

**Fredonia Township Special Meeting  
May 8, 2020 6:30 PM  
Teleconference/Electronic Meeting**

**MINUTES**

---

**BOARD MEMBERS** present:  Doug Damon, Supervisor  Cathy Combs, Clerk  JC Skowron, Treasurer  Ken Huestis, Trustee  Terry Day, Trustee

**STAFF** present:  Phil Damon, Fire Chief  Dianna Baker, Deputy Clerk/Cemetery Sexton  Pamela Jo Eastman, IT  Jacob Washburn, Deputy Supervisor/FD Training Officer  Dan Livingston Sr., Calhoun County Planning Commission  George Crandall, Twp. Planning Committee;  Robert Hawley, Zoning Administrator/Ordinance Officer

**CALL TO ORDER: 6:35 PM**

**AGENDA** – Additions/Deletions: None

**PUBLIC COMMENT: – ONLY FOR ITEMS ON THE AGENDA: NONE**

---

**NEW BUSINESS:**

1. Temporary cost cutting measures/cutting of positions: Doug advised that with the coronavirus that has spread across the United States crippling our nation in many ways. The State of Michigan has been one of the hardest hit states in the nation, and negative impacts are being felt in all local municipalities including our township. The long term effects remain to be seen, but we trust it won't be as long as some analysts have projected. However, we as the Fredonia Township Board have considered our options and will be implementing cost cutting measures. Positions to consider reducing their salary by \$50 per month are: Supervisor; Clerk; Treasurer; Fire Chief; Assistant Fire Chief and Fire Captains (4). Eliminated positions include: Cemetery Sexton and IT. These changes would take effect immediately; however, each position will receive their current salary through the end of May 2020. We as a board are not pleased to make this announcement.

To provide cost cutting measures due to the financially impacting the township from COVID 19 thru taxes, licensing revenue sharing, etc. Cathy moved to eliminate the IT and Sexton position as those functions can be handled by other individuals at no charge presently. Effective immediately, IT shall not have access to any township computer through any means (including website), IT shall provide Fredonia Township with all passwords, remote monitoring devices, cameras, computers, printers, processors, hardware, software programs, IT equipment of any kind including but not limited to flash drives containing Township information and/or records, printed information (unless properly received through a FOIA request), files, receipts, registers, journal entries, and other information relating to a Township Board and/or staff position, and any additional information owned by Fredonia Township or accessed through Fredonia Township by means of the IT position.

The sexton shall immediately provide all cemetery plans/layouts, lot descriptions, lot owner cards/boards, contracts, listing of sales in progress or requests for lots to purchase, in progress burials/cremains, copies of mowing contracts, and any additional information owned by Fredonia Township, etc.

Both positions will receive their current salary thru May 31, 2020. Discussion held and Doug recommended paying salary for IT Pamela Eastman and Sexton Dianna Baker thru May 8 so they could possibly apply for unemployment on Monday. Board agreed to vote on motion as read. Terry supported motion. Roll call vote: Cathy-yes; JC-yes; Terry-yes; Ken-yes; Doug-no. Motion carried. Discussion held on the reducing employees and elected officials salaries. Gerry Diver advised that the salary of elected officials cannot be reduced in the middle of their term. Doug advised that more investigation will take place prior to reducing salaries for positions prior to a vote.

2. Board Members named to meet with employees: Doug suggested that a vote naming the 2 board members who would meet with IT and Sexton with having their items returned to township. Doug made motion and Terry supported to have them meet with Pamela and Dianna. Roll call vote: Doug-yes; JC-yes; Terry-yes; Cathy-yes; Ken-yes. Motion carried unanimously.

---

**Public Comments made and noted as follows:**

\*More discussion held on reducing elected officials pay.

---

**Supervisor Doug Damon adjourned the meeting at 7:12 PM**

Minutes prepared by Cathy Combs

---

_____	5/15/2020
<b>Cathy Combs, Township Clerk</b>	<b>Date</b>

---

_____	_____
<b>Doug Damon, Township Supervisor</b>	<b>Date</b>