

**HOWARD TOWNSHIP
REGULAR MEETING
November 17, 2015, 2015 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, and Ashley Wentz answered roll call. Trustees Johnson and Brawley were absent. Undersheriff Behnke and Deputy Kreiner 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 Daly to approve the Agenda, carried.

Minutes:

A motion was made by Daly, supported by Wentz to approve the October 20, 2015 regular meeting minutes as written, carried.

Financial Report:

Treasurer Rudlaff read the October 2015 financial report into the record. A motion was made by Daly, supported by Wozniak to accept the October 2015 monthly financial report as presented with a beginning balance of \$684,980.39 and an ending balance of \$645,340.95, carried.

Approval of Bills

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

Departmental Reports

Chief Leneway reported 13 fire calls and 25 medical calls for October 2015. Leneway also Announced the Christmas Tree Sale will begin the day after Thanksgiving. Undersheriff Behnke reported that the monthly calls for service included two drug busts, storage unit burglary and the arrest of the suspects in several burglaries in the area (which was a cooperative between Cass County, State Police, Niles Police and Berrien County). He also warned drivers to watch for deer, car vehicle accidents are on the rise. Also, Mr. Behnke Announced the Cass County Animal Shelter's Christmas for the Animals on December 5, 2015 from 10 am-noon. Refreshments will be served, please come out and support the needs of our local animals by donating supplies, food, money etc. Trustee Wentz reported 433 calls (not including transfers) for service at SMCAS in October 2015, 24 being in Howard Township. Also, SMCAS had \$153,362.29 in revenues and \$161,831.15 in expenditures for October 2015. Treasurer Rudlaff reported that the parks department is working on plans to finish the nature walk at Pepper Martin and wrapping up the current park season. A motion was made by Rudlaff, supported by Wozniak to approve the monthly reports, carried.

Information

Bill Kasprzak introduced Deputy Kreiner, who presented the Neighborhood Watch Program and the benefits the program offers to communities. Groups of neighbors throughout the Township keep watch over their neighbors, keep reports, and update our local deputies. This program has proven to bring crime rates down. People report any unusual vehicles, people or situations. Supervisor Bradfield announced a building assessment report has been received from Wightman & Associates. The Township Office will be closed November 26 & 27, 2015 for Thanksgiving.

Old Business

None

New Business

A motion was made by Wozniak, supported by Wentz for no objection to be made to the abandonment of a lane between 1175 and 1177 Shady Shores, carried. A motion was made by Daly, supported by Rudlaff to appoint Ed Leneway as the Fire Inspector, carried.

Correspondence

None

Other Business from the Board

Treasurer Rudlaff commended Teri Ernsberger for her hard work and saving the Township thousands of dollars. Rudlaff made a motion, supported by Wozniak to give Teri Ernsberger a \$1.50 an hour raise, carried.

Public Comment

Joseph Stephens questioned the Cost Recovery Ordinance, feeling they should not have been charged. Also, Mr. Stephens stated he felt it improper for Township Officials to discuss situations pertaining to residents with the public or in public places.

Adjournment:

A motion was made by Daly, supported by Wentz to adjourn at 8:08 p.m., carried.

Sheri D. Wozniak
Howard Township Clerk