

Fremont Township Minutes August 10, 2023

The regular meeting for the Fremont Twp. Board of Trustees was held on August 10, 2023, at 7:00 p.m. at the Fremont Township Hall.

Board members present: A. Holbrook, R. Curell, M. Blatt, C. Franzel and Kyle Thom. Absent: None

Guests: Theresa Bristol-Miller, Gail Prill, Johnny Smith, Laura Bayke-Hawe, Billy Putman, Greg Eggert, Ken Bragg, Brandon Blatt, Shirley Schaefer, Tisha Lick, Walter Lubeckyj, Ann Lubeckyj, Michael Clinesmith, and Jacob Bach.

MINUTES:

Motion made by K. Thom seconded by C. Franzel to approve the July 13, 2023, meeting minutes as presented - motion carried.

BILLS:

Motion to pay the bills as presented made by K. Thom, seconded by R. Curell - motion carried. R. Curell also wanted to mention that he had a few questions about the bill from last month for the American Legion. A. Holbrook stated that the bill was not for the little flags for the veterans but for a 4x6 flag for the flagpole at the cemetery.

BILLY PUTMAN:

Mr. Putman stated that he was the Chair of the Republican Party for Tuscola County. He wants Tuscola County to become a sanctuary county and one step towards that is to get the townships to adopt a couple different ordinances. He explained that one of those ordinances is regarding the Second Amendment and if passed by the township it would supersede the Michigan Constitution and state that we as a township support the United States Constitution. The other ordinance he would like the township to adopt is a Pro-Life ordinance. This ordinance would state that as a township we support the United States Constitution and would adhere to its laws and therefore this ordinance would supersede the Proposal 3 that was passed in 2022. He stated that if the Board or anyone had any questions, they could contact him. He has met with several townships and is planning on meeting with all the townships to hopefully gain their support.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

A Resident stated that they live at 1290 W. Brown Road, and they are here again because they still have a blight issue with their next-door neighbor. This Resident again brought pictures and stated that they have been at the last four meetings, and they want to see some movement to get the blight cleaned up. This Resident continued to state that the old barn was torn down in October, and it has not been removed. This Resident wants the township to follow through on their blight ordinance and get this cleaned up. At this point M. Blatt told the Resident that their five minutes were up. M. Blatt also asked if this Resident had contacted our new Zoning Administrator. The Resident stated that they did but they will do it again. Another Resident asked if we were making any progress on transferring the emergency siren line to the new phone company and A. Holbrook stated that it is still being worked on. A Resident stated that our blight ordinance states that blight needs to be removed within 30 days and M. Blatt asked that Resident to please speak to our Zoning Administrator. Another Resident stated that they have been researching a topic called tactical civics and that they learned that townships passing resolutions do not carry as much weight as if the township would pass an ordinance. This Resident is in favor of the township adopting the two ordinances presented by Billy Putman.

TERRY BLACKMER (Mayville Fire Chief):

He stated that the new fire engine is here and will be in service soon as they are just finishing up adding some of the equipment. He also stated that he appreciated having a couple of the board members meet with him and Dayton Twp board members to discuss the fire contracts. He stated that Dayton Twp has agreed to the increase and will be doing a fire assessment to cover the costs. He is also sending the same contract to Rich township so all townships will be paying the same price per section. He stated that so far this year they have had 86 emergency runs, which is high. They used to not even have that many in a year.

CLERK REPORT:

A. Holbrook gave the Board the report from the Zoning Administrator. He issued no citations and two permits. A. Holbrook also mentioned that she had received an application for PA116 agreement (application #012023). The property is located just west of Leix Road on Blackmore Road. Motion made by K. Thom, seconded by A. Holbrook to approve the PA116 agreement (application #012023) – motion carried.

TREASURER REPORT:

Treasurer balance as of July 31, 2023, was \$648,680.30. Motion to accept the treasurer's report made A. Holbrook, seconded by R. Curell - motion carried.

SUPERVISOR REPORT:

Cemetery Report – M. Blatt stated that he had four phone calls this last month regarding the cemeteries and everyone was happy with the work that the caretaker is doing. He also had a phone call about a grave settling and the Sexton and Caretaker are monitoring the site and will add fill as needed.

Road Report – M. Blatt stated that he and R. Curell met with the Road Commission at their last meeting to discuss the Washburn Road project. M. Blatt stated that he explained to them the planning that has been put in place for this project and asked that they allow us the \$25,000 matching funds for the next three years to go to this project and to carry us for two years so that we can pay off the project. He explained to them that we would be able to put the half down required to start the project next year but would like them to stretch the remaining balance over the following two years. K. Thom asked if our other roads were set so that we are not going to fall behind on any other roads if we do this project. M. Blatt stated that the Road Commission said that the roads in Fremont Twp were the best in the County. It was also mentioned that Washburn Road is the second heaviest traveled road in Tuscola County, so it is a project that needs to be done. The Road Commission agreed to allow us the \$25,00 matching funds for three years and allow us to pay the remaining balance over the following two years. Motion made by K. Thom, seconded by R. Curell to accept option 3 for the Washburn Road project – motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS:

M. Blatt stated that the Board did receive information from the Assessor regarding Act 33 and how we can increase our fire assessment to cover the new contract. He would like the Board to look it over so that we can discuss this next month. He stated that if we did a ½ mil it would bring in \$43,352.72.

M. Blatt stated that he received a letter from the Mayville Area Ambulance, and they are still looking to recruit people so if anyone is interested, they should contact Jim Welke.

M. Blatt stated that Jacob Bach is looking to increase the electric service to his property to run his portable sawmill. He was approved for a special land use to run the sawmill but now needs an electrical increase. Motion made by K. Thom, seconded by C. Franzel to approve Jacob Bach's request for increased electricity.

Meeting adjourned at 7:346 p.m.

All meetings are held the second Thursday of every month at the Fremont Township Hall located at 4850 Mertz Road (M-24) at 7:00 p.m. All public is welcome to attend.

Amy Holbrook, Fremont Township Clerk.