**Fredonia Township Board Regular Meeting**

**May 20, 2024 6:30 PM**

**Fredonia Township Hall**

**8803 17 Mile Rd, Marshall, MI 49068**

MINUTES

**BOARD MEMBERS present:** Doug Damon, Supervisor Cathy Combs, Clerk JC Skowron, Treasurer  Kyler Speaker, Trustee Terry Day, Trustee

STAFF present: Phil Damon, Fire Chief  Jacob Washburn, Deputy Supervisor/FD Training Officer Dan Livingston Sr., Calhoun County Planning Commission  George Crandall, Twp. Planning Committee

Terry Travis, Code Enforcement Officer

Cathy called meeting to order at 630pm. Doug Damon has been excused so Terry Day will be running the meeting.

**PLEDGE OF ALLIGENCE:** Led by T. Day

**AGENDA:** Additions/Deletions: None

**CORRESPONDENCE:**  None

**MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MONTH:** April 15, 2024

J. Skowron made a motion and K. Speaker supported to approve the minutes as printed. Motion carried unanimously.

**APPROVED AS READ**

**FINANCIAL REPORT:**

J. Skowron advised that percentages are good and this is the final quarter of budget year and suggest that everyone review need vs. want so not to go over budget. Continuing to monitor closely as we are going into the final month of our fiscal year. Cathy shared that all entries are up to date. A question about shared revenue payments and the auditor would like entries as of when check was written. Firefighters are over budget because medical premiums were increased mid-year. Due to increased ZBAs there are additional fees. K. Speaker asked about $18,500 misc. fire department and it is the insurance claim for the roof.

**FILE FOR AUDIT**

**READING OF THE BILLS by C. Combs**

A check register report was presented and reviewed by the board. Invoice for completed electrical for the handicapped doors needed to be approved. K. Speaker made a motion and J. Skowron supported to approve the reading of the bills and the invoice for A-1 Electric-$1,285 as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

**APPROVED AS READ**

**REPORTS:**

**FIRE:** There were 2 fire and 9 medical calls for the month of April 2024. Training for the month included farm rescue incident class at Tekonsha Fire Department, also severe weather review training. Continuing education included patient assessment and spinal injury with back boarding. It will be a busy month with servicing the trucks, pump test, hose and ladder testing along with SCBA flow testing and annual fit test on all fire fighters. Annual Golf Outing-June 22 at the Marshall Country Club with 20 plus teams registered. Our thoughts and prayers go out to the family of the passing of retired Assistant Chief Jimmy Libbrecht.

Chief Damon advised with the pump testing, water pump replacement, hose/ladder testing, fit & flow and tires, will need additional budget funds. K. Speaker made a motion and T. Day supported to complete testing and repairs not to exceed $20,000. Motion carried unanimously.

**AMBULANCE:** Calls were up by 32 from the past month but still down 258 from last year. There were only 15 mutual aid calls helping other ambulance agencies.

CEMETERY: D. Damon reported that he spent a few days cleaning up Northeast corner of Lyon Lake **Cemetery:** One burial this past month. Flags have been placed at the grave sites of our veterans as we honor those who fought for our freedoms. The Damron family plans to meet with me considering pouring a continuous foundation at their family plot. As discussed in the past, I would like to see the shed cleaned up by siding or scraping paint and repainting.

**ROADS:** G. Crandall – The county has started our project. B Drive south to division Dr and then go over with chip and seal. We are on track to get them all done by end of July. August 8 is the next road meeting.

**ZONING/ORDINANCE:** None.

**CODE ENFORCEMENT:** None. T. Day asked T. Travis if there was a porta john siting at 14 ½ mile road. T. Travis shared there are many and they are visible. In a holding pattern until zoning ordinance gets adjusted.

**PLANNING:** Public Hearing last Wednesday went long. There will be a continuance at the June 12 meeting.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**\*ARPA Spreadsheet**: Using ARPA to pay the $1285 for handicap electric, leaving a balance of $1969 Auditor states we are close and have until the end of December to spend the remaining funds.

