

**HOWARD TOWNSHIP  
REGULAR MEETING  
August 20, 2019      7:00 p.m.**

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

Bill Kasprzak called the regular meeting of the Howard Township Board of Trustees to order at 7:00 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, Phil Hurlbutt, Mike Daly and Hank Johnson answered roll call. State Representative Brad Paquette, Assistant Fire Chief Korp and County Commissioner Grice were also present. Mr. Paquette updated the Board on some of the matters being addressed at the State level; he informed the Board that auto insurance reform has passed and should take effect July 1, 2020 (fees should drop about 40%), road funding, he does not support the Governor's proposed \$.45 gas tax, and budgetary issues.

**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 Gordon, supported by Rudlaff to approve the July 16, 2019 regular meeting minutes as written, carried.

**Financial Report:**

Treasurer Rudlaff read the July 2019 financial report into the record. A motion was made by Gordon, supported by Daly to accept the June 2019 monthly financial report as presented with a beginning balance of \$358,811.56 and an ending balance of \$411,604.84, carried.

**Approval of Bills**

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

**Departmental Reports**

Commissioner Grice informed the Board that the Tire Collection Day was a success with two full trailers collected. Also, Mr. Grice said they are finalizing plans for the old courthouse. Grice also announced several board openings at the County, please contact him if you're interested in serving. Assistant Fire Chief Korp reported 20 fire calls and 24 medical calls for July 2019. Mr. Korp also reminded everyone that the Triathlon is May 24 and to be aware of the athletes. Lastly, he reported the County Fire Association Meeting would be at the fire station on Monday, August 26. Supervisor Kasprzak informed the board that SMCAS has one old unit for sale and it has a good motor. If there is no interest in the unit, it will be sent for auction in Grand Rapids. There are six units in service at SMCAS now. SMCAS is under the Berrien County Review Board now and our first responders are getting more training and the township is no longer charged for certain medications we are required to carry on our medical units. Trustee Gordon stated the Township is still working with the Road Commission to get the end of Moulder Drive in County Road Commission jurisdiction. The Park Board is currently accepting bids for concrete pads under the Notre Dame donated bleachers. Supervisor Kasprzak added that a dangerous tree was removed from Sholtey. Sheriff Behnke arrived and reported the County had two murders, a horse shooting, a drowning, a murder suicide and three suicides in the last month. He also informed the Board that the County is considering a County-wide ORV Ordinance and more information will be made available. Lastly, funding for lake patrols end after Labor Day, but several lake areas have contracted for extra lake patrols. A motion was made by Kasprzak, supported by Hurlbutt to approve the monthly reports, carried.

**Information**

The Triathlon will be August 24, 2019. Please keep in mind there will be some road closures and watch for the athletes.

**Old Business**

A motion was made by Hurlbutt, supported by Rudlaff to adopt Ordinance #214, the Safe Shooting Ordinance, carried, Gordon, Daly and Johnson voting no.

### **New Business**

A motion was made by Daly, supported by Wozniak to approve the Frontier Communication's Right-of-Way Telecommunications Permit Renewal, carried. A motion was made by Gordon, supported by Rudlaff to approve Ordinance #215, the Fire Department Cost Recovery Ordinance, carried. A motion was made by Daly, supported by Gordon to table Ordinance #216, the Fee Schedule Ordinance, carried. A motion was made by Hurlbutt, supported by Daly to approve Ordinance #217, the Fire Code Ordinance, which automatically adopts the version of the International Fire Code the State of Michigan is enforcing, carried. A motion was made by Gordon, supported by Rudlaff to adopt Ordinance #218, the Safe Burning Ordinance, carried. A motion was made by Johnson, supported by Daly to approve the 2019-2020 General Fund budget amendments, carried.

### **Correspondence**

Supervisor Kasprzak explained a couple issues contributing to budget amendments, such as two air conditioning units going out, extra training costs, and finishing up some fire department projects. Deputy Clerk Munger will run notices asking for snow plow bids for the upcoming winter.

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

None

### **Public Comment**

Mr. Lundberg asked how citizens can view the ordinances. Deputy Clerk Munger explained they are available for public inspection at the office and that copies can be made upon request.

### **Adjournment:**

A motion was made by Rudlaff, supported by Johnson to adjourn at 7:55 pm, carried.

Sheri Wozniak  
Howard Township Clerk