

**HOWARD TOWNSHIP  
REGULAR MEETING  
April 11, 2023 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, Mike Daly, Sheri Wozniak, Bill Kasprzak, Hank Johnson, Gary Conover were present. Phil Hurlbutt was absent.

**Approval of Agenda:**

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 March 21st, 2023 regular meeting minutes, carried.

**Financial Report:**

Treasurer Gordon read the April 2023 financial report into the record. A motion was made by Conover, supported by Daly to accept the April 2023 monthly financial report as presented with a beginning balance of \$1,336,250.35 and an ending balance of \$1,428,867.24 carried.

**Approval of Bills**

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

**Departmental Reports**

County Commissioner Jeremiah Jones introduced himself as the new chairperson for the county commissioners and the representative of the majority of Howard Twp. He encouraged veterans to register with the Veteran Affairs The building department continues to be busy. The Fire department had 35 EMS calls and 9 FIRE calls. The Fire Department will be celebrating its 75<sup>th</sup> birthday this fall. SMCAS had 35 calls for service in Howard Twp last month. The parks are open, tree clean up and work to be done at Pepper Martin Park. A motion was made by Wozniak, supported by Johnson to approve the monthly reports, carried.

**Information:** Dump day is April 29<sup>th</sup> from 8:30-11am, vouchers are required and available at the township office. Fire Department is hosting a pancake breakfast on April 30<sup>th</sup>.

**Old Business**

**New Business**

**Approve** Moose Lake splits (10) 14-020-004-033 A motion was made by Wozniak, supported by Johnson, Carried.  
**Approve** Policy for Accessibility for Assessor Office. A motion was made by Daly, supported by Wozniak, Carried.  
**Approve** 39,324.08 for paving Mannix road. A motion was made by Johnson, supported by Wozniak, Carried.

**Correspondence**

**Other Business from the Board**

**Public Comment**

**Adjournment:** Adjourned at 7:21 pm, carried.

Sheri Wozniak  
Howard Township Clerk

**HOWARD TOWNSHIP  
REGULAR MEETING  
May 16, 2023 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, Mike Daly, Sheri Wozniak, Bill Kasprzak, Hank Johnson, Gary Conover, and Phil Hurlbutt were present.

**Approval of Agenda:**

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

**Minutes:**

A motion was made by Gordon, supported by Conover to approve the April 11th, 2023 regular meeting minutes, carried.

**Financial Report:**

Treasurer Gordon read the May 2023 financial report into the record. A motion was made by Daly, supported by Johnson to accept the May 2023 monthly financial report as presented with a beginning balance of \$1,428,867.24 and an ending balance of \$1,281,856.37 carried.

**Approval of Bills**

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

**Departmental Reports**

County Commissioner Jeremiah Jones spoke about a contest to design half of a challenge coin. The Board will use the challenge coin as a means to improve moral in the county and reward those employees with meritorious service. The county website will be updated to be more user friendly. The building department continues to be busy. The Fire department had 28 EMS calls and 21 FIRE calls. The Fire Department will be celebrating its 75<sup>th</sup> birthday this fall. The pancake breakfast was a success. Fire inspection continue in the township. The parks are open. A motion was made by Daly, supported by Wozniak to approve the monthly reports, carried.

**Information:** The board discussed holding a Fall Clean up Day. Date to be set at June meeting.

**Old Business**

**New Business**

**Approve** Resolution 2023-006 MTA Scholarship A motion was made by Wozniak, supported by Johnson, Carried.

**Approve** Reappointment of Linda Rudlaff to Zoning Board of Appeals. A motion was made by Johnson, supported by Conover, Carried.

**Approve** Reappointment of Mike Daly, Jim Bennett, Charles Barnes, Brannon Thornton, Alan Hunt, Justin Anderson and Steve Gillispe to Construction Board of Appeals. A motion was made by Johnson, supported by Gordon, Carried.

**Approve** Ordinance 232 amendments to Zoning Ordinance. A motion was made by Wozniak, supported by Daly, Carried.

**Approve** 14-020-024-024-00 Land Split for Lari Jo and Daniel Kulwicki. A motion was made by Wozniak, supported by Conover, Carried.

**Approve** Hiring Charlie Mather as part time fill in park maintenance at 19.00/hr. A motion was made by Kasprzak, supported by Hulbutt, Carried.

