

Fredonia Township Board-Regular Meeting
May 23, 2019 6:35 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
Roger Smith, Assessor Pamela Jo Eastman, IT Clyde Lampkin, Code Enforcement/Zoning
Dan Livingston Sr., Calhoun County Planning Commission Dan Livingston, Jr., Road Committee,
Jacob Washburn, FD Training Officer

PLEDGE OF ALLIGENCE

PRAYER by Doug Damon

AGENDA – Additions/Deletions: Deleted item #1 under Old Business & item #4 under New Business

MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MONTH’S MEETINGS:

NO CORRECTIONS REQUESTED

Motion made by Jerry Diver and supported by Karen Diver to approve the minutes as written.

AMENDED AND APPROVED

FINANCIAL REPORT read by Paul Baranowski

NO CORRECTIONS REQUESTED

PLACED ON FILE FOR AUDIT

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

CORRESPONDENCE: None

GUESTS: **Kate Turner** introduced herself as a member of the Calhoun County Senior Services staff. She passed out brochures and explained them, expressing how our tax millage dollars are helping our seniors.

Cindy Thomas informed the board and residents that there will be a picnic for seniors at the Wilder Creek Conservation club on June 6th from 11 AM -2:30 PM. It will be a great opportunity to get out and enjoy nature.

Tommy Miller spoke about the county’s proposed new policy for dealing with local roads classified as “failures”. The county is proposing such roads be ground back to dirt. The county will do the work, but the Townships are responsible for any necessary materials required. Townships will have 3 months to arrange funding or develop a plan. He informed us it was tabled with a 5 to 2 vote. The county made no provisions for the Townships to decide on their own needs. They would have no say if the policy was adopted. Also, the county had absolutely no plan in place for specific roads nor would they entertain further discussion on the matter. Tommy also mentioned that the 509 Policy that is current in place is of no benefit to the Townships.

Cindy Thomas stated that if the county is responsible for maintenance why would the Townships need to pay anything? She suggested getting the Attorney General behind us on these matters.

PUBLIC COMMENTS FOR ITEMS ON THE AGENDA: None.

REPORTS:

Fire Department: Chief Damon reported there were 4 fire runs and 8 medical runs for the month. Training this month included Geriatric Care and Fit & Flow testing. The department is active preparing for the golf outing to be held on June 29th @9 AM. Personal changes – welcomed new firefighter Dan Cole. He has begun First Responders Medical Course and will be attending the Fire Academy in the fall. Captain Greg Karns is retiring after 41 years of service with the Fredonia Fire Department. Phil thanked him for his dedication and wished him all the best. Phil also attended the Eckford Township board meeting this past week. They voted to pay Fredonia \$22,500 for fiscal year 2019-2020 for Fire Protection. Phil stated that all factors considered, he thought that was a fair price. Phil reported he has approximately \$1000 worth of bills yet to come in this year and that should leave the department approximately \$7000 to do truck maintenance and such. Doug requested and JC made a motion to permit Doug and Karen to sign the new Eckford Fire Protection contract for 2019-2020. Jerry seconded. **MOTION CARRIED**

Zoning: Mike & Lynn Darling @424 Lyon Lake Rd, variance was approved for proposed new addition and garage. Clyde received a complaint that a home owner, just down the road here, was building a pole barn too close to the property line. The home owner received a stop work order from Frank and has since removed the footings and the poles. The home owner will be coming in to obtain the proper paperwork and permits. Clyde reported there will be a variance meeting on June 5, 2019, concerning a variance request from Hans Morgan for a small backyard extension at Lyon Lake.

Ordinance Enforcement: Clyde has received multiple complaints concerning Trine property @ 9800 14 ½ Mile Rd. Demo permit has been expired for two years. Clyde has spoken with the property owner and they are not going to cooperate with township requests. He also received a complaint about a fence at Lyon Lake being installed. It is a replacement fence installed on the original fence line and nothing for him to do about it.

Library: None

Cemetery: Dianna turned in a written report.

Planning Committee: George Crandall - Next two meetings are scheduled for June 6th and June 10th. See New Business section for Marijuana Opt In/Opt Out info.

IT Department: Pamela Jo Eastman turned in a written report.

Assessor: Roger had nothing to report.

Calhoun County Planning Commission: Dan Livingston Sr. not present.

