

**HOWARD TOWNSHIP  
REGULAR MEETING  
October 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 Howard Township Business Office. Pledge to the flag was given. Board members Craig Bradfield, Sheri Wozniak, Linda Rudlaff, Mike Daly, Mike Gordon, Hank Johnson and Bill Kasprzak answered roll call. Ian Beckwith, a sophomore from Niles High School, was here to observe. Sheriff Behnke and Commissioner Grice were also present.

**Approval of Agenda:**

A motion was made by Rudlaff, supported by Johnson to approve the Agenda, carried.

**Minutes:**

A motion was made by Kasprzak, supported by Rudlaff to approve the September 18, 2018 regular meeting minutes as written, carried.

**Financial Report:**

Treasurer Rudlaff read the September 2018 financial report into the record. A motion was made by Kasprzak, supported by Gordon to accept the September 2018 monthly financial report as presented with a beginning balance of \$435,565.45 and an ending balance of \$354,855.33, carried.

**Approval of Bills**

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

**Departmental Reports**

Fire Chief Leneway reported 43 medical and 5 fire calls for the month of September. Mr. Leneway also thanked everyone for attending the open house at the new fire station and for their positive comments. Lastly, the chief announced a Swiss Steak Dinner at the fire station scheduled for November 2, 2018. Trustee Kasprzak verified with the fire chief that the Phillips 66 on M60 is complying with safety regulations and informing all employees of safety shut offs. Sheriff Behnke had just returned from the Sheriff's Annual Conference. He reported an increase in opioid overdoses and the use of Narcan to prevent death from an overdose. Chief Leneway reported two overdoses in September. Lastly, Sheriff Behnke announced a pill drop off scheduled for Saturday, October 27, 2018, 10 am to 2 pm. Also, the sheriff's office in Cassopolis has a 45/7 pill drop box. Mr. Behnke informed the community that deer/car accidents are on the rise. He reminded everyone to not swerve; it's more dangerous and more costly if you leave the roadway. Contact the sheriff's office if you hit a deer. Ms. Connie Dickinson asked Sheriff Behnke "who collects the deer after its hit?". He replied if the deer is not too mangled, driver has choice to keep the deer or the sheriff has a list of people to contact that may be interested in the deer. Trustee Kasprzak reported that Redbud Internationals was a success and SMCAS had no issues. He also reported good financial status and that the medics remain extremely busy. Lastly, Kasprzak stated SMCAS is currently in litigation with the last Director regarding his restitution. Trustee Gordon reported the parks will be closed on October 31 for the season. Park Board Member Marcia Pedzinski requested the Board of Trustees recognize that the Township Parks are exempt from the Zoning Ordinance and that no further action is required for the storage unit at Pepper Martin Park. Fire Chief Leneway asked the Board to consider changing the name of Memorial Park to Fireman's Memorial Park. A motion was made by Wozniak, supported by Johnson to accept the monthly departmental reports, carried.

**Information**

No burning on October 30 or 31, 2018 for Trick or Treat, except for small recreational fires.

**Old Business**

None

### **New Business**

A motion was made by Kasprzak, supported by Rudlaff to approve the contract with Cass County Road Commission for the “no Thru Truck” signage, carried. A motion was made by Johnson, supported by Daly to approve the bid from Indiana Electronics for the new office phone system, carried. A motion was made by Johnson, supported by Gordon to approve the bid from Watson’s Tree Service for the 2018-2019 snow removal contract, carried. A motion was made by Kasprzak, supported by Wozniak to set Trick or Treat for Wednesday, October 31, 2018 from 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m., carried. A motion was made by Johnson, supported by Kasprzak to accept the 2017-2018 annual audit, with the understanding that we are currently working on the clarification of the fire department loan, carried.

### **Correspondence**

None

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

Trustee Daly updated the board and residents on the meeting held between the Howard/Milton Committees from both townships. Several issues, such as emergency services, utilities, parks, taxes, debts, etc., were listed and will be explored. The merger would have to benefit both townships and be approved by voters, This process is expected to take at least a year to complete. Residents are welcome to attend monthly meetings starting in January and being held the 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday at the Milton Township Hall. Trustee Kasprzak was the Howard Fire Department Representative for the school’s fire prevention program. Firefighters spent six hours with the Howard students regarding fire safety and were impressed with the students’ fire safety knowledge. Trustee Kasprzak is working with Howard Fire to get much needed smoke detectors for families in the community without working detectors. Treasurer Rudlaff asked the Board members to waive two cost recovery invoices that have been on the books for several months. A motion was made by Daly, supported by Gordon to waive the Zilke Road invoice, carried. A motion was made by Daly, supported by Bradfield to deny waiving the M-51 invoice, carried.

### **Public Comment**

Mr. Mokwa thanked the Board for all their efforts to protect the residents on Carberry Road. He also voiced appreciation for the police presence in the neighborhood. Mr. Eidielis informed the Board that the Barron lake Association would be stocking Barron Lake with 1,000 walleye soon. Also, Mr. Eidielis discussed the weed eradication assessment and future plans for controlling weeds in the lake.

### **Adjournment:**

Supervisor Bradfield adjourned the meeting at 8:32 p.m., carried.

Sheri Wozniak  
Howard Township Clerk