

**HOWARD TOWNSHIP
REGULAR MEETING
April 19th, 2022 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, Gary Conover, Sheri Wozniak, Hank Johnson, and Bill Kasprzak were present. Phil Hurlbutt was absent.

Approval of Agenda:

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

Minutes:

A motion was made by Wozniak, supported by Gordon to approve the March 15, 2022 regular meeting minutes, carried.

Financial Report:

Treasurer Gordon read the April 2022 financial report into the record. A motion was made by Daly, supported by Kasprzak to accept the April 2022 monthly financial report as presented with a beginning balance of \$986,073.02 and an ending balance of \$1,000,240.63 carried.

Approval of Bills

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

Departmental Reports

Trustee Gordon reported that the parks are open. A light pole blew down in the storm last week, waiting on insurance for cleanup. Howard Township baseball is set to open April 30th. The Sheriff's department continues to be busy in the township. The building department continues to be busy. SMACS continues to be busy, 32 calls for service in the township. A motion was made by Conover, supported by Daly to approve the monthly reports, carried.

Information

Old Business

New Business

Approve Resolution 2022-007 Howard Township is now Howard Charter. A motion was made by Daly, supported by Conover, Carried.

Approve Resignation of Austin Antisdale. A motion was made by Daly, supported by Gordon, Carried.

Approve Contract for New Township Attorney, Bauckham, Sparks, Thall, Seeber and Kaufman. A motion was made by Daly, supported by Wozniak. Carried

Correspondence

None

Other Business from the Board

Public Comment

Adjournment:

Adjourned at 7:25 pm, carried.

Sheri Wozniak
Howard Township Clerk

**HOWARD TOWNSHIP
REGULAR MEETING
May 17, 2022 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, Gary Conover, Sheri Wozniak, Hank Johnson, Phil Hurlbutt and Bill Kasprzak were present.

Approval of Agenda:

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

Minutes:

A motion was made by Conover, supported by Johnson to approve the April 19, 2022 regular meeting minutes, carried.

Financial Report:

Treasurer Gordon read the May 2022 financial report into the record. A motion was made by Johnson, supported by Daly to accept the May 2022 monthly financial report as presented with a beginning balance of \$1,034,387.60 and an ending balance of \$909,241.66 carried.

Approval of Bills

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

Departmental Reports

Trustee Gordon reported that the parks are open. It has been difficult to get quotes for repair for the light pole that was damaged in the storm last month. The Sheriff's department continues to be busy in the township. An Off-road vehicle ordinance was passed by the county. It is not in effect as of yet. They are not allowed on primary roads and will require an DNR orv sticker. The marine division will have a bigger presence on the lakes this year due to additional funding from the county. The building department continues to be busy. The Fire Department had 34 EMS calls and 17 Fire calls. A motion was made by Johnson, supported by Gordon to approve the monthly reports, carried.

Information

Old Business

New Business

Approve New rates for the rental of community hall. \$150 for residents and \$200 for non-residents, includes a \$50 refundable deposit. A motion was made by Hurlbutt, supported by Daly, Carried.

Approve Ordinance #231 amendments to zoning ordinance #192. A motion was made by Johnson, supported by Hurlbutt, Carried.

Approve Road commission estimates for resurfacing of Carberry Rd for a total of \$152,847.73. A motion was made by Johnson, supported by Hurlbutt. Carried.

Correspondence

None

Other Business from the Board

Public Comment Keri and Ed Mertz, 3075 Hoyt St, were questioning a blight ticket they received. A discussion was held privately after the meeting with Ordinance enforcement. Tom Kauffman, 1073 Carberry inquired as to a guarantee from the road commission that the road construction would have a warranty of some kind. Clerk Sheri Wozniak advised the public that if they had any questions regarding happenings in the township, they should call the office. Please do not use social media.

Adjournment:

Adjourned at 7:44 pm, carried.

Sheri Wozniak
Howard Township Clerk

**HOWARD TOWNSHIP
REGULAR MEETING
June 21, 2022 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, Gary Conover, Sheri Wozniak, Hank Johnson, Phil Hurlbutt and Bill Kasprzak were present.

Approval of Agenda:

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

Minutes:

A motion was made by Wozniak, supported by Conover to approve the May 17, 2022 regular meeting minutes, carried.

