

# RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Minutes of

Freedom Township Board of Trustees

Meeting

GOVERNMENT FORMS & SUPPLIES 844-224-3338 FORM NO. 10148

Held December 13, \_\_\_\_\_ 2023

The Board of Trustees of Freedom Township met on the above date. Trustees, Kent Schuerman, and Richard Rahe were present. Trustee Bruning was absent. Also present were Fiscal Officer, Julie Getz, Road Superintendent, Robert Rentz, and Fire Chief, Duane Martin. Guests included Assistant Prosecuting Attorney, Joyce Nowak, Village of Pemberville Mayor, Carol Bailey, and Denny Henline.

Kent Schuerman called the meeting to order.

*Mr. Rahe moved to approve the minutes of the November 22, 2023 meeting, seconded by Mr. Schuerman, Rick YES, Kent YES, motion carried.*

**Bills and Payroll** were presented. *A motion to accept the bills and payroll was made by Mr. Rahe, seconded by Mr. Schuerman, Rick YES, Kent YES, motion carried.*

**Receipts** were presented. *A motion to accept the receipts was made by Mr. Rahe, seconded by Mr. Schuerman, Rick YES, Kent YES, motion carried.*

**FUND REPORTS** – Fund reports were presented and reviewed. All reports were presented on TV Screen.

**FIRE** – Chief Martin reported that the new tires are on the squad. Also, 1 tire blew out on the engine and needed to be replaced. Speck Sales did the replacement. Duane also reported that there is a meeting with the local fire chiefs and the Wood County Sheriff's department regarding Mark Wasylyshyn's proposed CAD communications program. Chief Martin believes the current proposal includes a \$45.00/month fee and after 5 years the cost would increase to \$1,000.00/month. He will report at the next meeting.

Chief Martin presented his proposal for raises for the Fire & EMS responders at the Pemberville Freedom Fire Department. He said the proposal for increases is in line with area departments and that he calculates it will increase payroll by approximately \$2,500.00 per month. Trustee Schuerman said he believes that, at some point, the area will have to go to a fire district since the costs of maintaining a department have increased considerably in the last few years. The board discussed the presentation and tabled the issue until the next meeting.

Duane said, for the first time in history, the department reached 400 emergency responses for 1 year.

**Guests** – Mayor, Carol Bailey, appeared before the board to discuss some issues with **Village and Township property located along Water Street between the bridge and Bridge Street.** Trustee Schuerman began by explaining the position of the township. The minutes of 1912 said that the township owns a tract of land in the Village of Pemberville to build a maintenance building. (The actual resolution including that statement is from November 14, 1919) He told Ms. Bailey that it is the intention of the township to sell the property on Water Street.

Mayor Bailey indicated that they are expecting a survey to be done this week regarding the new bridge project on Bridge Street. She said that the Village's attorney, Robert Kuhlman, believes there are limitations on the conveyance of property to the township.

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Joyce Nowak said that the legal description of parcel D16-512-100223003000, at the corner of Bridge Street and Water Street where the township hall currently sits is not a good description and the property will need to be surveyed for a legal description everyone agrees to.

Trustee Rahe would like the 4 parcels along Water Street, D16-512-100223003000; D16-512-100223002000; D16-512-100223005001 and D16-512-100223001001, to be combined into 1 parcel.

Joyce Nowak said that since there are currently 2 different owners the attorneys will want to get together to decide the most effective way to go about the transaction.

There was discussion about the fact that the 4 parcels involved are in the flood plain. Attorney Nowak would like a copy of the flood plain map.

**Discussion moved on to an issue with the maintenance of Kesson Road.** Mayor Bailey said that since the road butts up to the Village, the Village would be responsible to maintain the road.

Attorney Nowak stated that there is a statute that would allow a township or village to assess a percentage of the cost to the property owners who cause the most damage.

Trustee Schuerman discussed the conditions caused by North Branch Nursery in comparison to the other 2 property owners on the road.