**Correspondence**

**Other Business from the Board**

**Public Comment**

**Adjournment:** Adjourned at 7:36 pm, carried.

Sheri Wozniak  
Howard Township Clerk

**HOWARD TOWNSHIP  
REGULAR MEETING  
June 20, 2023 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, Mike Daly, Sheri Wozniak, Bill Kasprzak, Hank Johnson, Gary Conover, and Phil Hurlbutt 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 Daly, supported by Gordon to approve the May 16, 2023 regular meeting minutes, carried.

**Financial Report:**

Treasurer Gordon read the June 2023 financial report into the record. A motion was made by Johnson, supported by Wozniak to accept the June 2023 monthly financial report as presented with a beginning balance of \$ 1,281,856.37 and an ending balance of \$1,365,124.96 carried.

**Approval of Bills**

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

**Departmental Reports**

County Commissioner Jeremiah Jones spoke about a contest to design half of a challenge coin. The Board will use the challenge coin as a means to improve moral in the county and reward those employees with meritorious service. Blight enforcement will continue to ramp up. He is working on balancing the county budget, which currently has a 1.5-million-dollar budget deficit. The building department continues to be busy. There is currently a burn ban. The Fire department had 45 EMS calls and 19 FIRE calls. The Fire Department will be celebrating its 75<sup>th</sup> birthday this fall and will have an open house on August 26<sup>th</sup> from 11-5. The pancake breakfast for project graduation was a success, and field day at Howard school was fun for the kids and the firefighters able to attend. The parks are continuing to look at replacing play structures. Vandals stole part of the swing set at Kiddie Corral park. SMACS ran 61 calls in the township. They are currently hiring with the help of education grants. The new squad car is almost ready for service for the Sheriff's Deputy assigned to the township. A motion was made by Johnson, supported by Daly to approve the monthly reports, carried.

**Information:** Proposal 2 will cost townships an estimated 20,000 per precinct.

**Old Business**

**New Business**

**Approve** Fall clean up date set for September 16<sup>th</sup> from 8-11. Details still to be worked out in order to provide more people access. A motion was made by Johnson, supported by Daly, Carried.

**Approve** The Niles Service League use of community hall for their meetings A motion was made by Johnson, supported by Kasprzak, Carried.

**Approve** Firework request for Scott Carli. A motion was made by Kasprzak, supported by Conover, Carried.

**Correspondence**

**Other Business from the Board**

**Public Comment**

**Adjournment:** Adjourned at 7:35 pm, carried.

Sheri Wozniak  
Howard Township Clerk

**HOWARD TOWNSHIP  
REGULAR MEETING  
July 18, 2023 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, Sheri Wozniak, Bill Kasprzak, Hank Johnson, Gary Conover, and Phil Hurlbutt were present. Mike Daly was absent.

**Approval of Agenda:**

A motion was made by Kasprzak, supported by Hurlbutt to approve the agenda, carried.

**Minutes:**

A motion was made by Conover, supported by Gordon to approve the June 20, 2023 regular meeting minutes, carried.

**Financial Report:**

Treasurer Gordon read the July 2023 financial report into the record. A motion was made by Wozniak, supported by Johnson to accept the July 2023 monthly financial report as presented with a beginning balance of \$ 1867,641.70 and an ending balance of \$1,641,097.77 carried.

**Approval of Bills**

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

**Departmental Reports**

County Commissioner Jeremiah Jones spoke about the county being 3.5 million in the hole. Ticks are wide spread, 2 cases of monkey pox and 2 cases of Lyme disease. The Sheriff Dept reported that break ins are up and they have 2 new officers, and 2 starting the academy. Contractor scams are increasing. Also a reminder to lock your car and home doors. The building department continues to be busy. The Fire department had 36 EMS calls and 12 FIRE calls. The Fire Department will be celebrating its 75<sup>th</sup> birthday this fall and will have an open house on August 26<sup>th</sup> from 11-5. The parks are continuing to look at replacing play structures. Large tree clean up in Pepper Martin Park. SMACS ran 47 calls in the township. They are currently hiring with the help of education grants. The new squad car is almost ready for service for the Sheriff's Deputy assigned to the township. A motion was made by Wozniak, supported by Hurlbutt to approve the monthly reports, carried.

**Information:**

**Old Business**

**New Business**

**Approve** Budget amendment for Fire Dept A motion was made by Hurlbutt, supported by Wozniak, Carried.

**Approve** Workshop for August 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023 at 6pm to discuss fire truck funding. A motion was made by Wozniak, supported by Johnson, Carried.

