

**HOWARD TOWNSHIP
REGULAR MEETING
December 19, 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, Johnson and Bill Kasprzak answered roll call. Undersheriff Roach and Joe Bellina from the Cass County Road Commission were also present. Undersheriff Roach announced that they raised over \$1,300.00 for Domestic Assault with the "No Shave November" fundraiser. Christmas for the Animals was also a success. Local Churches initiated a program to help inmates get gifts for their children. Lastly, Undersheriff Roach reported that Cass County had 10 accidents in one day due to the conditions of County Roads.

Approval of Agenda:

The floor was open to the residents concerning the Agenda. No comments were made. A motion was made by Johnson, supported by Kasprzak to approve the Agenda, carried.

Minutes:

A motion was made by Gordon, supported by Rudlaff to approve the November 21, 2017 regular meeting minutes as written, carried.

Financial Report:

Treasurer Rudlaff read the November Financial Report. A motion was made by Kasprzak, supported by Gordon to accept the November 2017 monthly financial report as presented with a beginning balance of \$429,392.55 and an ending balance of \$479,262.94, carried.

Approval of Bills

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

Departmental Reports

Undersheriff Roach added to his earlier report that a burglary ring had been caught that solved many county thefts. Trustee Kasprzak reported that SMCAS requested a new ambulance and a new wheel chair van. The SMCAS Board approved the wheel chair van and denied the purchase of a new ambulance at this time. Trustee Gordon reiterated the parks are closed for the season. He also reported that leaf clean up at Hatcherville had been completed, the Park Board received a complaint for people walking their dogs in front of Kiddie Corral and leaving the dogs waste, and they are preparing for next year's budget request. A motion was made by Johnson, supported by Daly to approve the monthly reports, carried.

Information

Upcoming holiday Closings include December 25 & 26 for Christmas and January 1 & 2 for New Years. The Fire Department Christmas Tree Sale was a success and they are sold out, thank you all who bought trees to support the local firefighters. 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 7:16 pm. The supervisor read the public hearing rules aloud and had no correspondence to present. Bradfield asked board members if any conflicts of interest existed; hearing none, Bradfield explained that Miles Truck Services has applied for an Industrial Facility Tax Abatement for 823 Carberry and handed the floor over to Barclay Garrett to give more details on the project. Mr. Garrett explained the application. No public comments were made. Bradfield closed the hearing at 7:20 pm.

Old Business

A motion was made by Kasprzak, supported by Johnson to approve \$17,000.00 more to finish the concrete driveway for the bays on the north side of the station, carried.

New Business

A motion was made by Kasprzak, supported by Gordon, to approve Resolution 2017-015, an Industrial Facility Tax Abatement for Miles Truck Service at 823 Carberry, carried. A motion was made by Rudlaff, supported by Johnson, to approve Resolution 2017-016, to deny the acceptance of grant funding to widen Carberry Road and make it a Category 'F' Road, carried. A motion was made by Johnson, supported by Rudlaff, to appoint Don Syson to the Park Board, carried. A motion was made by Kasprzak, supported by Gordon to table the signage decision for the fire station to collect more bids, carried. A motion was made by Wozniak, supported by Rudlaff, to adopt Ordinance #209, an amendment to Ordinance #192, the Zoning Ordinance, carried.

Correspondence

None

Other Business from the Board

Linda Rudlaff asked Joe Bellina for clarification on signage, trees and the condition of Carberry Road. Mr. Bellina said he wasn't sure in there were "no through truck" signs on Carberry before he was with the road commission. He added that they would not go through and take down all the trees along the road and that the road commission would continue to patch the road as needed. Any repaving costs would mostly be the township's responsibility.

Concerns of the Citizens

Ms, Leona Hein applauded the Township Board for halting the Carberry Road project and ask that they put no thru truck signs on Carberry. She also added that the road commission services the township and its residents less and less. Mr. Scott Lundberg also thanked the board for halting the Carberry project. He stated Niles gets the tax base from the industrial park and that they should bear the cost; direct truck traffic to Seventeenth Street. Mr. Bruno Eidielis suggested one-way traffic for just the period of time children were being picked up from Howard Elementary School to address the Mannix Street issue. The road commission and sheriff's office had already stated that would not be feasible. Mike Holt of 2747 Mannix opposes one-way traffic on Mannix.

Adjournment:

A motion was made by Kasprzak, and Bradfield adjourned the meeting at 8:15 p.m.

Sheri Wozniak
Howard Township Clerk