

**HOWARD TOWNSHIP  
REGULAR MEETING  
May 21, 2019      7:13 p.m.**

**Call to Order/Pledge/Roll Call:**

Bill Kasprzak called the regular meeting of the Howard Township Board of Trustees to order at 7:13 p.m. The meeting was held at Howard Township Business Office. Pledge to the flag was given. Board members Bill Kasprzak, Sheri Wozniak, Linda Rudlaff, Mike Gordon, and Hank Johnson answered roll call. Mike Daly was absent. County Commissioner Grice, County Road Commissioner Les McClelland, Electrical Inspector Ron Bellaire, Fire Chief Corzine, and Deputy Ryan Shields 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 Hurlbutt, supported by Rudlaff to approve the Agenda, carried.

**Minutes:**

A motion was made by Rudlaff, supported by Hurlbutt to approve the April 16, 2019 regular meeting minutes as written, carried.

**Financial Report:**

Treasurer Rudlaff read the April 2019 financial report into the record. A motion was made by Gordon, supported by Johnson to accept the April 2019 monthly financial report as presented with a beginning balance of \$527,412.94 and an ending balance of \$473,841.22, carried.

**Approval of Bills**

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

**Departmental Reports**

Commissioner Mike Grice informed the Board that on May 2, 2019 Cass County Medical Care was recognized by the state and given a 5 star rating. He also informed the Board of the following; Jeff Carmin was hired as the new County Administrator and Kerry Collins as Deputy County Administrator, the hazardous waste day was a success on May 11, and the Tire Collection Day will be the first or second Saturday in August. County Road Commissioner McClelland informed the board that he would be attending our meetings on a regular basis and that the Road Commission is in search of a new Managing Director after Steve Lucas' termination. Supervisor Kasprzak noted an increase in building for April 2019. Chief Corzine reported 30 calls for April 2019, 23 medical, 6 fire and 1 mutual aid. Mr. Corzine also mentioned the following upcoming events at the station; Miss Niles Pancake Breakfast on May 25, Project Graduation for Niles Schools on May 31, and Boaters Safety Class on June 22 (sign up on the sheriff's website). Deputy Ryan Shields cautioned the residents to do their due diligence when hiring a contractor. In the last month, he has been investigating two contractors for felonies. They are accepting up front money for materials and specific jobs and then not performing the work. Make sure your contractors are licensed in the State of Michigan for the type of work you are hiring them to do. The Michigan Licensing and Regulatory website is a great tool, and you can simply Google their names. Ron Bellaire, the electrical inspector, reminded the residents that they can also contact their local inspectors for licensing information on contractors. Kasprzak informed the board that SMCAS remains extremely busy. He also reported ambulance uncollectibles is down to \$80,000.00 from \$250,000.00. Mr. Kasprzak stated that one of the new LUCAS deliberating machines saved a life in Dowagiac. He also stated next week is EMS Appreciation Week, and the public is welcome to a luncheon at SMCAS on Thursday. Lastly, Mr. Kasprzak applauded Frank Dillatori, a SMCAS medic, for earning a Silver Heart; an award for going above and beyond the call of duty. He will be recognized in Washington DC. Trustee Gordon reported parks are open and up and running. The Park Board is putting effort into property maintenance at this time. They are hunting for a contractor to repair the Hatcherville Park Pavilion and will be collecting bids for tree work in the parks. A motion was made by Wozniak, supported by Johnson to approve the monthly reports, carried.

Treasurer Rudlaff applauded the new fire chief for a job well done in bringing equipment up to safety standards and for the increase in new recruits. There are currently 6 probationary firefighters. Chief Corzine thanked all the firefighters, stating he couldn't do without their dedication, support and hard work. Rudlaff also thanked the firefighters for their assistance on Clean Up Day.

### **Information**

None

### **Old Business**

None

### **New Business**

A motion was made by Gordon, supported by Hurlbutt to approve the Carli firework application, carried. A motion was made by Rudlaff, supported by Gordon to approve 2019-2020 liaison appointments, carried. A motion was made by Johnson, supported by Gordon to appoint Debbie Johnson to the Planning Commission, carried. A motion was made by Hurlbutt, supported by Rudlaff to approve the Barron Lake Associations special event application for a Boater's Safety Class at the fire station on June 22, carried. A motion was made by Wozniak, supported by Gordon to approve the Niles Community Schools special event application for Project Graduation at the fire station on May 31, carried. A motion was made by Rudlaff, supported by Hurlbutt to approve the Miss Niles' special event application for a Pancake Breakfast at the fire station on May 25, carried. A motion was made by Johnson, supported by Rudlaff to appoint Rich McGrew as Township Assistant Assessor, carried. A motion was made by Kasprzak, supported by Rudlaff to reschedule the June 18, 2019 regular meeting for June 20, 2019 at 7:00 pm, carried.

### **Correspondence**

None

### **Other Business from the Board**

Treasurer Rudlaff received a request to put articles on the township website; the board decided to investigate this option before making a decision. Clerk Wozniak thanked the board members and firefighters that helped with Clean-up Day. She mentioned dumpsters were full around 9:30, so another dumpster was brought out. The day was a success.

### **Public Comment**

Deb Floor stated that anyone interested in the boater's safety class must be 12 years of age.

### **Adjournment:**

Supervisor Kasprzak adjourned the meeting at 8:01 p.m., carried.

Sheri Wozniak  
Howard Township Clerk