**Correspondence**

**Other Business from the Board**

**Public Comment** Morgan Freund questioned where the grant came from for the Fire Dept.

**Adjournment:** Adjourned at 7:16 pm, carried.

Sheri Wozniak  
Howard Township Clerk

**HOWARD TOWNSHIP  
SPECIAL MEETING  
August 1, 2023 6:00 p.m.**

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

Clerk Sheri Wozniak called the special meeting of the Howard Township Board of Trustees to order at 6:15 p.m. The meeting was held at Howard Township Business Office. Board members, Mike Gordon, Sheri Wozniak, Mike Daly, Phil Hurlbutt and Hank Johnson were present, Bill Kasprzak, arrived at 6:16 and, Gary Conover arrived at 6:17pm.

**Approval of Agenda:**

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

**Information:**

**Old Business**

**New Business** A discussion about future funding for the Fire and Police departments. The fire department is in need of a new fire truck in the immediate future and will need to replace other vehicle in its ageing fleet as well as some other very expensive equipment. Costs for 1 fire truck alone will be 850,000.00. Currently the fire department is funded out of the general operating budget. The cost of the truck alone is equivalent to the entire general operating budget. Ideas were discussed on how to fund emergency services moving forward.

Discussed were a millage increase. A special assessment.

The Fire Chief was asked to come up with a 10-year operating budget, taking into consideration additional equipment needing to be replaced within that time frame.

The Treasurer will determine the assessed value of Howard Township and the Supervisor will research an increase in the Millage procedure.

Next meeting is set for August 29<sup>th</sup>, 2023 at 6:30pm

**Adjournment:** Adjourned at 7:11 pm, carried.

Sheri Wozniak  
Howard Township Clerk

**HOWARD TOWNSHIP  
REGULAR MEETING  
August 15, 2023 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, Sheri Wozniak, Bill Kasprzak, Hank Johnson, Gary Conover, and Mike Daly were present. Phil Hurlbutt was absent.

**Approval of Agenda:**

A motion was made by Johnson, supported by Conover to approve the agenda, carried.

**Minutes:**

A motion was made by Johnson, supported by Gordon to approve the July 18th, 2023 regular meeting minutes, carried.  
A motion was made by Daly, supported by Conover to approve the August 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023 special meeting minutes, carried.

**Financial Report:**

Treasurer Gordon read the August 2023 financial report into the record. A motion was made by Wozniak, supported by Johnson to accept the August 2023 monthly financial report as presented with a beginning balance of \$ 1,173,517.06 and an ending balance of \$1,216,180.83 carried.

**Approval of Bills**

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

**Departmental Reports**

County Commissioner Jeremiah Jones spoke about the county and its intention to pass a budget without layoffs. Ticks are wide spread. The Sheriff Dept reported that car/deer numbers are increasing and Undersheriff advised the board that due to the promotion of Deputy Shields to Sargent that Josh Zilke would be the new Howard Twp Deputy. The building department continues to be busy. The Fire department had 32 EMS calls and 10 FIRE calls. The Fire Department will be celebrating its 75<sup>th</sup> birthday this fall and will have an open house on August 26<sup>th</sup> from 1-6. The parks are expecting delivery of new play equipment in October. Large tree clean-up continues and water issues were fixed at Pepper Martin Park. SMACS ran 38 calls in the township. The new squad car is almost ready for service for the Sheriff's Deputy assigned to the township. A motion was made by Daly, supported by Wozniak to approve the monthly reports, carried.

**Information:** September 16<sup>th</sup>, 2023 at 8a-11a is dump day, vouchers available at the twp. hall. Next meeting to discuss emergency services funding is August 29<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm

**Old Business**

**New Business**

**Approve** Fire Department policy for Associate Member Medical 1<sup>st</sup> responder. A motion was made by Conover, supported by Gordon, Carried.

**Approve** Fire Department Cadet program. A motion was made by Wozniak, supported by Daly, Carried.

**Approve** Ordinance 233, to amend Zoning ordinance #192. A motion was made by Johnson, supported by Daly, Carried.

**Correspondence**

**Other Business from the Board**

**Public Comment** Carolyn Neinas asked about the ordinance passed.

**Adjournment:** Adjourned at 7:25 pm, carried.

Sheri Wozniak  
Howard Township Clerk

**HOWARD TOWNSHIP  
SPECIAL MEETING  
August 29, 2023 6:30 p.m.**

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

Supervisor Bill Kasprzak called the special meeting of the Howard Township Board of Trustees to order at 6:30 p.m. The meeting was held at Howard Township Business Office. Board members, Mike Gordon, Sheri Wozniak, Mike Daly, Phil Hurlbutt and Hank Johnson, Bill Kasprzak, and Gary Conover were present.

