

DRAFT

IRVING TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETING MINUTES

MAY 17, 2023

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll call – Doug Sokolowski, Mike Buehler, Dean Bass, Jamie Knight, Sharon Olson.

Knight, add two items to agenda. Unfinished Business – Dust Control, New Business – Wish-a-Mile.

Motion by Knight, seconded by Buehler approve agenda with additions. All in favor “Ayes”. Opposed, “None”. Motion passed.

Minutes from last month, Sokolowski, Treasurer Report there was an error, header was from previous month. It has since been corrected. Clerk has a corrected copy, corrected in hallway and in the treasurer book.

Motion by Knight, seconded by Buehler to approve the Minutes from April 24. All in favor “Ayes”. Opposed, “None”. Motion passed.

Public Comment – None.

Unfinished business. Knight, Internet Update. Knight informed MEI of interest in service. MEI breaking ground in this area in June and activate people starting fall. Next for the township, MEI to issue a contract that outlines the terms and monthly recurring costs. Update at a later date. Olson, why the significant fee added to MEI. Sokolowski, the fee is roughly \$12,100. We were not part of the grant issued for MEI service. For them to help us, it will cost more in time and equipment. The amount has not changed from when they presented it mid-last year. They've held true to their price. Olson, residents are being charged a hook-up and monthly, \$60. Sokolowski, the residents are part of the grant, and we are not. Our monthly fee is \$250 because we are a business and not a resident.

Olson, wondering if we can ask the county to help cover the cost. They've helped with other townships. Sokolowski, to be considered for those dollars, you also have to contribute. There's no guarantee that what you contribute, you'll get back. Sokolowski, I really think we are better off if we want the service, to pay the \$12,000 without going to the county.

Olson, John Smelker not here; however, county commissioners helped with the water tower, and I wonder if they would be willing to help us with our funds. Sokolowski, it really becomes a strategic decision of the board. Do we want fiber? What benefit does fiber provide us? Obviously, there's a benefit to the function in the office. But there is the benefit, if we choose to go that route, that citizens can come in during office hours and use our fiber who have enough bandwidth, that citizens could sit here use that fiber. There is a plus if that is the direction the board wants to go, but there is a significant upfront investment.

Knight, we did not get a final price on Starlink. Sokolowski, you cannot reach them by phone. The price is \$250 a month for business, in addition, the equipment cost to go on the roof is approximately \$9,000.

Bass, Starlink is cheaper. But that's not as comprehensive as the fiber optics that MEI is providing. Starlink uses broadband as well as fiber optics, and MEI does for certain areas in this township. MEI is ahead of the game if they continue with what they say they're going to do and stay with their guidelines. They haven't been good in the past. I do believe they are a step ahead of Starlink. Hughesnet also uses broadband and that process of communication is slow.

Knight, this was just a letter of interest. We have not signed a contract yet. Sokolowski, it gets us on the list for August timeframe. Olson, thanks for the discussion. I couldn't understand why they would ask us to contribute so much to the project.

Shelley Lake, I just want to let you know at the recent commissioner's meeting, two townships officially asked for funds to help them hook up. If you want, I can talk to them. Also, do you have a copy of the grant from MEI? Or, has anyone seen it? Sokolowski, no. That would be at the county level. We didn't participate in it.

Freeport Fire Department Contract. Sokolowski, before we get into the contract, I would like to make a statement. It is typed and in your packets. I will not read the whole thing. I want to start off by saying that every time we discuss Freeport Fire Department, it quickly degenerates into an emotional instead of a factual discussion. It makes me feel bad because I don't have a trust issue with Freeport.

The reality is this board isn't to conduct its business by trust. We cannot produce oversight and fiscal responsibility if we just say we're doing it because we trust somebody. As a matter of fact, that's not in any rule or regulation that we can forego our responsibility, just because we trust. The other part that I want to correct, because I think it was a misleading statement made at the end of the last board meeting. There was a comparison made between the \$58,000 that we pay Freeport every year for fire protection and the \$20,000 asked for to do the basement. I think that is really an unfair comparison. If you look at the chart I produced, *included in meeting packet*, Freeport has received in the last five years \$437,000 from us, and that is 43% of the money we paid to all fire departments.

