

**HOWARD TOWNSHIP
REGULAR MEETING
January 27, 2016 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 Howard Township Business Office. Pledge to the flag was given. Board members Craig Bradfield, Sheri Wozniak, Linda Rudlaff, Mike Daly, David Brawley, Hank Johnson and Ashley Wentz answered roll call. County Commissioner Bob Ziliak and Andy Mollison from Wightman and Associates 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 Rudlaff, supported by Brawley to approve the Agenda, carried.

Minutes:

A motion was made by Daly, supported by Johnson to approve the December 15, 2015 regular meeting minutes as written, carried. A motion was made by Rudlaff, supported by Wentz to approve the January 6, 2016 special meeting minutes as written, carried.

Financial Report:

Treasurer Rudlaff read the December 2015 financial report into the record. A motion was made by Wozniak, supported by Brawley to accept the December 2015 monthly financial report as presented with a beginning balance of \$706,737.76 and an ending balance of \$655,717.42, carried.

Approval of Bills

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

Departmental Reports

Chief Leneway reported 12 fire calls and 23 medical calls for December 2015 and a total of 375 calls for 2015. A motion was made by Johnson, supported by Rudlaff to remove Jim Reeves from the fire department, carried. Trustee Wentz reported 21 calls in Howard Township for ambulance service. SMCAS is still transitioning to the billing service and she should have a financial report for the next meeting. Also, SMCAS has hired the Chairperson from the SMCAS Board for a part time accounting position. She will be stepping down from the Board to take the position. Mike Gordon reported that the Park Board has submitted their 2016-2017 budget proposals. Mr. Gordon also informed the Township Board that the parks department would be completing the Pepper Martin Project this spring. A motion was made by Johnson, supported by Rudlaff to approve the monthly reports, carried.

Information

Treasurer Rudlaff presented Howard/Ellis Principal Michelle Asmus with the Christmas Tree collections \$71 for this year. Mrs. Asmus thanked all who donated to the students in need at Howard and Ellis Schools. Mrs. Asmus introduced the Assistant Principal. Ms. Tervonda Goins. She also reported that construction should begin at the school in June and that the students are looking for spring projects. So, keep them in mind for anything they can do for the community. Mr. Andy Mollison with Wightman and Associates answered questions regarding the schematic drawings they have prepared for a new office building and fire department complex. Several items were discussed, such as building size, building necessities, materials and financing. The drawings are available for public viewing at the Township Office, 1345 Barron Lake Road, Niles.

Old Business

None

New Business

Board members requested that the personnel committee collect more information about applicants before a decision can be made. Supervisor Bradfield tabled the decision. A motion was made by Rudlaff, supported by Johnson to adopt Ordinance #198, the Schedule of Fees Ordinance, carried. A motion was made by Daly, supported by Rudlaff to adopt Ordinance #199, the Fire Department Cost Recovery Ordinance, carried. A motion was made by Rudlaff, supported by Johnson to amend the Fire Department SOP's General Information and Practices Page; Items #4, #5, and #6, carried. A motion was made by Wentz, supported by Rudlaff to adopt set a Budget Workshop for February 10, 2016 at 6:30 pm, carried. A motion was made by Wozniak, supported by Rudlaff to amend the 2015-2016 General, Improvement Capital, Building and Sewer Funds, carried.

Correspondence

None

Other Business from the Board

None

Public Comment

Mr. Tony Jansen, Detroit Road, voiced concerns regarding the Township Office/Fire Department costs and property taxes being raised to pay for it. He asked the board to consider cheaper materials as well. Mr. Jansen also stated that he believed the issue should go before the people on a ballot. Mr. Mike Richmond, Leet Road, questioned the ability of the Township to pay for this project. He is concerned about a bond millage or special assessment. Mr. Richmond also pressed for a cost of the project, which the Board has not yet received project costs. Mr. Tom Kessler, Heath Drive, supports the new building. Mr. Kessler expressed several points; the current buildings are in need of many repairs and upgrades which will be very costly and still not fully fill the needs of the community. He continued by discussing the need for more space, there is not room for upgrades and or new equipment at the fire department. And, the buildings are not handicap accessible. Mr. David Mattiford, Carberry Road, wanted clarification on the funding of the project and whether or not the residents' taxes would be affected. Mr. Tony Jansen also asked if the Township would demolish the Community Hall at 1400 Barron Lake Road.

Adjournment:

A motion was made by Johnson, supported by Rudlaff to adjourn at 8:17 p.m., carried.

Sheri Wozniak
Howard Township Clerk