

**HOWARD TOWNSHIP
REGULAR MEETING
March 15, 2016 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, David Brawley, Hank Johnson and Ashley Wentz answered roll call. Andy Campbell and Tom Traciak of Umbaugh, James White of Mika Meyers, Andrew Mollison of Wightman and Associates, Joe Bellina and Steve Lucas from Cass County Road Commission, and Jared and Eli from Troop 579 were also in attendance.

Approval of Agenda:

Supervisor Bradfield amended the Agenda to add Item A Cass County Road Commission under Information. The floor was open to the residents concerning the Agenda. No comments were made. A motion was made by Johnson, supported by Daly to approve the Agenda, carried.

Minutes:

A motion was made by Daly, supported by Rudlaff to approve the February 16, 2016 regular meeting minutes and the March 2, 2016 special meeting as written, carried.

Financial Report:

Treasurer Rudlaff read the February 2016 financial report into the record. A motion was made by Wozniak, supported by Brawley to accept the February 2016 monthly financial report as presented with a beginning balance of \$776,909.90 and an ending balance of \$818,409.08, carried.

Approval of Bills

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

Departmental Reports

Chief Leneway reported 25 medical and 18 fire calls for February 2016. Trustee Wentz reported SMCAS revenues of \$161,033.41 and expenditures of \$161,519.94 for February 2016. She also announced the hiring of an Operations Manager to assist the SMCAS Director. Park Board Member Bedell-Deutscher reported that more work was being done at Pepper Martin, such as extending handicap parking and beautifying the walking trail with split rail fence and shrubs. Also, she stated that Brian Beckwith did a great job bringing in fill to reroute and pack the drive to lower parking lot to correct the run off issue. A motion was made by Johnson, supported by Rudlaff to approve the monthly reports, carried.

Information

Mr. Bellina explained Category 'F' Funds for roads now that Niles Area Transportation has named Carberry Road as Federally eligible for funding. During his summary, Mr. Bellina stated the Township and County could receive \$375,000 in grant funds with local government matching of 20%. The township matches 20% (\$75,000) and the County will contribute 10% of the \$75,000 (\$7,500). He asked the Board to consider approving the County Road Commission to move forward with the grant application for receiving Category 'F' Funds. A motion was made by Rudlaff, supported by Johnson to approve the Cass County Road Commission applying for the Category 'F' Funds for Carberry Road between Yankee Street and Lake Street, carried, Brawley voted no.

Old Business

None

New Business

A motion was made by Wozniak, supported by Rudlaff the annual monthly meeting schedules, carried. A motion was made by Johnson, supported by Brawley to approve the contracts with Siegfried Crandall, PC as the auditor, Mitt Drew with Kotz Sangster Wysocki PC as the attorney, and Berends, Hendricks & Stuit Insurance Agency as the insurance agent, carried. A motion was made by Johnson, supported by Brawley to approve the contract renewals for the Building Inspector/Mechanical Inspector Dave Swanstrom, Electrical Inspector Ron Bellaire and Plumbing Inspector Ed Wainwright, carried. A motion was made by Daly, supported by Brawley to appoint Ed Leneway as Fire Chief, James Hattenbach as Assistant Fire Chief, and Chris Korp as Captain, carried. A motion was made by Wozniak, supported by Johnson to approve Supervisor Craig Bradfield and Cass County Deputy Brawley as the ordinance enforcement officer for all ordinances, Zoning Administrator Linda McGregor as an enforcement officer for the Zoning Ordinance, and the Fire Department Officers as enforcement officers for burning and fire ordinances, carried. A motion was made by Wozniak, supported by Johnson to approve Resolution 2016-001, the General Appropriations Act Resolution, carried. A motion was made by Johnson, supported by Daly to approve Resolution 2016-002, the Salary Resolution, carried. A motion was made by Daly, supported by Brawley to approve the Health Reimbursement Schedule for 2016-2017, carried. A motion was made by Bradfield, supported by Rudlaff to approve the 2016-2017 Holiday Schedule, carried. A motion was made by Johnson, supported by Rudlaff to approve the proposed 2016-2017 General Fund Budget, carried. A motion was made by Bradfield, supported by Johnson to approve the proposed 2016-2017 Street Light, Improvement Capital, Building, Sewer and Weed Eradication Funds Budgets, carried. A motion was made by Bradfield, supported by Wozniak to approve 2016-2017 pay scale, carried. A motion was made by Johnson, supported by Daly to approve 2016-2017 liaison appointments, carried. A motion was made by Bradfield, supported by Johnson to approve budget amendments for the 2015-2016 General, Capital Improvement and Sewer Funds, carried.

Correspondence

None

Other Business from the Board

New Building Workshop: Andy Campbell and Tom Traciak from Umbaugh, James White from Mika Meyers, PLC and Andrew Mollison from Wightman & Associates summarized their findings and recommendations regarding the existing Township Business Office and Fire Station. Wightman and Associates has recommended building a new building combining the business office with the fire station. During the presentation, they recommended funding options including the USDA, which requires a verified method of repayment of the loan over 40 years. They suggested the Board ask for a millage as soon as possible, because there are funds available right now through the USDA. A motion was made by Johnson, supported by Wentz to set a Special Meeting for April 13, 2016 at 6:30 pm to discuss the proposed new building, carried.

Public Comment

Bruno Eidietis suggested waiting for a smaller election to propose a millage. Debbie Floor reminded the Board that the USDA is renewed annually.

Adjournment:

A motion was made by Johnson, supported by Brawley to adjourn at 8:38 p.m., carried.

Sheri Wozniak
Howard Township Clerk