**Approval of Agenda:**

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

**Information:**

**Old Business**

**New Business** The Fire Chief presented his 10 year budget. In addition to 855,000.00 need for a new fire truck, there is approximately a need for a yearly budget of 500,000.00 in order to plan in advance for future needed replacement purchases for the Fire Dept.

The next step is to find the options for funding.

Trustee Phil Hurlbutt, will determine how to raise the milage and how much Howard can set the milage without a vote.

Determine the value of 1 mil (Dep Clerk)

Things to yet be determined: Cost of an audit of the township to determine how big a rainy-day fund is needed and what can be used to determine budgets moving forward.

Trustee Mike Daly brought up the fact that funding the new fire truck and the fire department on an ongoing basis are two different issues that need to be addressed. An increased milage might get operating expenses but it cannot buy a fire truck. A special assessment might be needed to fund the fire truck and an increase in Milage might be needed for operating expenses.

Next meeting is set for September 26th, 2023 at 6:30pm

**Adjournment:** Adjourned 7:25pm, carried.

Sheri Wozniak  
Howard Township Clerk

**HOWARD TOWNSHIP  
REGULAR MEETING  
September 19, 2023 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, Sheri Wozniak, Bill Kasprzak, Hank Johnson, Gary Conover, Phil Hurlbutt and Mike Daly were present.

**Approval of Agenda:**

A motion was made by Conover, supported by Johnson to approve the agenda, carried.

**Minutes:**

A motion was made by Wozniak, supported by Gordon to approve the August 15th, 2023 regular meeting minutes, carried.  
A motion was made by Johnson, supported by Conover to approve the August 29th, 2023 special meeting minutes, carried.

**Financial Report:**

Treasurer Gordon read the September 2023 financial report into the record. A motion was made by Wozniak, supported by Daly to accept the September 2023 monthly financial report as presented with a beginning balance of \$ 1,141,140.62 and an ending balance of \$1,094,685.20 carried.

**Approval of Bills**

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

**Departmental Reports**

The Sheriff Dept Josh Zilke was introduced as the new Howard Twp Deputy. Howard Twp has received the new vehicle; Undersheriff Roach gave a shout out to Fire Dept for their help on several scenes this month. The building department continues to be busy. The Fire department had 35 EMS calls and 7 FIRE calls. 2 new probationary fireman and 4 fireman EMT class through SMCAS. They will be at Apple Festival on 9/23 and they still have carbon monoxide and smoke alarms available. The parks are expecting delivery of new play equipment in October. Large tree clean-up continues and they received a 5,000 grant from SWM Realtors. SMACS ran 41 calls in the township. SMCAS has entered a 90 day contract with Cass County. They have hired 4 or 5 Pride Care staff. A motion was made by Johnson, supported by Wozniak to approve the monthly reports, carried.

**Information:** Treasurer is moving sewer fund MM to CD for higher yield. Next meeting to discuss emergency services funding is September 26th at 6:30pm

**Old Business**

**New Business**

**Approve** Reappointment of Dawn Stanage to Planning Commission until 10/2026. A motion was made by Kasprzak, supported by Hurlbutt, Carried.

**Approve** Budget Amendment for Parks Contracted Services. A motion was made by Wozniak, supported by Gordon, Carried.

**Approve** Watson snow plow contract for 2023-2024. A motion was made by Daly, supported by Wozniak, Carried.

**Approve** Bartak Land Split. A motion was made by Johnson, supported by Daly, Carried.

**Approve** Bortz Land Split. A motion was made by Johnson, supported by Gordon, Carried.

**Correspondence**

**Other Business from the Board**

**Public Comment** Carolyn Neinas questions of Howard Twp Deputy. Morgan Frend asked about Pride Care. Tom Cauffman asked about status of leaking fire truck.

**Adjournment:** Adjourned at 7:30 pm, carried.

Sheri Wozniak  
Howard Township Clerk



**HOWARD TOWNSHIP  
SPECIAL MEETING  
September 26, 2023 6:30 p.m.**

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

Supervisor Bill Kasprzak called the special meeting of the Howard Township Board of Trustees to order at 6:30 p.m. The meeting was held at Howard Township Business Office. Board members, Mike Gordon, Sheri Wozniak, Mike Daly, Phil Hurlbutt, Bill Kasprzak, and Gary Conover were present. Hank Johnson was absent.

