

MINUTES OF THE HOWLAND TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES

The Howland Township Board of Trustees held their Regular meeting on July 10, 2019 at 4 P.M. at Howland Township Administration Building, 205 Niles-Cortland Rd. N.E., Howland Township, Ohio.

Roll Call: Rick Clark - Present
Dr James LaPolla – Present



A motion was made by Rick Clark and seconded by Dr. James Lapolla to suspend the reading of June 12, 2019 minutes and accept as written.

Roll Call: Rick Clark -yea
Dr. James J LaPolla -yea

A motion was made by Rick Clark and seconded by Dr. James Lapolla to authorize the Fiscal Officer to pay all outstanding invoices incurred and approve all warrants issued.

Roll Call: Rick Clark -yea
Dr. James J LaPolla -yea

A motion was made by Rick Clark and seconded by Dr. James Lapolla to vote on Resolution 2019-065:

Authorize the Fiscal Officer to transfer the following monies within the Funds:

Fund 01: General

01-A-27 (Transfers) to 01-A-03 Travel & Other Expenses \$2,000.00

Roll Call: Rick Clark -yea
Dr. James J LaPolla -yea

A motion was made by Rick Clark and seconded by Dr. James Lapolla to vote on Resolution 2019-066:

WHEREAS, the following list of properties have been cited during the month of June, 2019 in violation of the Howland Township Zoning Ordinance Section 8, A-8, Howland Township Resolution 2003-58 (Abatement, Control or Removal of Vegetation, Garbage, Refuse or Other Debris), and Howland Township Resolution 2002-93 (Establish Fines) where the yards have not been maintained; and

WHEREAS, Howland Township has received complaints from neighbors of said properties that the condition interferes with the reasonable enjoyment of use of property and high grass and/or garbage, refuse or debris poses a safety and health threat to the neighborhood. The unsightly appearance of the properties is detrimental to the aesthetic value of the neighborhood and would cause a depreciation of property values; and

WHEREAS, the Zoning Office has not heard from any of the property owners, by telephone or mail.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that Howland Township declares and finds the following properties to be a nuisance.

<u>Address</u>	<u>Parcel ID</u>
3448 Beechwood Ave. NE	28-300351
3727 Elmwood Ave.	28-227452
8600 Huntly Drive SE	28-487340
9925 Kings Graves	28-298021
2398 North Road SE	28-004150
568 North Road SE	28-482900
1186 North Road SE	28-364500
322 Niles Cortland Rd NE	28-596850
2817 Larchmont Ave. SE	28-196500
696 Shadowood Ln. SE	28-603362
1505 Howland Wilson Rd	28-187350
655 Brentwood Ave.	28-594600
534 Laurelwood Dr.	28-599750
1190 Niles Cortland Rd. SE	28-305500
7672 Dawson Dr.	28-499206
3570 Hightree Ave. SE	28-385100
6049 Mines Rd.	28-035800

Roll Call: Rick Clark -yea
Dr. James J LaPolla -yea

A motion was made by Rick Clark and seconded by Dr. James Lapolla to vote on Resolution 2019-067:

Approve deed restrictions on property (legal description and restrictions attached) purchased with grant dollars through the Director of the Ohio Public Works Commission, pursuant to ORC 164.20. Such restrictions will run with the land. (Declaration of Restrictions attached)

Roll Call: Rick Clark -yea
Dr. James J LaPolla -yea

A motion was made Rick Clark and seconded by Dr. James Lapolla to vote on Resolution 2019-068:

Per the recommendation of Police Chief Nick Roberts, the Board of Trustees of Howland Township approve and “do not” request a hearing for a new D5 Liquor Permit to Red Plum Pizza and Pasta LLC. 8212 E. Market St.

D5 Restaurant meeting certain criteria

Roll Call: Rick Clark -yea
Dr. James J LaPolla -yea

A motion was made by Rick Clark and seconded by Dr. James Lapolla to vote on Resolution 2019-069:

Declare it necessary to levy a tax in excess of the ten mill limitation (Resolution attached in its entirety)

Roll Call: Rick Clark -yea
Dr. James J LaPolla -yea

A motion was made by Rick Clark and seconded by Dr. James Lapolla to vote on Resolution 2019-070:

Authorize the Fiscal Officer to advertise for bids for the 2019-Rosegarden Storm Sewer Upgrade OPWC# CF04W

Roll Call: Rick Clark -yea
Dr. James J LaPolla -yea

A motion was made by Rick Clark and seconded by Dr. James Lapolla to vote on Resolution 2019-071:

Authorize the Fiscal Officer to establish Fund 30E – 2019 Rosegarden Storm Sewer Upgrade-OPWC Issue 2, request an amended certificate from the Trumbull County Auditor and appropriate the following money:

30-AE - 2019 Rosegarden Storm Sewer Upgrade (Capital Exp)-OPWC \$75,000.00

Roll Call: Rick Clark -yea
Dr. James J LaPolla -yea

Summary of Meeting:

Nick R. I would like to thank the fire department, road department, trustees and administrator for the excellent 4th of July parade. Everything went smooth as always. No mishaps that we know of and everyone did a great job.