In addition, they only cover 29% of our taxable value. I think that they have received a decent share of money. In the same timeframe, we have invested less than \$25,000 in the interior of this building in five years. To compare that we want to spend \$20,000 to maintain this asset to the \$58,000 we pay per year to Freeport was a very unfair comparison. Take a look at the

chart. It lists all three fire departments. It has how much we pay each one over the five years. It has a taxable value, the percentage of that taxable value they protect. I really think that was a misleading comment at the end of the meeting, and I wanted to set the record straight and be transparent for our citizens.

Knight, the Freeport fire meeting is tonight. We do not have a representative here tonight to discuss this with us or present the contract. Does anybody have any questions that they want to discuss on this contract? Sokolowski, once again, I provide the same comments I made last month, we are ignored by the Freeport Fire Department and their new version of the contract. My comments I stand. I don't know why this board, especially with the latest statistics I just provided, would not insist that elected members of this board sit on the Freeport Fire Board. My point is that if we are giving that kind of money to Freeport, we should have an elected official from this board sitting on that board, and that is how we exercise oversight.

Bass, the contract provides for that. If anyone wants to sit in on the Freeport Board Meetings, they are welcome to do so. Sokolowski, that is a true statement but only as an audience member. I am looking for our township to have a voting right on the board because that is how you exercise oversight, and not by attending a meeting as an audience member. Knight how is it different than Thornapple. Sokolowski, I confirm with Eric and with the chief at the very next meeting. We are NOT an audience participant; we are an active participant. The only thing we don't have is a voting right, but we sit at the table. We can participate in conversations. We can help make decisions based on what's good for our township. I talked to both Eric and the chief and when it comes time for renewing our contract, they are open to giving us a voting position on that board.

Sokolowski, I would like to go through each of the comments on the contract. We don't need Freeport here to take a vote on each of the points to get on record where the board member stands. Because, what's going to happen next month, Freeport/Lani who is supposed to be the Irving Township Representative will negotiate on behalf of Freeport, which I still believe is a conflict of interest.

So, the first one is in paragraph two, where it says it cannot drop below 1.25 mills. I don't think we should have a minimum here. Depending on how we renew the millage 2026, we could end up, again, paying more to Freeport than we collect. It should be based on the current millage collected. Because what will happen in 2026, we have two choices, we can renew the millage which will renew at the current millage rate with the Headlee reductions, or we can renew it and then also increase it back to 1.5. So, it's known as a renewal and increase. And that might be a little bit harder to get past the citizens because it is technically an increase. I don't think we should let Freeport tell us that we can't pay them less than 1.25. We should be allowed to pay them what we collect.

If we vote for that anything in excess of what we collect must come from the general fund, it cannot come from the jurisdiction and that's very clear in the law. If we choose to pay them more than we collected on fire millage, we must pay the difference out of the general fund.

Sokolowski, suitable to say, that during the term of this contract funding from Irving Township for emergency services shall be one and a half mil (1.5) of taxable value in the service area listed above minus at the Headlee rollback.

Sokolowski, Freeport has always billed s 1.25 or 1.5. They've always collected more than we've collected since Headlee started. That is why they've gotten so much money while the other fire departments haven't done that to us.

Motion by Sokolowski, seconded by Olson, to drop the words ... to not drop below 1.25 mils minus the Headlee rollback.

Sokolowski, we should be dictating the terms that are acceptable to Irving Township and not Freeport dictating to us.

Buehler, if you don't pay them and it drops below 1.25 And there's money left from the millage where does that go into just the firefighters. Sokolowski, there won't be money left in there. In the way this would be structured, they would always get what we collect. The only surplus that would be created is the fact that Birch and Thornapple don't collect from us that amount. They leave the surplus, not Freeport. And yes, it would go into 206 as a surplus.

Bass, is this punishment for the comments made at the last meeting? Sokolowski, no. Bass is this to punish Freeport for not going along with your terms. Sokolowski, I don't look at this as punishment. I look at this as proper oversight and a contract. Why would you want to sign a contract Dean that pays out more than we collect?