**Approval of Agenda:**

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

**Information:**

**Old Business**

**New Business** The board was presented with the following information

Per the Auditor having one years' worth of expenses is the appropriate amount of savings. Approx 400,000.00 could be used towards a fire truck. There are additional monies up to 262,816.94 that the twp has been saving for a fire truck and improvements for Fire Dept. That brings the total cash available for a fire truck purchase to 662,816.94. Current model fire trucks are running around 850,000.00.

1 mil would generate 278,928.009

2 mil would generate 557,856.00.

That would mean 407,856.00 for Fire Dept and 150,000 for police.

If a millage is implemented, the one-year cost of police and fire out of the general fund could be used to fund the balance of a fire truck, without impacting the fund balance.

Discussion resulted in the board requesting the implementation procedure for a millage increase. Consultation with the Attorney is the next step.

**Public Comment**

Caroline Neinas asked questions regarding a down payment, other budget tightening measures, and expressed concern about raising taxes. Mr. Neinas asked a question regarding issues with the current fire truck.

Phil Watson expressed support for the fire service.

**Adjournment:** Adjourned 7:14, carried.

Sheri Wozniak  
Howard Township Clerk

**HOWARD TOWNSHIP  
SPECIAL MEETING  
October 5th, 2023 7:00 p.m.**

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

Supervisor Bill Kasprzak called the special meeting of the Howard Township Board of Trustees to order at 7:00 p.m. The meeting was held at Howard Township Business Office. Board members, Mike Gordon, Sheri Wozniak, Mike Daly, , Bill Kasprzak, and Gary Conover (7:03) were present. Phil Hurlbutt was absent.

**Approval of Agenda:**

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

**Information:**

**Old Business**

**New Business**

**APPROVED** The hiring of Mark Lundy as part time maintenance at 16.35/hr. A motion was made by Gordon, supported by Wozniak, Carried.

**Public Comment**

**Adjournment:** Adjourned 7:03pm, carried.

Sheri Wozniak  
Howard Township Clerk

**HOWARD TOWNSHIP  
REGULAR MEETING  
October 17, 2023 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, Sheri Wozniak, Bill Kasprzak, Hank Johnson, Gary Conover were present. Phil Hurlbutt and Mike Daly were absent.

**Approval of Agenda:**

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

**Minutes:**

A motion was made by Wozniak, supported by Johnson to approve the September 19th, 2023 regular meeting minutes, carried.

A motion was made by Conover, supported by Gordon to approve the September 26th, 2023 special meeting minutes, carried.

A motion was made by Johnson, supported by Wozniak to approve the October 5<sup>th</sup>, 2023 special meeting minutes, carried.

**Financial Report:**

Treasurer Gordon read the October 2023 financial report into the record. A motion was made by Johnson, supported by Conover to accept the October 2023 monthly financial report as presented with a beginning balance of \$ 1,103,869.69 and an ending balance of \$1,138,803.95 carried.

**Approval of Bills**

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

**Departmental Reports**

Commissioner Jeremiah Jones reported that the county has accepted a budget with a 750,000 shortfall, which is allowed by law. They are trying to increase Sheriff Deputy pay to attract staff. Covid cases are up and there are 3 reported cases of Lyme disease. The Fire Department had 34 EMS calls and 16 Fire calls. October 31 is Truck and Treat at the Fire Station from 5-8pm. November 5<sup>th</sup> is a pancake breakfast from 7a-12p for Gary Stephenson a former chief. The Fire Department received a \$4,000 grant from Marathon to be used for updating radio units. The department has also applied for a Firehouse Sub grant. SMCAS is in talks with the county regarding ambulance service. The Fire Chief noted that their response time to Howard Twp is at the same high standard, with no drop off in service. The Parks received a \$5000.00 from the South West Realtor Association to be used to replace the swings at kiddie corral. The Arpa funds allotted to the Parks have been used to purchase new equipment that it in the process of being installed at Jones and Sholtey parks. A motion was made by Johnson, supported by Conover to approve the monthly reports, carried.

**Information:** Jarrid Burde received the \$1500 Robert Robinson scholarship.

**Old Business**

**New Business**

**Approve** Halloween trick or treat for Oct 31 from 6-7:30pm. A motion was made by Wozniak, supported by Kasprzak, Carried.

