

Fremont Township Minutes July 11, 2013

The regular meeting for the Fremont Twp. Board of Trustees was held on July 11, 2013, at 7:00 p.m. at the Fremont Township Hall.

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

Guests: 10

MINUTES:

Without objection or correction the June 13, 2013, minutes were approved. Motion made by I. Barrons seconded by J. Welke – motion carried.

LARRY CLEVER (Burnham & Flower Representative):

Larry explained the township's insurance policy and what it covered and the optional additions to the policy that we may want to consider. He also mentioned the grants that are available through the PAR Plan.

CHRISTINE TRISCH (County Commissioner):

Christine mentioned the possibility of the Committee of the Whole meetings moving to Monday mornings. The Commissioners will be voting on this tomorrow. She also mentioned about the discussion of the possible changes to the ORV Ordinance and wanted to get some public input. The County is also looking into the possibility of contracting with SVSU to create the digital tax maps. She has also asked the County to look into the possibility of bringing the Animal Control back into the County instead of contracting with Sanilac County. She mentioned that the Medical Care Facility expansion is on hold at this time. She also wanted to make sure everyone was aware of the no cell phone policy at the courthouse.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

A Resident mentioned that they felt that the recommendation from the Planning Commission to change the easement requirement from 66' to 30' in the Private Road and Driveway Easement is not a good idea. A. Holbrook commented that the Board will be discussing this next month as the Planning Commission just met on Monday evening and she was not able to get the paperwork to the Board members yet. Another Resident wanted to know when the ditch in front of their house on Waterman Road would be cleaned out. H. Wymore stated that it would not be done this year but hopefully next year. A Resident asked when they were going to start the roadside mowing and H. Wymore stated that the company said they would start working in our township as soon as they were done with Vassar Twp. Another Resident wondered when they were going to start the brush spraying and H. Wymore said that they should be starting soon. Another Resident commented regarding the work that is supposed to be done on Hunt Road and stated that they knew someone that would do the work cheaper. H. Wymore commented that we put that work out for bid and only received the one bid that was voted on and approved last month. This Resident also commented that they felt that the township should have committees so that residents of the township can get involved.

CLERK REPORT:

Clerk received a couple messages this week about the township website not working and she contact the Tuscola ISD and it is up and running again. Also the Clerk wanted to let everyone know that next year is the Village of Mayville's 150th anniversary and they are planning a celebration. They are having a meeting on July 15th at 5:30 p.m. at Seven Services in Mayville to discuss the celebration and anyone that is interested can attend.

TREASURER REPORT:

Treasurer balance was \$193,790.89 as of June 30, 2013. Motion to accept treasurer report made by A. Holbrook, seconded by J. Welke – motion carried.

Fire Contract - C. Sherwin wanted to start opening up some discussion on the fire contract because it will be up for renewal next year and he feels that we may want to look into making some changes. He feels that we are double dipping the township because we are paying for fire coverage and then we also have to pay the fire department for the individual fire runs even if the township is not able to collect the money. J. Welke asked if C. Sherwin had any suggestions. C. Sherwin stated that he would suggest that we contract with the fire department for the coverage only and that they do the billing themselves. J. Welke stated that he feels that if we do that we run the risk of having the cost increase for coverage. J. Welke also stated that maybe we could come to an agreement so that if the township

does not receive payment on a fire run that maybe we only have to pay half of it to the fire department. J. Welke does not like the idea of the township not doing the billing for the fire runs. J. Welke also stated that maybe we should meet with the Village to discuss the fire contract. It was also brought up about the possibility of doing a special assessment on the taxes to pay for fire protection. I. Barrons asked if we did something like a special assessment if it would be put to a vote of the residents and A. Holbrook stated that if we do a millage it would require an election but if we did a special assessment it would not. I. Barrons commented that she would like to get public input before we did something like this. A. Holbrook agreed with I. Barrons that she would also like to get public input. J. Welke mentioned that there would have to be several public hearings before we could implement a special assessment. Motion by J. Welke, seconded by H. Wymore to send a letter to the Village Clerk and request to meet with the Village Council to review the fire contract – motion carried.

SUPERVISOR REPORT:

Road Report – H. Wymore received a copy of the letter and bid from the Road Commission regarding Ambrose Road that was sent to Lee Wood. At this time there is no cost to the township for this possible roadwork.

NEW BUSINESS:

Board of Review will meet on July 16th at 7 p.m.

H. Wymore stated that the township has not hired a township attorney yet and that he thinks the township should hire Gary Howell's firm because they were the lowest per hour charge and Gary has also worked with our Planning Commission on the Zoning Ordinance. Motion made by H. Wymore, seconded by C. Sherwin to hire Taylor, Butterfield, Howell, Churchill & Jarvis, P.C. as the township attorney. H. Wymore asked the Board if there was any more discussion and I. Barrons commented that she does not think we should hire this firm because it would be a conflict of interest because she knows of a resident in the township that uses this firm as their attorney. Roll call vote: J. Welke-yes, H. Wymore-yes, A. Holbrook-yes, C. Sherwin-yes, I. Barrons-no. Motion carried.

H. Wymore wanted to know if the Board members wanted to add the additional coverage to the insurance policy that was mentioned by Larry Clever from Burnham & Flower. The Board did not feel it was necessary to have accidental death & disability coverage for an additional \$565 but thought that it would be good to add the non-monetary suit defense cost coverage for an additional \$500. Motion made by H. Wymore, seconded by C. Sherwin to add the additional insurance coverage for non-monetary suit defense cost coverage for an additional \$500 – motion carried.

I. Barrons wanted to mention that she had some concerns with the Planning Commission's recommendation for decreasing the easement requirement for a private driveway to 30'. She also thought that it would be a good idea if we consulted with Gary Howell before we make this change as he is the one who worked with the Planning Commission on this ordinance. A. Holbrook stated that she has an email in to Gary to discuss the changes and will get the information to the Board members as soon as she can so that they can have it to review for the August meeting.

BILLS:

Motion to pay the bills by A. Holbrook seconded by C. Sherwin – motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 9:13 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