

**Fredonia Township Board-Regular Meeting  
September 16, 2019 6:30 PM  
Fredonia Township Hall  
8803 17 Mile Rd, Marshall, MI 49068**

**MINUTES**

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**BOARD MEMBERS** present:  Doug Damon, Supervisor  Karen Diver, Clerk  Paul Baranowski, Treasurer  Jerry Diver, Trustee  JC Skowron, Trustee

**STAFF** present:  Phil Damon, Fire Chief  Dianna Baker, Deputy Clerk/Cemetery Sexton  Roger Smith, Assessor  Pamela Jo Eastman, IT  Jacob Washburn, Deputy Supervisor/FD Training Officer  Dan Livingston Sr., Calhoun County Planning Commission  Dan Livingston, Jr., Road Committee  George Crandall, Twp. Planning Committee

**PLEDGE OF ALLIGENCE**

**INTRODUCTIONS** by Doug Damon – Robert Hawley, the new Code Enforcement & Zoning Officer and Matt Saxton, Calhoun Co Sherriff

**PRAYER** - NONE

**AGENDA** – Additions/Deletions: Additions under New Business: Termination of the IT Director, Give Clerk authority to contact the Township Attorney

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

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**MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MONTH:**

Motion made by Paul Baranowski and supported by Karen Diver to approve the minutes of 8/19/2019. 3 Ayes 2 Nays

**APPROVED AS READ**

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**FINANCIAL REPORT** read by Paul Baranowski  
NO CORRECTIONS REQUESTED

**PLACED ON FILE FOR AUDIT**

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**READING OF THE BILLS** by Karen Diver  
NO CORRECTIONS REQUESTED

Motion made by Paul Baranowski and supported by Jerry Diver to accept the *Reading of the Bills* as read.

**APPROVED AS READ**

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**CORRESPONDENCE:** Jerry Diver sent Doug Damon a text that he would be resigning from mowing the Lyon Lake Cemetery due to his work load. He will, however, continue to mow the town hall. Motion was made by JC Skowron and supported by Paul Baranowski to seek someone to finish out the season.

**MOTION CARRIED**

A motion was made by JC Skowron and was supported by Paul Baranowski to hire the most reasonable (\$275.00), which was Earth Fathers, to mow only one time until we know that weed whacking is included.

**MOTION CARRIED**

Doug Damon read Carl Damon's resignation from the Fredonia Township Zoning Board of Appeals as he no longer is living within the township. Jerry Diver made a motion and was supported by Paul Baranowski to accept Carl's resignation.

**MOTION CARRIED**

Karen Diver stated there are 2 applications received in the mail, and Doug Damon said he had one also but didn't bring it. Doug said we will do individual interviews and only four can vote and Paul cannot. Interviews will be set up.

Doug Damon stated that he mentioned last month about the City of Marshall and annexation and we were told that Meijer was interested in Marshall but were told no a few years back. Doug Damon said he wanted to know if they were interested in here so he called Meijer and they said to call back the first of the year because that is when they make considerations of where they would possibly build some new stores. Doug stated that the percentage is low.

Doug Damon asked about bids for snow plowing and Karen Diver said there weren't any yet.

Doug Damon said he put the Assessor's Dept on because he said there was a statement in the minutes about how much money we would get on the LLC, from the old girl scout camp. Doug talked to one of the members of the Board of Review and they said there was some action taken on it at the last Board of Review meeting but nothing about how much money we would get. Doug asked Roger to explain to clarify.

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**REPORTS:**

**Fire Department:** Phil Damon gave verbal report and turned in a written report

**Road Committee:** Dan Livingston Jr gave report

**County Planning:** Dan Livingston Sr, absent

**Cemetery:** Dianna Baker gave Doug a written report. Karen stated that Dianna gave her a bill for \$3,060 for gravel and leveling. After discussion, it was decided to postpone the ~~Pentom~~ POTEM data entry and go ahead and pay the gravel bill.

**IT:** No report requested by the board.

**Fredonia Planning Commission:** George Crandall gave a verbal report stating they are continuing to go through John MacFarlane's MacFarlane's recommendations.

**Assessor:** Roger Smith gave written report

**Zoning/Ordinance Enforcement:** Robert Hawley gave a verbal report and turn in a written report

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**Old Business:** FOIA- Paul stated that our process doesn't seem to work well and we should use the forms and instructions that are on our website. Also, wondered how the charges were arrived at for recent FOIAs. FOIA-Doug stated that we received a FOIA from Black Knights out of Pasadena, CA. They sell information to realtors and mortgage companies.

**New Business:** Jerry Diver made a motion and Paul Baranowski supported to terminate the IT director. The board went into closed session to discuss. The motion was read again and a vote taken:

Jerry Diver AYE, Paul Baranowski AYE, Doug Damon NAY, Karen Diver AYE, JC Skowron NAY.