**Approve** Woodbury/Watson split combo. A motion was made by Johnson, supported by Gordon, Carried.

**Approve** Resolution 2023-007. A motion was made by Johnson, supported by Gordon, Carried.

**Correspondence**

**Other Business from the Board**

**Public Comment**

**Adjournment:** Adjourned at 7:25 pm, carried.

Sheri Wozniak  
Howard Township Clerk

**HOWARD TOWNSHIP  
REGULAR MEETING  
November 21, 2023 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, Gary Conover, Phil Hurlbutt and Mike Daly were present. Sheri Wozniak was absent.

**Approval of Agenda:**

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

**Minutes:**

A motion was made by Conover, supported by Gordon to approve the October 17, 2023 regular meeting minutes, carried.

**Financial Report:**

Treasurer Gordon read the November 2023 financial report into the record. A motion was made by Daly, supported by Conover to accept the November 2023 monthly financial report as presented with a beginning balance of \$ 1,214,596.56 and an ending balance of \$1,170,257.37 carried.

**Approval of Bills**

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

**Departmental Reports**

The Fire Department had 20 EMS calls and 10 Fire calls. The pancake breakfast for Gary Stephenson, a former chief was successful and raised \$2,100.00. SMCAS is in talks with the county regarding ambulance service, the unit assigned to Cass ran over 200 calls last month. There were 22 Calls in Howard Twp. The Parks are now closed for winter. The playground equipment purchased with ARPA funds has been installed. Sheriff Behnke presented information on Christmas for the Animals on December 2<sup>nd</sup>. Also still recruiting for deputies and correction officers. Paid training is provided. This is fraud season. Several schemes include fake Facebook marketplace adds and phone fraud. A motion was made by Johnson, supported by Daly to approve the monthly reports, carried.

**Information:**

**Old Business**

**New Business**

**Approve** Planning Commission denial to amend Solar Ordinance. A motion was made by Hurlbutt, supported by Conover, Carried.

**Correspondence**

**Other Business from the Board**

**Public Comment**

**Adjournment:** Adjourned at 7:16 pm, carried.

Kristen Daly  
Howard Township Dep Clerk

**HOWARD TOWNSHIP  
REGULAR MEETING  
December 19, 2023 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, Gary Conover, Phil Hurlbutt, Sheri Wozniak and Mike Daly were present.

**Approval of Agenda:**

A motion was made by Conover, supported by Johnson to approve the agenda, carried.

**Minutes:**

A motion was made by Johnson, supported by Daly to approve the November 21, 2023 regular meeting minutes, carried.

**Financial Report:**

Treasurer Gordon read the December 2023 financial report into the record. A motion was made by Wozniak, supported by Conover to accept the December 2023 monthly financial report as presented with a beginning balance of \$ 1,094,464.76 and an ending balance of \$1,164,063.58 carried.

**Approval of Bills**

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

**Departmental Reports**

The Fire Department had 26 EMS calls and 5 Fire calls. SMCAS had 36 Calls in Howard Twp. The Parks are now closed for winter. The Undersheriff advised that the department is still recruiting for road deputies. Animal Control is hosting a rabies clinic Jan 27<sup>th</sup> and Feb 4. County Commissioner Jerimiah Jones spoke about the grant from the State of Michigan for the historical courthouse. RSV cases are up. The Road Commission was a victim of a cybercrime attack and due to the quick action of the county IT department no ransom had to be paid and no information was compromised. A motion was made by Wozniak, supported by Gordon to approve the monthly reports, carried.

**Information:** Budget meetings for 2024-2025 will begin in late January, the public is encouraged to attend these meetings as we set budget priorities for next year. Including funding

**Old Business**

**New Business**

**Approve** MS Properties quote for blight cleanup for 1132 Huntly Rd. A motion was made by Johnson, supported by Wozniak, Carried.

**Approve** Terri Hable for Park Board. A motion was made by Wozniak, supported by Daly, Carried.

**Approve** 100% compliance for Direct Deposit for all employees. A motion was made by Kasprzak, supported by Wozniak, Conover and Johnson voted no, Carried.

**Correspondence**

**Other Business from the Board**

**Public Comment**

**Adjournment:** Adjourned at 7:15 pm, carried.

Sheri Wozniak  
Howard Township Clerk

**HOWARD TOWNSHIP  
REGULAR MEETING  
January 16, 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, Sheri Wozniak and Mike Daly were present. Gary Conover and Phil Hurlbutt were absent.

