

Fremont Township Minutes

September 12, 2019

The regular meeting for the Fremont Twp. Board of Trustees was held on September 12, 2019, at 7:00 p.m. at the Fremont Township Hall.

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

Guests: Cheryl Sherwin, Henry & Carolyn Wymore, Theresa Bristol-Miller, Bill & Judy Raymond, Kim Vaughan, Greg & Judy Eggert, Jennifer Leitzel, Ken Bragg, Jennifer Miller, Ida Barrons, Pete Mocer, Victoria Bennett, Tyler Ireland, Wayne Nelson, and Gail Prill.

MINUTES: Motion made by J. Welke, seconded by C. Sherwin to approve the August 8, 2019, regular meeting minutes as presented - motion carried.

BILLS: Motion to pay the bills as presented made by J. Welke, seconded by C. Sherwin - motion carried.

ANGELA BURNETTE (ATBD):

Angela explained the township's audit report and how the township's finances look. She stated that the township has had a good year. She mentioned again about the township fund balance and she stated that we do not have to spend it but we should have a plan in place for what we would like to use the money for. C. Sherwin stated that we had already transferred some of that money into this years budget. She also stated that they had a couple recommendations to the board from doing the audit; they recommend that a reconciliation be done on all tax accounts each month and that there is one other authorized person on the tax accounts. She also stated that while doing the audit they noticed that the 2017 and 2018 commercial property tax rate had been entered incorrectly and we would need to make the necessary corrections. C. Sherwin stated that he has already started working on this and the property owners will be refunded.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

A Resident noticed that there was a bill to be paid to the Village of Mayville for fire runs and they wondered why we were paying those when it should be part of the fire assessment. C. Sherwin stated that the money does come out of the fire assessment but we still have to pay the fire department for the runs. This Resident also stated that they think the roadside mowing took longer than it should have and the wondered if it was because of the trees down in the ditches. M. Blatt stated that he had talked to Boyd and was told that they hit more trees, rocks, wire, etc. than normal. Another Resident stated that we are paying considerably more this year for roadside mowing and wondered if that will be a normal charge. M. Blatt stated that this year was for grass and brush mowing but next year we may only do the grass mowing which will be cheaper. A Resident commented that the second swath mowed was not done very well. It was stated that they did mow further than last year but the job was not done well. This Resident also asked what was going to be done about the crack under the exterior door of the hall. M. Blatt stated that it would be dealt with. Another Resident stated that they live on Cat Lake Road and that the traffic has increased on Cat Lake Road by Harmon Lake Road with the more services being offered at the Fowler Center. They asked if there was anything that could be done as far as signage or something to have people slow down and pay attention. H. Wymore commented that every time the power goes out at the hall the emergency siren breaker needs to be reset. He commented that maybe we should get in the habit of checking the breaker each time we are at the hall. It was mentioned that we should be able to put an automatic reset on that breaker. J. Welke will check into this.

KIM VAUGHAN (County Commissioner):

He stated that the County Commissioners have been talking about taking building codes back to the County instead of outsourcing. He also stated that they are still working on the Caro Center but are just waiting at this time but they are still positive. A Resident wanted to thank Kim for loading the bus and going to Lansing to show support for the Caro Center and Tuscola County.

CLERK REPORT:

The Clerk has received a letter from a property owner that wants to appeal a special land use that was granted back in August. A. Holbrook has contacted MTA and they stated that unless our Zoning Ordinance allows a special land use to be appealed it would have to go to circuit court. A. Holbrook wondered if we should get the attorney's opinion before this goes too far as there are several property owners that are not happy with the approval of the special land use. Motion made by R. Curell, seconded by J. Welke to get the attorney's opinion regarding the appeal of the special land use – motion carried.

TREASURER REPORT:

Treasurer balance as of July 31, 2019, was \$527,894.78 and the balance as of August 31, 2019, was \$506,330.95. Motion to accept the treasurer report made by A. Holbrook, seconded by J. Welke - motion carried.

SUPERVISOR REPORT:

Cemetery Report – No lots sales this month but transferred some lots. There was some tree damage at the North Grove Cemetery. H. Wymore stated at this time we do not know if any headstones were damaged but that the insurance would cover any headstone damage. He also wondered if the insurance would cover the cleanup. A. Holbrook will check with the insurance. M. Blatt stated that he would get with Wayne for a cost on the cleanup and email the Board that information.

Road Report – M. Blatt received a letter from the Road Commission stating that they are not putting up deer crossing signs. They stated that the State is overhauling signs and taking down deer crossing signs. M. Blatt also stated that the Snover Road bond has been renewed for the gravel pit. He also stated that the work on O'Brien, Wagon, Lobdell and Blackmore roads have been completed. All the gravel patching is completed. Jason from the Road Commission stated that our township roads are in one of the best shapes in Tuscola County. He also stated that the Road Commission has replaced approximately 20 culverts in the township. In a couple of weeks M. Blatt and Jason will take a driver around the Township to discuss the roads.

NEW BUSINESS:

M. Blatt commented regarding the recommendations from the auditor about having two people on the tax accounts. Motion made by Matt, seconded by J. Welk to add A. Holbrook to the tax account. Roll call vote: R. Curell-yes, J. Welke-yes, A. Holbrook-yes, C. Sherwin-yes, M. Blatt-yes. Motion carried. M. Blatt questioned as to whether or not we should do away with cash payments because people can pay their taxes at the bank. C. Sherwin wanted to know what the problem was with taking cash payments and M. Blatt stated that there is no problem right now but that C. Sherwin won't be doing the job forever so we should put something in place for the future so that there is always transparency. M. Blatt mentioned that he has been on the Board for a few years and did not know that there was a petty cash fund until this years audit. C. Sherwin stated that the petty cash was to make change for tax payments and that it was at \$40 but had been upped to \$100. It was commented that the Zoning Administrator also accepts cash and so if we are not going to accept cash it needs to be across the board. Motion made by C. Sherwin to not accept cash anymore; there was no second to the motion so it died on the table. J. Welke commented that receipts are issued automatically so maybe we should just start with reconciliation reports on both the tax account and petty cash each month. C. Sherwin stated that he could add the petty cash account to his reports but that he cannot do a reconciliation each month on the tax account. M. Blatt stated that with online banking he should be able to reconcile every month. J. Welke suggested that we go back to the auditor and see how she recommends that we set this up. Motion made by J. Welke, seconded by M. Blatt to have the Board receive reconciliation reports on the tax account and petty cash account each month. Roll call vote: A. Holbrook-yes, C. Sherwin-abstain, R. Curell-yes, J. Welke-yes, M. Blatt-yes. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 8:21 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.