

**HOWARD TOWNSHIP
SPECIAL MEETING
June 20, 2017 6:00 p.m.**

Call to Order/Pledge/Roll Call

Craig Bradfield called the special meeting of the Howard Township Board of Trustees to order at 6:00 p.m. The meeting was held at Hope Community Church, 2390 Lake Street, Niles. Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Board members Craig Bradfield, Sheri Wozniak, Linda Rudlaff, Bill Kasprzak, Mike Daly, Mike Gordon and Hank Johnson answered roll call. Also, 198 people signed in for the public hearing, Deputy Pompey counted 267 people.

Public Hearing

Supervisor Bradfield opened the Public Hearing at 6:02 pm. After reading the hearing rules, Mr. Bradfield explained this hearing was for a proposed special assessment for all real parcels for a .6 operating millage for the fire department's operating expenses. Mr. Bradfield then read the names and addresses of residents who sent in correspondence in support of the special assessment; Mary and Karen Lowe of 1326 Breezy Beach. Reasons given for support were the fire station is old and in bad shape, support the firefighters in their jobs and keep homeowners insurance lower. Mr. Bradfield then read names and addresses of residents who sent correspondence opposing the special assessment; Peter Karlowicz of 1318 Cedarhurst, Adele Pytel of 1389 Huntly, Clifford and Mary Poehlman of 28003 M 60, West Kathy Lee Malone of 1237 Rose Drive, Veronica Rosetto of 2220 Yankee Street, James Skinner of 2220 Yankee Street, Kenneth Hall of 2569 Williams, Laurence Burns Trust - Diana Wroblewski of 1250 Anderson, Robery & Nancy Lord of 1208 Elder Court, James & Anita Novak of 993 Ruth Ln, Tim Enders of 2290 Yankee Street, Ester Crawford of 1736 Dodd, Pat Kujawa of 1730 Dodd, Denise Beckman of 2259 Catalina and Patrick & Evelyn Feeny of 3144 E Detroit Road. Reasons given for opposing assessment is no new taxes, should be voted by the people, fixed incomes and owning multiple parcels. Supervisor Bradfield opened the floor for people supporting the assessment. Fred Cribbs of 1130 Greenfield stated we should support the fire department and firefighters and Cyndee Crawford of 1098 Carberry stated it is a great department and deserves better support from the residents. Supervisor Bradfield opened the floor for people opposing the assessment. Mrs. Brock of 1038 Huntly stated she lives on a fixed income, Mr. Randy Bowman of 3223 Pine Lake Street stated the board should manage township funds better and check in to contracting fire service, Kent Poehlman of Poehlman Farms stated they have 31 properties and .6 mills is too costly, Diane Wroblewski of 1250 Anderson Road stated that assessments should increase property value and wondered how operating expenses increased value, Larry Eckler of 1879 Barron Lake Road asked what happened to Indeck money received back around 2002, Bill Wozniak of 2544 Holly does not want more taxes, Betty Kirkendoll of 2542 Reese stated she lives on fixed income, Mike Richmond of 1002 Leet stated the board was asking for too much money, Bruce Geischeidle of 2490 White Street stated funding would assist our firefighters in doing their jobs, Levi Chapman of 1213 Thomson stated taxes have gone up too much already and the township should do fundraisers, Robert Daus of 2782 White Street stated it should go to a vote, Leon Cuthbert of 1253 Anderson stated the tax would go on and on, Robert Rhynard of 1801 Anderson confirmed the operating millage would be used to maintain a new building, and Marjorie Pinard of 2316 Yankee stated the millage should be reduced. Prior to closing the public hearing, Bradfield asked the residents opposing the millage to please stand; most of the room stood. And, Mr. Bradfield asked anyone supporting the millage to please stand; about a dozen people stood in support. Supervisor Bradfield closed the public hearing at 6:33 pm.

Adjournment

6:33 pm

Sheri D. Wozniak
Howard Township Clerk