

MINUTES OF THE HOWLAND TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES

The Howland Township Board of Trustees held their regular meeting virtually on April 22, 2020 at 6:00 P.M. via the Howland Township Web Page www.howlandtownship.org

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

A motion was made by Dr. James LaPolla and seconded by Rick Clark to suspend the reading of March 27, 2020 special meeting minutes and accept as written.

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

A motion was made by Rick Clark and seconded by Dr. James LaPolla authorizing Fiscal Officer Robert Costello to pay all outstanding invoices incurred and approve all warrants issued.

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

A motion was made by Dr. James LaPolla and seconded by Rick Clark to vote on Resolution **2020-048:**

Per the recommendation of Administrator Darlene St. George, approve all township employees be covered under the Families First Corona Virus Response Act effective April 1, 2020 to December 31, 2020.

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

A motion was made by Rick Clark and seconded by Dr. James LaPolla to vote on Resolution **2020-049:**

Per the recommendation of Administrator Darlene St. George and Fire Chief James Pantalone, approve to hire Zachary Holmes as a full-time Firefighter/Paramedic effective April 2, 2020:

Base Rate: 80% - Current Firefighter base pay - \$16.06 per hr.
Medic Rate: 80% - Current Paramedic pay - \$50.00 per pay

Zachary will receive all benefits as per the Township Personnel Policy and the Howland Township Fire Department's IAFF Local 2786 Contract.

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

A motion was made by Dr. James LaPolla and seconded by Rick Clark to vote on Resolution **2020-050**:

Per the recommendation of Administrator Darlene St. George and Fire Chief James Pantalone, approve to hire Nicholas Graf as a full-time Firefighter/Paramedic effective April 3, 2020:

Base Rate: 80% - Current Firefighter base pay - \$16.06 per hr.
Medic Rate: 80% - Current Paramedic pay - \$50.00 per pay

Nicholas will receive all benefits as per the Township Personnel Policy and the Howland Township Fire Department's IAFF Local 2786 Contract.

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

A motion was made by Dr. James LaPolla and seconded by Rick Clark to vote on Resolution **2020-051**:

Per the recommendation of Administrator Darlene St. George and Fire Chief James Pantalone, approve to hire Todd Shafer as a full-time Firefighter/Paramedic effective April 16, 2020:

Base Rate: 80% - Current Firefighter base pay - \$16.06 per hr.
Medic Rate: 80% - Current Paramedic pay - \$50.00 per pay

Todd will receive all benefits as per the Township Personnel Policy and the Howland Township Fire Department's IAFF Local 2786 Contract.

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

A motion was made by Dr. James LaPolla and seconded by Rick Clark to vote on Resolution **2020-052**:

Per the recommendation of Administrator Darlene St. George and Fire Chief James Pantalone, accept the retirement of full-time Firefighter/EMT Henry Wingard effective April 3, 2020. Henry's last day of employment was April 2, 2020

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

A motion was made by Dr. James LaPolla and seconded by Rick Clark to vote on Resolution **2020-053**:

Authorize Fiscal Officer Robert Costello to pay King Collision \$4,230.17, invoice # 51234, dated January 2, 2020.

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

Summary of Meeting:

Chairman Matt Vansuch:

All our employees are working. Some are working remotely and those who cannot have stepped it up and have implemented new protocols to protect themselves the best they can. Everyone is doing their jobs as best as they can in these circumstances. On behalf of our community I want to thank you for that. I also want to thank our Chiefs and Assistant Chiefs in particular. There was a need at the county level for emergency management command and control. Our chiefs stepped up and went above and beyond their call of duty to the township and stepped up in those responsibilities. I also want to thank our community. The community has come out and I cannot name all the individuals who have donated food and items to our safety services. I would like to thank you for your recognition of the hard work our safety services do. Also, to Christian (who did not give a last name) for the nice sign he gave to the fire department.

You might have read where the Bureau of Workers Compensation is giving money back to employers as a refund. That number is approximately \$60,000.

Administrator Darlene St. George:

It will be a little over \$60,000. Our server needs to be replaced, so I think we will take some of that money and replace the server and then we will distribute the rest to the departments.

Chairman Matt Vansuch:

I do want to answer one burning question that we have been getting and unfortunately it is not an answer. We have been asked a lot about summer activities. We do not have an answer right now given the governor's current orders on mass gatherings. We do not know what the limits are going to be when we get closer to summer. I would not have my hopes up extremely high but if there is an opportunity to do something and we have the time to be able to do it. We must be mindful of our safety services who must help coordinate traffic and more things. If we can, I would not expect under the current orders that it's going to be a possibility.

Trustee James LaPolla:

My question is directed to Kim. What kind of plans do you have for the farmer's market?

Planning Director Kim Mascarella:

Farmers market has now moved out of scope and is in the parking lot of the high school. It is operating as a drive thru. Customers are encouraged to place orders online and try to take care of payment online also. They drive thru and are given their orders to keep the public safe.

Fire Chief Jim Pantalone:

This has definitely been a trying time. Police and fire staffs have been absolutely phenomenal thru this. The changes are day to day and sometimes hour by hour. They have done an awesome job. Everybody is healthy and doing well.

Police Chief Nick Roberts:

All our guys are healthy, and we are keeping an eye on everybody making sure we have everything we need to keep our guys safe. Chief Pantalone has done a phenomenal job with the emergency operations. I cannot thank our police and firemen enough for protecting each other and our community.

Road Superintendent Dave McCann:

Limb and branch pickup will start May 4th on the east side and May 18th on the west side. Our employees are working split shifts. It is 3 days a week for one shift and 2 days for the other shift.

Zoning Director Kim Mascarella:

We are still reviewing some projects ongoing in the township. There is a new 11-unit single family villa at Spring Run that we are reviewing. Bolindale pantry has seen and uptick in use.

Planning Director Dan Morgan:

In the last 30 days we have issued 12 permits. Three of them were for new businesses. We have the Brandon Burgonia Insurance Agency moving into 520 Cortland Road, the Old 82 Detail and Custom is moving to 8681 East Market and Drayer Physical Therapy is relocating to 8252 High Street.

Administrator Darlene St. George:

Department heads are doing a great job. I want to thank all employees. The township is running as always. Nothing is missing a beat in the township right now.


Public Comment:

Scout master Bob from Howland United Methodist Church and Scout Master McGee from Howland Community Church are here with boys to observe the public meeting as part of their citizenship and community merit badge. There are a few boys here working on their communications merit badge also.

A motion was made by Dr. James and seconded by Rick Clark to adjourn the meeting at 6:35 P.M.

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

Approved by:  Dated: 5/11/20
Robert M. Costello, Fiscal Officer

Approved by:  Dated: 5/12/20
Matthew Vansuch, Chairperson-Trustee