

**MINUTES OF THE HOWLAND TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

The Howland Township Board of Trustees held their regular meeting virtually on June 10, 2020 at 6:00 P.M. via the Howland Township Web Page [www.howlandtownship.org](http://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 May 13, 2020 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 2020-061:

Authorize Fiscal Officer Robert Costello to pay Trumbull County Transit Board \$9,553.00, invoice # 339-REV, dated May 21, 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 2020-062:

Approve to schedule a Public Hearing on July 8, 2020 at 6:30 p.m., immediately following the regular meeting, to review the “Alternative Tax Budget of Howland Township” for the next fiscal year ending December 31, 2021.

**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 **2020-063**:

WHEREAS, the Township Board of Trustees of Howland Township are authorized to request an advance of "REAL ESTATE TAX – 2<sup>nd</sup> Half Settlement" pursuant to ORC 321.24; and

WHEREAS, the Township Board of Trustees of Howland Township do hereby request an advance of "REAL ESTATE TAX – 2<sup>nd</sup> Half Settlement" pursuant to ORC 321.24 and 135.35

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Township Board of Trustees of Howland Township do hereby request the Trumbull County Auditor to advance any "REAL ESTATE TAX – 2<sup>nd</sup> Half Settlement" money in the Treasury of the Trumbull County Auditor to the account of Howland Township.

<b>Roll Call:</b>	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 **2020-064**:

WHEREAS, the following list of properties have been cited during the month of June, 2020 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 the 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.

WHEREAS, At least seven days before providing for the abatement, control, or removal of any vegetation, garbage, refuse, or other debris, the board of township trustees shall notify the owner of the land and any holders of liens of record upon the land that The owner is ordered to abate, control, or remove the vegetation, garbage, refuse, or other debris, the owner's maintenance of which has been determined by the board to be a nuisance.

WHEREAS, If that vegetation, garbage, refuse, or other debris is not abated, controlled, or removed, or if provision for its abatement, control, or removal is not made, within seven days, the board shall provide for the abatement, control, or removal, and any expenses incurred by the board in performing that task shall be entered upon the tax duplicate and become a lien upon the land from the date of entry.

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>
3681 Hightree Ave Se,	Parcel: 28-181787
8848 Kings Graves Road,	Parcel: 28-322475
8099 Castle Rock Dr. NE,	Parcel: 28-446750
716 Clifton Dr. SE,	Parcel: 28-319300
9536 Bradford Lane,	Parcel: 28-901867
7648 Dawson Drive,	Parcel: 28-172200
8618 Old Orchard RD SE,	Parcel: 28-222850
1041 Westover Dr. SE,	Parcel: 28-563000
7725 Anderson Ave,	Parcel: 28-319270
277 Howland Wilson Rd,	Parcel: 28-901368
6060 Mines Road,	Parcel: 28-390900
7654 Pegotty Drive NE,	Parcel: 28-683738
2817 Larchmont Ave NE,	Parcel: 28-196500
8600 Huntley Dr. SE,	Parcel: 28-487340
3448 Beechwood Ave NE,	Parcel: 28-300351
696 Shadowood Ln. SE,	Parcel: 28-603362
2878 Niles Vienna Road	Parcel 28-573401
1458 Castillion Dr. NE,	Parcel 28-006282
8141 Castle Rock Drive,	Parcel 28-121275

<b>Roll Call:</b>	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 2020-065:

**RESOLUTION DETERMINING TO PROCEED WITH THE SUBMISSION TO THE ELECTORS OF THE QUESTION OF LEVYING A TAX IN EXCESS OF THE TEN MILL LIMITATION**

WHEREAS, on the 13<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2020, this Board adopted Resolution No. 2020-056 determining to submit to the electors of the entire territory of Howland Township, which is located exclusively in Trumbull County, Ohio, the question of levying a renewal tax in excess of the ten-mill limitation, as described below, a copy of which Resolution was certified to the Auditor of Trumbull County; and

