

MINUTES OF THE HOWLAND TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES

The Howland Township Board of Trustees held their Special meeting on December 30, 2019 at 9:00 A.M. at Howland Township Administration Building, 205 Niles-Cortland Rd. N.E., Howland Township, Ohio.

Roll Call: Dr James LaPolla – Present
Rick Clark – Present
Matthew Vansuch – Present

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A motion was made by Rick Clark and seconded by Matthew Vansuch to suspend the reading of December 11, 2019 meeting minutes and accept as written.

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

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

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

A motion was made by Rick Clark and seconded by Vansuch to vote on Resolution 2019-132:

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

Road and Bridge:
2031-390-360 Contracts to 2031-330-382 Liability Ins \$4,950.00

Fire District:
2111-220-190 Salaries to 2111-220-382 Liability Ins. \$21,482.34

A motion was made by Matthew Vansuch and seconded by Rick Clark to vote on Resolution 2019-133:

Per the recommendation of Administrator Darlene St. George, approve the renewal of the 2020 General Liability Insurance with OTARMA for the amount of \$72,136.00

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

A motion was made by Matthew Vansuch and seconded by Rick Clark to vote on Resolution 2019-134:

Per the recommendation of Administrator Darlene St. George, approve to retain the following firms to provide legal services on an “as needed” basis for the year 2020.

Taft Stettinius & Hollister, LLP
O'Halloran & Ohanian LLC
Albers & Albers
Benesch, Friedlander, Coplan & Arnoff, LLP.

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

A motion was made by Rick Clark and seconded by Matthew Vansuch to vote on Resolution 2019-135:

Approve that all Howland Township employees, as per the attached listing, be rehired at their current pay and benefits for year 2020.

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

A motion was made by Matthew Vansuch and seconded by Rick Clark to vote on Resolution 2019-136:

Per the recommendation of Administrator Darlene St. George, approve the 2020 OPERS Sick Leave Conversion Plan for Howland Township. This is pursuant to Section 145.1 of the Ohio Revised Code and Administrative Code 145-1-26.

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

A motion was made by Rick Clark and seconded by Matthew Vansuch to vote on Resolution 2019-137:

Authorize the annual salaries for the Howland Township Trustees and Fiscal Officer be paid maximum salary allowed per the Ohio Revised Code.

Also, approve to provide Life/AD&D insurance in the amount of \$25,000 and health insurance benefits as provided in the current group insurance policy, and as provided to the employees of Howland Township.

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

A motion was made by Matthew Vansuch and seconded by Rick Clark to vote on Resolution 2019-138:

Approve to contract Grace Services Inc. to provide weed control in Township ditches, retention ponds, and cemeteries at a cost of \$2,045.00

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

A motion was made by Rick Clark and seconded by Matthew Vansuch to vote on Resolution 2019-139:

Per the recommendation of Fiscal Officer Robert Costello:

REDUCE CERTIFICATE DUE TO UNCOLLECTED OPWC FUNS & OTHER GRANTS:

4403-538-0000	Local Public Works Commission	\$ 221.46
4406-538-0000	Local Public Works Commission	\$75,000.00
4407-538-0000	Local Public Works Commission	\$28,084.00

REDUCE APPROPRIATION DUE TO UNCOLLECTED GRANT MONIES:

4403-130-730-2100	Local Public Works Commission	\$ 221.46
4406-330-730-2100	Local Public Works Commission	\$75,000.00
4407-130-730-2100	Local Public Works Commission	\$28,084.00

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

Public Comments:

Cindy Duncan – 1689 North Road

This is the first meeting I have ever attended.

Trustee Rick Clark

You really didn't pick a good meeting for your first one. Normally the department heads would all be here and they would give reports for each of the respective departments. This is just a cleanup meeting at the end of the year. Otherwise it would be more involved.

Pete Milkovich – 8551 Red Oak

Normally the information is documented in the previous meeting minutes? So this is just a top level clean up the books meeting?

Trustee Vansuch All the minutes are available on our web site. Once they get approved at the next meeting they get posted on our web site.

Pete Milkovich After reading on the internet and newspapers it seems like due to fiscal issues they had and possibly poor administration, now they are trying land grab just to get more money from our citizens. Are we doing anything to slow that down or to prevent it?

Trustee Vansuch Last meeting we authorized our outside council to file the legal appropriate action and I can tell you that steps are being taken behind the scenes with lawyers to address that before we would take legal action. It is an expensive option and we are hoping not to do that, but if we have to, we authorized our lawyers to do that. The wheels are moving and moving very quickly.

Cindy Duncan Who are they going after? Are they going after anyone who benefits from their utilities?

Trustee Vansuch Anyone that receives a utility from the City of Niles. That would be water, sewer or electric.

Trustee Clark So what would your thoughts be?

Cindy Duncan If we can fight it and there's going to be a fight to prevent that, I'm all on board for it.

Trustee Clark So you would not want to annex to Niles?

Cindy Duncan Absolutely not.

Trustee Clark Our legal counsel said this needs to be a two pronged attack. The legal part with the lawyers and the court, but they said it is important to keep up the public pressure.

Pete Milkovich What started this out of nowhere? Did someone come up with an idea to annex these properties so they can get more revenue?

Trustee Vansuch Yes

Pete Milkovich When will it stop? Eventually Howland will cease to exist. If we succeed, will they end up getting the bill from our legal team?

Trustee Vansuch It depends on what legal actions we bring. Some you can and some you can't. Normally when you sue someone you pay your own bill.

Adm. St. George We are encouraging everyone if by chance you receive something in one of your utility bills from Niles like an agreement don't sign it. Please call us and let us know. If you sign something it is like a contract. We can't help you after that.

Trustee Clark It is not an issue right now but it could be in the future, but it does not impact the school district. These boundaries are set by the state. So if any properties are annexed to Niles it would not change the school district. If they would end