**MOTION CARRIED**

Jerry Diver asked that the IT Director release all Usernames and Passwords for all of our accounts ~~such as the server, BS&A, Wix, Zoho etc.~~ (Words were not on the audio tape of the meeting.) Doug asked Pam to give the needed things that they are requesting. JC stated, "To you" indicating that Pam should give these items to Doug. Pamela stated she wanted the request in writing. In addition, Jerry also asked that all township assets and keys should be relinquished too.

Jerry Diver made a motion to give the Clerk authority to contact the Township Attorney as needed. No support.

**DIES WITH A LACK OF SUPPORT**

Paul Baranowski made a motion and Jerry Diver supported to give any board member authority to contact the Township Attorney for potential fraud or embezzlement. JC thinks that all issues should be directed to supervisor first. 3 Ayes, 2 Nays

**MOTION CARRIED**

**Public Comment:**

Cheryl Fox said she read the minutes of the 6/20/2019 meeting. She didn't see there was a resolution to impose the ½% or the 1% Administrative Fee on the taxes. She would like a copy. She stated that there needed to be a resolution before the ~~minutes~~ tax could be approved. Jacob stated this was Public Comment so Cheryl needed to make her comment and did not need to get response back from the board.

Herb Fox said, "If the Township Clerk she got hours, half the time she isn't here. Been here 2 or 3 times and you wasn't in your office. You was out doing something else. How many hours do you put in a week? It's the same thing with Paul, he was supposed to be here Saturday to take taxes, where was he? ~~More but inaudible.~~

Cynthia Newsome stated the minutes were difficult to read. Doesn't feel both sides are in it. Seems board is divided.

Dan Livingston Jr asked about fireworks and what time those should stop. He would like the board to follow up. Also, there has been discussion as to whether we charge for fire calls or don't we? Need more survey on that.

Cindy Thomas, #1: FOIA was not read as correspondence; #2: FOIA issues from last month that were of concern were not made Old or New Business in this meeting or addressed; #3: Why don't we have or use township recording device instead of Karen's phone; #4: We have a wonderful parcel for sale and can we do something to promote it?

Cheryl Fox said there was another estimate other than Earth Fathers for the mowing that was lower but couldn't remember who it was. JC made a call to them but no response.

Dan Livingston Jr brought up the unauthorized spending in the cemetery and wants to know who is in charge of discussing this with Dianna so she understands that her budget has been shifted and doesn't include what she had planned with that money. Jerry said that the board needs to discuss it with her as a whole in a closed session

Jacob Washburn understands contacting the attorney and the board has been doing well with solving issues. As far as the cemetery goes, professionally, he is out there a lot, and wanted to say that Mr. Diver did do a good job and he did check the stones that were mentioned last month and wants the Board to know that the stones were not damaged. Granted, Jerry does do a lot with working and Jacob understands why he is resigning but Jerry did do a great job, and I've not ever once bashed him, it is fine.

Roger Smith stated he needs to be able to speak with the township attorney because there is a Tax Tribunal coming up which is an entire tribunal which is only handled by the attorney and wants permission to do so. Jerry asked Doug to call the attorney and have him call Roger to make this happen. Everyone was in agreement.

**Board Comment:** Jerry said that Cheryl Fox stated last month that there is not a sign at Lyon Lake Cemetery. There is a sign there that has been there for 100 years that was hand painted by a lady here in the township.

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**Supervisor Doug Damon adjourned the meeting at 8:30PM.**

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Original Minutes prepared by Karen Diver

**SPECIAL NOTE: MINUTES WERE NOT APPROVED AT THE NEXT MEETING ON October 21, 2019.**

**SPECIAL NOTE: On October 21, 2019, during the Regular Monthly Board Meeting, Supervisor Doug Damon requested the following be attached to the September Board Meeting Minutes:**

Here are words in the August 2019 board meeting minutes and these minutes were challenged by supervisor Doug Damon. The board voted to approved the minutes without making correction.

Paul stated that there was a cost. A cost of \$4,000 for Pamela to work on the budget. Dan Livingston Sr. stated, "The thing that grinds the tax payers is \$4,000 that was paid to Pamela, I understand, for doing the budget."

	IT	Budget	Clerk	Total	Pay before Tax
May	27 hr.	166	132	325	\$3,661.88 by Paul
June	27 hr	29.5	54.5	111	\$1,048.90 by Karen
	<u>\$500</u>	<u>\$2,150.22</u>	<u>\$2,001.73</u>		

I am requesting that this document be placed in the minutes in the proper order due to the fact that the board knowingly approved minutes with wrong financial documentations.

There seems to be an error in the figures also.  
Doug Damon

Fredonia Township Supervisor

Minutes Respectfully Submitted by Dianna Baker on November 18, 2019, for Approval

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<del>Karen Diver, Township Clerk</del>	<b>Date</b>
Dianna Baker, Deputy Clerk	

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Doug Damon, Township Supervisor	<b>Date</b>