

**HOWARD TOWNSHIP
REGULAR MEETING
March 19, 2019 7:00 p.m.**

Call to Order/Pledge/Roll Call:

Sheri Wozniak 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 Sheri Wozniak, Linda Rudlaff, Mike Daly, Mike Gordon, Hank Johnson and Bill Kasprzak answered roll call. Sheriff Behnke, Undersheriff Roach, County Commissioner Grice and Niles Charter Township Trustee Richard Cooper were also in attendance. A motion was made by Rudlaff, supported by Gordon for Bill Kasprzak to run the Meeting, carried.

Approval of Agenda:

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 Wozniak, supported by Gordon to approve the February 19, 2019 regular meeting minutes as written, carried.

Financial Report:

Treasurer Rudlaff read the February 2019 financial report into the record. A motion was made by Johnson, supported by Daly to accept the February 2019 monthly financial report as presented with a beginning balance of \$449,475.36 and an ending balance of \$509,421.03, carried.

Approval of Bills

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

Departmental Reports

Commissioner Mike Grice informed the Board that the County is still working on the email issue occurring there, and a new website will be up and running soon. The Board of Commissioners is working on filling two positions at the County; a financial director and a county administrator. Fire Chief Corzine reported a total of 26 calls for service in February; 15 medical and 11 fire calls. Chief Corzine also mentioned the smoke detector donation drive is going well. Wal-Mart has donated 40 detectors with a pledge of 20 a month thereafter until their funding runs out. The department is hoping to hear from TSC, Lowe's and Rural King. Sheriff Behnke reported car/deer accidents are sky rocketing; people drive faster as the weather gets nicer and with the deer population up. Mr. Behnke mentioned last month's burglary ring bust and the fact that they recovered property from a house and two barns. Much of the property is hard to identify, because not everyone reports their property being stolen. Though finding stolen property can be difficult, without the stolen property being reported, when there is a big bust such as this one, we can't get property back to rightful owner. Be sure to report any stolen items. Also, to help identify your property, keep a list of serial numbers, or you can add some set of your own numbers to identify your property; do not use social security number. The Sheriff's Department now uses Biddergy.com for auctions. Lastly, there is a 7:00 pm tip off for the Cass County All-stars game on March 20 at Cassopolis High School. Trustee Kasprzak reported that SMCAS remains very busy and they are getting bids for a new ambulance. . The system that was installed in the ambulances that monitors drivers has significantly decreased the cost of maintenance on the ambulances. But, the alarms may be affecting the hearing of an employee. A specialist will examine the system to ensure employee safety. Trustee Gordon reported the parks will be opening April 1. Little League will also be starting soon. There will be a bit of tree work in the parks this year. Lastly, the end of Moulder drive needs slag, according to Cass County no one owns it or is responsible for it. A motion was made by Johnson, supported by Rudlaff to approve the monthly reports, carried.

Information

Cass County Road Commission has released the tree trimming and brush removal schedule for 2019. Four roads in Howard are scheduled; Barron Lake Road, Lake Street, Lake Shore Drive, and Reum Road. The Cass County Road Commission have not submitted all their bids for the roads requested by the board, though funds will be budgeted for road projects, the projects will not be decided until the township receives all requested bids. The County Road Commission must wait for the weather to break to perform soil boring tests.

Old Business

None

New Business

A motion was made by Daly, supported by Gordon, to approve the annual monthly meeting schedules, carried. A motion was made by Johnson, supported by Wozniak 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, House Master for township owned property inspections, MS Properties for ordinance enforcement cleanups, and Norman Properties for ordinance enforcement mowing, carried. A motion was made by Daly, supported by Johnson to approve the contract renewals for the Assessor and Building Inspector Rich McGrew, Electrical Inspector Ron Bellaire, Plumbing/Mechanical Inspector John Dobberteen, and Miss Dig Inspector Ty Munger with Neil Coulston as a back-up, carried. A motion was made by Gordon, supported by Rudlaff to appoint Chris Corzine as Fire Chief, Joe Korp as Assistant Fire Chief and Fire Inspector, and Chris Korp as Captain, carried. A motion was made by Wozniak, supported by Johnson to approve the Supervisor and the contracted Cass County Sheriff Deputy as ordinance enforcement officer for all ordinances, Zoning Administrator 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 Rudlaff, supported by Gordon, to approve Resolution 2019-001, the Salary Resolution, carried. A motion was made by Wozniak, supported by Daly, to approve Resolution 2019-002, the General Appropriations Act Resolution, carried. A motion was made by Gordon, supported by Johnson, to approve the Health Reimbursement Schedule for 2019-2020, carried. A motion was made by Daly, supported by Rudlaff, to approve the 2019-2020 Holiday Schedules, carried. A motion was made by Rudlaff, supported by Wozniak, to approve the proposed 2019-2020 General Fund Budget, carried. A motion was made by Gordon, supported by Rudlaff, to approve the proposed 2019-2020 Ambulance, Street Light, Improvement Capital, Building, New Construction, Sewer and Weed Eradication Funds Budgets, carried. A motion was made by Daly, supported by Wozniak to approve 2019-2020 pay scale, carried. A motion was made by Wozniak, supported by Gordon, to approve budget amendments for the 2018-2019 General, Ambulance, Building, Improvement Capital, New Construction, Sewer and Weed Eradication Funds, carried. A motion was made by Daly, supported by Gordon, to approve the Woodbury land division application for parcel 14-020-013-015-03, carried. A motion was made by Johnson, supported by Gordon, to appoint Bill Kasprzak as Supervisor until November 2020, carried. A motion was made by Kasprzak, supported by Gordon, to appoint Charlie Mather as Maintenance/Park Supervisor, carried.

Correspondence

None

Other Business from the Board

Treasurer Rudlaff requested a cost recovery waiver that the responsible party cannot be found by the township or the county. A motion was made by Kasprzak, supported by Johnson, to waive the cost recovery requested by Treasurer Rudlaff, carried.

Public Comment

No comments made.

Adjournment:

A motion was made by Rudlaff, supported by Johnson to adjourn at 7:44 p.m., carried.

Sheri Wozniak
Howard Township Clerk