WHEREAS, that the County Auditor has certified to the Board that the dollar amount of revenue that would be generated by 1.5 mills for each one dollar of total current tax valuation of Howland Township, which amounts to \$0.15 for each one hundred dollars of valuation, as set forth in said Resolution, is the annual amount of \$609,245.00

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, by the Board of Trustees of Howland Township, Trumbull County, Ohio, two-thirds of all members elected thereto concurring, being Resolution No. 2020-065, that this Board determines to proceed with the submission to the electors at the general election to be held on November 3, 2020, pursuant to Ohio Revised Code §§ 5705.03,

§5705.19(G), and §5705.191, of the question of levying renewal tax in excess of the ten mill limitation, at the same rate as the existing tax levy, for the benefit of and upon the entire territory of Howland Township, for the purpose of the general construction, reconstruction, resurfacing, and repair of streets, roads, and bridges in Howland Township, at an annual tax rate of 1.5 mills for each one dollar of valuation, which is the same rate as the existing levy, and which amounts to \$0.15 for each one-hundred dollars of valuation, in order to raise the amount of \$609,245.00 each year for a five (5) year period of time, commencing in 2021, first due in calendar year 2022. (Resolution attached in its entirety)

<b>Roll Call:</b>	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 **2020-066:**

Per the recommendation of Administrator Darlene St. George, approve to hire Andrew Thirion as a variable hour part-time seasonal employee at a rate of \$9.00 per hour with no benefits and scheduled on an “as needed basis” effective June 1, 2020.

<b>Roll Call:</b>	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 **2020-067:**

Per the recommendation of Administrator Darlene St. George, approve to hire Connie Hernandez as a Part-Time Postal Employee and Part-time Township Clerical employee, effective June 17, 2020. Connie will receive \$10.28 per hour with no benefits and scheduled on an “as needed basis”.

<b>Roll Call:</b>	Matthew Vansuch	-yea
	Dr. James J LaPolla	-yea
	Rick Clark	-yea

A motion was made by Dr. James LaPolla and seconded by Matthew Vansuch to vote on Resolution **2020-068:**

Per the recommendation of Administrator Darlene St. George, accept the resignation from Part-Time Township Event Coordinator Alexandra DiVito for personal reasons effective June 9, 2020.

<b>Roll Call:</b>	Matthew Vansuch	-yea
	Dr. James LaPolla	-yea
	Rick Clark	-yea

## Summary of Meeting:

### **Chairman Matthew Vansuch**

Last month I mentioned on the annexation that we were hopeful of taking steps forward. We are hopeful of taking steps forward and even more hopeful today walking down a better path towards resolving this.

### **Trustee James LaPolla**

We have heard a lot of things about safety forces, especially up in Minnesota. Both of our chiefs have done extraordinarily well. I have to credit their screening process and their training process to the point where we have a very efficient police force and my hat goes out to them throughout this current turmoil and I support the police department fully.

### **Police Chief Nick Roberts**

In light of what has been going on in this country the last couple of weeks, I would like our residents to know that the Howland Police Department is committed to progressing our officers and our community forward. We will continue to work with the Ohio Collaborative Law Enforcement Agency in order to maintain our policy and procedures and certifications. This process allow us to work directly with Governor DeWine's Ohio Task Force on public relations which provides guidance and provides that policies and procedures are current and holds us accountable that our officers are properly trained. We are committed to remain transparent as transparency builds trust in communities. I want our community to know that we are committed to you and our main objective is to maintain peace and order so we can all live as one and feel safe in our community. We have a motto at the Howland Police Department that states treat people the way you would want family to be treated and we will honor that motto with dignity, passion and respect.

### **Asst. Fire Chief Jim Sapp**

I would like to report thru this whole pandemic thing that the EOC has dismantled. They do have some folks working there although the IMAT team is still working remotely; they have not had meetings on a regular basis at the EOC. They have distributed the PPE to all the fire departments in anticipation of any resurgence in the fall. We are prepared not only at the HFD but also prepared at the HPD and Administration as well.