Financial Report:

Treasurer Gordon read the June 2022 financial report into the record. A motion was made by Johnson, supported by Conover to accept the June 2022 monthly financial report as presented with a beginning balance of \$909,241.66 and an ending balance of \$981,990.62 carried.

Approval of Bills

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

Departmental Reports

The Fire department had 34 EMS calls and 10 FIRE calls. 2 new Firefighter completed training. The Project graduation was a success. The Fire Association is offering safety vests for walker and runners for a \$5 dollar donation. The Sheriff's department continues to be busy in the township, fatal traffic crashes due to distracted driving are becoming frequent. Two new deputies are currently in FTO training and anyone looking for an opportunity there are still opening for deputy and correction officers. There is a 911 renewal on the August 2nd ballot and is very important to continue to provide enhanced 911 services for Cass County. The building department continues to be busy. SMACAS had 45 calls for service in Howard Township last month. Josh Kay was awarded the EMS practitioner of the year by the State of Michigan. The parks department continues to be busy; trash not being placed into receptacles is a problem, the park has posted on Facebook in an effort to get visitors to take care of their trash. A motion was made by Johnson, supported by Conover to approve the monthly reports, carried.

Information

Old Business

New Business

Approve Budget Amendment to ARPA for \$14,635.46. A motion was made by Kasprzak, supported by Conover, Carried.

Approve Beth Middleton Pompey as Weed Commissioner. A motion was made by Kasprzak, supported by Conover, Carried.

Approve Firework application for Scott Carli. A motion was made by Wozniak, supported by Johnson, Carried.

Approve Bid for snow plow to Dennis Erhardt for \$500. A motion was made by Daly, supported by Johnson, Carried.

Approve SMACAS Resolution 1, Intent to establish a special assessment district, notice of public hearing for July 19th at 7pm. A motion was made by Kasprzak, supported by Gordon, Carried.

Approve Moose Lake split 14-020-004-032-03. A motion was made by Daly, supported by Wozniak, Carried.

Correspondence

None

Other Business from the Board

Public Comment Tom Cauffman of Carberry Rd asked the board if they knew what the loud explosions heard around the township were from. The response from the Dep Sheriff is that it is most likely Tannerite, a legal explosive powder that creates a loud boom when shot.

Adjournment: Adjourned at 7:52pm, carried.

Sheri Wozniak
Howard Township Clerk

**HOWARD TOWNSHIP
REGULAR MEETING
July 19, 2022 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, Gary Conover, Sheri Wozniak, Hank Johnson, Phil Hurlbutt and Bill Kasprzak were present.

Approval of Agenda:

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

Public Meeting:

Supervisor Bill Kasprzak opened the public meeting for the SMACAS Assessment. Supervisor read the rules and opened up the floor for those speaking in support. Frances Richardson, 3240 Yankee expressed support for the measure. Supervisor then opened the floor to those speaking in opposition. Barb Green-2474 Hand, Tami and Keith Stelter-1155 Shady Shores, Mary Roush-736 Barron Lake Rd, Rick Peterson-2564 Yankee spoke in opposition. The Public Hearing was closed by the Supervisor Kasprzak. Supervisor Kasprzak then made a motion to table this matter, supported by Daly. Carried.

Minutes:

A motion was made by Kasprzak, supported by Wozniak to approve the June 21, 2022 regular meeting minutes, carried.

Financial Report:

Treasurer Gordon read the July 2022 financial report into the record. A motion was made by Johnson, supported by Hurlbutt to accept the June 2022 monthly financial report as presented with a beginning balance of \$981,990.62 and an ending balance of \$942,171.76 carried.

Approval of Bills

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

Departmental Reports

The Fire department had 39 EMS calls and 15 FIRE calls. The Sheriff's department continues to be busy in the township, fatal traffic crashes due to distracted driving are continuing to be a problem. Burglaries of outbuilding have been reported in other townships. The partnership this last month of APS. Animal Control, Township blight and CCSO resulted in two individuals being removed to safe housing and the building condemned. There is a 911 renewal on the August 2nd ballot and is very important to continue to provide enhanced 911 services for Cass County. The building department continues to be busy. The parks department continues to be busy. A motion was made by Daly, supported by Johnson to approve the monthly reports, carried.

