

MINUTES OF THE HOWLAND TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES

The Howland Township Board of Trustees held their regular meeting virtually on July 8, 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 Matthew Vansuch to suspend the reading of June 25 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 **2020-070:**

Authorize the Fiscal Officer to establish the following Special Revenue Fund, appropriate the following money and request an Amended Certificate from the Trumbull County Auditor to increase the Township budget due to money received for the COVID-19 – CARES Act.

Special Revenue Fund 2272 –Coronavirus Relief Fund (LCRF) \$221,553.82

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 **2020-0071:**

Authorize the Fiscal Officer to request an Amended Certificate from the Trumbull County Auditor to reduce the Township budget due to unused money from OPWC for the CFMAA Mosquito Creek Wetlands Extension Grant.

Fund 4407 – Mosquito Creek Wetlands Extension – OPWC (\$300.25)

Revenue:

4407-538-0000 Local Public Works Commission (\$300.25)

Appropriation:

4407-130-730-2100 Improvement of Sites (OPWC) (\$300.25)

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 **2020-072:**

Per the recommendation of Administrator Darlene St. George and Fire Chief James Pantalone accept the resignation of part-time Firefighter/EMT Raymond Manofsky for personal reasons effective June 15, 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 **2020-073:**

Per the recommendation of Administrator Darlene St. George and Fire Chief James Pantalone, hire the following as part-time Firefighters/EMTs effective July 1, 2020. They will be paid \$12.39 an hour with no benefits and scheduled on an as needed basis.

Erik Lyszaz Jared Wagoner Jesse Zivoder

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 **2020-074:**

Per the recommendation of Police Chief Nick Roberts, approve the following General Orders to the Howland Police Department Policy & Procedure Manual, effective June 30, 2020 (copies attached in their entirety)

General Order #207 Section 207: Bias Free Policing
General Order #208 Section 205: Investigation of Employee Misconduct

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 **2020-075:**

Per the recommendation of Administrator Darlene St. George and Public Works Director accept the bid for the 2019 Rosegarden Storm Sewer Upgrade Project from Z-Tech Builders/Excavators Inc., Cortland, OH for the amount of \$96,873.00.

Other Bids Received:

Klinginsmith Enterprises, Inc.	\$120,792.77
Foust Construction Inc.	\$123,164.00
Utility Contracting	\$136,248.30
Woodford Excavating	\$136,430.00
J.S. Bova Excavating	\$156,491.20

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 **2020-076:**

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>
• 2878 Niles Vienna Road	Parcel 28-573401

- 2841 Orchard Ave Parcel 28-125900
- 7720 Anderson Ave NE Parcel 28-004600
- 8683 Warwick Ed SE Parcel 28-456375
- 3503 Birchwood Ave NE Parcel 28-094550
- 2349 Stillwagon Rd SE Parcel 28-664400
- 1458 Castillion Dr. NE Parcel 28-006282
- 3681 Hightree Ave SE Parcel 28-181787
- 8848 Kings Graves Rd NE Parcel 28-322475
- 8618 Old Orchard Rd SE Parcel 28-222850
- 6060 Mines Road Rd SE Parcel 28-390900
- 7654 Pegotty Dr. 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
- 1420 Patchen Ave SE Parcel 28-021800

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 2020-077:

Per the recommendation of Administrator Darlene St. George, approve Howland Township to utilize local law firm Comstock, Springer & Wilson Co. L.P.A. on an as needed basis.

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

Summary of Meeting:

Trustee James LaPolla

I have been approached multiple times about the multitude of youth driving golf carts on township roads. I know the basics if you don't have a legal license to drive a vehicle you're not supposed to drive anything on the road. Right now we have a lot of golf carts driving around. What is our policy on that and what can we do or our police department do on that matter?

Chief Nick Roberts

First of all people are going to contact us thru the non-emergency number and let us know they are having a nuisance problem in their neighborhoods. If you are driving a golf cart you have to be 16 years old and have a valid Ohio driver's license and that vehicle has to be equipped with a

license plate, signals, lights and a horn. It would also have to pass a vehicle inspection thru the OSP for it to be qualified to be on the road way.

Trustee James LaPolla

Recently the governor passed mandated masks. What is our responsibility in terms of policing our residents to make sure they are using them?

Chief Nick Roberts

We are still waiting to hear form the Ohio Department of Health who has yet to release orders from the mandate. I've been in contact with the Warren Law Director's office and they are still waiting. Once those orders come thru I will get with Warren Law Director and the Trumbull Health Department and will go from there.

Fire Chief Jim Pantalone

Just a couple of things. As we continue to work thru governor's orders, as those change in being fluid with the level, we are still actively participating in county operations. Our operation thru the township hasn't changed. The guys are continuing with full PPE as needed. We are insuring the governor's orders. We encourage the community to adhere to those orders and be respectful to everyone should you go to stores. Please wear a mask and not only think about your safety but also the safety of those around you.

Call volume wise we are about 100 behind last year. We did have a slowdown during the COVID period however, that slowdown call volume , our calls took a lot longer. Call volume is running around 250 a month. We encourage everyone to be safe and mask up.

Police Chief Nick Roberts

I echo what chief Pantalone says about sticking with mandates by the governor's office. Wear your masks, social distance and I am sure we will we will be getting phone calls after 6:00 PM tonight. We will probably get complaints from the bars and restaurants that people are inside without masks. We will rely on the advice from the health department and prosecutor's office.