Dave M. Last year we put in a request thru the planning commission for a critical infrastructure grant for the Morgandale area. We were successful in getting that grant. It will allow us to do a number of improvements in that area. This will impact 5 streets, Basswood, Elmwood, Beachwood, Thornwood and Ashwood. The drainage over there has been deplorable. This project is going to allow us to improve the drainage and improve some of the streets. It's a total cost project of \$500,000. \$450,000 is construction and \$50,000 for design and inspection. This project should start the early part of August. The bid opening is 7/16 and will take 3 weeks to evaluate them.

Dan M. Over the last 30 days, zoning has approved 23 permits with an estimated value of \$680,000. Fees collected amounted to \$3,818. Currently we are evaluating 89 properties for property maintenance violations.

Jim P. Our budget is nearing ground zero this year. We are doing all we can to maintain. We have seen a cumulative loss of \$300,000 funding thru the with-drawl of the TPP tax. We've seen cumulative decreases of millage and valuations which all impacts our budget. The department continues to see a rising call volume at an alarming rate. For nearly a decade we have taken our position as the busiest department in Trumbull County averaging almost 27% above the next closest department in call volume. The last 3 years alone, we have seen at least a 12% increase. We have seen an increase of 300 call volume annually. The Bolindale station is staffed with part time employees. That area in itself has gone up 80%. We are asking that you consider that approval and placing a 2.25 mill levy on the ballot in November. We believe the use of these funds will go to 3 items. We need to add a 4th ambulance in this township. We need to increase staff at our Bolindale area. We need to maintain service delivery across the entire township. We would appreciate your support of a 2.25 mil levy in November.

Rick What would happen if we don't have this levy or if it failed?

Jim P. certainly decreased service delivery. Bolindale area is where we have seen this largest jump. It is suffering without adequate response. There may be calls that we cannot get to. We may have to rely on neighboring communities at a certain point.

Ed Palumbo -201 Sanctuary

This is just the first reading on the levy? I think you should have heard from the public first. All the time I have been coming here I have not heard about a station that is not fully maned. Why didn't we hear about this station closing before?

Jim P. In the fall of 2017 it was brought to light that what we were doing was adding on part time individual to try to target partially opening up Bolindale station. It is open 7 days a week from 7:00 AM to 4:00 PM.

Ed I think you should have put the levy on last year but since the school board levy was on at the same time you didn't want to compete against them. You wanted to let that pass first and then come back for this one.

Rick I'm missing you point Ed.

Ed You could have put that on the ballot but didn't want to compete with the school board levy.

Rick I don't think that is correct, but what if it was? I don't understand what the difference would be.

Ed The difference is that if you needed it now you needed it then. You're looking at more equipment down the road. You're saying property values are going down. What is that saying? Everything can't keep going the way it is. You can't keep going after more money and more money because you'll end up with is a list of houses where the grass needs cut. I keep saying you can't keep taxing people beyond their ability to pay that tax does not make a community better.

Darlene That was our argument to the State of Ohio. We called the governor's office to make a plea where they have billions of dollars in the rainy day fund and they keep taking away all the money from the local governments. Their answer was that you go to the residents if they want services.

The overall tax rate in Howland Township is still less than most of the surrounding communities. We are at 13.5 for township services, if you look at Kinsman they pay 17 and if you look at Liberty, it is the highest in the State of Ohio at 20. Howland Township has historically worked very hard to not go to the taxpayers until we absolutely determine that it is a necessity. We have cut corners, lived within our means and live within our budgets as possible. It is our last resort to go to the taxpayers and give them a choice.

Rick We are not raising taxes. Going forward now we are going to the voter and try and convince them the plight of the fire department to the voting residents of Howland Township and hope they support us. It is up to them whether these taxes get raised.

A motion was made by Rick Clark and seconded by Dr. James LaPolla to adjourn the meeting at 5:35 p.m.

Roll Call: Rick Clark -yea
Dr. James J LaPolla -yea

Approved by:  Dated: 7/21/19
Robert M. Costello, Fiscal Officer

Approved by:  Dated: 7-22-19
Dr. James LaPolla, Chairperson-Trustee