Information: Veterans Affairs director Karee Krause introduced herself and invited any and all veterans to contact her office to see about benefits they may be entitled to. Library Director Barbara Gordon introduced herself and spoke on the Library Millage.

Old Business

New Business

Approve Library Box for front of Howard Twp. A motion was made by Wozniak, supported by Gordon, Carried.

Approve Reappointment of Jan Gordon to Zoning Board of Appeals for a 3 year term ending in August 2025. A motion was made by Conover, supported by Daly, Carried.

Approve Spectrum Printers for printing and mailing voter id cards. A motion was made by Johnson, supported by Wozniak, Carried.

Approve Split for Barb Walter, 14-020-025-013-00. A motion was made by Gordon, supported by Johnson, Carried.

Approve Mosier Well Drilling quote for Fire Station well. A motion was made by Kasprzak, supported by Gordon, Carried.

Correspondence

None

Other Business from the Board

Public Comment Carol Bealor who is the current Probate Court Judge is running and on the ballot in August, introduced herself. Tom Kauffman asked about the impact on other people with the new well at the Fire Department.

Adjournment: Adjourned at 7:50 pm, carried.

Sheri Wozniak
Howard Township Clerk

**HOWARD TOWNSHIP
REGULAR MEETING
August 16, 2022 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, Gary Conover, Sheri Wozniak, Hank Johnson, Phil Hurlbutt and Bill Kasprzak were present.

Approval of Agenda:

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

Minutes:

A motion was made by Conover, supported by Johnson to approve the July 19, 2022 regular meeting minutes, carried.

Financial Report:

Treasurer Gordon read the August 2022 financial report into the record. A motion was made by Wozniak, supported by Kasprzak to accept the August 2022 monthly financial report as presented with a beginning balance of \$942,171.76 and an ending balance of \$968,564.26 carried.

Approval of Bills

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

Departmental Reports

The Fire department had 42 EMS calls and 9 FIRE calls. A new well has been installed at the Fire Station to rapid fill fire trucks. The building department continues to be busy. The parks department continues to be busy. A motion was made by Daly, supported by Conover to approve the monthly reports, carried.

Information:

Old Business: Approve SMCAS resolution 2022-02. Determination to make public improvements, approval of plans and estimate of costs, final determination of special assessment district; preparation of special assessment roll. Public meeting on September 20th, 2022 at 7pm. A motion was made by Daly, supported by Conover, Carried.

New Business

None.

Correspondence

None

Other Business from the Board

Public Comment Ms Green reminded the board that SMCAS did get an increase in funding when the assessment went from improved parcels to all parcels 5 years ago.

Adjournment: Adjourned at 7:31 pm, carried.

Sheri Wozniak
Howard Township Clerk

**HOWARD TOWNSHIP
REGULAR MEETING
September 20, 2022 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, Gary Conover, Sheri Wozniak, Hank Johnson, and Bill Kasprzak were present. Phil Hurlbutt was absent.

Approval of Agenda:

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

Public Meeting:

Supervisor Bill Kasprzak opened the public meeting for the SMCAS Assessment. Supervisor read the rules and opened up the floor for those speaking in support. Supervisor then opened the floor to those speaking in opposition. Scott Krieger 2430 Dick St, Barb Green 2474 Hand, Matt Neinas 1422 Thompson Rd, Mike Richmond 102 Leet, Todd Mokwa 1110 Carberry Rd, Jason Rd 3003 White St, Rich Smith 1308 Breezy Beach, Laura Borton 2716 Horton St, Tom Cauffman 1073 Carberry, Kerry and Ed Martz 3075 Hoyt St. Rick Peterson 2564 Yankee St, Ed Selent 1236 Huntly. There were several letters written both in support and opposition. The Public Hearing was closed by the Supervisor Kasprzak. A vote was then called on Resolution #3 Filing of Special Assessment Roll. A motion was made by Johnson supported by Kasprzak, carried. A vote was then called on Resolution #4 Confirmation of Special Assessment Roll. A motion was made by Kasprzak, supported by Johnson, carried.

Minutes:

A motion was made by Kasprzak, supported by Daly to approve the August 16th, 2022 regular meeting minutes, carried.