**\*Home Occupation Amendment** – Amend zoning text class A home occupations, hairdressing, accounting services, fine art, will be permitted in an agricultural business district. – C. Combs read the approved documentation from the County. A resident would like to fix cars at his home. Consider a two-tiered system. Inside house versus outside of house (Class B) – a conditional use or should it be commercial? Motion to approve or disapprove this amendment. K. Speaker made a motion and C. Combs supported to approve this amendment. Motion carried unanimously. It will now need to be added to the current zoning on the website.

If something hasn’t been brought to conclusion to keep it on the agenda and develop an action plan. George will check with Robert to see about terminology for new ordinance.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**Eckford Service Contract:** This information was provided to the Clerk after 6pm this evening. Eckford and Fredonia have an agreement to provide fire service and every two years the agreement is renewed. $16,500 for the fire service and $6,000 equipment; contract ends June 30, 2024. K. Speaker suggested an increase in the service fee for Eckford due to inflation. P. Damon will check number of service calls. Some residents have asked why we don’t cover more of Eckford and P. Damon stated it is due to distance. P. Damon believes the $22,500 easily covers our expenses. K. Speaker figured 15% of $200,000 would be $30,000. Phil suggested that next year they sit down with Eckford to have this discussion. Do we know if Homer or Marengo have increased their prices? JC. Skowron recommended figuring on an average over a period of five years. P. Damon will provide data on Eckford calls versus total calls. K. Speaker made a motion and JC supported to approve the fire protection as submitted for $22,500. No discussion. Motion carried unanimously.

**Sheriff Steve Hinkley**: Jail and Law enforcement services – jail side trying to get fully staffed. Down 11 staff. We have the fifth largest jail in Michigan. Board for immigration – 130 people, also house for Wayne County for misdemeanors which Wayne County pays for. Currently at 512 capacities now. Cannot take any more inmates because staff is averaging four years of experience. Law enforcement – compared to other counties, we are fully staffed. We are sending 6 staff to the Police Academy; this should help backfill.

**PUBLIC COMMENT (for any new issues):**

\*Neighbors have heard there is a planned housing development on 11927 14 Mile Road in Ceresco. There are nesting eagles, two creeks, a pipe line that comes through there, utility lines and wetlands, therefore he would not support a housing development at that location. William Day Jr supported and also shared that his great grandparents use to own the land and that they buried DDT in five-gallon glass jars, trash, oil, a lot of stuff that shouldn’t have been buried. Would like it to be considered as residential zoning. Someone from Detroit purchased it a few years ago to hunt. Last 2-3 years there has been activity. The house is separate from the land. Residents do not want it rezoned for a trailer park, apartments, condo’s etc. Check the website for future land usage. Also heard rumor about a drainage ditch on the back of their property. George will stay after the meeting to discuss further and answer additional questions.

\*County Planning Commission met this afternoon and made him realize these are just not rubber stamp things, it goes through great detail and should solve a problem. The township has a reputation that we have zoning but it’s not always enforced. He is also concerned about the mega site.

\*Have short term rentals been approved? G. Crandall responded there is still more discussion for guidelines like what has been started by the township and would like it to part of the planning/zoning commission. Approved the verbiage and now it needs an effective date. Will need a few months to wrap up. Needs to be placed in the Advisor. Another lake resident that they pay for fish to stocked in the lake and out of state guests come bringing in algae from other lakes. She no longer feels like it’s a private lake but a public lake.

\*Seeking residents for election inspectors. Training is June 25-27. Please contact Laura Miller if you are interested.

**BOARD COMMENT (TIME LIMIT-3 MINUTES PER ISSUE PER PERSON)**:

C. Combs advised not seeking re-election as clerk, however Meg Bosserd will be running for election. C. Combs supported Laura in her role and her team.

**ADJOURNMENT:** Trustee Terry Day adjourned the meeting at 7:55 PM

Minutes prepared by L. Miller and C. Combs

Cathy Combs, Township Clerk \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date: May 20, 2024

Doug Damon, Township Supervisor \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date: