

**Fremont Township Minutes
December 14, 2017**

The regular meeting for the Fremont Twp. Board of Trustees was held on December 14, 2017, at 7:00 p.m. at the Fremont Township Hall.

Board members present: H. Wymore, C. Sherwin, M. Blatt, A. Holbrook and J. Welke. Absent: None

Guests: 9

MINUTES:

Without objection or correction the November 9, 2017, regular board meeting. Motion made by M. Blatt, seconded by J. Welke – motion carried

BILLS:

Motion to pay the bills as presented made by M. Blatt seconded by J. Welke – motion carried.

COUNTY COMMISSIONER (Kim Vaughan):

He gave us an update on what is being discussed at the County. There was a vote on allowing liquor to be sold on Sunday's in Tuscola County but it was voted to keep the rule as is and so there is a possibility of businesses circulating petitions to get this placed on a ballot. He is also working on making some changes to Animal Control and possibly the Road Commission Board. Kim also mentioned that one of the elected officials at the County has talked to the Commissioners about a pay increase and Kim feels a pay increase is not necessary because when you run for that elected position you know what the pay will be and should not request an increase

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

A Resident wondered how many people received a petition in the mail requesting to change our legislation to be part time. This Resident stated that everyone should read the fine print before making their decision.

JUDY RAYMOND:

Judy wanted to address the Board to let them know that she was disappointed with the way that the Board handled the compensation of the Treasurer for all the extra work that needed to be done to correct the errors in the tax database. She stated that he went above and beyond to correct a problem that was created by a former person and that if he had not corrected the problem then the township would have had to pay to have the problem fixed by an outside source. She stated that if the Board did not want to pay by the hour then they could have paid a flat rate of compensation. She does not agree with the pay increase at the next budget because even if the increase was \$50 per month, that increase with the money going to the pension fund would be \$750 per year. She feels the Board should compensate him a flat fee and be done with it.

CLERK REPORT:

A. Holbrook stated that we have received a letter from the Township Attorney regarding the Electric Franchise Ordinance requested by Thumb Electric and our Attorney stated that it would cost approximately \$450-600 to draft the Franchise Ordinance. H. Wymore asked what would happen if we did nothing. J. Welke stated that we would still have Thumb Electric in our area and that he was not opposed to having an agreement with them but wondered why we could not just use the ordinance that was sent to us from Thumb Electric's attorney. It was stated that the Township Attorney had suggested some changes to the ordinance that was provided and maybe have their attorney make those changes. M. Blatt asked why we need to have an ordinance when we have never had one. H. Wymore asked Kim

Vaughan if any other township in the area had mentioned receiving this request from Thumb Electric and Kim stated no. C. Sherwin stated that if it is a franchise then we can charge them a fee. Motion made by M. Blatt, seconded by C. Sherwin to table this for now – motion carried.

TREASURER REPORT:

Treasurer balance was \$330,252.49 as of November 30, 2017. Motion to accept treasurer report made by J. Welke, seconded by H. Wymore – motion carried.

SUPERVISOR REPORT:

Cemetery Report – H. Wymore gave the Board some information regarding possibly having a designated area at the cemetery for cremains burials. He stated that if we decided to do this that we would need to amend our ordinance because the headstones would have to be flat to the ground to be able to mow over them. He wanted the Board to think about the options and we will discuss it at a later time. H. Wymore also asked for an update on the cemetery records and Judy stated that they have completed putting the records on the computer and now A. Holbrook is just finishing up the format to be able to upload it to the website. H. Wymore stated that we will probably have a committee meeting after the first of the year just to go over some last minute details.

Road Report – H. Wymore stated that next year we will have to blacktop one mile of road and he is suggesting that we blacktop Blackmore Road west of M24 because it is at least 15 years old and also has had the culvert repairs that could use to be resurfaced. He wanted the Board to start thinking about this so we get an idea of what we are going to be doing when we work on the next budget.

Board Appointments - Motion made by H. Wymore, seconded by C. Sherwin to appoint John Welke to the Downtown Development Authority (DDA) due to A. Holbrook's resignation from that board – motion carried. Motion made by A. Holbrook, seconded by M. Blatt to appoint Ron Curell to the Library Board – motion carried. Motion made by H. Wymore, seconded by M. Blatt to appoint Kim Vaughan, Terry Glowicki and Ron Curell to the Planning Commission for 3-year terms – motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS:

Ordinance Designating Enforcement Officers – H. Wymore has been in discussion with the Township Attorney regarding our Zoning Administrator issuing civil infraction tickets and it was noted that we need to adopt this ordinance in order to enforce our blight ordinance. H. Wymore stated that a civil infraction fee is \$200 which is paid to the County. C. Sherwin asked if the County keeps that money and H. Wymore stated that he was unsure. M. Blatt asked whether the Zoning Administrator would still need approval from the Township Board before issuing a ticket and H. Wymore stated yes. Motion made by H. Wymore, seconded by C. Sherwin to adopt the Ordinance Designating Enforcement Officers – motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

All meetings are held the second Thursday of every month at the Fremont Township Hall located at 4850 Mertz Road (M-24) at 7:00 p.m. All public is welcome to attend.

Amy Holbrook, Fremont Township Clerk