Financial Report:

Treasurer Gordon read the August 2022 financial report into the record. A motion was made by Kasprzak, supported by Johnson to accept the August 2022 monthly financial report as presented with a beginning balance of \$968,564.26 and an ending balance of \$898,915.53 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 47 EMS calls and 10 FIRE calls. Chief Corzine spoke about the Fire Department including the need for more firefighters. 47% of Fire Fighters in the US are volunteer. All emergency services are facing staffing and retention issues. The Sheriff's department continues to be busy in the township. Undersheriff Clint Roach indicated that the Sheriff Department continues to be busy in the township. They are also hiring and are putting people through the academy. He reiterated that the ORV rules are on the county website. Officers are stopping ORV's on primary roads and issuing warnings at this time. ORV must also have DNR sticker and be flagged. More patrols on Carberry Road for truck traffic was request by a township resident. The building department continues to be busy. The parks department is winding down for the season, but continues to be busy. A motion was made by Wozniak, supported by Conover to approve the monthly reports, carried.

Information:

Old Business

New Business

Approve Contract with Road Commission for painting Carberry Rd for \$1860.88. A motion was made by Gordon, supported by Daly, Carried.

Approve Reappointment of Debbie Johnson to Planning Commission for a 3-year term ending in October 2025. A motion was made by Wozniak, supported by Johnson, Carried.

Approve Dennis Ignowski to full time maintenance effective November 1st, 2022. A motion was made by Johnson, supported by Conover, Carried.

Approve Split/Combo for Lois Hanes/Matthew and Diann Allred, 14-020-023-009-01. A motion was made by Gordon, supported by Johnson, Carried.

Approve Halloween Trick or Treat hours on Oct 31st to 6pm-7:30pm. A motion was made by Kasprzak, supported by Gordon, Carried.

Correspondence

None

Other Business from the Board

Public Comment

Adjournment: Adjourned at 8:15 pm, carried.

Sheri Wozniak
Howard Township Clerk

**HOWARD TOWNSHIP
REGULAR MEETING
October 18, 2022 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, Gary Conover, Sheri Wozniak, Hank Johnson, Phil Hurlbutt and Bill Kasprzak were present.

Approval of Agenda:

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

Minutes:

A motion was made by Wozniak, supported by Kasprzak to approve the September 20th, 2022 regular meeting minutes, carried.

Financial Report:

Treasurer Gordon read the September 2022 financial report into the record. A motion was made by Wozniak, supported by Daly to accept the September 2022 monthly financial report as presented with a beginning balance of \$898,915.53 and an ending balance of \$1,110,645.80 carried.

Approval of Bills

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

Departmental Reports

County Commissioner Mike Grice spoke about the Land Bank and grant for blight enforcement. The county has secured \$200,000 and is in the process of applying for more. The Fire department had 33 EMS calls and 12 FIRE calls. Chief Corzine said the Apple Festival was well attended and the Smoke house was big hit with the kids. The Fire Department will have an open house on Halloween from 4p-9p. The Sheriff's department continues to be busy in the township. Sheriff Behnke reported that the Department is still understaffed and is looking for recruits. Personal Injury accidents are up county-wide due to distracted driving. The building department continues to be busy. The parks department will close parks on Oct 31st. Jones Park disc golf will continue to be open. The parking lots at Pepper Martin and Jones Park will be slagged this fall. SMCAS had 40 calls for service in the township. A motion was made by Daly, supported by Conover to approve the monthly reports, carried.

Information: Audit report was presented to board members, Superintendent Jim Knoll, spoke in support of the Edwardsburg Millage. Howard Drug Take Back will be on Saturday, Oct 29th from 10a-2p. The township is soliciting bids for snow plow services for Winter 2022-23.

Old Business

New Business

Approve ARPA funds for parking lot re-surfacing for Pepper Martin and Jones Park from Kenny Smith \$9,099.71. A motion was made by Johnson, supported by Conover, Carried.

Approve Budget Amendment to ARPA contracting services for \$77,296.84. A motion was made by Gordon, supported by Wozniak, Carried.

Correspondence

None

Other Business from the Board

Public Comment Barb Green 2474 Hand Rd spoke about the SMCAS assessment, she thinks the board should renegotiate its contract with SMCAS to lower the cost for small townships and increase the cost for larger municipalities. Rick Peterson 2554 Yankee St spoke and suggested the board look to marijuana business to increase revenue instead of residents. Jon Anderstrom is running for Edwardsburg school board.

Adjournment: Adjourned at 7:39 pm, carried.

