

**HOWARD TOWNSHIP
REGULAR MEETING
November 21, 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, and Bill Kasprzak answered roll call. Hank Johnson was absent.

Approval of Agenda:

Supervisor Bradfield amended the Agenda to remove Item I. 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 Gordon to approve the Agenda, carried.

Minutes:

A motion was made by Kasprzak, supported by Rudlaff to approve the October 17, 2017 regular meeting minutes as written, carried.

Financial Report:

Treasurer Rudlaff read the October Financial Report. A motion was made by Gordon, supported by Kasprzak to accept the October 2017 monthly financial report as presented with a beginning balance of \$583,835.64 and an ending balance of \$429,392.55, carried.

Approval of Bills

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

Departmental Reports

Interim Building Inspector Rich McGrew reported 7 new permits were issued in October and he is currently catching up with inspections and cleaning up old permits. Fire Chief Ed Leneway reported 6 fire and 18 medical calls for October 2017. Leneway also announced that the Fire Association's Annual Christmas Tree Fundraiser begins November 24, 2017. Hours of operation will be Wednesday through Friday 6-9 pm, Saturday 9 am-9pm and Sunday 10 am-9pm. The sale will be in the old Stop In parking lot (across the street from the station). A motion was made by Kasprzak, supported by Gordon, to appoint Paul Lamson as a firefighter, carried. Trustee Kasprzak stated the last SMCAS meeting was canceled and that they remain extremely busy. Trustee Gordon reported the parks are closed for the season. He added that next year's little league schedule will include opening day on April 28, two tournament weekends (May 19-21 and July 14-16), and closing day will be June 30. A motion was made by Daly, supported by Kasprzak to approve the monthly reports, carried.

Information

Upcoming holiday Closings include November 23 & 24 for Thanksgiving, December 25 & 26 for Christmas and January 1 & 2 for New Years. The Fire Department Christmas Tree Sale will begin November 24. Come out and support your local fire association. The Office Christmas Tree is up, please help in decorating it with donations for the students at Howard School. The Township will be accepting monetary donations as well as gloves, hats, scarves, sweatpants, socks, and long sleeve tee shirts, etc. Monetary donations will be accepted as well.

Public Hearing

Supervisor Bradfield opened the public hearing at 7:11 pm. Bradfield explained that Miles Truck Services has applied for 823 Carberry to be assigned as an Industrial Development District. After reading the hearing rules, Mr. Bradfield asked if there were any conflicts of interest on the board. He added no correspondence had been received on the subject and opened the floor to the public. Barkley Garrett from Southwestern Michigan Economic Growth Alliance explained that Mike Mannell, Miles Trucking Services owner, is building an 8,000 square foot building in the Township with an estimated cost of \$675,000. They plan on hiring 4-5 new employees. The company is growing and repairs large trucks and trailers. Mr. Scott Lundberg of 1069 Carberry asked the size of the trucks being work on in the building. The applicant stated semi to straight truck repair; same that had been done by previous owners. Mr. Jack Frost of 1107 Carberry asked if the project had already begun, and it has. Mr. Steve Gordon of 2298 Yankee Street asked if this business would increase truck traffic in the residential area. The applicant explained this project would have a low impact on the residential area, because most of the traffic would continue to come right off M60. Supervisor Bradfield closed the public hearing at 7:17 pm.

Old Business

None

New Business

A motion was made by Kasprzak, supported by Gordon, to approve Resolution 2017-013 to set 823 Carberry as an Industrial Development District (IDD), carried. A motion was made by Wozniak, supported by Kasprzak, to schedule a public hearing for an Industrial Facility Tax Abatement (IFT) for Miles Truck Service at 823 Carberry Road for December 19, 2017 at 7:00 pm., carried. A motion was made by Kasprzak, supported by Gordon to approve Rich McGrew for the remainder of the 2017-2018 fiscal year building inspector contract, carried. A motion was made by Wozniak, supported by Daly, to approve Ordinance #208, Schedule of Fees, carried. A motion was made by Rudlaff, supported by Kasprzak, to accept the resignation of Judy Bedell-Deutscher from the Park Board, carried. A motion was made by Wozniak, supported by Gordon, to accept the bid of MS Properties for the 2017-2018 property clean-up contractor, carried. A motion was made by Daly, supported by Wozniak, to approve Resolution 2017-014, the Bid Requirement Resolution, carried. A motion was made by Daly, supported by Gordon, to table the driveway and parking lot bid until the December 19, 2017 regular meeting, carried.

Correspondence

None

Other Business from the Board

Supervisor Bradfield informed board members that a meeting had taken place with the road commission, sheriff's office, school administration and the township to discuss the school issues on Mannix Street. The afternoon student pickup has created an unsafe situation for residents and students. The road commission is considering turning Mannix and that section of Leet into a one way road from Barron Lake Road to M60. This has been an ongoing and growing issue for the past several years. The school did not address the problem during the addition construction at Howard School and will not currently contribute to rectify the situation. The road commission is requesting board opinion on turning Mannix and that section of Leet into a one way road from Barron Lake Road to M60. The board does not support this plan at this time.

Concerns of the Citizens

Scott Lundberg informed the board that he sent notices to all his neighbors informing them of the impending project to widen and repave Carberry Road. He said the road commission has already marked about 100 trees along Carberry to begin the project. He questioned the communication between the board and residents. The board stated they had no knowledge the project was decided on or underway. Mr. Lundberg added that this project would not make it safer and that the speeding on Carberry would increase with a wider road. Lastly, Mr. Lundberg adamantly stated he was violently opposed to this project. Mr. Todd Mokwa of 1110 Carberry is concerned over the removal of all the trees; he feels they add protection from speeders, the motorcycles racing up and down the road, icy areas and general traffic. Mr. Jack Frost of 1107 Marshlyn mentioned safety issues at the intersection of Reum, Carberry and M60; he feels this is a more pressing issue. Ms. Leona Hein of 943 Carberry asked that the board advocate for the residents of Carberry Road. She wants the board to discourage truck traffic. Ms. Moore of 1118 Carberry stated there is no police coverage in the area and speeding is an issue, many children in the area. The trees protect the residents and their families in this residential area. Mr. Mokwa requested police coverage.

Adjournment:

A motion was made by Rudlaff, supported by Gordon to adjourn the meeting at 8:42 p.m.

Sheri Wozniak
Howard Township Clerk