Road Superintendent Dave McCann

We are trying to catch up on cones and barricades that have been out on the streets trying to take care of the catch basins. We want to initiate skim paving earlier. We anticipated in staring this past week. We had a little delay on that because of wrapping up some small projects. It is a program that I like doing in the fall because once you put down the material it stays hot for a long period of time. The place where we do it, we can't leave it because it is still too hot for traffic to drive on.

Trustee Matthew Vansuch

I got a question from a resident about the catch basin on Old Farm. Do we have any idea when you might get that done?

Road Superintendent Dave McCann

That is one of the projects I wanted to get done before skim paving but quite honestly we are going to get it done around late summer or early fall.

Zoning Director Dan Morgan

In the last 30 days we issued 30 permits with a project cost of \$265,000. I am proud to say that Levin Furniture is going to be moving into the vacant Gander Mountain building.

Planning Director Kim Mascarella

Last week we were encouraging people coming to the farmer's market to wear masks. The vendors are all wearing masks. We had masks available for visitors and this week it will be required they wear masks. The market is going very well. Some vendors feel it is too risky, maybe have underlying conditions.

The zoning commission is still evaluating any changes to the zoning language. Over the next few months they will be looking at the corridor revenue district to see how well they are working and any development changes that need to occur in those districts. They will be evaluating how COVID impacts the districts. We are meeting next Wednesday at 5:00 PM.

Trustee Matt Vansuch

Howland Protect-N-Shred Day will be August 15 behind the Scope Center.

Public Comments:

Nicole Nagane -- question by e-mail

Her e-mail says there was a car accident on Roberts Lane. It occurred to overgrown brush and debris. According to the county map the roadway is designated to Howland Township. She has contacted Dave McCann and she is not satisfied with the outcome.

Chairman Matt Vansuch

Which part of Roberts Lane are we looking at?

Road Superintendent Dave McCann

It would be the south end of Roberts Lane as you come off of Gretchen, you take Roberts Lane to Hoffman Circle. Roberts Lane dead ends into the city of Warren. The length of dedication of Roberts Lane only goes to the right of way to Hoffman Circle and then there's another 85 feet from the right of way of Hoffman Circle to the city limit line. Roberts Lane is only 1,637 feet long and gets us right to the edge of Hoffman Circle. So that portion that she is talking about is typical undedicated piece of street that is rampant throughout the township. There are many paper streets in the township that were never dedicated or upgraded and improved as township maintenance. The portion she is talking about is one of those areas.

Trustee Rick Clark

What is it just brush and things?

Road Superintendent Dave McCann

It is just more than brush. Over the years there has been a lot of dumping on the backside of the guardrail. There have been many years of debris being dumped there and vegetation growing up.

Trustee Rick Clark

Is it in Howland or the city?

Road Superintendent Dave McCann

It is in Howland Township but a portion that was never part of the road system.

Trustee Rick Clark

How did it cause an accident?

Road Superintendent Dave McCann

My understanding thru one of the residents was that either a vehicle was being chased by police or somebody was just driving too fast and was either drunk or impaired. They drove thru this area and literally launched over the guardrail into the city of Warren's area.

Chairman Matt Vansuch

I can see where Mrs. Nagane is looking at the auditor's page and it does show it is the roadway. When I try and click omit I can't even click on that portion because it is saying it is part of the road. So would it be shared by the two property owner there?

Road Superintendent Dave McCann

Correct. That is what I informed her. A lot of those areas were never truly dedicated for public use. Many residents have vacated property and it is shared between property owners.

Trustee Rick Clark

You don't know if they have done that yet?

Road Superintendent Dave McCann

They have not. I have explained that situation to her and obviously she is looking further to see if we could do something about that.

Chairman Matt Vansuch

Is it something we can vacate back?

Road Superintendent Dave McCann

It is not ours. I would be up to the residents to go thru the vacation process.

Chairman Matt Vansuch

Dan, would the condition of the property be considered a nuisance and weed and things that could be taken care of under ORC 505.87?

Zoning Director Dan Morgan

I would have to evaluate the property, what the conditions are and if it is improved land or unimproved land. That would make the difference.

Administrator Darlene St. George

If it caused an accident and there is brush there that is impeding the traveling public we have the right to cut it down.

Road Superintendent Dave McCann

The trimming wouldn't be an issue. She wanted all the debris removed from the area which I informed her I would not do. My intent was to place a stop sign in that area.

Administrator Darlene St. George

Can we cut back the brush?

Road Superintendent Dave McCann

Yes we can do it all. It is something that I don't think is our responsibility.

Administrator Darlene St. George

How about instead of taking up everyone's time on this issue, I will e-mail Nicole and tell her we will come out tomorrow and make some decisions about signage and cutting it.

Ed Polumbo – 201 Sanctuary

I missed probably 85% of this meeting because of this stupid computer, so if you would like to start over again.

Chairman Matt Vansuch

We would be happy to post the link on the website tomorrow.

Ed Polumbo

What have you heard on Meijer's? Is this related to the annexation?

Administrator Darlene St. George

Not that we are aware of. Meijer's took a whole look at everything. The last time we had contact with the property owner they said that they are not out of the picture.

A motion was made by Rick Clark and seconded by Dr. James LaPolla to adjourn the meeting at 6:47 P.M.

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

Approved by:  Dated: 7/14/20
Robert M. Costello, Fiscal Officer

Approved by:  Dated: 7/24/20
Matthew Vansuch, Chairperson-Trustee