

Fremont Township Minutes
March 13, 2014

The regular meeting for the Fremont Twp. Board of Trustees was held on March 13, 2014, at 7:00 p.m. at the Fremont Township Hall.

Board members present: H. Wymore, A. Holbrook, J. Welke, I. Barrons, & C. Sherwin.

Guests: 20

MINUTES:

Without objection or correction the February 13, 2014, minutes were approved. Motion made by I. Barrons, seconded by J. Welke – motion carried.

STEVE ERICKSON (Tuscola County EDC):

The Mayville DDA expires in 2016 and they would like to request an extension for another 20 years. Steve stated that they would like to know if the Township Board would support the extension so that they could move forward with the necessary paperwork. Chris Larabell (member of the DDA and also a Mayville business owner) spoke about his business and what the DDA has done to help with their business expansion and what the DDA does to improve the Mayville business district. Gary Haas (Chairperson of the DDA) explained why the DDA was established and how the revenue that they receive is obtained. He stated that if the Township agrees to support the extension it would help when the DDA request the County to support the extension. C. Sherwin asked what the DDA has done in the past 20 years. Garry Haas explained some of the projects. I. Barrons asked if the Board needed to make a decision now since it does not expire for 2 years. Steve Erickson explained that it would be better if the DDA knew now so that they could plan to either start liquidating assets or start making plans for the future projects. Motion made by J. Welke, seconded by I. Barrons to continue contributing to the DDA – motion carried with 4 yes and 1 no.

CHRISTINE TRISCH (County Commissioner):

Christine stated that she is glad to hear that the Township will support the extension of the DDA. She also stated that currently the Commissioners are discussing the possibility of receiving the old prison property from the State of Michigan to be used for horse and pedestrian walking trails. She stated that at this time it is just in the gathering information stage because there are a lot of things to consider before they would go forward.

KEVIN DALEY:

Kevin is the currently serving as State Representative but will be running for State Senate for our district in August. He wanted to introduce himself and hand out some information.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

A Resident commented that they were glad to hear that the Township Board agreed to support the DDA extension and thinks that the Board should get more information about the future projects for the DDA. A Resident commented that they think the Board should make a motion that all future Treasurer's collect partial payments for taxes and fire runs. This Resident stated that our current Treasurer does this already but it would be nice to make sure that future Treasurers continue this because it does help people to be able to pay their taxes and fire bills. H. Wymore and C. Sherwin stated that they think this would be a good idea. H. Wymore said that he will talk to MTA about this and we will discuss it next month. Gary Haas (Chairperson of the DDA) stated that if anyone has additional questions regarding the DDA, there is a meeting on Monday (March 17th) at 7 p.m. at the Mayville Library. He also commented that there will be an input session at 6:30 p.m. on March 17th regarding the DDA extension and any public is invited to attend.

Clare Fryers (Village President) also commented that Fulton Street from Main to the railroad tracks will be fixed this summer and that the Village pays for the road repair, not the DDA. He stated that he does request funds from the DDA for road repair if it is needed but they haven't needed the funds yet so that money stays with the DDA.

Chris Larabell also commented that this year is the 150th anniversary of Mayville and it will be celebrated during the Sunflower Festival.

INDUSTRIAL DISTRICT & INDUSTRIAL FACILITIES EXEMPTION:

Motion made by C. Sherwin, seconded by I. Barrons to pass a Resolution Establishing an Industrial Development District for Laser Marketing Technologies, LLC. – motion carried.

Motion made by J. Welke, seconded by C. Sherwin to pass a Resolution approving an Application of the Laser Marketing Technologies, LLC for an Industrial Facilities Exemption Certificate for installation of new machinery – motion carried.

Motion made by J. Welke, seconded by C. Sherwin to pass a Resolution approving an Application of the Laser Marketing Technologies, LLC for an Industrial Facilities Exemption Certificate for a new facility – motion carried.

CLERK REPORT:

