

FREEDOM TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
DRAFT Minutes of the Regular Meeting  
March 12, 2024, 8:00 pm  
Freedom Township Hall

**BUDGET HEARING**

Supervisor Lindemann called the public hearing to order at 7:32pm

Members present: Lindemann, Bristle, Layher, Huehl, Schaible absent: none 5 was present in the audience.

Supervisor Lindemann asked Clerk Bristle to present the proposed 2024-2025 budget.

Adjourned at 8:10 pm

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

Supervisor Lindemann called the meeting to order at 8:15pm

Members present: Lindemann, Bristle, Layher, Huehl, Schaible absent: none 3 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 February 13, 2024, Township Board minutes with no corrections. Motion carried with all ayes. **CARRIED**

**5. Treasurer's Report:** Moved by Schaible supported by Bristle: to Approve the February 13, 2024, Treasurer's report. Roll call vote was unanimous. Aye: Lindemann, Huehl, Layher, Bristle, Schaible Nay: none **CARRIED**

**6. Communications:** Supervisor Lindemann shared a report from OHM reviewing the water levels from Pleasant Lake in 2023. The average elevation was 954.33. precipitation and drought are likely to affect lake levels.

**7. Public Comment:** offered at 8:33pm with no comments. Public comment closed at 8:33pm.

**8. Reports:**

**State Police/Washtenaw County Sheriff Report:** February Wash. Co. Sheriff Report had 22 calls with 12 handled by the state, 2 county and 8 administratively cleared. There were 2 traffic stops.

**Manchester Fire Department Report:** February report had 3 calls with 1 EMS response, and 2 canceled enroute.

**Planning Commission report:** Matt Little reported on the last PC meeting.

Wolverine Pipeline is looking into putting a fence up at their property. American Aggregates/Levy haul route has been approved. Jessica Roberts wondered why nothing had been done with the grant money the Township received. A gentleman called Matt who is interested in buying property on Ellsworth and Lima Center Roads; it's about 40 acres. There will be a solar presentation on March 18 at the Town hall 7:00 p.m. Postiff Boundary Adjustments- there are a lot of issues. They are working to get things completed. Cappaert-Boone Land Split- because it is an LLC we need to find out if Marc D Boone has the authority to authorize this land division application, this will be on next month's meeting agenda. Stoneco Conditional Use Application for mining expansion at Burmeister site. An updated site map was sent to Engineer Marcus McNamara. Stoneco was asked to forward the new site map and an explanation of what is being changed to both Marcus and Rodney. Barn Sanctuary PUD- The new information was given to the Planning Commission members to look over and will be discussed at the next meeting. Review Commercial Renewable Energy Installations and Master Plan Review. Gravel Pit Tour will be April 20<sup>th</sup>. A full copy of the PC minutes is available from the clerk or on the township website.

**Ordinance Enforcement Officer-** Austin reported sending 1 violation letter for the month of February to Tony Griffith with the first citation fee of \$100 for junk in the yard and unregistered vehicles.

**Zoning Inspector** – Jim submitted 1 zoning for the month of February. A pool at 270 S. Lima Center Road.

**Manchester District Library-** No report. Alex McKay submitted his resignation as the Freedom Township Delegate on the Manchester Library Board because he is moving out of the township. A notice will be posted on the township website that we are looking for a new delegate.

**Clerk report-** Election results for the presidential primary held on February 27, 2024, were as follows: 379 ballots cast with 17 early votes, 119 absent voters, and 243 voted in-person. Bristle completed the budget and presented it during the public hearing, and it will be approved later in the agenda. The clerk meeting today went over deadlines and details for the upcoming elections in 2024. Bristle will work with the township auditor to schedule the 2023-2024 audit. Neil Weidmayer has submitted a ZBA variance application, but more information is needed before a hearing can be set.

Motion by Lindemann and seconded by Huehl: to approve the Clerk to spend up to \$600 on a document scanner and \$200 on two external drives for the clerk and treasurer computers.

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

**9. Unfinished Business: NONE**

**10. New Business:**

**Salaries 2024-2025-** Supervisor Lindemann recommended to increase the Supervisor's and Treasurer's salary by \$1,000, Clerk's salary by \$5,000, Deputies pay by \$2/hour, Planning Commission Chair salary by \$700, Election Inspector pay by \$2/hour, Board of Review pay by \$1/hour, Ordinance Enforcement Officer salary by \$200, Zoning Inspector salary by \$200, and Town Hall Manager salary by \$200.

