

FRIENDSHIP TOWNSHIP  
BOARD MEETING  
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 2018 @ 7:00 PM  
@ Friendship Township Hall

Meeting called to order at 7:00 pm by Troup. Pledge of allegiance recited.  
Board members present: Major, Ward, Mac Gregor, Troup and Van Divner  
Visitors: Wilbur Kurburski, Brad Jerichow  
Major will be absent for March 7<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Agenda approved as printed.

Minutes approved with addition of time of adjournment: Adjourn at 8:05 pm.  
Treasurer's report received.

Mac Gregor moved, Ward seconded, PASSED by unanimous roll call vote, Resolution 2018-01  
Resolution to Waive Interest and Penalty for Late Filing of Property Transfer Affidavits.

Mac Gregor moved, Major seconded, PASSED by unanimous roll call vote, Resolution 2018-02 to  
Adopt Poverty Exemption Income Guidelines and Asset Test.

Mac Gregor moved, Van Divner seconded, PASSED by unanimous roll call vote, Resolution  
2018-03 to Register Opposition to Michigan House Bill 5097 Limiting Right of County Road  
Commission to Permit and Regulate Driveways for Silvicultural Operations.

Emmet County Zoning Board of Appeals – Maureen Rasch request for variance on illegal  
lot, 24 06 12 30-300-003 Friendship Township Board reviewed the request by Mrs. Rasch.

Mac Gregor moved, Major seconded, PASSED, to recommend approval of this variance  
request as it meets the setback requirements and is the minimum variance necessary to do  
substantial justice to the applicant as well as to other property owners in the district. This  
recommendation for variance is for this improvement only. It is not precedent setting for  
any future requests. (5-0)

Ward moved, Mac Gregor seconded, PASSED, to appoint Michael Cullip to Friendship  
Township Planning Commission for a 3 year term effective July 1, 2017 through June 30,  
2020. (5-0)

Bo Trufant has submitted his resignation from the Friendship Township Planning  
Commission effective February 2018. Thank you Bo for your service to our community!

Major reviewed bills and checks.

Board held budget discussion for upcoming budget.

Public comment – none

Mac Gregor moved, Major seconded, PASSED by unanimous roll call vote, to pay bills.  
Checks # 3802 – 3822 were written in the amount of \$8,654.21.

Meeting adjourned at 8:55 pm.

Janell Van Divner, Clerk

FRIENDSHIP TOWNSHIP

RESOLUTION TO WAIVE INTEREST AND PENALTY  
FOR LATE FILING OF PROPERTY TRANSFER AFFIDAVITS

RESOLUTION 2018-01

WHEREAS, Michigan PA 415 of 1994 requires the filing of a Property Transfer Affidavit when property ownership is transferred and provides for a penalty if that document is not filed on a timely basis, i.e. within 45 days of the property transfer; and

WHEREAS, the act allows local units of government to waive that penalty and interest by resolution; and

WHEREAS, the Friendship Township Board desires to waive the late filing penalty;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the penalty for failure to file a Property Transfer Affidavit on a timely basis for property in Friendship Township, but not additional taxes, interest and tax penalty, is hereby waived until further notice. It is further resolved that all resolutions or parts of resolutions in conflict herewith are hereby repealed.

The Resolution was offered by Mac Gregor and supported by Ward

Upon roll call vote on the adoption of the resolution,

The following voted \_\_\_y\_\_\_Major \_\_\_y\_\_\_Ward \_\_\_y\_\_\_Troup \_\_\_y\_\_\_ Mac Gregor  
\_\_\_y\_\_\_Van Divner

The Supervisor declared the motion carried and the resolution adopted on this 7<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2018.

CERTIFICATE

I, Janell Van Divner, the duly qualified and acting Clerk of Friendship Township do certify that the foregoing resolution was adopted by the Township Board of said Township at the regular meeting held on February 7, 2018, at which meeting a quorum was present, by a roll call vote of said members as herein before set forth and that said resolution was ordered to take immediate effect.

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Janell Van Divner, Clerk

FRIENDSHIP TOWNSHIP CLERK

February 7, 2018

**FEDERAL POVERTY GUIDELINES  
FOR 2018 ASSESSMENTS**

The following are the federal poverty guidelines as of December 31, 2017 for use in setting poverty exemption guidelines for 2018 assessments. (Taken from State Tax Commission Bulletin 24 of 2017)

No. of Persons in Household	Poverty Guidelines	
	100%	0%
	Income-no tax	Income-full tax
1	12,060	18,090
2	16,240	24,360
3	20,420	30,630
4	24,600	36,900
5	28,780	43,170
6	32,960	49,440
7	37,140	55,710
8	41,320	61,980
For each additional person	4,180	

Janell Van Divner, Clerk

**Friendship Township  
Resolution to Adopt Poverty Exemption Income Guidelines and Asset Test  
Resolution 2018-02**

WHEREAS, the homestead of persons who, in the judgment of the Supervisor and Board of Review, by reason of poverty, are unable to contribute to the public charges is eligible for exemption in whole or part from taxation under the General Property Tax Act;

and WHEREAS, the Township Board is required by Section 7u of the General Property Tax Act, Public Act 206 of 1893 (MCL 211.7u), to adopt guidelines for poverty exemptions;

and WHEREAS, pursuant to PA 390 of 1994, Friendship Township, Emmet County, adopts the following guidelines for the Supervisor and Board of Review to implement. The guidelines shall include but not be limited to the specific income and asset levels of the claimant and all persons residing in the household, including any property tax credit returns, filed in the current or immediately preceding year.

