**Fredonia Township Board Regular Meeting**

**March 20, 2023 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

**PLEDGE OF ALLIGENCE:**

**Guests:**

**Rebecca de Finta from the Calhoun County Senior Services** explained they have assisted 6760 seniors with the Senior Ambassador Program from each community. They attend meetings and explain Veteran’s benefits and other information to the community. She discussed funding provided and mini grants awarded to organizations. Rebecca states there are several centenarians honored who are 99 years old and over. Rebecca would love to interview anyone in our community as well. There will be a Senior Expo on May 18, 2023 and the Kellogg Arena. There will be over 100 vendors for services and products for seniors 60 years and older. Lunch will be provided and caregivers are welcomed as well. Community Action will provide rides to the Arena and there will be vaccinations, blood pressure checks and hearing tests provided. For more information please visit www.calhouncountymi.gov or call 269-781-0846.

**Diane Thompson, County Commissioner** did follow up on road project and Fredonia was funded. ATR approved by the county and will follow up on effective date and if townships need to opt in or out. Doug discussed snow plow drivers throwing snow on the opposite side of the road and piling up in certain resident’s yards.

**AGENDA** – Additions/Deletions: Marshall Ambulance

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

**CORRESPONDENCE:**

Received a letter today for the Calhoun County Office of the Administrator/Controller, Kelli Scott:

Calhoun County is pursuing the formation of a countywide public transit authority. The first step in that process is the creation of a public transit authority under Act 196 of 1986; MCL 124.451.

On May 4, 2023, the Calhoun County Board of Commissioners will consider the adoption of the Articles of Inc. for the “Transportation Authority of Calhoun County,” or TACC. The Articles of the Inc. will include the entire county as the geographical area to be serviced by the TACC. This letter is to inform you that every political subdivision in the County, (that means any city, village, or township), or a political subdivision must adopt a resolution withdrawing, entirely or partially, from the TACC, and provide notice of that withdrawal to the County on or before the thirtieth day following the date the public authority is incorporated or until the expiration of the thirtieth day after receiving notification under subsection (7), whichever is later.

Since this letter is being sent a considerable time before the County Board will consider the adoption of the Articles of incorporation, the deadline for unconditional withdrawal is June 5th. After this date, conditional withdrawal from the TACC can only occur according to MCL 124.458(1) or (2), which would require either a 2/3 vote of the TACC Board, or a vote of the electors, among other requirements.

If a political subdivision withdraws, no millage vote will go to its residents, no millage could be collected in that subdivision, and no transportation services would be provided. Also, no incoming or outgoing rides would be available to the political subdivision, its residents, or businesses for the remainder of the millage term.

If a municipality does not withdraw, and a millage was passed, transit services would be provided. The goal of creating the TACC is to provide transportation access to all county residents, connecting them to essential services in the county and beyond. Once fully operational, residents will be able to get a ride the same day anywhere in the county that was not opted out. The system will be designed with the customer in mind so they are easy to understand and use, affordable, safe, comfortable, and convenient.

In the coming years, Calhoun County will see an increase need for transportation County-wide, specifically because of the Ford Blue Oval Battery Plant coming to Marshall. This $3.5 billion investment means 2,500 people will need reliable transportation from their homes to the new plant. Fortunately, Ford is committed to hiring local workforce and the transit authority would be positioned to provide solutions for residents of participating municipalities. Kelli Scott

Board asked questions to Diane Thompson who will check and report back as not aware of the information sent above to the township.

**MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MONTH:** February 20, 2023

Terry made a motion and Kyler supported to approve the February 20, 2023 minutes as printed. Motion carried unanimously.

**APPROVED AS READ**

**FINANCIAL REPORT-**

JC provided Revenue and Expenditure report with % of budget used as of 2/28/23 and discussed that the board review the line items that are close to exceeding the budget. She also advised the distribution of taxes, reviewing CD rates and advised that the Township cannot process tax payments after 3/1/23.  **FILE FOR AUDIT**

**READING OF THE BILLS** by **Cathy Combs**

Bill listing presented and reviewed by board as of 3/7/23 totaling $39,598.33. Terry made a motion and JC supported to accept bill listing as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

**APPROVED AS READ**

**REPORTS:**

**Fire Department**: There were 17 fire and 11 medical calls for the month of February 2023. Training this month included diabetic emergency and patient assessments, and training for Epi injection for allergic reactions. Also, extrication training with the Marshall Township, and the West Michigan Air Care at the Eaton Proving Grounds. Fire Department is working on their golf outing to be held June 24, 2023.

