

**Fredonia Township Board Regular Meeting
June 20, 2022 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 Ken Huestis, 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

PLEDGE OF ALLIGENCE:

Guests:

Tommy Miller, County Commissioner talked about the 911 millage that is going on the ballot in August and that it is .988 mills and explained why as written would not be good at this time. The more property you own, the more taxes you will pay.

Diane Thompson, who is running for position of county commissioner, spoke about solutions and resolutions for our county. She also opposes what the 911 millage is proposing and is not equal in cost to support this program and will hurt property owners.

AGENDA – Additions/Deletions: None

PUBLIC COMMENTS FOR ITEMS ON THE AGENDA: None

CORRESPONDENCE: None

MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MONTH:

Motion made by Ken and supported by JC to approve the minutes of the May 16, 2022 board meeting.

APPROVED AS READ

FINANCIAL REPORT-

Treasurer JC Skowron provided financial reports as of 5/30/22, 6/30/22 and budget recommendation for board review.

FILE FOR AUDIT

READING OF THE BILLS by Cathy Combs

Bill listing presented and reviewed by board as of 6/1/22 totaling \$38,001.96 and bill listing to be paid July 1, 2022 totaling \$15,459.85. Processing the bills totaling \$15,549.85 as of July 1 is needed as with the \$25,869.20 truck repairs budget has been depleted for this fiscal year. \$7191.45 is for the truck inspection; \$3069.13 for repairs to Engine 8 totaling \$10,260.58. Clerk researched and the inspections are needed within a calendar year not fiscal. A meeting was called by supervisor and then cancelled to discuss this and then Assistant Fire Chief called supervisor and 1 board member who advised that he was making decision to have inspection completed without full board approval. MTA was contacted by Clerk and Supervisor. Clerk advised that MTA Cindy Dodge initial advice was to not pay the invoice as numerous conversations have taken place regarding not approving expenditures over \$500 without board approval. The budget did not contain the funds and has also

been communicated. Boards have a fiduciary responsibility to Supervisor also contacted MTA and spoke to Catherine M. with a different response. Motion made by Ken and supported by Terry to approve bills as presented. 4 Ayes and 1 Nay. Motion carried.

APPROVED AS READ

REPORTS:

Fire Department: Ken reported there were 7 fire and 18 medical calls for the month of May 2022. Hose loads and pump operations along with truck checks and training at Newton Fire Department with Semco Gas and Consumers Energy. Engine 8 is back from Cummins. Engine 8, Rescue 8 and Tanker 8 all have had pump tests and annual inspections completed. Rescue 8 had two bad brake chambers that had to be replaced. Squad 8 and Brush 8 have had their annual service completed. No updated information on the radio grant sponsored by Marshall City Fire Department. The new SCBAs will be delivered in early July of 2022. Fred Waidelich asked if the fire department would participate in the annual Memorial Day Parade in Marshall. Jacob participated with taking Engine 8 to the parade. Marshall City Police asked for assistance with traffic control so Angie assisted with Brush 8 to help with traffic with the Oaklawn Color Run. A big thank you to all of those who volunteered their time for a successful golf outing.

Ambulance: Nothing to report

Road: George reported the next road meeting will be August 9, 2022

Cemetery: Doug reported on cemetery

Zoning/Ordinance: Call into about Right to Farm and will advise when more information provided

Fredonia Planning Commission: George advised working on setting a date for public to review Master Plan.

OLD BUSINESS:

***FDIC:** Report in July

***Security:** Doug advised that quotes are around \$16,000, discussion held that at least the door to the hall and office needs to be replaced at this time prior to August election. Doug will reach out to Doors Unlimited and obtain another estimate for meeting on 6/23/22. Terry made motion to table and obtain estimate to review at meeting schedule for 6/23/22. Motion carried unanimously.

***Mausoleum:** Doug advised that no communication from family and will meet with Jacob and Phil to discuss any future plans.

***Reconciliation:** Reconciliation is ongoing.

***Equipment Sales – Fire Department:** Nothing finalized at this time and will report next month.

***City of Marshall – Lyon Lake Lights** – City of Marshall has advised rate increase from \$246 to \$288, Treasurer is reviewing for winter taxes and will take inconsideration for budget 2022-2023.

***Marijuana:** The situation on C. Drive is being reviewed at State level.

NEW BUSINESS:

***AFG Grant - Radios:** The grant prepared by the City of Marshall includes Fredonia Township and is a \$78,520.62 with our portion (if awarded), will be \$7851.40. Board approval needed to engage in this grant and if awarded to pay \$7851.40 to Marshall City Fire Department. Motion carried unanimously. Motion made by JC and supported by Ken to pay Tekonsha Township \$5090.92 which is 10% portion of the AFG Grant for turnout gear. Motion carried unanimously.

***Cemetery Assistance:** Doug advised that a couple in the township has volunteered to enter cemetery information in the computer.

