

Fremont Township Minutes
November 14, 2024

The regular meeting for the Fremont Twp. Board of Trustees was held on November 14, 2024, at 7:00 p.m. at the Fremont Township Hall.

Board members present: M. Blatt, A. Prill, R. Curell, C. Franzel and B. Blatt. Absent: None.

Guests: Henry & Carolyn Wymore, Greg Eggert, Theresa Bristol-Miller, Ken Bragg, Gail Prill, and Terry Blackmer.

MINUTES:

Motion made by R. Curell seconded by C. Franzel to approve the October 10, 2024, regular meeting minutes as presented - motion carried.

BILLS:

Motion to pay the bills, including check 15532 for \$480 to Affordable Electric made by B. Blatt, seconded by A. Prill - motion carried.

ANGIE BURNETTE (ATBD):

Angie attended the meeting to give the township an overview of the 2023/2024 audit. She stated that the township fund balance was at a healthy balance and that the audit went well with no issues.

TERRY BLACKMER (Fire Chief):

He stated that they have had 154 emergencies so far this year. He stated that they have seen a drastic increase in accidents at the M24/M46 intersection. They have had more accidents there this year than in the past five years. He stated that they think it has to do with the timing of the light and that MDOT is looking into it.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

A Resident stated that because the lawsuit from the Village of Mayville is costing the Township money that the Township should look into how we can possibly recoup some of that money. M. Blatt stated that this is something that will be discussed at a later date once we have received final billing from our attorney.

CLERK REPORT:

Zoning Report – In October he issued two permits, no citations and two complaints.

Updated Assessor Forms – A. Prill stated that we have received from the assessor and she would like approval to start using. Motion made by C. Franzel, seconded by A. Prill to approve the updated Land Division Application and Parcel Combination Request forms – motion carried.

Thumb Electric Franchise Agreement – A. Prill stated that we received a request from Thumb Electric to approve a franchise agreement. Motion made by A. Prill, seconded by R. Curell to approve the Electric & Fiber Franchise Ordinance with Thumb Electric – motion carried.

Fee Schedule – A. Prill gave the Board a list of the current fee schedules for the township. She stated that the fee for special land use and variance request currently does not cover the cost to pay the Board members for those meetings. The Board decided to table this until next month so that they have more time to look over the fee schedule and compare rates with other townships.

TREASURER REPORT:

Treasurer balance as of October 31, 2024, was \$148,291.93. Motion to accept the treasurer's report made by A. Prill, seconded by B. Blatt - motion carried. C. Franzel stated that she attended a treasurers meeting and there are some changes coming to the tax collection process. She stated that winter taxes must be received no later than February 28th otherwise she cannot accept them. Previously she could accept payments as long as they were post marked before the due date but that has changed. Winter taxes are due by February 14th and she can collect payments until February 28th. The County Treasurer wants to be able to start settling with townships on March 1st so no payments will be accepted after February 28th. The Treasurer also discussed the option of starting to accept credit card payments for taxes. The Board thinks this is a good option and asked her to bring some options to the next meeting. The Treasurer is also working on putting together a newsletter to send out with the winter taxes that will include the updated tax deadlines and updated contact information for the township.

SUPERVISOR REPORT:

Cemetery Report – M. Blatt received a call from someone that was visiting one of our cemeteries recently and they were trying to locate a specific grave but was having trouble and the Caretaker who was working at the cemetery at that time took time to help her located the grave. She stated that she was very pleased with his help and would not have found the gravesite without his help.

M. Blatt received a bid for \$600 from the Cemetery Caretaker to remove the tree located in the front of the township hall. This tree is starting to grow into the power lines and it would be better to remove it now before it gets too big. Motion made by B. Blatt, seconded by R. Curell to approve the bid for \$600 to remove the tree at the township hall – motion carried.

Road Report – M. Blatt has received the Pavement Surface Evaluation and Rating (PASER) report for the township roads and he will be going through the reports to come up with a plan for next years road work.

NEW BUSINESS:

R. Curell asked who weeds around the township hall and it was mentioned that it has been volunteers. C. Franzel stated that she tried to find some kids that would want to help but did not have any luck. M. Blatt stated that he thinks in the spring we need to take bids on re-landscaping around the hall. We have not had any updates since the hall was built and he thinks it would be a good idea. The board agreed to obtain bids closer to spring 2025.

R. Curell also asked when the next payment will be due to the Road Commission for the Washburn Road project. M. Blatt stated that we have not gotten the final bill yet.

M. Blatt wants to thank Henry Wymore for filling in for him last month.

B. Blatt wants to thank all those that worked the election. A. Prill stated that she really appreciates those that work the elections; it was a long day but things went very smoothly.

Meeting adjourned at 7:59 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 Prill
Fremont Township Clerk.