

**Fredonia Township Board Regular Meeting  
July 17, 2023 6:30 PM  
Fredonia Township Hall  
8803 17 Mile Rd, Marshall, MI 49068**

**MINUTES**

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**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

**PLEDGE OF ALLIGENCE:**

**Guests:** Diane Thompson – Transit Authority – BC wants to support this and may come up on August 3, 2023 agenda. Doug spoke with Jim Dyer and he said if we opted out, we would not have to opt out again.

**AGENDA** – Additions/Deletions: None

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**PUBLIC COMMENTS FOR ITEMS ON THE AGENDA:** None

**CORRESPONDENCE:**

Doug shared a complaint text about Houston Cemetery.

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**MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MONTH:** June 19, 2023; June 26, 2023; and June 28, 2023

Terry made a motion and JC supported to approve the minutes as printed. Motion carried unanimously.

**APPROVED AS READ**

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**FINANCIAL REPORT-**

JC provided Revenue and Expenditure report with % of budget used as of 6/30/23. Adjusted journal entry for property tax admin fee resulting in \$51,000 moved to current real property tax.

**FILE FOR AUDIT**

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**READING OF THE BILLS** by Cathy Combs

A invoice register report was presented and reviewed by board with post dates of 6/28/23 thru 7/17/2023 totaling \$123,443.99. The roof and asphalt have been paid. The insurance check has been received for the roof. Kyler motioned and Terry supported. Motion carried unanimously.

**APPROVED AS READ**

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**REPORTS:**

**Fire Department:** Phil reported 9 fire and 5 medical calls for the month of June 2023. Training included hose leads, hose lays and small equipment checks. Annual golf outing was a great success, great weather with a record number of teams. Phil would like to send a big thank you to Captain Mike Russell and firefighter Dan Cole for all their help on the day of hose testing. Also, thank you to all the firefighters and their family members that helped out with the golf outing!

**Ambulance:** Next meeting is Thursday, July 20

**Cemetery:** American flags of deceased veterans have been removed. In the past some graves have been missed and added to the list. Need approximately 150 flags at this time. Doug read letter. JR has had to trim branches and dig up roots from trees. Large flags were replaced at Lutheran Cemetery. Doug mentioned power washing grave stones and Jacob said it could severely damage and not to do that.

**Roads:** Partially completed C Drive between 13 ½ and 15 ½. Next meeting is August 1, 2023

**Zoning/Ordinance:** New Business – don't have a proposal back yet, need to do before August meeting if possible.

**Code Enforcement:** Working with building inspector with the house on G Drive. He was going to post as condemned but the owner came out and asked for an extension as they were going to demo and rebuild. Terry suggested they get a building permit.

**Planning Commission:** Next meeting August 14, 2023 hoping to have public hearing soon. Terry Travis is reviewing and then plan to send to Seth/Township Attorney. George just needs clean copy.

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**OLD BUSINESS:**

**\*ARPA Funds:** Board discussed the following

**\*ARPA Spreadsheet:** Kitchen/hall flooring, parking lot, handicap button, chairs, etc. There is one estimate for the flooring at \$11,000. We are waiting on the vendor to schedule install of handicap door. The rest of the cameras are in. Election needs haven't been discussed. Kyler suggested checking with ARPA rules on electronics in regards to 1-3 year warranties or subscriptions.

**\*Chairs** - Jacob suggested a Coldwater contact who sells second hand chairs at discount prices.

**\*Doors** – working on a schedule to have repairs completed and handicap button installed

**\*Janitorial Position:** – Discussion held on the pay rate for janitorial services for approximately 2 hours a week. Initially could be three hours a week to get hall cleaned as it should be. Cathy made a motion to pay \$15/hr and reevaluate in six months. Kyler supported. Motion carried unanimously. JC knows someone who might be interested and will proceed with interviewing process.

**Technology refresh:**

**Fire Substation #2:** the insurance company found roof damage due to hail. Still questionable whether it will be covered under hail or normal wear and tear. Estimated cost is \$16,000. Cathy will reach out to claim adjuster.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**\*Cemetery Rules:** Discussion held on cemetery rules and allowing ashes of pets be placed in the same urn if a resident wants to be buried with their pet. A township official or designee needs to be present at opening and closing of grave. No more than two cremation burials per lot. No re-excavation allowed. Doug shared that MTA said if your policies don't say you cannot do something then you can. MTA advised that because Fredonia Township cemetery rules do not address pets then prior cremated remains of pets will remain in the cemetery. Jacob said he would assist in get other cemetery rules to assist in updating our rules. Terry suggested we run this past our attorney. Suggested when rewriting policies to add must be a solid urn vault. Doug wanted to ask if to leave the ashes of the pet that was buried without townships knowledge. Four votes yes, one no vote.

**\*Fire Sub Station Roof:** Consider a second opinion as the hall roof was covered by insurance due to wind and hail damage. Found patching from before, so our insurance adjuster supported the contractor. Cathy asked for a third opinion. Kyler asked if there was a dispute process and to look into. Cathy suggested contacting Steve first to follow procedures.

**Public Comment:** It was mentioned that at Ace Hardware you can get “Wet and Forget” spray to spray on grave stones and then leave it for the rain to wash away. Terry Cook found some chairs for \$36/piece that hold up to over 800 lbs from Bizchair. They can stack 20 high. The Marshall Police Dept just purchased these chairs. Cathy will stop down to see them in person. Jacob suggested to be cautious when revising cemetery rules/policies.

**Board Comment:**  
Cathy mentioned audit and wants to have a committee to work on inspectors of township. No contracts or job descriptions and need to be evaluated. Cathy feels caught in the middle for not getting a response or pointing to others as their responsibility. Suggested appointing board members to committee and to discuss further next month.

There were three board members that reviewed prior to the meeting the Election Inspectors for the August 3, 2023 election

**Supervisor Doug Damon adjourned the meeting at 8:22 PM**

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Minutes prepared by Laura Miller/Cathy Combs

**Cathy Combs, Township Clerk** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date: July 27, 2023**

**Doug Damon, Township Supervisor** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date:**