Bass, you want to reduce their amount, but you paid them a surplus. Sokolowski, I don't want to reduce anything Dean. I want to pay Freeport only what we collect. And the fact that we had a surplus, Freeport benefitted from that surplus even though the surplus was created by Birch and Thornapple. We paid a surplus based on taxable value. So, Freeport got extra money, even though they've been collecting the max amount of money over what we collect. No one's being punished. We are negotiating a contract. The fact you would insinuate that I would be childish enough to punish somebody is ridiculous Dean. Bass, your words not mine.

Buehler, does this take money out of their budget that they've already been budgeted for this year? Sokolowski, no. If you read the verbiage, we will be paying them what we collect along with the Headlee will 1.4, greater than the 1.25.

Knight, roll call vote. Bass, no. Sokolowski, yes. Knight, no. Buehler, no. Olson, yes. Motion, fails.

Sokolowski, next comment regarding contract, paragraph 8. I questioned this at the last meeting. I was told they would check it. I question it again now. Rural If you read this, it says by Freeport Rural Fire Association will not be liable for damages for any injury suffered by anyone in his or her person or property. Whether same, shall we so out of an act of omission by Freeport Rural Fire Association, or any of its officers, agents, representatives, employees. My question is, if they put a liability clause in here that protects them, then who is liable? My thought is that it will be Irving Township because we signed the contract. Knight, she (Lani) spoke to their attorney about it. Knight let's come back to this.

Sokoloski, the next one is that it's a minor thing. In paragraph nine it says that monthly and annual reports from the FRFRA chief will be made available to Irving Township. I think that to set expectations, we need to get the verbiage ... one week prior to the Irving Township Board Meeting.

Motion Sokoloski, Knight, seconded. add text, will be made available one week prior to the Irving Township board meeting. All in favor, "Ayes". Bass, "No". Motion passed.

Bass, this board doesn't even provide information to its trustees one week before the meeting. I get the information about what we're going to meet about on the day of the meeting. It's usually tossed in front of me when I sit down. So why this requirement for the fire department. Olson, we can't provide it if we don't have it. Sokolowski, I provide my treasury report one week in advance. I don't know who's not providing the data.

There are changes in 10. It may not be necessary. But I always heard there's a difference between the word shall and the word must. It says Freeport Rural Fire Department shall provide.

Motion by Sokolowski, seconded by Knight, change wording to must provide the Irving Township board with Freeport Rural Fire Department's annual budget. All in favor, "Ayes". Bass, "No". Motion passed.

Knight, in talking with their attorney, #8 is a governmental immunity clause that should be part of any contract regarding fire rescue. He said it means that we are held harmless unless we are acting in a malicious, intentional, or reckless manner.

Sokolowski, that's not how I read this. Constitutes an agreement by Freeport Rural Fire association to not be liable in damages for any injury suffered by anyone in his or her personal property, whether out of an act of omission by the fire department or any of its officers, agents, representatives, or employees. It's saying they won't be held accountable, even if it's from an admission.

We're signing this contract and if they can't be gone after in the event of something happening, tragically happening, we will be the ones they come after. Where is our protection clause in this contract?

Buehler, I think that is an attorney question. Sokolowski. It probably is. It is above my head, and I don't like how it reads. Olson, to Doug's point, is this a contract with this statement something that you can sign off on behalf of citizens. Buehler, it should go to the attorney to be reviewed. Sokolowski, we can make a motion to spend money to do that, but after we agree what we want in the contract.

Sokolowski, moving down to #11, this is where we get into big argument. Again, I believe that it says members of the Irving Township board may attend the monthly meetings. Well, anyone can attend the monthly meetings. Two Irving Township residents will be members of the Freeport Rural Fire Board Association board meeting per said Association bylaws. I believe it should be a requirement that one of those members is an Irving Township board member that's been elected by this community to help oversee the transactions. We have that representation on Birch. We have partial representation TTES and hopefully we'll have full when it comes time to renew their contract. I don't see why this board would be hesitant to ask for a spot on the board of Freeport when we give them so much money. So that is my recommendation for a change.