**Ambulance:**  None

**Road:** The road department did approve the committee’s project recommendation for 2023. Next meeting will be May 9, 2023.

**Cemetery:**  Sexton Cathy provided a copy of a few rules and regulations she would like to update and post on the website as well in the Advisor.

Decorations:

1. No more than two urns shall be permitted per burial lot. It is the lot owner’s responsibility to plant and maintain the urns. Hanging basket holders must be placed in the ground next to the foundation/headstone. These will not be permitted anywhere else as this impedes mowing and trimming.
2. There will be no fencing allowed at burial sites. No ground decorations allowed except during December thru March to accommodate grave blankets. Structures of any kind including wood, etc. are prohibited.
3. Planting of trees, shrubs, bushes, plants, or any other growth is prohibited in all Fredonia Township Cemeteries.
4. All flowers/arrangements that are placed after burial are permitted for two weeks. After that is the lot owner’s responsibility to remove items. Any items left after that time, will be removed by the Fredonia Township Sexton. These items will not be stored but will be disposed of.
5. Floral pieces/decorations, etc., will be removed by the Fredonia Township Sexton when they become unsightly in order to enable maintenance of the grave site.

Cathy moved and Terry supported to approve the updated cemetery rules and regulations provided by Sexton. Motion carried unanimously.

**Zoning/Ordinance:**  None

**Code Enforcement:**  Terry reported he is working on a few issues within the township and will pick up the most current copy of ordinances.

**Fredonia Planning Commission:**  George advised next meeting will be April 10, 2023 and will revisit solar and short term rentals. Also, they will hold a public hearing the same date regarding wedding venue.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**\*ARPA Funds:**  Board discussed the following and estimates needed:

Parking Lot – Reviewed the asphalt repaving vs. resurfacing

Roof – Estimates receive and contractors found hail damage. Doug will review with insurance agent whether worth filing a claim due to hail, age of roof and granules found on shingles. Board will review next month.

Camera/Security – Cameras in office to be installed

Fire Department Floor: Repairs completed except for approach and Phil will obtain estimates to repair South Bay and Station 2.

Flooring Kitchen and Hall: Pending

Doors: The double door still needs to be replaced in the hall due to not being sealed and not keeping closed.

Handicap button: Cathy made motion and JC supported to contact Doors Unlimited and have the automatic button installed $3580. Motion carried unanimously.

Board will review all the repairs and determine priority for next meeting.

**\*Fire Truck Body Repair:** Will be completed in April.

**\*Marshall Ambulance:** Cot replacement: Other townships are not providing funding; possible millage in August and Clerk will provide answer from auditor/MTA on whether a contribution can be provided.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**\*Chairs:** JC advised that there is a person interested in purchasing the banquet chairs we deemed not worthy of using in the hall for $5 per chair. JC made a motion and Cathy supported to sell the chairs at $5 each. Motion carried unanimously.

**Public Comment:**  Discussion held on:

\*marijuana issue in township – opting out

\*Ordinances in township

\*Zoning Board of Appeal on website – April 10, 2023 – Residents living 300’ will receive a letter and posted in the Advisor

\*Question asked if elections budget is set for the 9 day voting

\*Website is up and running

\*Cots: resident advised not to use tax payer’s funds as would set precedence

\*Suggestion that 300’ to notify resident of a zoning issue needs to be expanded

\*Resident asked if solar ordinance and if in progress

**Board Comment:** Flag needs to be put back up and will review best option to complete. Decision on where to best spend ARPA funds needed for next meeting.

**Supervisor Doug Damon adjourned the meeting at 8:11 PM**

Minutes prepared by Cathy Combs

**Cathy Combs, Township Clerk \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date: 3/30/23**

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