

**HOWARD TOWNSHIP
REGULAR MEETING
October 17, 2017 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.

Approval of Agenda:

Supervisor Bradfield amended the Agenda to remove Item H. under New Business. The floor was open to the residents concerning the Agenda. No comments were made. A motion was made by Daly, supported by Johnson to approve the Agenda, carried.

Minutes:

A motion was made by Kasprzak, supported by Gordon to approve the September 19, 2017 special meeting minutes, the September 19, 2017 regular meeting minutes and the October 10, 2017 special meeting minutes as written, carried.

Financial Report:

Treasurer Rudlaff read the September Financial Report. A motion was made by Kasprzak, supported by Daly to accept the September 2017 monthly financial report as presented with a beginning balance of \$640,223.60 and an ending balance of \$583,835.64, carried.

Approval of Bills

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

Departmental Reports

Fire Chief Ed Leneway reported 8 fire and 24 medical calls for September 2017. Leneway also informed the Board that the water filling station is over 40 years old and not working properly. He is getting quotes for repair and/or replacement. Sheriff Behnke commended Deputy Melissa Brawley on her interception of the suspect vehicle for a burglary/assault in progress. Her efforts led to the arrest of one of the suspects that day. The sheriff reported five suicides in Cass County in the last three weeks, none in Howard. He added to always pay attention to behavior of people you care about, help is available. He also announced a pill drop at the Howard Township Business Office on Saturday, October 28, 2017 from 10 am to 2 pm. Lastly, the sheriff reminded everyone "Don't veer for the deer". Deer car accidents are on the rise. Trustee Kasprzak informed the Board that SMCAS positions have all been filled and they remain extremely busy. Also, Kasprzak announced a hazmat disaster test at Lakeland Hospital at 8 am on October 31, 2017. Trustee Gordon reported the Park Board has received the shipping container and is having it painted; using this type of storage should deter vandalism and theft at the parks. The vandalism repair at Jones Park has been completed and surveillance signs have been posted. They are still working on installing cameras. Also, the Park Board is searching for solutions to field usage in the spring to address conflicts when ball season starts up again. Lastly, Trustee Gordon announced the passing of Park Board Member Jim Bergerson and all he contributed over the years. A motion was made by Rudlaff, supported by Kasprzak to approve the monthly reports, carried.

Information

Mr. Bob Cochran from the Cass County Council on Aging announced Board openings in the near future. He explained the Council on Aging Board responsibilities and mentioned that there is not a Howard Township Representative. He is hoping to find interest in serving from township residents. He asked that anyone interested in serving to please contact him at the Cass County Council on Aging in Cassopolis. There will be a pill drop at the Howard Township Business Office on Saturday, October 28, 2017 from 10 am to 2 pm.

Old Business

None

New Business

A motion was made by Johnson, supported by Gordon to approve the 2017-2018 proposed budget for the New Construction Fund, carried. A motion was made by Kasprzak, supported by Rudlaff to set Trick or Treat for Tuesday, October 31, 2017 from 6:30 pm – 7:30 pm with no burning October 30-31, carried. A motion was made by Gordon, supported by Daly to approve the South Bend Roofing Company bid for the new roof at the Township Business Office, carried. A motion was made by Daly, supported by Gordon to approve the Selge Construction bid to repair the sewer lid at Breezy Beach and Barron Lake Road, carried. A motion was made by Wozniak, supported by Daly to schedule a public hearing to set an industrial development district (IDD) at 823 Carberry Road for November 21, 2017 at 7:00 pm., carried. A motion was made by Johnson, supported by Kasprzak to approve Resolution 2017-012, Establishing a Special Assessment District for Emergency Medical Service, carried, Rudlaff and Wozniak voted no. A motion was made by Rudlaff, supported by Gordon to accept the resignation of Dave Swanstrom as the Building Inspector effective October 30, 2017, carried. A motion was made by Wozniak, supported by Daly to appoint Rich McGrew as the Interim Building Inspector until the November 21, 2017 meeting, carried. A motion was made by Johnson, supported by Rudlaff to appoint Erika Pickles to the Township Park Board, carried. A motion was made by Daly, supported by Johnson to reappoint Cathy Stafford to the Zoning Board of Appeals, carried. A motion was made by Kasprzak, supported by Gordon to reappoint Phil Hurlbutt to the Planning Commission, carried.

Correspondence

None

Other Business from the Board

Treasurer Rudlaff informed the Board that a Niles City Employee reported the Township has the Invasive Japanese Knotweed on Bame Avenue. He advised to consider getting rid of it as soon as possible, because it is invasive and destructive. Trustee Daly informed the Board he would be working with Deputy Clerk Munger on tracking fire station project costs.

Public Comment

Ed Leneway verified size of the parks department's storage container. Jim Hattenbach requested road repairs at Terminal and Barron Lake Road. He also mentioned the new material being used to fill potholes does not seem to be as effective. This sparked a conversation regarding Cass County Road Commission's lack of quality work and cutting too many services.

Adjournment:

A motion was made by Kasprzak, supported by Daly to adjourned the meeting at 8:11 p.m. Sheriff Behnke and Commissioner Bob Ziliak announced the Truck or Treat program will be at TK Lawless Park is October 21, 2017 2 pm – 5 pm. Supervisor Bradfield declared the meeting adjourned at 8:13 pm.

Sheri Wozniak
Howard Township Clerk