Buehler... didn't the Freeport Fire Department tell us at the last meeting that that would have to be changed in their bylaws before that can happen. Sokolowski, they did say that, but that was not full information. The bylaws which we were provided, and I read, stated that they can appoint anyone they want, as long as they're part of the Freeport fire district. And so, we have members of this board that live in the Freeport fire district and could be appointed. The bylaws do not need to be changed for that. Where the bylaws would need to be changed is if we had no representation on this board from the Freeport fire district. Right now, their bylaws prohibit anyone who isn't in the Freeport fire district from sitting on that board.

Motion made by Sokolowski, seconded by Olson. Modified #11 to say a member of the Irving township board must be appointed. All in favor, "Ayes". Bass, "No", Knight "No". Motion passed.

Bass, when were talking about the Freeport Fire the conversation quickly degenerates.

Sokolowski, #12, we should never sign a contract with automatic extensions. This contract expired June of 2021, and we let it carry through until now. I think all of paragraph 12 needs to be struck, and that is my motion.

Motion Sokolowski, seconded by Olson. Strike all of paragraph #12. All in favor, "Ayes". Bass, "No". Motion passed.

Sokolowski, #113, it says that it is hereby agreed that in the event FRFA contemplates a change in procedures that could affect Irving township residence. The Irving Township board will be informed of these changes and have an opportunity to provide input. I disagree with providing input. In my view, if something has been proposed by Freeport that affects our citizens, it should read, any such changes will require modification through addendum to this contract, which means that we have to sign it and approve it. We are not information receivers. If they want to change something that affects our citizens, we need to approve that change. And there's no reason why this contract be an addendum in this case.

Motion by Sokolowski, seconded by Knight, strike provide input and replace with any such changes will require modification through addendum to this contract. All in favor, "Ayes". Bass, "No". Motion passed.

Paragraph #13, statement should read as follows: It is hereby agreed that in the event FRFA contemplates a change in procedures that could affect Irving Township residents, the Irving Township Board will be informed of these changes any and such changes will require modification through addendum to this contract.

Knight, I will make the changes and get them over to Freeport. changes over. And then if I have the board's approval, once I get the changes back from Freeport, I will send them to the attorney to review.

Motion by Sokolowski, seconded by Knight. Limit attorney's time to review Freeport Fire Contract up to four (4) hours max. Roll call, "Yes" Buehler, Knight, Sokolowski, Olson. "No", Bass. Motion passed.

Parking Lot across from Wing Road. Brought up last meeting. No one took responsibility to get quotes.

Bush recommended three contractors to secure bids, Ahrens, Reigler, Buehler. In addition, we may want to add additional driveway work needed at the German and Irving cemeteries. There should be a plan to help the contractors understand what they need to do. Sokolowski, first we need to apply for a driveway permit, cost \$80 with Barry County Road Commission. They would provide some specs to help us create a drawing. I am not sure of the process, but if we want parking in time for the presidential primary, March of 2024, we should get moving on it.

Buehler, we could get BNR, Fisher Idema from Alto ... there's lots of guys.

Knight, I feel like a sealed bid would probably be the best option to go.

Sokolowski, we will have to come up with a timeline, layout from county (dimensions), material, size, scope of work to bid, 50/75 car parking with two entrances and someone spec it out, millings or crushed concrete.

So do we want to allocate like \$200 to somebody to do the specs, and then go out to a closed bid.

Lorraine Bush is there any reason to consider hiring a general contractor that will take a look at this project not only for March 2024, but also two years from now. Sokolowski, I do think as a township, we need to come up with a long term, five-year, 10-year plan. For now, we need to concentrate on the parking lot because of the time squeeze that we have and then address the other acres here and the two acres over the cemetery. Those kinds of things are part of the five-year master plan.

Sokolowski, I will take the responsibility and get with Jake and get the driveway permit.

Motion by Knight, seconded by Sokolowski. To place an ad in the Sun and News for sealed bids for a parking lot. All in favor, "Ayes". "No" none. Motion passed.

