

**Fredonia Township Board-Regular Meeting
October 21, 2019 6:34 PM
Fredonia Township Hall
8803 17 Mile Rd, Marshall, MI 49068**

MINUTES

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 Jacob Washburn, Deputy Supervisor Roger Smith, Assessor Pamela Jo Eastman, IT Robert Hawley, Code Enforcement/Zoning Dan Livingston, Jr., Road Committee Dan Livingston Sr., Calhoun County Planning Commission

PLEDGE OF ALLIGENCE

GUEST – Tommy Miller spoke about the 509 Policy and how he felt it was potentially unfair to smaller townships. He explained that the County Commissioners' Board agreed to wait until the end of November to vote on this to give everyone a chance to review the proposals. One good thing they are proposing to match 50/50 versus 70/30 and on somethings possible up to maybe 70%. Another item discussed was they proposed a Parks Millage that could be combined with Seniors & Vets Millage; however they decided not to do this because nobody wanted to jeopardize neither the Seniors nor the Veterans. Parks Millage money would be intended for improvements – not maintenance.

AGENDA – Additions/Deletions: Elected Officials Pay & to revisit when Board members can call the Attorney added by Jerry Diver; Paul Baranowski added the item Fire Truck Fund.

PUBLIC COMMENTS FOR ITEMS ON THE AGENDA: Doug mentioned that they would be voting on the Treasurer position and invited the public to comment if they so desired. The two applicants are JC Skowron and Brooke Kidder. Dan Livingston Sr. commented that JC Skowron should refrain from voting due to conflict of interest. Doug explained he had spoken with MTA and it is not a conflict of interest. JC may vote. Paul cannot join the discussion or vote for his replacement. Dan also commented that on the Revenue & Expenditure report he did not see the wages granted to the former IT Manager for budget work. Doug advised that subject would be addressed later.

MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MONTH:

Doug called for a motion to approve the Minutes of Sep 16th. No motion made.

FINANCIAL REPORT Paul Baranowski explained the \$38,746.11 error on last month's report was due to an error between the Tax program and the General Ledger. It has been corrected. Paul read the financial report for this month. A resident asked about the purpose of the Lyon Lake Weed Fund. It was explained that it's a Special Assessment collected to help control weeds around the lake. The resident asked what can be done about multiple weed pods floating around the lake and he was advised to consult the Lyon Lake Association. Doug asked how much money was collected from Summer Taxes for the new Property Tax Admin Fee. Paul stated that the fund is not set up yet but so far he thought we had collected maybe about \$6000.00 or so. Doug stated that these collected Fees would be going toward the Assessing Departments budget expenditures.

PLACED ON FILE FOR AUDIT

READING OF THE BILLS by Karen Diver

Phil Damon suggested that the \$133.00 towing bill may have been paid twice. Needs investigation.

Motion made by Paul Baranowski and supported by Jerry Diver to accept the *Reading of the Bills with the review of the towing bill.*

MOTION CARRIED

CORRESPONDENCE: Doug mentioned there currently are two FOIA requests. Karen mentioned she has a letter concerning the snow plowing. Will be addressed under Old Business.

REPORTS:

Fire Department: Phil Damon – 10 Fire runs and 6 medical runs for the month. Training included extrication and stabilization jacks, along with air care landing zone training. The Fire Department will be holding an Open House for the Fire Truck millage renewal, at Station 1, Saturday, October 6th, 9am-noon. The Fire Department will also be participating again this year with the Lyon Lake Methodist Church Trunk or Treat.

Zoning & Ordinance Enforcement: Written report submitted. 2 Complaints: 1 is OPEN; 1 is CLOSED. 1 permit for the month. Attended the Planning Commission meeting on Sep 24th. Discussed Master Plan Update and will continue to work on it in the upcoming meetings. Stated that Zoning ordinance discussions are completed and pending public hearing upon completion of the master plan.

Cemetery: Dianna Baker – Has a bid for Lyon Lake leaf pick up and mowing. Reported she did go through the cemeteries the first of the month and as quick as she picked things up, folks were putting out their Halloween decorations/stuff. Jerry Diver suggested revisiting mowing contract under Old Business.

Planning Committee: George Crandall next meeting is November 7th at 6:30 PM.

IT Department: No report

Calhoun County Planning Commission: Dan Livingston Sr. reported addressed some PA116 applications and some Emmett Township building changes but not of concern for us. He stated they are investigating what a decommission plan looks like. They are in an information gathering stage at this time.

Road Committee: Dan Livingston Jr. next meeting is November 12th at 7 PM.

Assessing: Roger Smith reported for the most part everything is going ok. Had some communication issues with the township email and website being down however was eventually able to make contact and issues were resolved.

