

**HOWARD TOWNSHIP  
REGULAR MEETING  
January 16, 2018      7:00 p.m.**

**Call to Order/Pledge/Roll Call:**

Craig Bradfield called the regular meeting of the Howard Township Board of Trustees to order at 7:00 p.m. The meeting was held at the Howard Township Business Office, 1345 Barron Lake Road, Niles, Michigan. Pledge of allegiance was recited. Board members Craig Bradfield, Sheri Wozniak, Linda Rudlaff, Mike Daly, Mike Gordon, Hank Johnson and Bill Kasprzak answered roll call. Howard-Ellis students Clara Thornhill and Jezzilyne Scott, along with Principal Michelle Asmus and Assistant Principal Tervonda Goins were also present.

**Approval of Agenda:**

The floor was open to the residents concerning the Agenda. No comments were made. A motion was made by Johnson, supported by Gordon to approve the Agenda, carried.

**Minutes:**

A motion was made by Kasprzak, supported by Rudlaff to approve the December 19, 2017 regular meeting minutes as written, carried.

**Financial Report:**

Treasurer Rudlaff read the December Financial Report. A motion was made by Kasprzak, supported by Gordon to accept the December 2017 monthly financial report as presented with a beginning balance of \$479,262.94 and an ending balance of \$414,529.12, carried.

**Approval of Bills**

A motion was made by Daly, supported by Kasprzak to approve the monthly bills for payment, carried.

**Departmental Reports**

Fire Chief Leneway reported 30 medicals and 6 fire calls for December 2017. Also, he reported 339 total calls for 2017. Leneway also wanted to file a complaint with the Board regarding the Cass County Road Commission and their services, or lack thereof. He reported an emergency situation where the road conditions were so bad, the emergency workers could not safely direct traffic. He stated it was time for the employees to go home so they would not come out to service the area. The conditions were so bad that the electric company would not allow their workers to fix the pole and restore service to our affected residents. Due to the road commission's response, the electric company went above and beyond and sent someone out to service the area to make it safe for their employees to work on the pole and restore power to the residents. The fire chief questioned the decrease in the quality of service and the decrease in services all together to the community. Sheriff Behnke reported three opiate overdoses already this year in the County and one survived due to naran. The sheriff reported several car accidents and reminded drivers that it is the responsibility of drivers to drive to the condition of the road. Also, more burglaries have been solved. Behnke announced the Edwardsburg Snowmobile Club is offering a snowmobile safety class on Jan 27 or February 3 and the Cass County Parks offer family fun at Winter Nights in the Park. Sheriff reminded everyone to go nixle.com for updates and information. Lastly, Sheriff Behnke mentioned fundraisers the Sheriff's Office are involved with, such as No Shave November and Casual Friday. The officers donate toward domestic violence and cancer research. Trustee Kasprzak reported that the SMCAS Board accepted the annual audit and discussed the possibility of a full time transfer unit. Trustee Gordon reported that the Park Board is considering the 2018-2019 budget, including cameras at Pepper Martin Park and roof repairs. Gordon also reported that each Park Board Member has a park assignment. A motion was made by Kasprzak, supported by Rudlaff to approve the monthly reports, carried.

**Information**

Treasurer Rudlaff presented the Howard-Ellis School student representatives with the donations collected on our Christmas Tree for children in need at the school. Mrs. Asmus thanked the Board and stated it would be put to good use, they are always in need of sweatpants, socks, etc.

**Old Business**

A motion was made by Johnson, supported by Gordon to approve sample A on the bid from Creative Vinyl Signs for fire station lettering, carried.

### **New Business**

A motion was made by Wozniak, supported by Johnson, to amend the 2017-2018 Holiday Schedule to include March 30, 2018 which is Good Friday, carried. A motion was made by Kasprzak, supported by Gordon, to approve budget amendments for the General, Building, New Construction, Sewer and Weed Eradication Funds, carried. A motion was made by Wozniak, supported by Daly, to set a Budget Workshop for February 6, 2018 at 6 pm at the Township Business Office, carried.

### **Correspondence**

None

### **Other Business from the Board**

Supervisor Bradfield informed the Board that a Construction Board of Appeals meeting has been scheduled for January 31, 2018 at 6 pm at the Township Business Office.

### **Concerns of the Citizens**

Mr. Scott Lundberg asked if the Supervisor had addressed the removal of “No Thru Truck” signs on Carberry Road. Also, Mr. Lundberg requested more police presence on Carberry Road for speeding semis. Mr. Todd Mokwa thanked the board for their service and shared concerns over the speeding and police presence on Carberry Road. Mr. Mike Holt asked if any headway had been made addressing the Howard-Ellis and Mannix Street issues; Treasurer Rudlaff answered that no resolution had been found and that Mannix would not become a one-way road. Mr. Mike Gordon thanked the fire department and SMCAS for their extraordinary service; they both served his family several times over the last couple of months

### **Adjournment:**

Supervisor Bradfield adjourned the meeting at 7:43 p.m.

Sheri Wozniak  
Howard Township Clerk