Sokolowski, moving on to phase two of a basement. The same thing we talked about last week. Board members asked for all vendors quotes, and they are in your packets. The top sheet was all the vendors I contacted to get quotes. And then in the comment section, it shows you what the result of those contacts were. You can see that in the end, we only ended up getting quotes from two companies. What you find attached is the quotes from those companies. Keep in mind, at the time that we did this, we divided the project into five phases. Phase One was the record room, phase two was the IT room. Phase three was the conference accounting room, phase four was the rest of the main room downstairs. Phase Five was this upstairs area.

So, we've done it a little bit differently, right. When we combined, we got a bit of a discount by combining the records room and the IT room together and that work has been done. Now, the second phase, main room and the accounting room, we've talked it over with them. The best approach is to take down that wall due to mold issues, remove paneling on the outside of the assessor's room, and then repair on the outside of the assessor's room with mold resistant drywall. Leave the other room open for now, paint and add new lights, and epoxy the floor and that whole main area. So that's what the quote is right now for approximately, #20,000.

If you look at prestige and added up that kind of work, it'd be about the same. They were very close. And it came down to basically a couple of things. One, I felt that Miller was closer geographically to our area of business and Miller had seemed to be more willing to work with the flexibility of our schedule because of how we operate. In addition, Miller committed to not take on other jobs at the same time as our job and our job was finished timely. We were given full priority.

Sokolowski, I'm asking for is a cost not to exceed \$23,000 to finish what I just described in the work in the basement. And keep in mind again, as I mentioned earlier, in five years, we spent less than 20,000, little over \$20,000 in the interior of this building, and it is an asset to the community whether we decide to keep it or sell it, improving it, you only increase the value of this building.

Bass. funding for this is covered by AARP. Sokolowski, we would have to vote as a board what we want to take out of ARPA. We have about \$300,000, right now. We haven't spent much. We just approved at the last board meeting to pay the \$6,000 out of it for the two rooms finished. And we have decided as a board to pay the Road Commission \$120,000 for roads. Out of the \$300,000, we have spent about \$140,000 so far.

Sokolowski, presented written Motion 17-May-B Motion – Basement Main Area, seconded by Knight, attached. Roll call, on the Motion, "Yes", Buehler, Bass, Knight, Sokolowski, Olson. "No" none. Motion passed.

Bass, are we going to push this over to ARPA funds? Sokolowski, we would need to make a separate motion for that thing. And how that works is that we have the funds right now in our savings general fund account, but the account is not recognized. They don't show up on your treasurer, they don't show up on your balance sheet reports. What Sharon will have to do is move the money into the unrecognized revenue account. And then that will offset the expense. We can't move the money until we incur the expense.

Bass, your proposal is to accept Prestige or continuation with Miller. Sokolowski, Miller for the downstairs. The biggest difference in vendor pricing is the upstairs.

Sokolowski, also, it was pointed out that there is a large crack in the concrete ceiling downstairs. Having difficulty finding a qualified structural engineer to come in and look at it. Miller's opinion was he didn't think it was anything to be concerned about.

Knight, Dust Control. Last meeting two companies to choose from, Michigan Chloride or SMM. Board approved SMM. I received an email yesterday from Michigan Chloride sales manager asking us to reconsider. He gave us some information about the difference between the two companies. Mike and I talked to Jake before the meeting tonight. And Jake basically said there's about a \$5,000 difference. He said, save \$5,000 and stick with SMM. Knight, just wanted for record that we did talk about it.

Knight, Township Roof. I had damage to my roof from the hailstorm at my house. I thought that I would have a company come out and check the township roof. I reached out to our insurance company. They sent an adjuster out and Lorraine met with them. I am awaiting information from the insurance company. It takes approximately 10-14 days.

Sokolowski, I had a hard time with this one because I believe in limited government, but our fire department asked us to institute an outdoor burning ordinance. Thornapple, in particular have they have repeat offenders. Right now, we have on our website a link to get a burn permit. But there's no teeth to that. If you don't get a burn permit, there's nothing anyone can do about it.

Discussion among board members regarding establishing a Burn Ordinance. Consider putting an ad in the paper regarding burning.

I'll tell that to the chief and I think he'll be fine with us posting something.

Put ¼ page ad in paper outlining present ordinance regarding burning.

