

**HOWARD TOWNSHIP
REGULAR MEETING
September 19, 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 7:00 p.m. The meeting was held at Hope Community Church, 2390 Lake Street, Niles, Michigan. Pledge of allegiance was recited. Board members Craig Bradfield, Sheri Wozniak, Mike Daly, Mike Gordon, Hank Johnson and Bill Kasprzak answered roll call. Treasurer Linda Rudlaff was absent.

Approval of Agenda:

The floor was open to the residents concerning the Agenda. No comments were made. A motion was made by Kasprzak, supported by Gordon to approve the Agenda, carried.

Minutes:

A motion was made by Daly, supported by Johnson to approve the August 15, 2017 regular meeting minutes as written, carried.

Financial Report:

A motion was made by Kasprzak, supported by Johnson to accept the August 2017 monthly financial report as written with a beginning balance of \$935,053.05 and an ending balance of \$640,223.60, carried.

Approval of Bills

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

Departmental Reports

Building Inspector Dave Swanstrom asked the Board to consider raising the building fees. Fire Chief Ed Leneway reported 13 fire and 17 medical calls for August 2017. Trustee Kasprzak reported cuts in overtime hours at SMCAS due to new hires. Also he stated, SMCAS remains very busy, especially with transfers. Trustee Gordon reported that repairs to Pepper Martin and Jones parks have been made after the vandalism they sustained this year. A motion was made by Johnson, supported by Kasprzak to approve the monthly reports, carried.

Information

Zane Lankford presented a grass root group's ballot initiative to end gerrymandering in Michigan. There are some safety tips available at the Township Office regarding bus safety now that school is back in session. Flu Shot Clinic at Howard Township will be October 17, 2017 9 am to 10:30 am, please call for an appointment.

Old Business

None

New Business

A motion was made by Wozniak, supported by Johnson to assign the extra duty of firefighter to Trustee Kasprzak with on-call compensation, carried. A motion was made by Johnson, supported by Gordon to approve General Fund budget amendments, carried. A motion was made by Daly, supported by Kasprzak to approve Fire Department SOP's amendment to the Driving Authorized Emergency Vehicle Policy, carried. A motion was made by Gordon, supported by Daly to approve Resolution 2017-010, setting the 2nd public hearing for the proposed SMCAS Ambulance Service Special Assessment, carried. A motion was made by Kasprzak, supported by Wozniak to appoint Scott Miller to the Zoning Board of Appeals, carried. A motion was made by Johnson, supported by Daly to approve Ordinance #207, repealing Ordinance nos. 8 and 137, the firearm ordinances, carried. A motion was made by Johnson, supported by Kasprzak to approve Resolution 2017-011, the Medical Marihuana Opt Out, carried.

A motion was made by Gordon, supported by Wozniak to schedule a public hearing to set an industrial development district (IDD) at 823 Carberry Road for October 10, 2017 at 5:30 pm., carried. A motion was made by Kasprzak, supported by Daly to recommend the State of Michigan deny a liquor license at Dollar General, carried.

Correspondence

None

Other Business from the Board

Treasurer Rudlaff received a request to consider no sewer cost for vacant, dilapidated houses. After Board discussion, no action was taken and the sewer billing schedule will remain the same.

Public Comment

David Mann introduced himself as a candidate for the 78th District in 2018. He stated he would be an advocate for Cass County as well as Berrien County and he would be available to all constituents.

Adjournment:

Supervisor Bradfield adjourned the meeting at 7:55 p.m.

Sheri Wozniak
Howard Township Clerk