**Approval of Agenda:**

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

**Minutes:**

A motion was made by Johnson, supported by Gordon to approve the December 19, 2023 regular meeting minutes, carried.

**Financial Report:**

Treasurer Gordon read the January 2024 financial report into the record. A motion was made by Wozniak, supported by Johnson to accept the January 2024 monthly financial report as presented with a beginning balance of \$ 1,464,002.88 and an ending balance of \$1,424,736.99 carried.

**Approval of Bills**

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

**Departmental Reports**

The Fire Department had 20 EMS calls and 11 Fire calls. They responded to 523 total calls in 2023. SMCAS is currently reexamining their articles of incorporation. The Parks are now closed for winter, however Pepper Martin Park opened on Jan 13 for sledding and may continue depending on weather. The Sheriff advised that the department is still recruiting for road deputies. He also reminded people that this is scam season and to be aware. Animal Control has 2 part time officer position open. Animal Control is over capacity with over 50 dogs available for adoption. County Commissioner Jerimiah Jones spoke about being re-elected to the Chair of the County Board of Commissioners and our other Howard township representative to the board, Sam Barrera is the vice chair. There was a productive meeting with the Sheriff's department regarding wages in an attempt to retain and attract employees. A motion was made by Wozniak, supported by Daly to approve the monthly reports, carried.

**Information:** Budget meetings for 2024-2025 will begin in late January, the public is encouraged to attend these meetings as we set budget priorities for next year. Including funding emergency services. Howard School will receive the donations to the giving tree. The Fire Department received a 38,700 grant from Firehouse subs that will be used to replace aged out equipment.

**Old Business**

**New Business**

**Approve** MS Properties quote for demo to 844 Leet for 8350.00. A motion was made by Johnson, supported by Wozniak, Carried.

**Approve** Budget meeting open to the public for Feb 6 at 6pm, February 25 at 1pm and March 5 at 6pm. A motion was made by Daly, supported by Johnson, Carried.

**Correspondence**

**Other Business from the Board**

**Public Comment**

**Adjournment:** Adjourned at 7:24 pm, carried.

Sheri Wozniak  
Howard Township Clerk

**HOWARD TOWNSHIP  
REGULAR MEETING  
February 20, 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, Sheri Wozniak and Mike Daly were present. Gary Conover was absent. Callen Bundy from Howard School led the pledge of allegiance.

**Approval of Agenda:**

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

**Minutes:**

A motion was made by Daly, supported by Wozniak to approve the January 16, 2024 regular meeting minutes, carried.  
A motion was made by Wozniak, supported by Johnson to approve the February 6<sup>th</sup> special meeting minutes, carried,

**Financial Report:**

Treasurer Gordon read the February 2024 financial report into the record. A motion was made by Johnson, supported by Hurlbutt to accept the February 2024 monthly financial report as presented with a beginning balance of \$ 1,424,736.99 and an ending balance of \$1,575,319.86 carried.

**Approval of Bills**

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

**Departmental Reports**

The Fire Department had 47 EMS calls and 10 Fire calls. SMCAS had 54 Calls in Howard Twp. The Parks are in the process of replacing the swing set at Kiddie Corral Park. The Sheriff advised that the department is still recruiting for road deputies. He gave a rundown of activity in the township in 2023. 1858 Incidents including 74 car/deer and 221 traffic stops. A motion was made by Daly, supported by Johnson to approve the monthly reports, carried.

**Information:** The principal from Howard school brought several students to accept the 340 dollars collected in the giving tree. The Fire department is hosting a pancake breakfast on March 10, 2024.

**Old Business**

**New Business**

**Approve** Resolution 2024-001. A motion was made by Wozniak, supported by Daly, Carried.

**Approve** Resolution 2024-002. A motion was made by Wozniak, supported by Hurlbutt, Carried.

**Approve** Resolution 2024-003. A motion was made by Wozniak, supported by Johnson, Carried.

**Correspondence**

**Other Business from the Board**

**Public Comment** Julie Roberts addressed the board in reference to a petition circulating to put on the ballot to rescind the recently enacted state control over solar energy.

**Adjournment:** Adjourned at 7:25 pm, carried.

Sheri Wozniak  
Howard Township Clerk

**HOWARD TOWNSHIP  
BOARD MEETING  
March 19,2024 7:00 p.m.**

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

Supervisor Kasprzak called the special meeting of the Howard Township Board of Trustees to order at 7pm. The meeting was held at Howard Township Business Office. Pledge to the flag was given. Board members Bill Kasprzak, Sheri Wozniak, Mike Gordon, Mike Daly, Hank Johnson and Phil Hurlbutt answered roll call. Gary Conover was absent.

