

Fremont Township Minutes
April 14, 2016

The regular meeting for the Fremont Twp. Board of Trustees was held on April 14, 2016, at 7:00 p.m. at the Fremont Township Hall.

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

Guests: 18

MINUTES:

Without objection or correction the March 10, 2016, minutes were approved. Motion made by J. Welke, seconded by I. Barrons – motion carried.

BILLS:

Motion to pay the bills as presented made by J. Welke, seconded by C. Sherwin – motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

A Resident questioned as to what the main agenda was for this meeting and why everyone was in attendance and J. Welke stated that it is our regular Board meeting and H. Wymore stated that he didn't know specifically why everyone was here but now was the time for the public to let us know. This resident wanted to comment regarding the option of the garbage costs being added to the taxes. He stated that years ago it was discussed whether to have it on the taxes or for each resident to choose their own and at that time he was for choosing his own because the cost was cheap but now that costs have increased so much he feels it may be cheaper if it was added to the taxes. Another Resident questioned as to whether or not the special assessment would be per household or per parcel and C. Sherwin stated that it would be per household. He also feels that placing the cost of garbage collection on the taxes is just one more way of taking away people's rights. He also stated that on top of the special assessment cost would be an additional 1% admin fee that the people would be paying. Another Resident stated that they use to pay for garbage collection but the cost kept going up so they had to cancel their garbage pickup because they cannot afford it. He did comment that if it was placed on the taxes that it would be much cheaper and they could afford that lower cost and that he is in favor of adding the cost of garbage collection to the taxes. Another Resident questioned if they would pick up recycling and H. Wymore stated that it would be an additional costs per month for recycling and that it would be every other week. Another Resident asked if they would be able to opt-out if someone didn't want the garbage collection and H. Wymore stated that if the special assessment was approved that it would be for every household and they would not be able to opt-out. She also commented that currently if she isn't happy with her garbage service she can changed companies but if it a 5-year contract she would be stuck with the service even if there was a problem. It was also questioned that if someone has a problem with the garbage collection, who would they complain to and it was mentioned that they would bring their complaints to the Township Board.

BOB TALLMAN:

Explained the different ways that his neighbors deal with their garbage and how he feels that having the cost of garbage collection on the taxes would be a good idea and save people money. He feels that this is a simple way of taking a step in the right direction to cleaning up our township. He also stated that we need to not pay extra for recycling because we already have recycling at county and we shouldn't take that away from them.

CLERK REPORT:

Communication Tower update: Planning Commission met on April 5th and denied the request from Utility Network Authority to place a communication tower at the corner of Brown & Conrad Road because the proposed placement did not meet the requirements in our Zoning Ordinance.

Garbage contract – A. Holbrook stated that the attorney said the only option we had for placing the cost of garbage collection on the taxes would be through special assessment. Motion made by I. Barrons, seconded by C. Sherwin to start the process for a special assessment for garbage collection. Roll call vote: C. Sherwin-yes, A. Holbrook-yes, H. Wymore-yes, J. Welke-yes, I. Barrons-yes; motion carried. Motion made by C. Sherwin, seconded by I. Barrons to set the first public hearing for May 12th at 6 pm – motion carried.

TREASURER REPORT:

Treasurer balance was \$329,481.80 as of March 31, 2016. Motion to accept treasurer report made by I. Barrons, seconded by J. Welke – motion carried.

SUPERVISOR REPORT:

Cemetery Report – had 2 burials this month. One of the burials had a tree in the lot that needed to be removed before the burial but the owner of the lot agreed to pay for the cost of removal.

Road Report – Received the bid from Roadside Maintenance for \$3,800. Motion made by J. Welke, seconded by C. Sherwin to approve the bid for roadside mowing – motion carried. A Resident stated that last year they didn't seem to mow very far off the road and H. Wymore stated that he discussed this with them last year and hopefully this year will be better. H. Wymore stated that he received an updated bid from the Road Commission for \$106,000 for paving O'Brien Road from Conrad to Leix. He stated that there is a possibility that the Road Commission would pave the road this year and let us make half the payment this year and half the payment next year. Motion made by H. Wymore, seconded by C. Sherwin to approve the bid for paving O'Brien Road from Conrad to Leix subject to the approval from the Road Commission to allow the township to split the payment into two installments – motion carried. H. Wymore stated that he received a bid from the Road Commission for township wide brush spraying and the cost would be \$11,500. A Resident stated that when they did this in the past it killed some of his trees and J. Welke stated that you can opt-out of the brush spraying you just need to contact the Road Commission. Motion made by J. Welke, seconded by H. Wymore to approve the bid for \$11,500 for brush spraying – motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS:

Tire Recycling – The township tire recycling has been set for August 10th from 9am-3pm and we could use volunteers to help load the tires into the trailer.

Meeting adjourned at 7:55 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