Sheri Wozniak
Howard Township Clerk

**HOWARD TOWNSHIP
REGULAR MEETING
November 15, 2022 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, Gary Conover, Sheri Wozniak, and Bill Kasprzak were present. Hank Johnson and Phil Hurlbutt 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 Kasprzak, supported by Daly to approve the October 18th, 2022 regular meeting minutes, carried.

Financial Report:

Treasurer Gordon read the November 2022 financial report into the record. A motion was made by Wozniak, supported by Conover to accept the November 2022 monthly financial report as presented with a beginning balance of \$1,110,645.80 and an ending balance of \$1,051,411.35 carried.

Approval of Bills

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

Departmental Reports

County Commissioner Mike Grice reported that Christmas for the Animals is Dec 3rd from 10-2. The newly elected County Commissioner for Howard Twp will take office in January. The animal shelter is full. The Fire department had 50 EMS calls and 9 FIRE calls. The Sheriff's department continues to be busy in the township. Undersheriff Roach reported that the Department is still understaffed and is looking for recruits. Personal Injury accidents are up county-wide due to distracted driving. The building department continues to be busy. SMCAS had 50 calls for service in the township. They are looking for a new ambulance. A motion was made by Gordon, supported by Daly to approve the monthly reports, carried.

Information:

Old Business

New Business

Approve Watson's for snow plowing. A motion was made by Wozniak, supported by Conover, Carried.

Approve Budget Amendment to General fund for \$26,600.00. A motion was made by Daly, supported by Gordon, Carried.

Correspondence

None

Other Business from the Board

Public Comment

Adjournment: Adjourned at 7:22 pm, carried.

Sheri Wozniak
Howard Township Clerk

**HOWARD TOWNSHIP
REGULAR MEETING
December 20, 2022 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, Gary Conover, Sheri Wozniak, Bill Kasprzak, Hank Johnson were present. Phil Hurlbutt arrived at 7:15pm.

Approval of Agenda:

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

Minutes:

A motion was made by Conover, supported by Gordon to approve the November 15th, 2022 regular meeting minutes, carried.

Financial Report:

Treasurer Gordon read the December 2022 financial report into the record. A motion was made by Wozniak, supported by Johnson to accept the December 2022 monthly financial report as presented with a beginning balance of \$1,051,411.35 and an ending balance of \$1,100,256.88 carried.

Approval of Bills

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

Departmental Reports

County Commissioner Mike Grice reported that county has 55 condemned properties and a grant of \$200,000.00 to help. Grice asked that any additional properties be submitted to the county so they can ask for more grant money. TK Lawless received a 420,000 grant to update pavilion, lights and parking lot. The county has hired a marketer to coordinated between county and municipalities. \$100,000 Mgard grant for broadband mapping system. This is his last meeting as a County Commissioner. The Sheriff Dept raised money with No Shave November and continuing the program into December. Christmas for the Animals raised \$3000.00 as well as food and other supplies. A winter storm is coming, please do not travel if not necessary. Sunday is Christmas in Jail; the department prepares extra food and presence for inmates' children. Two new deputies have been hired. The Fire department had 31 EMS calls and 17 FIRE calls. Fire Department assisted the township by taking care of a tree that had fallen in Barron Lake Cemetery. SMCAS and Medic 1 are going together to get a 900,000 for paramedic training. SMCAS had 41 calls for service in the township. A motion was made by Johnson, supported by Daly to approve the monthly reports, carried.

Information:

Old Business

New Business

Approve Land Split/Combo for parcel 14-020-025-021-20. A motion was made by Johnson, supported by Wozniak, Carried.

Approve Maureen Johnson to Board of Review for a 2-year term. A motion was made by Conover, supported by Gordon, Carried.

Approve Charles Irwin, Scott Miller and Linda McGregor to Board of Review for a 2-year term. A motion was made by Daly, supported by Johnson, Carried.

Approve Eileen Toney as the Howard Twp representative to the Library Board. A motion was made by Johnson, supported by Gordon, Carried.

Set the following budget meeting dates, Jan 28th @9am, February 22@5:30 and the Public Hearing for March 8th at 6:30pm. A motion was made by Kasprzak, supported by Daly, Carried.

Correspondence

Other Business from the Board

Public Comment

Adjournment: Adjourned at 7:32 pm, carried.