OLD BUSINESS:

1 -SNOW PLOWING: Bids are the same cost as approved last year. Paul made motion to accept Rodney Maurer’s and Teresa Washburn’s bids for snow plowing and shoveling. Supported by Jerry Diver.

MOTION CARRIED

2 -TREASURER POSITION: Doug asked if JC was interviewed. She was not. Doug explained the qualifications of both Brooke Kidder and JC Skowron. Doug recommended JC be appointed. Discussion followed. No Support. Jerry Diver moved that Brooke be appointed. Karen Diver supported.

Roll Call vote:

Jerry Diver – **AYE**

Doug Damon – **NAY**

Karen Diver – **AYE**

JC Skowron – **NAY**

TIE – MOTION DEFEATED

Doug asked if there was a motion to consider JC. He reminded everyone that if they could not agree to appoint someone in 45 days then the matter would then be handled by the County. JC moved to appoint herself. There was no support.

MOTION DIED DUE TO LACK OF SUPPORT

3 - CHEMICAL BANK APPROVED SIGNATURES: Item dropped as there was no appointment of a Treasurer.

4 - WHEN SHOULD FIREWORKS STOP: Doug reported the state allows fireworks JUNE 29-JULY 4TH, 11AM-11:45PM. And on July 5th IF IT FALLS ON A FRIDAY OR SATURDAY. Doug reminded everyone there is no local ordinance other than this state law. Issue referred to the Planning Committee.

5 - DO WE CHARGE FOR FIRE CALLS: Doug stated we do not at this time.

6 - LYON LAKE LAWN MOWING:

Earth Fathers was paid \$275 PLUS an additional \$100 approved by Karen Diver, for a one time mowing. If we need to use them again, they have submitted a quote for \$550 as they estimated it takes about 19-20 hours. Dianna submitted a bid from JR Watkins of Marshall. He quoted \$250/mowing at Lyon Lake AND the Township Hall. Weed whacking/leaf cleanup would be \$14/hour. Jerry stated he needs liability and workman’s comp. JR told JC last month he would get it if it was needed. Karen made motion to allow Dianna to select the person for the last mowing and leaf cleanup as long as the person had liability and workman’s comp. JC supported.

MOTION CARRIED

7 - FIRE FUND: Paul informed us that during the audit it was discovered that the monies borrowed from the General Fund to correct the Fire Truck Deficit issue had to be returned to the General Leger. This is a paperwork issue moving the money’s from Public Safety Fund to the General Ledger and would not affect the Fire Millage monies coming in. No motion required.

8 - ELECTED OFFICIAL’S 2017 PAY RAISES: Jerry Diver stated that the board neglected to properly approve board pay raises that started as of July 1, 2017. The budget was approved but no resolution was made. He made a motion to approve the raises from THE 2017-2018 budget up through the 2019-2020 budget fiscal years. Doug stated he isn’t sure of the legalities of this. Paul supported.

MOTION CARRIED

9 - WHEN SUPERVISOR/CLERK/TREASURER CAN CALL THE ATTORNEY: Jerry Diver stated that last month a vote was made to allow the Supervisor/Clerk/Treasurer to call the attorney any time they had fraud or embezzlement concerns. Jerry moved that all three be allowed to call the attorney at will. Paul supported. Roll Call vote:

- Jerry Diver – **AYE**
- Paul Baranowski - **AYE**
- Doug Damon – **NAY**
- Karen Diver – **AYE**
- JC Skowron – **NAY**

MOTION CARRIED

NEW BUSINESS:

1 – KEYS: Doug discussed locks being changed after the December 2017 meeting – due to the case of a cheesecake disappearing. And said locks were again changed on or about September 20, 2019. He has no idea who does or does not now have keys to these new locks. Discussion followed expressing the need for certain employees to have access to the fax machine and Dropbox. Doug stated that locks and door knobs should not be changed without Board approval. He requested this issue be put on the agenda and addressed in the November Board Meeting.

2 – IT POSITION: Doug stated that there are inaccurate figures in our permanent records and he wants the minutes of last month to be amended to reflect the proper figures. Much discussion followed. It was agreed that Doug’s requested amendments will be added to the appropriate minutes and will be addressed during next month’s meeting.

3 – WEBSITE: Doug stated that the website has been down for approximately two weeks now. Nobody knows why. Doug then stated he had received communication with the attorney that reflected the Board had illegally terminated the IT Manager; hence Pamela is still employed. He informed her of this in a letter which she had requested at the last meeting. Dan Livingston Sr. request the letter written to Pamela be read into the minutes. Doug read the letter. Jerry Diver did not agree. He stated that “she” (*Pamela*) caused us a lot of money and