Road Committee: George Crandall – See Old Business for current Roads info.

OLD BUSINESS:

2019 Road Project: Doug mentioned that he and Karen need board approval to sign the estimate for the road project for 15 ½ from C Dr S heading north for as far as our budget will take us - to do Paver Patch/Chip & Seal. In March a motion had been made, supported, and carried to accept the recommended 5 Year Plan for the roads as submitted by Dan Livingston Sr. In April, the county added to the estimate a cost for trimming and deberming. Paul stated that last month the motion was tabled until Tommy Miller, Calhoun Co Commissioner checks to see if there other options. In May, George Crandall said it was determined by the Road committee to not pay for the tree trimming and deberming extra charge.

Jacob advised the board that they first need to remove the 2019 Road Report from the table with a motion. Thereafter they can have new discussion and vote on the March Motion. Paul made the motion to remove the Road Project from the table. JC supported.

MOTION TO REMOVE FROM TABLE CARRIED

MOTION ON THE TABLE FOR 2019 ROAD PROJECT FROM MARCH BOARD MEETING STAYS.

No further discussion.

MOTION CARRIED

NEW BUSINESS:

Marijuana Opt In/Opt Out: Doug stated he had received an email from the Planning Committee. George Crandall explained their “opting in/opting out” choices concerning medical and recreational use of Marijuana. At this time they have unanimously elected to “opt out” and that is their suggestion to the board because of legality being so fluid at this time - both at state and federal levels. Jerry moved and JC supported.

MOTION CARRIED

Town Hall Rental \$25 Deposit: During Budget work it was suggested that the township do away with the deposit and make it non-refundable due to the amount of accounting time and expense incurred for returning deposits. There was some discussion but no definitive plan on how to handle rental fees. Jerry suggested tabling the subject until next month and allow more time for discussion and decision making. No motion made.

Audit: Doug stated that the next Township audit is September 10th & 11th. He suggested having JC approved to work with the audit as she is an expert and experienced in auditing and accounting. Jerry mentioned that in speaking with the MTA about his own additional duties he felt JC should get compensated like he is. Doug advised the board to think about it and we would re-address the subject in June.

New Tax: Doug stated that Paul advised that the Township has the authority to charge all residents up to a 1% Admin Fee for collecting taxes. Paul said he is working on a Cash Flow Analysis that he will provide to the board next month.

Lyon Lake Noise: Doug reported that he received a loud noise issue that involved law enforcement recently at Lyon Lake. He consulted MTA and was advised not to get involved. Problems should be reported to 911. If an ordinance was to be written and passed it would involve lawyer fees and place enforcement responsibilities on Clyde. If there is an ordinance there is nothing the County Sheriff can do. They will not enforce a township ordinance. Paul stated he is doing follow up with Sheriff Saxton. Pam stated she felt that if a Lyon Lake Noise Ordinance was needed they should be charged a special assessment to cover the expenses of creating it and enforcing it. She further stated it was unfair to make the rest of the township pay for noise control at the lake. She added that she felt the issues at Lyon Lake like noise, barking dogs, tree trimming, fences, etc. should be addressed by the Lyon Lake Association not the Township. More discussion followed. No motion made.

Lyon Lake Tree Trimming and Barking Dogs: Doug stated that since he has been in office he took it upon himself to help address issues like tree trimming and barking dog complaints in the Township. He gets many calls and responds best he can. He recently consulted the MTA and was told DO NOT GET INVOLVED with such issues. If residents have issues they need to contact the proper authorities. Possibly recommended links could be placed on the website that offers some direction to residents on how to deal with and who to call for these types of problems. Doug is no longer getting involved with these issues. More discussion followed. No motion made.

Public Comment: George Crandall asked Paul how the New Tax would work. It was stated that it would be a percentage of the whole tax bill. Revenue would go directly to the General Fund. Paul guessed it would be earnings of \$20 to 25,000. Again Paul mentioned he is working on a Cash Flow Analysis to provide to the board.

Trustee Comment: JC would like to see the Township write Procedures Manuals for consistency of application usage and standard operating procedures. Paul wants clear definition of all Township employee positions. He said the MTA has samples to help model such description and would provide samples to the board if they like. Jerry said statutory duties are already defined by the MTA and the State. JC said those state WHAT the duties are but not HOW to do the job. Much discussion followed. Many separate conversations going at the same time.