Sheri Wozniak
Howard Township Clerk

**HOWARD TOWNSHIP
REGULAR MEETING
January 17th, 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 were present. Gary Conover arrived at 7:27pm. Phil Hurlbutt 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 Kasprzak, supported by Gordon to approve the December 20th, 2022 regular meeting minutes, carried.

Financial Report:

Treasurer Gordon read the January 2023 financial report into the record. A motion was made by Wozniak, supported by Johnson to accept the January 2023 monthly financial report as presented with a beginning balance of \$1,025,688.59 and an ending balance of \$997,997.43 carried.

Approval of Bills

A motion was made by Daly, supported by Johnson 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. Samuel Guerra introduced himself as the commissioner for the balance of Howard Twp. The Sheriff reported that the annual report of activity in the township will be available at the end of the month. Accidents related to distracted driving continue to be a problem in the county. He also addressed the issue of road closures during the recent blizzard. He stated that the Sheriff does not have the authority to close roads. He did issue a weather alert and indicated that travel during a storm should be up to the individual and encouraged common sense. There will be times that officers will be unable to reach those stranded in a weather emergency. The Fire department had 38 EMS calls and 14 FIRE calls, for the 2022 year the department responded to 151 Fire calls and 291 EMS calls. SMCAS had 52 calls for service in Howard Twp last month. The parks department is quiet, preparing budgets for next year. Disc golf has been steady even during the winter months. A motion was made by Johnson, supported by Gordon to approve the monthly reports, carried.

Information: Supervisor Kasprzak provided the board information regarding the accident involving the newest SMCAS ambulance. Donna Roark the principal at Howard School came with several 5th grade students to accept the donations from the Howard Twp giving tree.

Old Business

New Business

Approve Land Split/Combo for parcel 14-020-034-009-00. A motion was made by Wozniak, supported by Daly, Carried.

Approve Tom Hable to Planning Commission for a 1-year term. A motion was made by Johnson, supported by Gordon, Carried.

Tabled Associate Fire fighter policy, pending review by the Township Attorney.

Correspondence

Other Business from the Board

Public Comment

Adjournment: Adjourned at 7:30 pm, carried.

Sheri Wozniak
Howard Township Clerk

**HOWARD TOWNSHIP
REGULAR MEETING
February 21st, 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, Phil Hurlbutt were present. Gary Conover 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 Johnson, supported by Gordon to approve the January 17th, 2023 regular meeting minutes, carried.
A motion was made by Wozniak, supported by Johnson to approve the January 28th, 2023 special meeting minutes, carried.

Financial Report:

Treasurer Gordon read the February 2023 financial report into the record. A motion was made by Daly, supported by Wozniak to accept the February 2023 monthly financial report as presented with a beginning balance of \$1,072,545.72 and an ending balance of \$1,214,280.53 carried.

Approval of Bills

A motion was made by Johnson, 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. The building department continues to be busy. The Sheriff announced a vaccine clinic at Animal Control this Saturday from 9am-2pm, please call for a reservation and remember to get your pet licensed by the end of the month. Catalytic converter thefts continue to be an issue, county wide. Car/deer accidents continue to be the leading cause of accidents. He is still hiring, if anyone is interested in Law Enforcement, they provide training. The Fire department had 48 EMS calls and 7 FIRE calls. SMCAS had 55 calls for service in Howard Twp last month. The parks department is quiet, preparing budgets for next year. Disc golf has been steady even during the winter months. The bathrooms at Pepper Martin Park are in need of repair. Hoping to complete within this budget year. A motion was made by Wozniak, supported by Johnson to approve the monthly reports, carried.

Information: A discussion was started as to future funding for emergency services. Comparable township statistics were offered for comparison.

Old Business

New Business

Approve Moving April board meeting to April 11th, 2023. A motion was made by Wozniak, supported by Gordon, Carried.
Approve April 29th as clean-up day from 8am to 11:30am. A motion was made by Johnson, supported by Wozniak, Carried.
Approve Policy for Associate Firefighters. A motion was made by Daly, supported by Wozniak, Carried.
Approve Resolution 2023-001 Alt date for July BOR. A motion was made by Daly, supported by Wozniak, Carried.
Approve Resolution 2023-002 Poverty Exemption for 2023. A motion was made by Johnson, supported by Gordon, Carried.
Approve Resolution 2023-003 Alt date for December BOR. A motion was made by Daly, supported by Gordon, Carried.