The following resolution was offered by Bristle and seconded by Layher: To adopt resolution 2024-03 to establish township officer's salaries. Now therefore it be resolved that as of 4-1-2024 the salaries of the township board members are as follows: Supervisor \$24,000.

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

The following resolution was offered by Huehl and seconded by Schaible: To adopt resolution 2024-04 to establish township officer's salaries. Now therefore it be resolved that as of 4-1-2024 the salaries of the township board members are as follows: Clerk \$28,000.

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

The following resolution was offered by Huehl and seconded by Bristle: To adopt resolution 2024-05 to establish township officer's salaries. Now therefore it be resolved that as of 4-1-2024 the salaries of the township board members are as follows: Treasurer \$24,000.

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

The following resolution was offered by Layher and seconded by Lindemann: To adopt resolution 2024-06 to establish township officer's salaries. Now therefore it be resolved that as of 4-1-2024 the salaries of the township board members are as follows: Trustees \$235.00 per meeting.

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

**2023-2024 Budget-**The following resolution was offered by Bristle and seconded by Huehl: To adopt resolution 2024-07 now therefore be it further resolved that the total revenues and un-appropriated fund be amended for the 2023-2024 fiscal year. The following funds increased Road Commission Contract to \$120,719, Election Wages to \$10,521, Election Supplies to \$3,266, Mowing/Snow Plowing \$6,579, Phone to \$3,211, Audit to \$14,500, Cleaning Supplies to \$430, and Drain Fees \$12,938 for a total increase of \$90,914.00.

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

**2024-2025 Budgets-**The following resolution was offered by Lindemann and supported by Layher: To adopt resolution 2024-08 now therefore be it resolved the Freedom Township Board of Trustees adopts the 2024-2025 General Fund fiscal year budget by cost center.

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

The following resolution was offered by Bristle and supported by Schaible: To adopt resolution 2024-09 now therefore be it resolved the Freedom Township Board of Trustees adopts the 2024-2025 Public Improvement Fund budget by cost center.

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

The following resolution was offered by Bristle and supported by Layher: To adopt resolution 2024-10 now therefore be it resolved the Freedom Township Board of Trustees adopts the 2024-2025 Road Millage budget by cost center. Roll call vote was unanimous. Aye: Huehl, Lindemann, Layher, Schaible, Bristle      Nay: none      **CARRIED**

**Chris Brooks/Else Heller Property Clean-Up-** The property at 11445 Waters Road is once again in violation of our township ordinances. 5+ citations have been written to the tenant and property owner in 2022-2023 for blight issues and unregistered vehicles. Currently there are still unpaid citation fees, and the junk piles are returning.

Moved by Bristle supported by Lindemann: To approve contacting the township attorney and pursuing legal action towards Else Heller property owner of 11445 Waters Road for repeat zoning ordinance violations. Roll call vote was unanimous.      Aye: Layher, Lindemann, Bristle, Huehl, Schaible      Nay: none      **CARRIED**

**ARPA Funds-** The township has been awarded American Rescue Plan Act funds to be used for varies local projects, one being road projects. Currently our account has \$156,559.88 in it.

Moved by Schaible supported by Layher: To allocate our ARPA funds to road and culvert projects within Freedom Township. Roll call vote was unanimous.      Aye: Huehl, Layher, Schaible, Bristle, Lindemann      Nay: none      **CARRIED**

The 2024 Road Contract will be on next month's agenda.

Moved by Lindemann supported by Bristle: To purchase a \$150 gift card from the Hungry Wolf for Aaron Helber for all his assistance and knowledge in helping set up the av equipment at the town hall. Roll call vote was unanimous.      Aye: Bristle, Layher, Schaible, Lindemann, Huehl      Nay: none      **CARRIED**

**11. Warrants:** Moved by Schaible supported by Huehl: To approve the online payments for the 941-tax withholding and warrants 5464-5492 and journal entries. Roll call vote was unanimous.      Aye: Huehl, Schaible, Bristle, Lindemann, Layher      Nay: none      **CARRIED**

**12. Public Comment:** offered at 10:18pm with one comment. Ryan Baumgart introduced himself as a candidate running for County Commissioner for District 3. Closed at 10:28pm

Adjourned at 10:28pm  
Valisa L. Bristle, Clerk, Freedom Township