

Fremont Township Minutes April 13, 2017

The regular meeting for the Fremont Twp. Board of Trustees was held on April 13, 2017, at 7:00 p.m. at the Fremont Township Hall.

Board members present: H. Wymore, A. Holbrook, J. Welke and M. Blatt. Absent: C. Sherwin

Guests: 16

MINUTES:

Without objection or correction the March 9, 2017, meeting minutes were approved. Motion made by M. Blatt, seconded by J. Welke – motion carried

BILLS:

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

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

A Resident asked if they could get a copy of the letter received last month from the County Clerk regarding prayer at meetings. A. Holbrook stated that she would give them a copy after the meeting. This Resident also questioned about an incident they heard about where an election worker pushed someone during the close of the election and what was going to be done about it. A. Holbrook stated that she would address the matter with the election workers and let them know that kind of behavior was not appropriate but that she wasn't aware of an incident like that at the last election. Another Resident asked how many times the cemetery committee has met since the last township board meeting and if we are paying them per hour or per meeting. H. Wymore stated that the committee has met nine times and we currently are not paying them, that is something the Board needs to discuss. This Resident also commented that we should have put a notice in the newspaper asking for people who would be interested in being on the committee instead of just appointing people to the committee. A Resident stated that the ladies that are working on the cemetery records are doing an excellent job and that she wasn't appointed to the committee but she attends the meetings and doesn't expect to be paid. This Resident stated that the cemetery records are very delicate and we cannot have everyone pouring over them. She also stated the township board meetings are public and if people want to be involved in the township that they need to attend the meetings so they know what is going on and they can volunteer. Another Resident stated that the records are very delicate and it is a challenge to decipher them. Another Resident stated that they don't always attend the meetings but that they read the minutes and it is from reading the minutes that they volunteered to help work on the cemetery records.

JOAN FACKLER (Township Assessor):

Joan stated that she has been getting a lot of phone calls from banks and realtors for information from the property record cards. She would like to assist these people and provide better service by making this information available 24/7 via the township website. She stated that BS&A offers this service at no charge to the township. The service is a pay-per-click service so if someone wants the information they would have to pay for it. She stated that we could put a link on the website and in the future if we wanted we could also make the tax bill information available. A Resident asked what information would be available and Joan stated that the record cards are public records so that it would only be the public record information that would be available and that they person doing the search would need to know the parcel number and the property owner in order to get the information. Joan stated that she would like board approval to move forward with this option. Motion made by H. Wymore, seconded by A. Holbrook to allow the Assessor to make available our records to BS&A for online access – motion carried.

CLERK REPORT:

Starting in May the emergency siren will be tested on the first Wednesday of every month.

TREASURER REPORT:

No Treasurer report.

SUPERVISOR REPORT:

Road Report – H. Wymore has talked to the Road Commission to find out what road we need to do in order to take advantage of the \$25,000 matching credit. He received a bid to resurface the paved section of Ambrose Road (Leix Rd. east to pavement end) for \$48,537.00 and to put gravel on Ambrose (east of Leix to Conrad) for \$8,600.00. J. Welke asked if this was our oldest road and H. Wymore stated that it was not but it was the road that the Road Commission recommended so that we can take advantage of the matching credit. Motion made by H. Wymore, seconded by J. Welke to approve the work on Ambrose Road for a total cost of \$57,137.00 – motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS:

Planning Commission met on April 4th and discussed the new medical marijuana law (Medical Marijuana Facilities Licensing Act). The Planning Commission did not make any decisions at this time regarding that issue.

