

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Minutes of

Freedom Township Board of Trustees

Meeting

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

Held October 9, 2024

The Board of Trustees of Freedom Township met on the above date. Trustees, David Bruning, Rick Rahe and Kent Schuerman were present. Also present were Fiscal Officer, Julie Getz, Fire/EMS Chief, Duane Martin and Road Superintendent, Robert Rentz. Guests included Tom Oberhouse, Village Mayor, Carol Bailey, Village Counsel Member, Susie Rahe, Attorney, Joyce Nowak and, Zoning Consultant, Brooke Hahn.

Chairman, David Bruning called the meeting to order at 8:02 A.M.

Mr. Rahe moved to approve the minutes of the September 25, 2024 meeting, seconded by Mr. Schuerman; Bruning yes, Rahe yes, Schuerman 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, Bruning yes, Rahe yes, Schuerman yes, motion carried.

Receipts were presented. A motion to accept the receipts was made by Mr. Rahe, seconded by Mr. Schuerman, Bruning yes, Rahe yes, Schuerman yes, motion carried.

FUND REPORTS – Fund reports were presented, reviewed and approved.

GUESTS – DISCUSSION OF IMPROVEMENT OF KESSON ROAD – Attorney Nowak began by explaining information about the ORC Annexation statute. She indicated that, unless the Village has documentation demonstrating that the Village of Pemberville specifically annexed the whole road, the road is shared by the village and the township. She has a commissioner's survey from 1946 showing that the annexation boundary appears to go to the centerline of Kesson Road, making it a shared road. In 1969 a new law was enacted which prohibits annexations with boundary lines dividing or segmenting a street and highway. Nowak stated that the law does not have retroactive language in it.

Mayor Bailey said that the village and township have always shared the road. Mr. Schuerman said that the township has done road work on the road in the past. Mr. Rahe and Mr. Bruning agreed. Mr. Schuerman asked Ms. Nowak if the ODOT mileage record included Kesson road. She said it appears to. Mr. Schuerman asked if the Wood County Engineer's office can do an estimate of cost on the road since it is shared with the village. Ms. Nowak said that she would contact John Musteric at the county and find ask about the process on a road shared with a village.

Mr. Schuerman asked Tom Oberhouse how many lines of service he has from the village. Mr. Oberhouse said that he has 1 electric service from the village. Mr. Schuerman asked Mayor Bailey if North Branch Nursery would have to annex to the village for that 1 line of service. Mr. Schuerman went on to express his concerns in that he was forced to sign an annexation agreement if he wanted 1 line of electric service for his property on Kahler Road and why the village didn't annex North Branch Nursery. Mr. Schuerman remarked that North Branch Nursery should be annexed to the village.

Mr. Schuerman asked Mr. Oberhouse if there is any tile going across Kesson Road. Mr. Oberhouse indicated that there are 4 lines across the road that are 4 ft. deep. North Branch did 2 road cuts and repaired 1 of the 2.

Mayor Bailey and Mr. Schuerman agreed that Freedom Township should take the lead on the road repair. Mr. Rahe asked if it could be turned into a stone road. Discussion followed regarding what type of road repair could/should be done. Mayor Bailey indicated that, in addition to North Branch Nursery, there are 2 more houses on Kesson Road. Mr. Bruning suggest that Jason Sisco come to the next township meeting.

Attorney Nowak suggested that if the township can show that the traffic from North Branch Nursery exclusively caused the damage to the road, statute may provide options or recourse if available to include Mr. Oberhouse's cooperation via a formal agreement to upgrade from

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normal repairs or possible assessments on the abutting real estate according to the benefits accruing, if statute covers it for township roads.

FIRE – New Business – CLASS - Chief Martin explained that Mykel Jahna took, and passed, a fire instructor training class and requested that, in accordance with township policy, Mr. Jahna be reimbursed for 50% of the cost. *Mr. Schuerman moved that the township pay 50% of the cost of the class according to policy. Trustee Rahe seconded the motion; Roll Call: Bruning Yes; Rahe Yes; Schuerman Yes; motion carried.*

REQUEST – Duane request that the township purchase 3 new office chairs for the department. The request was approved.

BWC GRANT – Chief Martin explained that the Bureau of Worker’s Comp is offering a \$40,000.00 grant and the department would like to apply for the grant to purchase some new battery-operated tools. The total cost would be \$64,000.00 so the township would be responsible to cover \$24,000.00. Trustee Rahe said it is much needed equipment and is a good idea. The board agreed to applying for the grant.

NEW APPLICANTS – Chief Martin presented 3 new applications for employment at the Fire/EMS department. Jason Phillips who moved from Michigan and has transferred his EMT license from Michigan and is waiting for his Fire certification to transfer; Ross Welling who is a basic EMT and has his fire certification; Aaron Brooks who is Fire Certified and is planning to get EMT license. *Trustee Rahe moved to accept all 3 applicants on a probationary period. Trustee Schuerman seconded the motion; Roll Call: Bruning Yes; Rahe Yes; Schuerman Yes; motion carried.*

ROADS – No Report.

CEMETERY – FOUNDATIONS - Mr. Rentz reported that the cemetery foundations will be poured tomorrow. Mr. Rahe asked Bob to figure out the costs to see if the township is breaking even or losing money.

DISINTERMENT – Attorney Nowak reported that the Cemetery Board and Township Waivers of Notice of Application to Disinter Remains have been provided to Ms. Nachtraub for her to file with the Wood County Probate Court.

ZONING – ZONING COMMISSION – Zoning Consultant, Brooke Hahn, reported that the Zoning Commission is going to be working on Article 8 of the zoning manual and she would like input from the board. She and the board discussed the current requirements and possible changes. Mr. Bruning would like to leave the decision to the Commission and Mr. Schuerman would like the requirements to remain the same. Mr. Rahe discussed the size requirements for residential parcels and expressed his concern that, eventually, the township will have to get water and sewer. Mrs. Hahn said that she would check with Dave Stiener at the county to see what other townships are doing.

EXECUTIVE SESSION – *Trustee Bruning moved to move into executive session to discuss pending or imminent litigation and to discuss the sale of township property. Trustee Schuerman seconded the motion and invited Julie Getz and Joyce Nowak to stay; Roll Call: Bruning Yes; Rahe Yes; Schuerman Yes; motion carried.*

Trustee Rahe moved to move out of executive session. Trustee Bruning seconded the motion; Roll Call: Bruning Yes; Rahe Yes; Schuerman Yes; motion carried.

GENERAL OLD BUSINESS – 911 RESOLUTION – After final review of the resolution, *Trustee Rahe moved to approve and sign the 911 Resolution. Trustee Schuerman seconded the motion;*

Roll Call: Bruning Yes; Rahe Yes; Schuerman Yes; motion carried.

NORTHWEST WATER & SEWER DISTRICT – Mrs. Getz presented the ballot and resolution for the election of a member to sit on the board representing the townships. *Trustee Rahe moved to vote for Steve Arnold and sign the attached resolution. Trustee Bruning seconded the motion; Roll Call: Bruning Yes; Rahe Yes; Schuerman Yes; motion carried.*

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There being no further business coming before the board, Trustee Bruning adjourned the meeting until Wednesday, October 23, 2024 at 7:30 P.M.

ABSENT
David Bruning, Chairman


Fiscal Officer


Richard Rahe, Vice Chairman


Kent Schuerman, Trustee