***Eckford Township Fire Protection Agreement:** Contract between Fredonia and Eckford Township whereas Fredonia has a fire department and is willing to extend services to Eckford this will run from 7/1/2022 thru 6/30/2024 and service area at this time has not changed. Eckford has a copy and reviewing at their board meeting. See page 4. Terry made motion and JC supported to approve the contract between Fredonia and Eckford Township extending services from 7/1/2022 thru 6/30/24. Motion carried unanimously.

***Road Project 2022:** The road commission contingency plan increased by \$2781.22 to complete 2022 road projects. Terry made a motion and JC supported to approve the increase of \$2781.22. Motion carried unanimously.

***Road to Gravel Policy:** Discussion held on whether or not that township would want to have a road to gravel policy. The road committee will review and provide additional information.

***Foundation Pricing:** Doug provided information that to be consistent with other cemeteries, he recommends increasing the foundation pricing to .50 cents per square inch on foundation charges to individuals requesting a foundation. An example would be a 44x20 currently is \$375 and with new rate it would be \$440. Terry made a motion and JC supported to approve an increase of foundation pricing to .50 cents per square inch on foundation charges. Motion carried unanimously.

***Closed Session – Personnel:** Based on actions of Board Member and Assistant Fire Chief who was asked if would like to go into a close session or continue in open meeting. Ken advised to keep in open meeting. Clerk explained that a meeting was scheduled to discuss budget and fire truck inspections, then cancelled by supervisor and was going to be reschedule that week. In the meantime, Ken made decision to have truck inspections completed now as he understood still budget money versus waiting for board approval and 3 weeks when new budget year begins. Discussion continued as board consists of 5 members, call made to board member Terry that Ken was going to made the decision and understood consequences, \$500 authority and with over budget on fire and general, Ken did not have the authority to move forward with the inspections costing more than \$7,500.

*Fire board was suggested to alleviate miscommunications, assist with understanding budget and expenditures. Motion made by Cathy and supported by Terry to ask Ken’s resignation as Assistant Fire Chief based on action of understanding the consequences authorizing the truck inspections vs. board approval. Roll call vote: Ken- Abstained; Terry-Yes; JC-first abstained then voted no; Doug – No. Motion did not pass.

Public Comment: Discussion held on the conduct of the meeting, opinions on how to proceed with communication, relationship building, listening and understanding of the budget.

Board Comment: Board of Review on 7/19/22 is not a public meeting. Discussion held on receiving financial reports prior to the board meeting and timely answers to financial questions.

Supervisor Doug Damon adjourned the meeting at 8:55 PM

Minutes prepared by Cathy Combs
Cathy Combs, Township Clerk _____

Date: 6/23/22

Doug Damon, Township Supervisor _____

Date:

FREDONIA TOWNSHIP

P.O. BOX 271 Marshall, Michigan 49068

Office: 269-781-8115

Fredonia Township / Eckford Township Fire Protection Agreement

This Agreement made on this 20th day of June 2022, between Fredonia Township, Calhoun County, Michigan (Fredonia), and Eckford Township, Calhoun County, Michigan (Eckford).

WHEREAS, Fredonia has a fire department and is willing to extend services to Eckford; and

WHEREAS, Eckford does not have a fire department and desires services from Fredonia; and

WHEREAS, the parties agree Fredonia will be the first response fire department within the boundaries set by Homer, Marengo and Fredonia Township fire departments in a joint effort with Eckford; and

WHEREAS the parties agree Fredonia will run on all mutual aid calls.

NOW THEREFORE, the parties agree:

1. Eckford shall pay Fredonia on or before June 30, 2022, the sum of Twenty-two Thousand, five hundred and no/100 (\$22,500) Dollars. Said sum shall be broken down by Fredonia as follows: Sixteen Thousand Five Hundred and no/100 (\$16,500.00) Dollars for fire services and Six Thousand and no/100 (\$6,000.00) Dollars towards fire apparatus. Like sums shall be paid by Eckford on or before June 15, 2022. On or before June 15, 2024, this Agreement shall be reviewed by the parties and a determination made as to extensions and/or future agreements.
2. Fredonia agrees to send the same number of fire trucks with firefighters, equipment and apparatus to Eckford as they would send on a call in Fredonia.
3. It is agreed if Fredonia is on a call in Fredonia, Eckford shall not expect Fredonia to leave the Fredonia call to respond to an Eckford call until the Fredonia call has cleared. However, Fredonia shall immediately call for mutual aid for the Eckford call.
4. It is agreed Fredonia shall hold Eckford harmless from any personal and/or property claims resulting in injury, damages, and/or workman's compensation payments sustained in Eckford because of operation of Fredonia fire equipment and apparatus in Eckford.

Effective Date of Services: July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2024.

This Agreement represents a complete recitation of the agreement between the parties as to Fredonia fire services and any subsequent changes and/or amendments shall be upon written agreement of the parties.

This Agreement is entered into by both parties under the authority of its respective Township boards and is executed by the Supervisor and Clerk of each respective Township.

FREDONIA TOWNSHIP:

ECKFORD TOWNSHIP

X

Douglas C. Damon
Its Superviosr

X

Bruce Rapp
Its Supervisor

X

Cathy J. Combs
Its Clerk

X

LeAnne Blight
Its Clerk