H. Wymore also received a request from the Fowler Center for the Modern Woodsman to be able to use the hall for their meeting in May. The Modern Woodsman is a charitable organization that has given money to the Fowler Center and is looking to open a chapter in our area. A Resident asked if the township would be liable if something were to happen at this meeting and H. Wymore stated that it would fall under our insurance. J. Welke asked if they had tried to use the library. H. Wymore stated that he was not sure but that would be an option for them. J. Welke stated that he would like them to try to meet at the library and not the hall. Motion made by J. Welke, seconded by A. Holbrook to not allow Modern Woodsman to use the hall. Roll call vote: J. Welke-yes, A. Holbrook-yes, M. Blatt-no, H. Wymore-yes. Motion carried. M. Blatt asked if the Fowler Center was in our township and H. Wymore commented no, M. Blatt thought that it was.

H. Wymore stated that we have recently had two storms that took power out for several people and DTE contacted him to see if the hall would be available to people without power. H. Wymore wondered if we should look into getting a generator for the hall in case of a power outage, it could hook up to the propane. H. Wymore also stated that getting a generator for the hall would be cheaper than the cost of getting a back-up battery for the emergency sire and the generator could run the siren if necessary. H. Wymore wondered if he should get some estimates. M. Blatt stated that those kind of generators turn once a week to test and the cost of them is pretty high. J. Welke stated that he thought when they look for places for people to go in outages, it is usually a place with showers facilities, kitchens, etc. and we are not set up for that. Board is not sure at this time if it would be necessary for the hall to have a generator. J. Welke stated that maybe we should check with the Red Cross and see what they have available in the area what they require. A Resident stated that we could also talk to the County Emergency Manager. She stated that they do have a meeting on Monday, April 17th, at the Sheriff's Department at 7pm and everyone is invited to attend.

Lyle Fryers (Zoning Administrator) has a blight issue on Saginaw Road that he has not been able to get a hold of the property owner. He has sent two registered letters but received no response and the person does not live at the property. Lyle stated that the next step would be to have a process server contact the property owner. Motion made by J. Welke, seconded by M. Blatt to have a process server serve papers to this property owner – motion carried.

CEMETERY REPORT:

H. Wymore received an estimate for removal of the dead trees on the south drive of the Fremont Cemetery. Cost is \$1155.00 to take down seven trees, cost does not include grinding the stumps. Motion made by J. Welke, seconded by M. Blatt to accept the bid for \$1155.00 for removal of those seven trees – motion carried.

Cemetery Committee – H. Wymore stated that the committee has 99 hours in so far on working on the cemetery records. He stated that Char Russell and Judy Raymond have the most hours into it as they are the ones entering the information into the computer. H. Wymore stated that he would like to rewrite the cemetery book so that we had a hard copy of the records and that the committee feels the spreadsheet is good enough. H. Wymore stated that he has already purchased a new book cover and feels we should always keep writing in the book. M. Blatt asked if we could just print a copy from the spreadsheet so that we always have a hard copy and A. Holbrook stated yes. J. Welke asked if the spreadsheet could be sorted alphabetically or by lot number. Char Russell stated that the spreadsheet could be sorted several different ways and so we could have it alphabetically or by lot number or by cemetery. Wayne Nelson stated that one of the other townships that he works for has their cemetery records on the computer and every 6 months he gets a new printed copy with the updated information. Judy Raymond suggested that we could print a hard copy from the spreadsheet and also have a blank page to write all the changes and then when that information is entered into the computer we can print and updated copy and destroy that hand written page. Judy Raymond also asked if we could get a book to put the printed copy into so that it is easier to use and A. Holbrook stated that we could. The Board decided that we need to have a hard copy of the cemetery records but that they do not have to be handwritten; we can just print copies from the spreadsheet. M. Blatt asked what we are doing about the hours that the committee has worked and if we are going to pay them? H. Wymore stated that the Board will have to decide on that. M. Blatt asked Char and Judy how much more time they think it will take. Judy stated that they still have the Fremont Cemetery and so it will probably take all summer since they are just working one day a week. Char stated that it all depends on the records because some days they can get a lot done but other days if they are trying to decipher the information they may only get through half a page. The Board will discuss this more at the next meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 8:28 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