Fire Agreement – Received the updated Fire Agreement which has a ½% increase and is for 3 years. A Resident asked if it is a ½% increase each year? C. Sherwin stated yes. This Resident also asked if there were any changes to the payment policy. C. Sherwin stated that the payment schedule is the same. Another Resident asked why we are paying a flat amount and also paying for each run, doesn't that make us paying twice? C. Sherwin commented that it is a 2-part contract and the first part is paying for coverage and the second part of the contract is the billing. C. Sherwin does not support a 3 year contract because he feels that we are double dipping the township people when we pay for the coverage and then also have to pay for the individual fire runs even when we do not receive payment from the homeowners. In the last year we have paid out of \$9,000 to the fire department for fire runs that were not paid for by the homeowners. A Resident asked if it is true that the people in the Village of Mayville do not get charged for fire runs? J. Welke stated that the homeowners are not billed for the fire runs because the Village of Mayville has agreed to pay for those runs out of the general fund. C. Sherwin stated that he would like to discuss some changes to the billing policy so that the Village of Mayville participates in some of the loss or have them do their own billing. Another Resident stated that they would like something placed on the taxes so residents don't get charged for fire runs. J. Welke stated that it is an option. A. Holbrook asked what would happen if the Board decided to have something put on the taxes but we have a 3 year contract. J. Welke thought there was something in the contract that would accommodate early termination but after reviewing the contract we did not see anything. H. Wymore did want to stated that the Village did work with us on negotiating the yearly increase and changed it from 3% to ½% and they also made some of the wording changes that were recommended by the Township Attorney. A Resident commented that it sounds like the Fire Department is using the Township as their billing agency. Another Resident commented that since the Township and the Village are working together that they both should be benefiting from it. J. Welke suggested that we send back the contract requesting a one year contract because we have concerns over the billing process. Motion made by C. Sherwin, seconded by I. Barrons to not accept the 3 year contract because we want to discuss the billing process and would also like a one year contract, and to request an extension of the current contract until a new contract can be finalized – motion carried with 4 yes and 1 no.

Hay Field – Do we want to put the hay field out for bids? It was mentioned that the person who leased the field for the last 5 years may have round-up or tilled it and if that is the case we cannot put it out for bids as a hay field. H. Wymore stated he will call the person to find out. Motion made by C. Sherwin, seconded by A. Holbrook to table this until we can get more information and that if we have to a special meeting for the Fire Contract to also include the hay field discussion at that meeting – motion carried. \

Budget Amendments: Clerk gave Board members a list of necessary amendments for the current 2013/2014 budget. Motion made by J. Welke, seconded by C. Sherwin to approve the amendments as listed – motion carried.

Budget: A. Holbrook mentioned that she made the changes to the budget that were discussed at the budget workshop and also she added to the revenue the income that was received but not spent during the last budget which increased the amount budgeted for roads. Motion made by J. Welke, seconded by C. Sherwin to approve the 2014/2015 budget as presented. Roll call vote: H. Wymore-yes, J. Welke-yes, I. Barrons-yes, A. Holbrook-yes, C. Sherwin-yes – motion carried.

TREASURER REPORT:

Treasurer balance was \$189,251.72 as of February 28, 2014. Motion to accept treasurer report made by A. Holbrook, seconded by I. Barrons – motion carried.

C. Sherwin gave the Board a report on the interest earned for each account. He would like to move \$30,000 from the master reserve account into a CD at Team One Credit Union because the interest for last year was only \$27.31 and by putting it in a CD we could earn 1% interest. J. Welke asked what options Mayville State Bank had and C. Sherwin stated that their CD rate is only .4%. Motion made by H. Wymore, seconded by I. Barrons to move \$30,000 to a CD at Team One Credit Union – motion carried. C. Sherwin gave the Board a report on the amount of taxes collected. He collected 88% of the taxes and balanced to the penny with the County. Total profit to the Township for collecting taxes was \$24,390.27

SUPERVISOR REPORT:

Cemetery Report - H. Wymore asked if the Board had a chance to read the Cemetery Ordinance and if they had any questions. Motion made by J. Welke, seconded by I. Barrons to adopt the Cemetery Ordinance as presented – motion carried. J. Welke asked how we were coming on the placement of the Cemetery Rules at the Cemetery. H. Wymore stated that we will not be able to get a post in the ground until the weather is better but as soon as the weather permits we will have it taken care of.

Road Report – H. Wymore received the cost for roadside mowing and it is the same as last year (\$3,800). Motion made by C. Sherwin, seconded by A. Holbrook to approve the roadside mowing for \$3,800. This would be a single 5’ cut on local roads only – motion carried. H. Wymore would also like to talk to the Road Commission about possibly getting bids for ditching on Waterman Road. The Board thought this was a good idea but that we should wait to get bids until the snow melts. H. Wymore also received a letter from MDOT requesting to meet with the Board regarding upcoming projects. The Board thought that would be a good idea and H. Wymore will contact them about attending the April Board meeting. .

NEW BUSINESS:

Zoning Administrator Contract – Board would like to increase the Zoning Administrator’s salary to \$4,000 per year and he would not get any mileage or additional money for permits or complaints. This was discussed with the current Zoning Administrator and he thought it was a good idea. Motion made by J. Welke, seconded by H. Wymore to approve the Zoning Administrator contract – motion carried.

BILLS: Motion to pay the bills including a check for \$3,800 for Roadside Maintenance by A. Holbrook seconded by C. Sherwin – motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 9:11 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. The meeting for May will be held on May 7th.

Amy Holbrook, Fremont Township Clerk