerk report: There was a Special election held on May 3rd for the entire township with a proposal from WISD and Chelsea school district had an additional millage for their school district. Election results showed that both of those proposals passed. The voter turnout rate for Freedom Township was 216 voters which was 17.9%. The next election will be August 2nd. The ZBA will hold a public hearing for Carl Rose on Thursday June 2nd. At 7:30pm.

Motion by Weidmayer supported by Huehl to purchase 2 copies of MTA's book Township Planning & Zoning Decision-making

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

Motion by Huehl supported by Layher to pay Linda Schneider at Fredonia's \$120 annually for use of mail space

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

9. Unfinished Business:

Road Contract- The meeting to discuss Bemis Road bridge closure revealed that the projected project cost is \$300,000 with the Road Commission covering half and asking Freedom and Bridgewater Townships to cover \$75,000 each. Both townships are not willing to put forward that much money at this time. The idea was brought up to approach the Water Resource department. The DEQ would be involved on requirements and the Road Commission is speaking with the DEQ now. Sharon Township is willing to pay for their portion of Kothe Rd lowering our part by about \$10,000.

Motion by Layher supported by Bristle to approve the 2016 Freedom Township Road agreement with Washtenaw County Road Commission

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

Troy Busha Consent Judgment- Motion by Huehl supported by Schaible to approve consent judgment with Troy Busha of TR Transport as a settlement in the lawsuit and authorize the Supervisor to execute it on behalf of the township.

Roll call vote was unanimous. Aye: Weidmayer, Bristle, Schaible, Huehl Nay: Layher CARRIED

10. New Business:

PDR-Robin Berke and Susan Lacky spoke to the township about the Purchase Development Rights (PDR) program. It is a program that will pay a land owner a calculated amount to purchase the development rights to that property. This program is final and forever. There are PDR township millages in Webster and Scio twps and City of Ann Arbor green belt. Washtenaw County has programs, townships have small millages and Legacy Land Conservancy has programs that can all work together to maximize the efforts to protect the rural areas.

County Clean-up Day in Saline-Motion by Weidmayer supported by Layher to support the Washtenaw County clean-up day in Saline on Oct 1st with a donation of \$500.00

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

Civil Infraction Ordinance- Discussion on creating a civil infraction ordinance. The township will continue to gather more information.

11. Warrants: Motion by Schaible supported by Layher: To approve the online payments for the 941 tax withholding and warrants 3402-3432.

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

12. Public Comment: Motion by Huehl supported by Schaible to allow Treasurer to transfer \$5 from the general fund to the 175th anniversary account to cover the \$5 dormant fee.

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

Carol Westfall feels defeated with the lake front fence issue. The special meeting scheduled seems out of place. Why was the original 4ft fence language taken out of the updated zoning ordinance? She feels all of this is setting up to reject the amendment. Why is this not being addressed as costs associated increase? There is no lake representation on the township boards. The lake residents want to work with not against the board. She feels the decision is not based on what the majority of the lake residents want. They received no answer at the planning commission meeting.

Adjourned at 10:58 pm

Valisa Bristle, Clerk, Freedom Township