Sokolowski, Ambulance Contract. We have been paying the ambulance contract out of our public safety fund. By law, we are not allowed to do that. I'm asking the clerk to move \$9,000 back into the 206 Account from the general fund, which is what we paid for the ambulance contract. The account numbers are there. Moving forward, any ambulance contract would be paid out of the general fund. This is because of the wording and the current millage specifically says that it's only for fire protection services.

Motion by Sokolowski, seconded by Knight. To do that accounting transaction for the Ambulance Contract? Roll call, "Yes", Buehler, Bass, Knight, Sokolowski, Olson. "No", none. Motion passed.

Knight, Wish a Mile, a part of Make A Wish Foundation came to us and asked to use our parking lot for their event. Sadly, last year, there was an accident during their event, and so they had their event set up here, but the bikers never made it here. They are asking again to use our parking lot, June 28 – 30. Let's see, about halfway through each day, we provide lunch for our riders, volunteers, and staff. The lunch serve is going to be catered. It's going to be from 10 to 2:00 pm. They pride themselves on making sure properties are taken care of. They're looking at about 500 riders and 100 volunteers. They are hoping that we as a board will allow them to use our parking lot together.

Sokolowski, I don't want to come across as the evil character in some novel. But my concern about this is we don't have a standard policy on the use of our property. Just like with the cookie issue. If we allow one person or one organization to do it, do we open the door to having to allow all organizations, even ones we may find distasteful to use our property and to conduct events. Olson, legally veteran's charities and children's charities. Olson, consult with MTA and may need to get a legal opinion.

Motion by Knight, seconded by Buehler to allow Wish a Mile the use the of the township parking lot July 28 – 30, 2023. All in favor "Ayes", "Opposed", Sokolowski.

Fire Reports summarized. *Full reports found under supporting documents.*

Cemetery Input, Jim Wickham, Sexton, Lorraine called me a couple days ago about concerns that were addressed during the recent public meetings of the cemetery not being up to standard. The cemetery was mowed last week, and we have a scheduled cleanup this week with my team and a team organized by Bush and Lake for cleanup and Veteran Flag placement. We have a clean-up twice a year, spring, and fall, just before Memorial Day and Labor Day. Good idea to place rules in paper. I take the criticism personal. I want to do the job you intend me to do and that is why I will be there Saturday with my team to make sure it meets your expectations.

There are two trees that are an issue that should be taken care of. I have had several requests over the years for water and a porta potty, recommend for porta for months of May – September.

Bush/Wickham to put together priority list of what needs to be done at both cemeteries and bring to board for consideration.

Sokolowski, Treasurer's report, I did add a new column on the Treasury report called change. It just gives us an idea of if we're going up or down in different accounts. The interest column was added a couple of months ago. But we did get the purchase of the shelves.

The record's room now has shelves. We've been moving materials in there and trying to sort through them to get rid of some of the stuff by record retention rules. It's a bit of a long process.

We already talked about the motion to proceed. We talked about the parking lot, talked about the burn ordinance and Amazon's orders. Most of the receipts are interest, except for we did receive a revenue sharing check for \$51,664.

We have developed very strong relationships with our banking partners. I've been trying to work with them to see if there would be anything that they could offer our citizens as a benefit of our relationship. Consumer Credit Union has come up with an offer of a 5.3% CD would be available to Irving township residents. It's a 12-month CD with \$1,000 minimum investment. They would manage it all. You would work with them. We offered to other banks to come up with something, and so far, none have. But right now, the CDs paid about 4.5. So, 5.3 is a little bit better than you can get on the market. If anyone's interested drop me an email. We want to see if there is any interest from the community. If there is, we would arrange for one day to sign up people who want to sign up, CD, minimum of \$1,000 at 5.3% for 12 months.

Knight, before we approve the bills, I noticed the Barry County Road Commission billed us for dust control, they charged us \$23,100 whereas the SMM was \$19,479.22, and it was approved last month by the board. So check #2344, we need to remove and reissue. The amount we need to approve for Bill Pay is \$147,555.21.