Mayor Bailey stated that North Branch Nursery currently gets its electric from the village but does not use village water. Once they get water from the village they will need to annex to the village.

Trustee Schuerman stated that Kesson Road is the line between Freedom Township and the Village of Pemberville.

Mayor Bailey indicated that there are several surveys of the area that are different.

Joyce Nowak said that she has some documents from Ryan Crum at Wood County.

Trustee Schuerman suggested that the documents be gathered from the county before proceeding with a decision about maintenance to Kesson Road.

Ms. Nowak told Mayor Bailey that she would like to take a look at the annexation agreement to be able to show that Freedom Township is not responsible for repairing Kesson Road.

**Discussions moved on to the question of a possible easement through the township's property located at 525 E. Front Street for the purpose of providing water to County-Line Co-op located directly behind and adjacent to the property.**

Mayor Bailey stated that County-Line Co-op is responsible for getting the easement so the Village can provide them with water. She said that the village has thought about getting the easement from the waste water treatment plant across Jim Smith's property to County-Line Co-

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realize the easement was going to belong to the Co-op. Mr. Rahe, referring to the recent water and sewer line work along E. Front Street, said that the Board would like to tear out the rest of the asphalt to the road so that there is only 1 seam in the asphalt at the end of the drive. Of course, Freedom Township would pay for the additional cost.

**GUEST** – Denny Henline appeared before the board regarding a couple of matters. First, since he is the owner of Home Town Realty, he has had a couple of people ask him if he knows the intention of the township with regard to the property on Water Street. However, since he heard the discussions regarding the issues with the property he understands what is happening.

Mr. Henline commented on the previous discussion regarding Kesson Road and said that North Branch Nursery has no obligation to annex to the village.

Second, he would like to pursue putting an ice rink behind the fire station. He said he would like to do something for the community and he believes having things for kids to do in town is a good way to bring the community together. The board said that they would allow the rink behind the fire station if Denny could get a zoning permit from the village. They signed a document allowing him to request the permit.

**ROADS** – Mr. Rentz requested that a key to the maintenance section of the building be given to Dean Schuerman since he will be assisting with snow removal and also does work for the township as needed. The Board agreed. They also took inventory of who has a key to the building. Trustee Schuerman suggested that Julie prepare a master list of the individuals holding a key to the building.

Bob reported that he got a price from Ag-Pro in Findlay for a new loader for the tractor in the amount of \$9,416.93. He said that they would not give him a trade-in value for the original loader. Trustee Schuerman contacted Tyler at Ag-Pro in Wood County to come out and give the township a quote on the smaller loader. Trustee Rahe said that Ag-Pro should make an even trade for the smaller loader at no cost to the township since the loader they put on the tractor is too large and makes in unstable.

Mr. Rentz requested that the township purchase a welder and new set of torches. The board instructed him to get some prices to present at the next meeting along with prices for a new air compressor.

Bob reported that the sign trailer has a broken spring that will need to be replaced. He also reported that Kim Long asked if he could have some of the dirt from the excavation for the new building. The board declined his request.

Mr. Rentz requested that the board consider giving Jacob Hostottle a raise for next year to keep him as an employee. The request was tabled.

**CEMETERIES** – Mr. Rentz reported that a lady called him and complained that the township does not allow more than 2 cremations in 1 plot.

**OLD BUSINESS** – Julie presented a resolution for the board to sign to allow the Wood County

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stated that he looked at the results of the election and found that the unincorporated portion of votes was a NO. Therefore, he suggested that the board proceed with some sort of zoning limiting distribution of marijuana. Further discussion was tabled.

Julie shared the Wood County Township Association email requesting updated email addresses of all members. She also shared the Ohio Township Association survey request.

There being no further business coming before the board, Trustee Schuerman adjourned the meeting until Friday, December 29, 2023 at 7:00 A.M.

  
Chairman

  
Fiscal Officer