Since our last meeting we have had some unexpected maintenance issues with a couple of our ambulances. One was a major issue and one was minor and our front line rescue truck now has some maintenance issues that we have to deal with in the future.

I would like to thank the community thru the quarantine process. We were asked to join in on a few neighborhood birthday parties, retirement parties, graduation parties and those were the type of parades you saw going throughout the Township. Unfortunately with the restrictions lifted in Ohio our call volume has returned to normal and actually we have exceeded what we were running before February. The last four weeks have been tough for us but as of June 8<sup>th</sup> we have suspended the parades. We appreciate the community for asking us to help out. It was fun for

the crews to get them out of the stations as they have been locked down. All of our precautions have exceeded what we anticipated; we had no COVID positive cases in the fire department. I am very proud of the job that the crews did in disinfecting process of not just the fire stations but also the ambulances to protect the community that we serve.

**Trustee Rick Clark**

Are all of the vehicles in service that need repairs?

**Asst. Fire Chief Jim Sapp**

Yes they are. I had to send one out yesterday for A/C and we have been very fortunate to get a lone vehicle thru the pandemic that we were going to use for a 5<sup>th</sup> ambulance for COVID patients. Fortunate for us we did not need it for that purpose, but we have been utilizing it now and then when we have to send a truck out for service.

**Zoning Administrator Dan Morgan**

In the last 30 days we have issued 45 permits. The project cost for those permits was \$728,000. We are currently working on 106 property maintenance issues. Of those 106, 19 were deemed a nuisance tonight, so public works can resolve them. We are researching a program called adopt a yard. This is where the township can work with community groups and churches to pair them with elderly and disabled residents that have trouble maintaining their yard.

**Planning Director Kim Mascarilla**

We changed the site configuration a little bit for the Farmers Market to accommodate a drive thru market and I think that has been successful. About 15 vendors come every week. 100 plus cars generally pass thru. Last week we had about 145 cars pass thru. If things stay positive for the pandemic perhaps the trustees might consider moving the farmers market back to Orwig Park, but again in an altered configuration so that the tents are on the outside of the park boundaries. We are looking at June 27<sup>th</sup> to try it out.

The community gardens are up and running. They are about 80% full. The residents that grow out there are wanting to compost. The public works department did a great job in tilling them twice.

**Road Superintendent Dave McCann**

We are in our full summertime mode. We are trying to catch up on all the zoning yards that need mowing. Thanks for the support in helping get us another student worker. We are doing our catch basin repairs. We are trying to get as much done as we can in the roadways so we can actually start our skim paving earlier than normal. We would like to start that the first part of July if possible.

**Public Comment:**

Ed Palumbo – 201 Sanctuary Drive

I want to mention a couple of pieces of property that have become a nuisance. They are on the corner of 46 and Kings Graves. One on each side of Kings Graves. I started to notice the grass is getting high there. The other thing is what is taking so long for this annexation? Who is going to make the final decision, the county? In this decision is it going to be placed before the residents to vote on? We have been kept in the dark for a long time.

**Chairman Matthew Vansuch**

I can tell you the holdup for this was the back and forth discussions. We were waiting on Niles to respond and we waited over two months to get their response. We do have a response from Niles and are working with them to try to facilitate a resolution to this. That is in the process of happening right now. I can assure you substantial progress has been made very recently and I know everybody's heart is into getting this resolved. The ultimate decision would be between the City Council of Niles and Board of Trustees here in Howland.

**Ed Palumbo**

The county commissioners are not involved?


**Chairman Matthew Vansuch**

At this point the county commissioners are not directly involved and would not have a direct vote on any agreement between the parties.

A motion was made by Dr. James and seconded by Rick Clark to adjourn the meeting at 6:40 P.M.

<b>Roll Call:</b>	Matthew Vansuch	-yea
	Dr. James J LaPolla	-yea
	Rick Clark	-yea

Approved by:  Dated: 6/22/20  
 Robert M. Costello, Fiscal Officer

Approved by:  Dated: 6/25/20  
 Matthew Vansuch, Chairperson-Trustee