Motion by Knight, seconded by Bass. Approved corrected amount of Bill Pay in the amount of \$147,555.29. Roll call, "Yes", Buehler, Knight, Bass, Sokolowski, Olson. "No", none.

The check for dust control should be for \$139,027.22.

Board Member comments. Olson, minutes from Barry County Clerk Association meeting. There are expenditures going to be required for the election. My understanding is that this is an unfunded mandate, which should be illegal, but it is election related. When I'm looking at what they're saying that we're going to have to buy \$10,000 in equipment, and they are going to require us to do so in response to proposal 2.

Just providing the Board with a heads up. I don't know if grant money is available. Either way, we are going to have to plan on the expenditure even if it is reimbursed back to our budget. Sokolowski, none of this is in the budget for this year.

Bass, it doesn't say that we were represented at the meeting. Olson, I was working. Bass, and you will not be there tomorrow. Olson, I will be attending the Clerk's meeting tomorrow. It is going to cost me personally \$30 of my personal income to go. Olson, we are not required to attend the Clerk's Association meetings. I can't claim any of it for reimbursement from the township.

Sokolowski, just to remind you about the E letter for people to sign up.

Olson, I have one more thing ... I haven't brought it up because I didn't want to create a problem for Dar Leaf. Sometime ago, I was made aware of a request that came to the township and was fulfilled without going through the FOIA officer and private text messages between myself and the supervisor, quoting something our sheriff said with an ongoing investigation. Olson, I have been cleared with Dar. I need that record for our FOIA file. Knight, I am not sure what you are regarding. Olson, the text messages provided to the Reuters reporter of my texts between myself and Dar. I need a copy for the file.

Knight, Okay, when was this? I don't remember doing this.

Olson, did you keep a copy of the material that you gave to Reuters? Knight, like I just said, I don't remember doing this.

Knight is it a FOIA sent to me. Olson, it was FOIA to all Board Members that was shared with everybody asking for communications, but the Reuters report showed me his copy of our conversation. Knight, I will check my files.

Public Input, Lake, I have real concerns about this board. I know the state does not oversee townships. The only ones that oversee townships are us, the voters. So, I'm going to say some things that are bothering me with hopes that the board can address them. My serious concerns are the interactions between the members. I have a right to say these concerns, okay.

The voters chose you guys to represent us. I voted for all of you. Three out of five of you voted to hire our treasurer who has gotten us out of a lot of hot water. We've been breaking the law without knowing. He's taking the time to fix these things, and yet, he's been pushed back at every turn, every turn. And from out here, it's frustrating because he's looking out for our best interest, our money, our butts so that we don't get in trouble.

And the Freeport Fire Board, I don't understand why you would pay for more than you're taking in from us. What you are telling us, every month you're going to go in the hole and that makes no sense. It's not about trust. I trust Lainey and her crew. It's about business and our contract. I don't understand that. The last thing is my biggest concern is the unprofessional behavior and childish attacks against Doug. Mr. Bass, you've insulted me personally by saying that Sharon called her little friends in to back her up. Like I don't have a mind of my own. When we spoke out in defense of her, you called us little brats. I've been very insulted. You've attacked, fellow board members. You've questioned his integrity and his character. I wish it would just stay professional. Stay professional, it is a business and it's distracting with the kind of body language and the unprofessionalism that happens. Just all work as a team and keep it business.

Mr. Bettits, I guess I have some of the same concerns, especially with the spending of money for the Freeport Fire Department. Me, I can't spend more than I take in is a person, or I don't have him, Doug, come in taking care of my checkbook so I can spend more money. The population is growing in this county. And if there's not, I can't imagine that there's not enough people coming into this county that will support the fire system. I know, just by walking down our roads that there's hundreds more cars. I just can't imagine why we can't operate within our means.

Wickham, just a comment, Charlton Township has a contract with Freeport also. Compare with Charlton.

Bush, 117 people have moved into the township since the beginning of this year.

Knight, next meeting is June 20. We're back on the third Tuesday of the month.

Motion by Knight, seconded by Sokolowski, adjourn meeting at 8:23 pm.

Minutes prepared by Deputy Clerk, Lorraine Bush, for Clerk, Sharon Olson, May 24, 2023.