Correspondence

Other Business from the Board

Public Comment

Jerry Rudlaff, 1107 Carberry, spoke about truck traffic on Carberry.
Rick Peterson, 2564 Yankee St, spoke about fire department funding.
Barb Green 2474 Hand Rd, spoke about SMCAS funding.
Tami McIntee 1736 Dodd Rd, spoke about solar.
Matt Neimas 1422 Thomson Rd, spoke about solar.

Tom Cauffman 1073 Carberry Rd, spoke about solar.
Morgan Friend 2015 Korn St, spoke about solar.

Adjournment: Adjourned at 7:50 pm, carried.

Sheri Wozniak
Howard Township Clerk

**HOWARD TOWNSHIP
BOARD MEETING
March 21,2023 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, Gary Conover, Mike Daly, Hank Johnson and Phil Hurlbutt answered roll call.

Approval of Agenda:

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

Minutes:

A motion was made by Wozniak, supported by Johnson to approve the February 21, 2023 regular meeting minutes, carried
A motion was made by Johnson, supported by Conover to approve the February 22, 2023 special meeting minutes, carried
A motion was made by Johnson, supported by Daly to approve the March 8, 2023 special meeting minutes, carried.

Financial Report

Treasurer Gordon read the March 2023 financial report into the record. A motion was made by Daly, supported by Conover to accept the financial report as presented with a beginning balance of \$1,214,280.53 and an ending balance of \$1,336,250.35, carried

Approval of Bills

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

Departmental Reports

Jeremiah Jones, County Commissioner related that April 26 from 3-6 is Hazzard materials disposal day. He discussed training being offered for new commissioners, and he is working on a grant for peacetime Veteran benefits. The covid and flu numbers in the county are trending down. There has been an increase in blight funds from the state and those are in the process of being dispersed. Fire Chief reported that there were 35 EMS and 7 Fire calls in the township last month. The fire department is having a pancake breakfast on April 30th from 7a-12p, Sheriff Behnke reported that the department received 100,000 from a grant to update Marine Patrol. SMCAS had 44 calls in the township. Parks open officially April 1st; they are in the process of hiring a part time maintenance worker. The parks are looking at purchasing new equipment and there is tree work to be done in Sholtey and Pepper Martin parks. A motion was made by Wozniak, supported by Johnson to approve the monthly reports, carried.

Information

None

Old Business

None

New Business

A motion was made by Gordon, supported by Daly, to approve the 2023-2024 annual monthly meeting schedules, carried. A motion was made by Daly, supported by Wozniak to approve the contracts with Siegfried Crandall, PC as the auditor, Berends, Hendricks & Stuit Insurance Agency as the insurance agent, MS Properties for ordinance enforcement cleanups, Norman Properties for ordinance enforcement mowing, Cass County Office of Sheriff for Law Enforcement and Watsons for snow plowing, carried. A motion was made by Daly, supported by Conover 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 for Re-valuation of township, carried. A motion was made by Johnson, supported by Conover 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 Johnson 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 Kasprzak, supported by Johnson, to approve Resolution 2023-004, the Salary Resolution, carried. A motion was made by Daly, supported by Gordon, to approve Resolution 2023-005, the General Appropriations Act Resolution, carried. A motion was made by Johnson, supported by Gordon, to approve the 2023-2024 Holiday Schedules, carried. A motion was made by Wozniak, supported by Gordon, to approve the proposed 2023-2024 General Fund Budget, carried. A motion was made by Johnson, supported by Daly, to approve the proposed 2023-2024 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 Wozniak, supported by Johnson to approve 2023-2022 pay scale, carried.

Correspondence

None

Other Business from the Board

None

Public Comment

Jason King, 1419 Thomson Rd spoke against a possible solar farm, Karen and Matt Neinas 1422 Thomson rd spoke against solar, Tom Kauffman 1073 Carberry Rd spoke about solar, Jason Wood 3003 White St asked about the status of the burned house on Barron Lake Rd. Eileen Toney spoke about the Howard Library usage. James Gillis Pine Lake Rd advised that perhaps library bulletin boards could be used to communicate with the public

Adjournment:

Adjourned at 7:42 pm, carried.

Sheri Wozniak
Howard Township Clerk