

**HOWARD TOWNSHIP
REGULAR MEETING
October 15, 2024, 7:00 p.m.**

Call to Order/Pledge/Roll Call:

Supervisor 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, Mike Gordon, Bill Kasprzak, Hank Johnson, Phil Hurlbutt, Mike Daly, Gary Conover and Sheri Wozniak were present.

Approval of Agenda:

A motion was made by Gordon, supported by Daly to approve the agenda, carried.

Minutes:

A motion was made by Conover, supported by Hurlbutt to approve the September 17, 2024, regular meeting minutes, carried.

Financial Report:

Treasurer Gordon read the October 2024 financial report into the record. A motion was made by Wozniak, supported by Hurlbutt to accept the October 2024 monthly financial report as presented with a beginning balance of \$1,656,163.07 and an ending balance of \$ 1,682,055.03 carried.

Approval of Bills

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

Departmental Reports

Commissioner Jeremiah Jones explained his role as county commissioner. He mentioned the completion of the historical courthouse project and thanked Senator Gary Peters for the grant that allowed that renovation with no debt to the county. The Fire Department answered 21 Fire calls and 37 medical calls in the last month. The spike in fire calls is due to the burn ban and people burning without a permit. The fire department did fire prevention at Howard school. They are continuing to work on BLS certification. The corn and sausage roast was a success. There are two new fire department members, Eric Stump and Tori Lowe. The Sheriff thanked everyone who voted for the passage of the CCDET millage, he provided an example of a recent meth bust that also resulted in recovery of stolen property. The Sheriff's Office is under budget for the year and is planning next years budget. There are still 8 trainees in the academy and staffing should be up to normal levels very soon. Sheriff also reminded everyone that this is car deer season, so be aware. The parks are preparing to close Nov 1st. Tree maintenance at Pepper Martin Park is completed for the year and will continue next season. The parking lot lighting at Pepper Martin Park is also on the agenda for next year. A motion was made by Johnson, supported by Conover to approve the monthly reports, carried.

Information:

A copy of the Year-end March 21,2024 Financial statement was provided to the board.

Old Business: None

New Business

Approve Trick or Treat hours for October 31, from 6pm-7:30pm. A motion was made by Daly, supported by Wozniak, carried.

Approve Darr Rentals for snow removal for Winter 24-25. A motion was made by Wozniak, supported by Gordon, carried.

Correspondence

Other Business from the Board

Public Comment: .

Mike McCauslin 1339 Oriole, speaking for the residents upset that Surf Internet did work on their private road without contacting anyone. He would also like the county to take ownership of the roadway.

David Kroa 1281 Airport Rd, spoke about the unavailability of high-speed internet, that fact that he lives on a border road and it is maintained by Berrien county, that he does not see a lot of benefits from Cass county and Howard township, except for the fire department.

Adjournment: Adjourned at 7:28 pm, carried.

Sheri Wozniak
Howard Township Clerk