

**HOWARD TOWNSHIP
REGULAR MEETING
June 20, 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 7:22 p.m. The meeting was held at Hope Community Church at 2390 Lake Street, Niles. Pledge of allegiance was recited. Board members Craig Bradfield, Sheri Wozniak, Linda Rudlaff, Mike Daly, Mike Gordon, Hank Johnson and Bill Kasprzak answered roll call. Sheriff Rick Behnke and County Commissioner Grice were also in attendance.

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 Johnson, supported by Wozniak to approve the May 16, 2017 special meeting minutes as written, carried. A motion was made by Rudlaff, supported by Bradfield to approve the May 16, 2017 regular meeting minutes as written, carried.

Financial Report:

Treasurer Rudlaff read the May 2017 financial report into the record. A motion was made by Daly, supported by Gordon to accept the May 2017 monthly financial report as presented with a beginning balance of \$893,909.65 and an ending balance of \$996,887.06, carried.

Approval of Bills

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

Departmental Reports

Supervisor Bradfield reported 26 medical calls, 9 fire calls and 3 mutual aid call for May 2017. Chief Leneway announced an Open House at the Fire Station on July 1, 2017 from 8 am till 3 pm with a pancake breakfast and a lunch. Sheriff Behnke explained the Smart911 Program. Smart911 assists officers in finding people who dial 911 from a cell. It allows officers to gather information about the person owning that particular phone, such as addresses, medical info, pet info, etc. This is a national program and the information is only accessible if that particular phone dials 911. The information is stored with a third party that police do not have access too without a 911 call. Trustee Kasprzak reported SMCAS is short staffed right now and looking to fill all positions. They remain extremely busy, especially due to transfers. He is concerned that emergency vehicles and staff are not available for local emergencies if all ambulances are on transfers. He stated that it is important to protect the residents. Mr. Kasprzak reported a positive balance of approximately \$200,000.00, after operating in the red. The transfers assist in offsetting invoice right offs due to nonpayment. Judy Bedell-Deutscher reported that the wells at Pepper Martin and Jones Parks tested fine. The County Health Department has approved a food license for the Little League. Also, the Little League has collected a security system donation for Pepper Martin Park. Security Cameras in Use signs will be posted. Lastly, chains have been added in the lower parking lot at Pepper Martin to prevent people from parking and driving on the grass and/or near the swampy areas. A motion was made by Rudlaff, supported by Gordon to approve the monthly reports, carried.

Information

Cass County Used Passenger tire collection day will be August 5 at the Old Cass County Courthouse, 120 N Broadway, Cassopolis.

Old Business

A motion was made by Daly, supported by Rudlaff to adopt Ordinance 206, Amendment to the Blight Elimination Ordinance #185, carried, Kasprzak, Gordon and Johnson voted no.

New Business

A motion was made by Gordon, supported by Kasprzak to approve the Firework Display Application of Scott Carli, carried. A motion was made by Kasprzak, supported by Wozniak to approve Resolution 2017-007, setting a 2nd public hearing for hearing objections for being placed on a special assessment tax roll for a \$45.00 assessment for five (5) years for the construction of a new fire station for 6 pm July 18, 2017, carried. The Board squashed the consideration for .6 mills special assessment for fire operating costs. A motion was made by Woaniak, supported by Gordon to appoint Jim Bergerson to the Township Park Board, carried. A motion was made by Daly, supported by Johnson to approve Norman Properties as the ordinance enforcement mowing contractor, carried, Wozniak abstained. A motion was made by Johnson, supported by Gordon to approve the land division application from Niles Community Schools for Parcel 14-020-021-058-00, carried.

Correspondence

None

Other Business from the Board

Treasurer Rudlaff asked the audience if there was more support for the five year assessment for the new fire station now that the board is no longer considering an operating millage, several people nodded and acknowledge more support.

Public Comment

Bonnie Velthouse asked about Kiddie Corral and the Community Hall. The Board acknowledged they are evaluating options. Ashley Wentz stated Public Act 33 gives Township Boards authority to specially assess for certain township services and/or needs. She added after serving on the board and seeing the costs, bids for repairs and projects that she sees the need for more community support. Mike Richmond asked the Board to consider dropping the operating millage, the Board reiterated they were not considering an operating millage at this time. Discussion of the proposed special assessment followed. Denise Kasprzak asked the Board and firefighters to find more ways to inform all the residents of the need for the assessment and the project specifications.

Adjournment:

A motion was made by Bradfield, supported by Rudlaff to adjourn at 8:50 p.m., carried.

Sheri Wozniak
Howard Township Clerk