**Approval of Agenda:**

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

**Minutes:**

A motion was made by Wozniak, supported by Gordon to approve the February 22, 2024 regular meeting minutes, carried  
A motion was made by Wozniak, supported by Kasprzak to approve the February 25, 2024 special meeting minutes, carried  
A motion was made by Daly, supported by Gordon to approve the March 5, 2024 special meeting minutes, carried.

**Financial Report**

Treasurer Gordon read the March 2024 financial report into the record. A motion was made by Johnson, supported by Hurlbutt to accept the financial report as presented with a beginning balance of \$1,575,441.76 and an ending balance of \$1,726,110.45, carried

**Approval of Bills**

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

**Departmental Reports**

Jeremiah Jones, County Commissioner related that the CDC has amended the rules for a covid infections. Fire Chief reported that there were 31 EMS and 9 Fire calls in the township last month. The fire department had a pancake breakfast it raised 1500.00. The Fire Chief reminded people that a burn permit is required for any and all open burning. Under Sheriff Roach reported the department is in the process of rebuilding with several students in the academy. National Take Back Drug Day is April 27<sup>th</sup>. Howard Twp has a drug box that is available during open hours. In addition, on April 27<sup>th</sup> you can bring the drugs to the Sheriff's department. SMCAS had 37 calls in the township. Parks open officially April 1<sup>st</sup>. The parks are installing new play equipment. The septic issues at Pepper Martin Park are being dealt with. A motion was made by Kasprzak, supported by Daly to approve the monthly reports, carried.

**Information**

None

**Old Business**

None



### **New Business**

A motion was made by Johnson, supported by Wozniak, to approve the 2024-2025 annual monthly meeting schedules, carried. A motion was made by Gordon, supported by Wozniak to approve the contracts with Attorney Bauckham, Thall et al, Siegfried Crandall, PC as the auditor, Berends, Hendricks & Stuit Insurance Agency as the insurance agent, MS Properties for ordinance enforcement cleanups, Darr Phillips for ordinance enforcement mowing, and Watsons for snow plowing, carried. A motion was made by Daly, supported by Wozniak to approve the contract renewals for the Building Inspector Adam Dahlgren, Electrical Inspector Ron Bellaire, Plumbing/Mechanical Inspector John Dobberteen, and Miss Dig Inspector Lisa Guyott, and Shalise Northrup Assessing, carried. A motion was made by Johnson, supported by Hurlbutt to appoint Chris Corzine as Fire Chief, Chris Korp as Assistant Fire Chief, and Tim Phillips as Captain and Fire Inspector, carried. A motion was made by Wozniak, supported by Gordon to approve the Supervisor, Zoning Solutions and the contracted Cass County Sheriff Deputy as ordinance enforcement officer for all ordinances, Zoning Administrator as an enforcement officer for the Zoning Ordinance, and the Fire Department Officers as enforcement officers for burning and fire ordinances, carried. A motion was made by Johnson, supported by Wozniak, to approve Resolution 2024-004, the Salary Resolution, carried. A motion was made by Wozniak, supported by Kasprzak, to approve Resolution 2024-005, the General Appropriations Act Resolution, carried. A motion was made by Wozniak, supported by Johnson, to approve the 2024-2025 Holiday Schedules, carried. A motion was made by Kasprzak, supported by Wozniak, to approve the proposed 2024-2025 General Fund Budget, carried. A motion was made by Wozniak, supported by Johnson, to approve the proposed 2024-2025 Ambulance, Street Light, Improvement Capital, ARPA, Building, New Construction, Sewer, New Fire Truck, Tax Fund and Weed Eradication Funds Budgets, carried. A motion was made by Kasprzak, supported by Gordon to approve 2024-2025 pay scale, carried. A motion was made by Kasprzak, supported by Wozniak to approve Amended Resolution 2024-002 Poverty Exemption Guidelines, carried. A motion was made by Wozniak, supported by Daly to approve Dump Day on May 11, 2024 from 8am-11am, carried.

### **Correspondence**

None

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

None

### **Public Comment**

### **Adjournment:**

Adjourned at 7:26 pm, carried.

Sheri Wozniak  
Howard Township Clerk