

Fremont Township Minutes

June 14, 2018

The regular meeting for the Fremont Twp. Board of Trustees was held on June 14, 2018, at 7:00 p.m. at the Fremont Township Hall.

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

Guests: Carolyn Wymore, Cheryl Sherwin, Kim Vaughan, Doreen Crane, Bill & Judy Raymond, Wayne Nelson, Jennifer Leitzel, Ken Bragg, Greg & Judy Eggert, Ida Barrons, and Gail Prill.

MINUTES:

Motion made by M. Blatt, seconded by J. Welke to approve the May 10, 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:

A Resident wanted to talk about the cemetery. This Resident stated that their mother passed away in January and the grave was just covered with dirt and the headstone has not been moved back into place. They wondered how long it takes for the dirt to settle and when the headstone will be put back into place. H. Wymore stated that it usually take 6-8 months for the dirt to settle. Wayne Nelson (Cemetery Caretaker) stated that he just cleaned it up last week and it should have been done sooner but due to the wet spring we have had he had not been able to get in there to clean it up. He stated that he wanted to wait to put the headstone back because the dirt will continue to settle and if he puts the footing and headstone back now there is the possibility of the footing settling and the headstone could tip. J. Welke stated that it was a concern but it has been cleaned up and he was sorry it wasn't done sooner but not sure what we could do to make it better. This Resident stated that we could put the headstone back or tell them when it would be put back. She asked why other burials have already been cleaned up and the headstones in place when those burials were done after their mothers. H. Wymore and Wayne explained that in the new cemetery there is room for the headstone to be in place and not disturbed while digging the burial but in the old cemetery that is not the case. This Resident wanted to know when the headstone will be put back into place and Wayne stated that he would like to wait a couple weeks to give the dirt more time to settle but if they wanted it done now he could do it sooner. C. Sherwin explained that if Wayne puts the headstone back into place and it settles and tips or the foundation settles and repair work is needed that it would be the families expense to fix the problem and if they wait until Wayne feels it is ready to put back into place that it may save some trouble in the future. This Resident stated that they feel 6 months is long enough and want it put back into place now. Wayne stated that he would set it as soon as possible.

CLERK REPORT:

Clerk stated that she would have ballots for the August election by the end of the month so if anyone is in need of an absentee ballot they will be available soon.

TREASURER REPORT:

Treasurer balance was \$335,783.92 as of May 31, 2018. Motion to accept treasurer report made by H. Wymore seconded by J. Welke – motion carried.

SUPERVISOR REPORT:

Cemetery Report – H. Wymore stated that there are 2 large trees at the Fremont Cemetery that are dead and need to be removed. He stated that Wayne will get us an estimate to look over at next months meeting.

Road Report – H. Wymore would like to have \$10,000 out of the road budget for gravel patching. Motion made by M. Blatt, seconded by C. Sherwin to spend \$10,000 on gravel patching – motion carried. H. Wymore would also like \$2,500 from the road budget to be spent on brush spraying. Motion made by M. Blatt, seconded by C. Sherwin to spend \$2,500 on brush spraying – motion carried. H. Wymore also discussed the options to try to correct the problem at the Blackmore Road Bridge crossing Evergreen Creek. The Road Commission and Drain Commission do not have authority to do anything and H. Wymore was told that the first step to figuring out what we can do is to get a permit from the DEQ. He is unsure what the total cost of the permit will be; it could be \$100 or \$500. Motion made by C. Sherwin seconded by M. Blatt to approve up to \$500 for the application needed with the DEQ – motion carried.

KIM VAUGHAN (County Commissioner):

Kim mentioned about the new things coming from Lansing involving assessing. He stated that they are trying to make it so that the assessing is done at the County and not the Township. Tuscola County does not want to take this over and he's sure the Township's don't want it either. He stated that it is something that we need to keep an eye on and that he has also heard that MTA (Michigan Township Association) is supportive to some of the new changes. With the new changes the State says that they are going to cut property taxes but that is a cut that the State can make that will not affect the State because the property taxes go towards the County and Townships.

NEW BUSINESS:

H. Wymore stated that he needs to get a new fireproof file cabinet to keep the cemetery records because the one currently in his office has fallen apart. It was mentioned that the cost will be between \$500 - \$1,000. M. Blatt stated that if we are going to purchase one that we need to make sure we get a good one. C. Sherwin stated that he would get some prices and bring the information back to the Board at the next meeting. This was tabled until the July meeting when we have more information.

H. Wymore also commented that Carolyn Wymore is stepping down as the Deputy Supervisor. He stated that he has done some thinking about who to appoint in this position and he talked to MTA (Michigan Township Association) to see if he could appoint one of the Board Members to be his Deputy and they stated that it would be a good idea because they would know what is going on in the township if they needed to step in. H. Wymore stated that he has asked Matt Blatt to step in and fill that position for the remainder of his term and Matt has said that he would.

J. Welke asked about the cremation burial cemetery and if it was mapped out. H. Wymore stated that he has it mapped out and Wayne will start staking it off soon. It was stated that it will be moved back about forty feet from the current markers out there due to leaving room in the front of the cemetery for gather near the Veteran's Memorial during ceremonies. H. Wymore asked what the Board wanted to charge per space in that section because he would like to be able to start selling lots. H. Wymore thought maybe \$75 - \$100 per space for residents and C. Sherwin stated that it should be \$200 for residents. H. Wymore stated that we have talked about raising the price on our cemetery lots so he would like to set a price for the cremation cemetery tonight and then we can raise the price at a later time if necessary. He stated that we need to set a price now so that he can make up the paperwork to be able to start selling lots. J. Welke asked what we are going to allow for markers and H. Wymore stated that it should be 12" x 16". It was also asked how many cremations could be place in one lot and H. Wymore stated only one and the question was raised regarding if a husband and wife wanted to bury their cremains together. It was decided that it would be one urn per space and only one marker per space. Motion made by H. Wymore to charge \$100 per lot for residents. There was no second to the motion so it died on the table. Motion made by C. Sherwin, seconded by M. Blatt to charge \$200 per lot for residents. Motion failed with 3 no votes and 2 yes votes. J. Welke stated that there is a cemetery seminar in July and he is hoping to attend so that we can maybe get more information on setting rules for the cemetery. J. Welke stated that we cannot move forward right now because we don't know the guidelines and we are getting the cart before the horse. A. Holbrook stated that we need to have the guidelines in place before we can start selling lots. C. Sherwin stated that he would look into possible rules for our next meeting.

A Resident asked what was found out from the Township Attorney regarding charging for fire runs. A. Holbrook stated that the attorney said that there was nothing in our special assessment that said that we cannot bill for fire runs. It was questioned as to what would happen if someone didn't have insurance and C. Sherwin stated that if that was the case the property owner could come to the Township Board and explain the situation or we have always made payment arrangements with property owners. Residents questioned as to the fact that it was mentioned during the special assessment meetings that if the special assessment was passed they would not be billed. C. Sherwin stated that we have two options: we can either start billing for fire runs or we can do an increase every year on the fire assessment to help cover the cost due to the fact that our fire contract amount goes up every year by three percent. After a long discussion regarding this topic, it was dropped.

Meeting adjourned at 8:16 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.