

FREEDOM TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
DRAFT Minutes of the Regular Meeting  
October 10, 2023, 8:00 pm  
In Person at the Freedom Township Hall

**1. Call to Order/Roll Call**

Supervisor Lindemann called the meeting to order at 8:00pm

Members present: Lindemann, Bristle, Layher, Huehl, Schaible absent none 11 were present in the audience.

**2. Pledge of Allegiance**

**3. Change to Agenda:** none

**4. Approval of Minutes:** Moved by Huehl supported by Layher: to Approve the September 12, 2023, Township Board minutes with corrections. Motion carried with all Ayes **CARRIED**

**5. Treasurer's Report:** Moved by Schaible supported by Lindemann: to Approve the September 12, 2023, Treasurer's report. Roll call vote was unanimous. Aye: Schaible, Layher, Huehl, Lindemann, Bristle Nay: none **CARRIED**

**6. Communications:** Supervisor Lindemann reported receiving the fall newsletter from PLPOA and the monthly MTA magazine.

**7. Public Comment:** offered at 8:14pm with six comments. Mike Bossory asked the board before we spend money on the culvert on Eisman Road to look at the one further north. There is no shoulder and dangerous for 2 cars to try and pass. He may get a petition signed by his neighbors to close Eisman Road between Bethel Church and Pfauss Road. Beth Heuser can't understand why the planning commission voted to not update the zoning ordinance for the area around Pleasant Lake.

Matt Little shared the proposed amendment to the zoning ordinance would not be simpler. There would be more requirements for building.

Carol Westfall was bothered by the process and the way the vote went down on the lake zoning proposed changes. After 1 year of research, PC chair and supervisor support, and a public hearing with good feedback, it came to a halt. She thought there would be discussion and tweak the proposed amendment. That did not happen. We need to look at several things, not just the high-water mark but also manage height, grade, and enforcement. We should not wait until the next building project with problems. Would like to see the work of a compromise solution. (Her full statement is attached to the minutes)

Chris Mikesell would like to ask the board to amend the proposal that the planning commission voted on to make no changes to the zoning ordinance. She thought it was a good public hearing with comments of support and concern for the proposed zoning ordinance amendments. The language seemed a little confusing and it would be nice to simplify it. We can't meet all the requests, but we need to address a few because doing nothing is not the answer. The time has been invested, the money spent but the work has not been done to address concerns with zoning around Pleasant Lake.

Hattie Carson shared that branches from a tree between Ron Smith's and Melinda Ring's house were cut up and pushed onto Pickrel Drive. A letter should be sent to Melinda Ring that debris from your own property should not be moved to public property for clean-up.

Public comment closed at 8:41pm.

**8. Reports:**

**State Police/Washtenaw County Sheriff Report:** September Wash. Co. Sheriff Report had 23 calls with 8 handled by the state, 1 county and 13 administratively cleared. There also was 1 animal complaint.

**Manchester Fire Department Report:** August report had 8 calls with 1 fire related, 1 car accident, 5 EMS responses and 1 canceled enroute. September report had 6 calls with 1 false alarm, 1 car accident, 3 EMS responses and 1 canceled enroute.

**Planning Commission report:** Matt Little reported the PC will review gravel pit bonds at the next meeting. A meeting between Stoneco and Bethel Church took place that day and another one is scheduled. The planner suggested the

Planning Commission get a copy of the agreement that will be made between Stoneco and Bethel Church. The Stoneco Conditional Use Application for mining expansion at the Burmeister site is now moved to the next meeting. A report was made of a 4-wheeler seen going into the active pit and wanted to warn people this is not safe and should not be done. Review of Lake District Article 3.0 & Ordinance 43-B was held for about 10 minutes when a motion was made to close the current review of Lake District Article 3.0 & Ordinance 43-B and not modify the current ordinance until future circumstances deem necessary. Discussion continued for 30 minutes when a vote was called, and the motion passed 3-2. Supervisor Lindemann feels it is necessary to establish a high-water mark and a better zoning checklist is needed. A motion was made to recommend the Township Board establish a high-water mark for Pleasant Lake. Review of the master plan was tabled until next meeting. Due to the election the next planning commission meeting will be moved to Thursday, November 9, 2023. A full copy of the PC minutes is available from the clerk or on twp. Website.

**Ordinance Enforcement Officer-** No report for the month of September.

**Zoning Inspector** – There were no zonings issued for the month of September.

**Manchester District Library-** Alex McKay reported the last library meeting did not have a quorum. The board is looking at the 2024 millage proposal and lowering the millage rate. The current millage is at 1.0452 and he is proposing 0.9990.

