

Fremont Township Minutes May 10, 2018

The regular meeting for the Fremont Twp. Board of Trustees was held on May 10, 2018, at 7:00 p.m. at the Fremont Township Hall.

Board members present: H. Wymore, M. Blatt, J. Welke, A. Holbrook and C. Sherwin. Absent: None.

Guests: Carolyn Wymore, Cheryl Sherwin, Greg & Judy Eggert, Bill & Judy Raymond, Ken Bragg, Ida Barrons, Pete Mocerri and Gail Prill.

MINUTES:

Motion made by J. Welke, seconded by M. Blatt to approve the April 12, 2018, meeting minutes as presented – motion carried

BILLS:

Motion to pay the bills as presented made by M. Blatt, seconded by J. Welke – motion carried

PUBLIC COMMENTS: None

JUDY RAYMOND:

She wanted to bring up that at the December meeting it was discussed about giving the Treasurer some sort of compensation or raise for the extra work that was done because of the errors in the tax roll received from the County. It was discussed at the December meeting that instead of a flat rate compensation being given that maybe there should be a pay increase given and that it would be discussed with the budget hearing. Judy asked why it was not brought up during the budget hearing and H. Wymore stated that no Board Member asked for a raise during that meeting. Judy stated that as she has previously said, she did not think that a pay raise should be given but that there should be some sort of compensation. C. Sherwin stated that as mentioned in a previous meeting, he would be ok with a flat rate of \$500 compensation for the extra work. Motion made by J. Welke, seconded by A. Holbrook to compensate the Treasurer a flat fee of \$500 for the extra work that was done to correct the tax roll received from the County for the 2017 summer tax roll. M. Blatt questioned that if another mistake is made, are we going to have to compensate for that also? Are we setting precedence that every time there is extra work completed that someone will want to be compensated? C. Sherwin stated that the corrections needed were not made by anyone at Fremont Township; the corrections were needed because the tax roll received from the County did not have all the updated information such as address changes and property transfers. He also stated that as long as we have our current Assessor, the township will never receive another tax roll from the County. Neither the Assessor nor the Treasurer knew that the County was not keeping their tax records up to date. It was mentioned that if we compensate the Treasurer that maybe we should also compensate the Assessor because she had just as many extra hours. It was also mentioned that the Assessor had said at a previous meeting that she was not looking for compensation. Roll call vote: H. Wymore-yes, J. Welke-yes, A. Holbrook-yes, C. Sherwin-abstain, M. Blatt-no. Motion carried.

CLERK REPORT:

Planning Commission will meet on June 12th at 7pm to start working on the Master Plan.

TREASURER REPORT:

Treasurer balance was \$372,418.79 as of March 31, 2018, and \$321,562.24 as of April 30, 2018. Motion to accept treasurer report made by J. Welke, seconded by H. Wymore – motion carried. C. Sherwin also mentioned that due to processing taxes in house we brought in \$26,069.02. He also stated that we collected 91% of available billed taxes which is an increase of 3% from past years. C. Sherwin also stated that he received a letter from the County Treasurer's office stating that there is a vacant parcel on W. Brown Road that will be going up for auction and the township has first right of refusal. The Board decided that we were not interested and to let it go up for auction. It was also mentioned by a Resident that at last months meeting it was questioned as to why there was a late fee due on the township credit card. C. Sherwin stated that this happened due to the lateness of the board meeting and the due date of the bill. He stated that this does not happen very often but does once in a while due to the fact that the Board has to approve all the bills that are paid. H. Wymore stated that maybe in this case we could contact all Board members and get approval to pay the bill prior to the meeting so that we do not have late fees in the future.

SUPERVISOR REPORT:

Cemetery Report – H. Wymore mapped out the cemetery for the new cremation lots. He stated that each lot would be 2' x 2' with a walkway between them and there would be a total of 450 lots available. H. Wymore stated that he would like to get Board approval so that Wayne could start working on laying out the lots. It was discussed on how much we would sell the lots for and it was mentioned to sell them for \$50 for residents and \$450 for non-residents and it was also mentioned about charging \$100 for non-residents. M. Blatt asked what the cost would be for setting up this section of the cemetery because that should be included in the cost per lot sold. H. Wymore also stated that we would need to update our cemetery rules because this section should have only ground level headstones so that it can be mowed over easily. It was discussed that before we can set the cost per lot we need more information on what it will cost to set up. Motion made by H. Wymore, seconded by J. Welke to have Wayne start laying out the lots – motion carried.

Road Report – H. Wymore stated that he received the bid from Roadside Mowing and it is for \$3800 for the late mowing. It was questioned as to how far the mow and H. Wymore stated that they mow 5' if they can. Motion made by C. Sherwin, seconded by J. Welke to approve the Roadside Mowing for \$3800 – motion carried. H. Wymore stated that he also contact the Road Commission to see if we could get a better deal if we blacktopped 2 miles on Blackmore Road instead of just one. The bid for the second mile came back at \$87,626.20. It was also stated that because we do not have enough in the road budget to pay for blacktopping two miles of road that possibly the Road Commission would allow us to carry over some of that costs into next years budget. There was discussion as to the benefits of doing both miles this year or waiting and just doing one mile each year. Since there is no savings to doing both miles this year it was decided to just do the one mile that was approved at the April meeting. H. Wymore mentioned that he has also been approached by someone who would like to pay for having Hunt Road from M24 west one mile surveyed so that we could start working towards paving that road. This person just requested that they be given a discount on their property taxes. C. Sherwin stated that we cannot write-off property taxes but this individual could write it off on their income taxes. It was questioned as to how much a survey would costs and H. Wymore stated it would be between \$11-13,000. H. Wymore stated that he was also going to talk to MTA (Michigan Township Association) to see if this would even be possible.

NEW BUSINESS:

H. Wymore stated that recently there was a fire on Chambers Road and the resident wanted to know if we were billing for fire runs. A. Holbrook stated that we are not billing property owners for fire runs due to the \$25 fire assessment paid in their taxes. H. Wymore stated that we may need to start billing for the \$500 that is included in everyone's insurance to help recoup some of our expense because with the yearly fire contract costs going up, we are eventually going to run out of money in the special assessment. A Resident stated that it was mentioned at the special assessment hearing that if we did the special assessment we would not be billing property owners. It was stated that if we start billing it will only be for the \$500 that the insurance will pay and will not cost the property owner anything extra. J. Welke stated that he thinks we need to consult our attorney before we start charging for fire runs just to make sure that we can defend it so not to be in violation of the special assessment. C. Sherwin stated that we could get an opinion from the attorney. Motion made by H. Wymore, seconded by M. Blatt to start billing up to \$500 for fire runs based on legal council's approval. Roll call vote: C. Sherwin-yes, A. Holbrook-yes, H. Wymore-yes, J. Welke-yes, M. Blatt-yes. Motion carried.

J. Welke stated that the tree on Schott Road that was discussed at last months meeting has been taken down and the stump has been ground below ground level so it will not be a traffic hazard.

Meeting adjourned at 8:26 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.