To be eligible, a person shall do all the following on an annual basis:

- 1) Be an owner of and occupy as a homestead the property for which an exemption is requested.
- 2) File a claim with the Supervisor or Board of Review, accompanied by Poverty Exemption Affidavit or federal and state income tax returns for all persons residing in the homestead, including any Michigan property tax credit returns filed in the immediately preceding year or in the current year.
- 3) Produce a valid drivers' license or other form of identification if requested.

- 4) Produce a deed, land contract, or other evidence of ownership of the property for which an exemption is requested if requested.
- 5) Meet current federal poverty income guidelines as defined and determined by the United States Office of Management and Budget.
- 6) The subject homestead shall not exceed an S.E.V. of \$100,000.
- 7) Not own other assets as determined by the Board of Review totaling over \$10,000.00. Other assets include, but are not limited to the following:

Real estate other than the principal residence.

Motor vehicles, recreational vehicles and equipment, boats, and ATVs.

Certificates of deposits, savings accounts, checking accounts, stocks, bonds, life insurance, and retirement funds.

Jewelry.

Antiques.

Works of art.

Other personal property of value.

Gifts, loans, lump-sum inheritances, and one-time insurance payments.

Assets do not include essential household goods such as basic furniture, appliances, dishes, and clothing, federal non-cash benefits programs such as Medicare, Medicaid, food stamps, and school lunches, and one vehicle per household member of driving age.

**Appearance before the Board of Review.** The applicant, or a representative of the applicant, will be required to appear before the Board of Review to respond to any questions that the Board or Supervisor may have concerning the exemption application.

- (a) An applicant may be called to appear before the Board on short notice.
- (b) An applicant may have to answer questions regarding the applicant's financial affairs, health, or the status of people living in the applicant's home before the Board at a meeting that is open to and will be attended by the public.
- (c) Applicants appearing before the Board may be administered an oath as follows: "Do you swear or affirm that the evidence and testimony you will give in your own behalf before the Board of Review is the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth?"
- (d) The Supervisor may tape record and will keep minutes of all proceedings before the Board of Review.
- (e) If called to appear before the Board, physically challenged or infirmed applicants may call the Supervisor's Office to make necessary arrangements for assistance.
- (f) The Board of Review may, in its discretion, review poverty exemption applications without the applicant or the applicant's representative being physically present.

Pursuant to PA 390 of 1994, all local governing bodies shall make available the local policy and guidelines established for granting poverty exemptions to a requesting taxpayer.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Supervisor and Board of Review shall follow the above stated policy and federal guidelines in granting or denying an exemption, unless the Supervisor and Board of Review determine there are substantial and compelling reasons why there should be a deviation from the policy and federal guidelines and these reasons are communicated in writing to the claimant.

The foregoing resolution offered by Mac Gregor and supported by Major

Upon roll call vote, the following voted:                      Aye: Mac Gregor, Troup, Ward, Van Divner, Major

Nay: none

Resolution declared adopted.

Date: February 7, 2018

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Janell Van Divner, Township Clerk

FRIENDSHIP TOWNSHIP

EMMET COUNTY, MICHIGAN

RESOLUTION OF THE FRIENDSHIP TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
TO REGISTER THE TOWNSHIP'S OPPOSITION TO MICHIGAN HB-5097 LIMITING THE RIGHT OF  
THE COUNTY ROAD COMMISSION TO PERMIT AND REGULATE DRIVEWAYS FOR  
SILVICULTURAL OPERATIONS

RESOLUTION 2018-03

WHEREAS, the Township of Friendship desires to insure the safety of all persons utilizing our public roadways and maintain an environment free from hazards; and

WHEREAS, the Township believes it is in the best interest of public safety to continue to allow the Emmet County Road Commission to address the placement of driveways for silvicultural operations; and

WHEREAS, the Emmet County Road Commission has the requisite knowledge and professional expertise to assess proper location based on: site distance, average vehicle speed, and other traffic factors; and

WHEREAS, Emmet County Townships have expended 34 million dollars (\$34,000,000) in the last 12 years improving roads; and

WHEREAS, eliminating standards for logging operations will likely result in damage to county roads under the jurisdiction of the Emmet County Road Commission; and

WHEREAS, eliminating the Emmet County Road Commission of their ability to reasonably regulate the placement of driveways will undoubtedly create hazardous conditions leading to increased risk of injury or death to the public; and

WHEREAS, by setting fee limits for county road commissions, the State further limits proper analysis of topography, environmental concerns, boundary and other survey requirements; and

WHEREAS, the proposed legislation is questionable in that it may violate Article III, Sec. 6 of the State Constitution which clearly states: "The state shall not be a party to, nor be financially interested in, any work of internal improvement...except those provided by law."

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Friendship Township Board of Trustees hereby opposes House Bill 5097 due to the detrimental effect it will have for public safety on roads in Emmet County by removing local authority and fiscal responsibility from road commissions regarding regulation of the right-of-way use by commercial logging operators.

RESOLUTION 2018-03 - page 2

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution shall be sent to our State Senator and State Representative.

Upon roll call vote on the adoption of the resolution the following voted

Yes: Major, Ward, Mac Gregor, Van Divner, Troup

No:

The Supervisor declared the motion carried and the resolution adopted this 7<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2018.

CERTIFICATE

I, Janell Van Divner, the duly qualified and acting Clerk of Friendship Township do certify that the foregoing resolution was adopted by the Township Board of said Township at the regular meeting held on February 7, 2018, at which meeting a quorum was present, by a roll call vote of said members as herein before set forth and that said resolution was ordered to take immediate effect.

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Janell Van Divner, Clerk