**Clerk report-** The audit for 2022-2023 should be completed by the end of the month. A draft newsletter will be discussed later in the agenda. There will be an election held November 7<sup>th</sup> for all Manchester School District voters. The clerk statement for the county has been completed and submitted. The clerk held a meeting with the township insurance company and a representative from MTA for a risk audit. There will be information on that at a future meeting. And a FOIA from Tom Pigott requesting information regarding the old Kuebler property/C&T gravel pit and information regarding Stoneco Burmeister gravel pit has been fulfilled.

**Resolution opposing HB 5120, 5121, 5122 & 5123-** These house bills would seek to reduce and potentially eliminate local zoning, administration and ordinances over utility-scale wind and solar facilities, and large battery storage facilities. The following resolution was offered by Bristle and supported by Lindemann: To adopt resolution 23-10 now therefore be it resolved that Freedom Township Board of Trustees oppose the proposed legislation to preempt local control over utility-scale wind and solar facilities found in House Bills 5120, 5121, 5122 & 5123.

Roll call vote was unanimous. Aye: Layher, Schaible, Bristle, Huehl, Lindemann Nay: none **CARRIED**

**Snow Plowing Bids** – Motion by Lindemann supported by Huehl: to have ER Lawn Service be responsible for snow removal at the town hall for 2023-2024 winter months.

Roll call vote was unanimous. Aye Lindemann, Bristle, Huehl, Layher, Schaible Nay: none **CARRIED**

## **9. Unfinished Business:**

**Eisman Road Culvert-** Lindemann shared information he received from the Wash. Co. Road Comm. to repair the Eisman Road culvert, south of Bethel Church Road over trib to River Raisin. He will talk with the Road Commission about the culvert that Mike Bossory brought up during public comment furth north on Eiman Road that may need to be addressed first. Tabled until next meeting.

**Town Hall Blinds** – Supervisor Lindemann gathered several quotes for new blinds for the town hall windows.

Moved by Bristle supported by Layher: to accept the quote from Creative Windows to get new blinds for the windows at the town hall.

Roll call vote was unanimous. Aye Bristle, Huehl, Lindemann, Layher, Schaible Nay: none **CARRIED**

**Fall 2023 Newsletter-** Bristle shared the proposed final draft of the fall newsletter and would suggest using Spectrum Printing in Tecumseh for printing and mailing again.

Moved by Huehl supported by Bristle: To approve the newsletter as presented and use Spectrum Printing for printing/ mailing of the fall 2023 newsletter.

Roll call vote was unanimous. Aye: Schaible, Lindemann, Huehl, Bristle, Layher Nay: none **CARRIED**

**Burn Ordinance-**Currently Freedom Township does not have an open burning ordinance and it was recommended by the Manchester Fire Department. The board would like to review a few other sample ordinances from MTA. Tabled until next meeting.

**Fireworks Ordinance**– Currently, Freedom Township does not have a fireworks ordinance. Tabled until next meeting.

**10. New Business:**

**PA 116 for Fran Adler-** Motion by Bristle and supported by Huehl: to approve Fran Adler's application to put 87ac. on parcel # N-14-35-100-014 in the Farmland and Open Space Preservation Program PA 116.

Roll call vote was unanimous. Aye: Layher, Lindemann, Huehl, Bristle, Schaible Nay: none **CARRIED**

**Setting Ordinary High-Water Mark for Pleasant Lake-** The planning commission voted to recommend the Township Board establish a high-water mark for Pleasant Lake. There was discussion on when the dam/were was put in? Where does the Pleasant Lake Drain start? It would be helpful to speak with the Water Resource Commissioner, the health department and EGLE to get some more information. There should be a committee created to start looking into this.

Moved by Lindemann supported by Huehl: To form a committee for one year with a representative from the Freedom Township board, planning commission and a lake resident to start the research of establishing an ordinary high-water mark for Pleasant Lake. Motion carried with all Ayes **CARRIED**

**11. Warrants:** Moved by Schaible supported by Huehl: To approve the online payments for the 941-tax withholding and warrants 5350-5365 and journal entries.

Roll call vote was unanimous. Aye: Lindemann, Schaible, Bristle, Layher, Huehl Nay: none **CARRIED**

**12. Public Comment:** offered at 10:28pm with one comment. Lon Nordeen shared there has been great support from residents for the SAD renewal and he will present that at next month's meeting. Larry Lindemann said his personal feeling is once you start a treatment like that it is very difficult to stop because the weeds will just come back. Closed at 10:34pm

Adjourned at 10:34pm

Valisa L. Bristle, Clerk, Freedom Township