

**Fremont Township Minutes**  
**Public Hearing**  
**May 12, 2016**

The Public Hearing for the Fremont Twp. Board of Trustees was held on May 12, 2016., at 6:00 p.m. at the Fremont Township Hall.

Board members present: H. Wymore, C. Sherwin, A. Holbrook, J. Welke & I. Barrons.

Guests: 79

Meeting called to order at 6:00 p.m. by H. Wymore

H. Wymore discussed that the reason for the public hearing was to discuss the possibilities of establishing a special assessment district for the purpose of providing for the collection and disposal of garbage.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

A Resident asked if the Board decided to go with garbage collection through Republic would a garbage container be provided. It was stated that the contract the Board is considering would include the garbage container. A Resident asked if they would have to pick up the containers or if they would be provided. It was stated that the containers would be delivered. Another Resident asked if they were restricted to just the one container. It was stated that it would be unlimited collection and if you have more garbage than what would fit in the container you can set the bags next to the container and they will pick those up also. It was questioned as to the size of the garbage container and that is 95 gallons. It was also questioned if it would be once a week pickup and the answer was yes. Another Resident asked if churches would be included in the contract and the response was that it is up to the Township to discuss if churches would be included. A Resident asked which day of the week would the garbage be picked up and what the policy is for holidays. The day hasn't been decided yet as that would be discussed with the Township Board if approved and if the normal pickup day falls on a holiday it will be picked up on the following day. Another Resident asked what the policy was for large items, and it was stated that you will be allowed one large item per week. It was also asked how the cost would be billed and they were told that it would be billed only once a year on the winter tax bill as a special assessment. A Resident asked if this was approved, when it would start. It was stated that winter taxes go out December 1<sup>st</sup> so it would probably start December 1<sup>st</sup>. Another Resident asked if they were going to be forced to pay this charge and help other people pay for their garbage pickup also. This Resident stated that they are not home very much at all because they work and they are gone for the winter so they don't need to have garbage pickup. They also stated that they are on a fixed income and work all the time so don't need this added expense. Another Resident commented that they have two other parcels that are separate from their home. It was stated that it would only be billed to houses. A Resident stated that they own a home in Vassar Twp. and they were told that they could put the garbage out at the road in just bags and they would still pick it up and that ended up being untrue. The Representative from Republic stated that they would prefer you put everything in the container but they will pick up bags that are set beside the container if it is full. Another Resident asked how they would contact the garbage company if needed and they were told that each household would receive a list of contact information when the containers are dropped off. Someone else asked why the topic of putting the cost of garbage collection on the taxes was initiated, to save the township people money or to pay for the people who don't have garbage pickup? H. Wymore stated that we have been receiving a lot of phone calls from township residents requesting that the cost be placed on the taxes. Another Resident stated that currently they have Waste Management and it costs them \$240 a year so this would be quite a bit cheaper. A Resident asked if the price would increase due to fuel costs and it was stated that the price would increase if the cost of diesel fuel hit \$3.10 per gallon and it would be a 4¢ increase for every 10¢ over \$3.10 and if the price of fuel went down, the cost would also go down. Another Resident asked if once they receive the container if it is theirs so that they can adapt it to better fit their needs, like putting a hitch on it? The Representative from Republic stated that the containers still belong to Republic but you can put a hitch on it or put stickers on it and make it your own. Another Resident asked if the Twp. Board had thought of the people that don't want it placed on their taxes? Can't they just sign up the people that do want it and not force it upon everyone? It was stated that if they only signed up people that wanted it, the

price would change tremendously. This Resident also questioned why people are utilizing recycling. If people would recycle they wouldn't have that much trash. It was also stated that we already pay a mileage to have recycling through Tuscola County so we should utilize that and not pay extra to Republic for their recycling program. A Resident commented that several years ago the Township sent out a survey regarding putting the cost of trash pickup on the taxes and at that time the cost was quite a bit lower; now the cost has increased so much that it is beneficial to have it on the taxes so it would be cheaper. Another Resident stated that this should have been brought to a vote of the people and not just crammed down their throats. A. Holbrook stated that the only way to place this on a ballot would be if it was a mileage and that wouldn't be fair because someone who owned more acres would be paying more for the same service. Another Resident stated that it isn't being crammed down their throats, there are petitions that people can sign whether they are for or against it and that way they can have their voice heard. It was also questioned whether it would include businesses and the Representative from Republic stated that they recommend staying away from commercial properties. Another Resident asked where the 1% admin fee would go and it was commented that it would be placed into the general fund along with all the other admin fees collected. A Resident commented that if you drive down Snover Road you will see a lot of homes that have trash sitting around and if we had garbage pickup in the taxes they would have no excuse for cleaning up their property. It would make the Township look a lot cleaner and a better place to live. It was also asked how the Board was going to determine who were for or against the special assessment and it was decided that they would decide by the signatures on the petitions and letters received. It was also questioned about how it would affect people with dumpsters and the Representative from Republic stated that if you want to continue having a dumpster, and you get that dumpster from Republic, they will issue you a credit for the amount paid through the taxes. It was also questioned whether someone will get a credit if they have already paid for the year through their current garbage company. It was mentioned that Waste Management stated that once they receive a notice that the Township signed up for township wide garbage collection that they will send out a refund to those who have paid in full. It was also questioned about what the cost would be in 5 years after the contract expires and H. Wymore stated that we would have to put it out for bids again. It was also questioned as to whether property owners could get a second container if they have a lot of garbage. The Representative from Republic stated that if there is a demonstrated need the property owner would have to fill out a form and give it to the Township Board for their approval and then if approved they could receive a second container. It was also stated that Republic supplies the containers so if yours is lost or damaged they will replace it. It was also questioned as to whether this included the Village of Mayville and H. Wymore stated no because they already have their own contract.

Meeting was closed to public comments at 6:56 p.m. and all present were asked to sign petitions for or against the special assessment.

#### **BOARD DISCUSSION:**

A. Holbrook explained that a Resolution Creating the Special Assessment District would need to be passed if we wanted to move forward. A. Holbrook also explained the next steps that would need to be taken. At this time A. Holbrook added up the number of names on each petition and the letters received and the total was 48 against and 145 for.

Motion made by C. Sherwin, seconded by I. Barrons to adopt the Resolution Creating the Special Assessment District for Garbage Collection in the Township, Determining Boundaries, Determining first year levy and directing the supervisor to spread the levy. Roll call vote: C. Sherwin-yes, A. Holbrook-yes, I. Barrons-yes, J. Welke-yes, H. Wymore-yes. Resolution adopted.

Meeting adjourned at 7:13 p.m.

Amy Holbrook, Fremont Township Clerk