

**Fremont Township Minutes
Public Hearing
September 11, 2014**

The Public Hearing for the Fremont Twp. Board of Trustees was held on September 11, 2014, at 6:00 p.m. at the Fremont Township Hall.

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

Guests: 28

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

BRIAN GARNER (Twp. Attorney):

Brian explained the purpose of this public hearing and the process that it has taken to get to this point. He explained that the public hearing was being held to give the Property Owners a chance to comment if they feel that they are being unfairly assessed for the Special Assessment. He also explained that in order for the Property Owners to file a complaint with the tax tribunal that they must either sign the provided sign-in sheet or have given the Board something in writing stating that they protest the amount being assessed. He also stated that at this meeting the Board would pass a resolution to confirm the tax roll.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

A Property Owner asked if they had 2 parcels if they could combine them and just have one \$25 charge. The Attorney said yes that it may not apply to this years taxes but it would apply for next year. Another Property Owner asked if homeowners have insurance to cover fire protection and this Property Owner did not think that it was necessary to have fire coverage. Another Property Owner asked if it could be increased at any time. The Attorney stated that the law states that the Board has the right to increase the amount up to 10% each year with only a notice in the newspaper. However, the Township Board has added that if they want to increase the amount at all, they will notify the Property Owners by mail and hold a public hearing prior to any increase. A Property Owner asked if businesses would be assessed the same fee as homeowners. The Attorney commented that yes every parcel whether a business or homeowner would be assessed the same \$25. Another Property Owner stated that their property is divided into different parcels and they are on a fixed income and do not think they should be charged for each adjoining parcel because what is the difference if there is a fire on one parcel or another. The Attorney told this Property Owner that they could combine the parcels into one and that way they would only have one fee. H. Wymore stated that if we didn't include the vacant land than it would increase the cost for the residences by at least double if not more. Another Property Owners asked if commercial and residence are charged the same rate? The Attorney stated that yes they are because at the last public hearing the people that attended did not want a millage rate. Another Property Owner stated that they feel that we need to have a fire contract for coverage and they don't see anything wrong with the fee, they will just combine their two parcels into one so they have just one fee. This Property Owner thinks that it is fair. Another Property Owner asked how many parcels are in the Township. C. Sherwin stated that in the special assessment district there are 1425 and in the entire township, including the Village of Mayville, there are 2022. Another Property Owner asked if there were to be an increase in the assessment, would it be equal to inflation. C. Sherwin stated that it would depend on the contract that the Township has with the Village of Mayville and that currently the annual increase in the contract for the next three years is ½% per year which is according to the cost of living increase. C. Sherwin stated that the Board feels that is reasonable and will continue to negotiate with the Village of Mayville when the new contract is due. Another Property Owner stated that the Township currently has a three year contract with the Village of Mayville but do we know if the Village has a game plan for the next five or ten years? The Attorney stated that since the Township just contracts with the Village of Mayville, we don't have a say in what their plans are. Another Property Owner asked what the cost is for combining parcels. C. Sherwin stated that the cost is \$15. Another Property Owner asked what would happen if they had a fire and additional

fire departments were called out. It was stated that there would be no additional charge to the property owner. The Fire Departments have mutual aid agreements so that when they need assistance, they can get it without additional costs. With this Special Assessment, the Property Owner will not get a fire bill from the Township or the Fire Department.

Meeting was closed to public comments at 6:49 p.m.

BOARD DISCUSSION:

Motion made by C. Sherwin, seconded by H. Wymore to adopt the Resolution Confirming Special Assessment Roll for Fire Protection as presented. H. Wymore asked for any additional comments from Board Members and J. Welke stated that he would not be voting since he lives in the Village, it would not affect him and so he is going to abstain from voting. I. Barrons stated that if the Board is voting on just confirming the tax roll, than she would vote yes but if they are voting for the fire assessment, she would vote no because she doesn't agree with the process of the fire assessment because she feels it should have went onto a ballot for a public vote. Sine there were no other Board comments, H. Wymore called for a roll call vote: I. Barrons-no, C. Sherwin-yes, A. Holbrook-yes, J. Welke-abstain, H. Wymore-yes. Resolution adopted.

Meeting adjourned at 6:51 p.m.

Amy Holbrook, Fremont Township Clerk