

MINUTES OF THE HOWLAND TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES

The Howland Township Board of Trustees held their regular meeting virtually on August 12, 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 July 8, 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 Dr. James LaPolla and seconded by Rick Clark 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 **2020-079:**

Accept the Amounts and Rates as determined by the Budget Commission and authorizing the Necessary Tax Levies and certifying them to the County Auditor for fiscal year commencing January 1, 2021 (resolution attached in its entirety).

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 **2020-080:**

Per Township Administrator Darlene St. George, approve to contract Compass Family & Community Services (CAPE) to provide an Employee Assistance Program for the period August 1, 2020 to July 31, 2021 for \$1,800.00. There is no increase from last year.

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 **2020-081:**

Authorize the Fiscal Officer to transfer the following via Post Inter-fund Advances:

Partial and Final Repayment of January 15, 2020 Advance

From: Fire Fund:	2111-920-920 -	Advances Out	(\$125,000.00)
To: General Fund:	1000-940-0000 -	Advances In	\$125,000.00

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 **2020-082:**

Per the recommendation of Administrator Darlene St. George, and Planning Director Kim Mascarella, approve AECOM Engineering Services for the Economic Development Administration (EDA) CARES Act grant assistance in the amount of \$12,000. The grant application will target Golden Triangle infrastructure improvements. This grant application is a collaborative effort between Howland Township, Trumbull County Commissioners, Trumbull County Engineer’s Office, and Warren City. Each partner will contribute \$3,000.

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 **2020-083:**

Authorize the Fiscal Officer to request an Amended Certificate from the Trumbull County Auditor to increase the Township budget \$9,000.

Establish the following Capital Project Fund EDA CARES ACT – Golden Triangle, and establish Revenue and Appropriation Budgets.

Fund 4903 EDA CARES ACT	\$9,000.00
Revenue:	
4903-591 – Intergovernmental Receipts	\$9,000.00
Appropriations:	
4903-130-317 Planning Consultants	\$9,000.00

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 **2020-084:**

Per the recommendation of Administrator Darlene St. George and Fire Chief James Pantalone accept the resignation of part-time Firefighters/EMTs for personal reasons.

William Steiner	Effective July 18, 2020
Collin Dales	Effective July 30, 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 **2020-085:**

Per the recommendation of Administrator Darlene St. George and Fire Chief James Pantalone, hire Mitchell Tikkanen as a part-time Firefighter/EMT effective August 12, 2020. Mitchell will be paid \$12.39 an hour with no benefits and scheduled on an as needed basis.

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 **2020-086:**

Per the recommendation of Administrator Darlene St. George and Fire Chief James Pantalone accept the resignation of full-time Lieutenant/Paramedic James Williamson for personal reasons effective August 1, 2020.

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

A motion was made by Dr. James LaPolla and seconded by Rick Clark to vote on Resolution **2020-087:**

Per the recommendation of Administrator Darlene St. George and Fire Chief James Pantalone authorize to promote Randy Stottlemire from Firefighter/Paramedic to Lieutenant/Paramedic at the Lieutenant wage, per the Collective Bargaining Agreement between IAFF Local 2786 and the Howland Township Trustees, effective August 1, 2020.

Randy will continue to 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 LaPolla -yea
Rick Clark -yea

A motion was made by Dr. James LaPolla and seconded by Rick Clark to vote on Resolution **2020-088:**

Per the recommendation of Administrator Darlene St. George and Fire Chief James Pantalone approve to hire part-time Firefighter/EMT Cameron Gearhart as full-time Firefighter/EMT effective August 3, 2020;

Base rate: 80% - Current Firefighter base pay - \$20.07 per hr.

Cameron will receive all benefits as per the Township Personnel Policy and the Howland Township Fire Department's IAFF Local 2786 Contract. Conditional Offer of Employment attached in its entirety.

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

A motion was made by Dr. James LaPolla and seconded by Rick Clark to vote on Resolution **2020-089**:

Per the recommendation of Administrator Darlene St. George and Fire Chief James Pantalone approve to hire part-time Firefighter/EMT Zachery Hileman as full-time Firefighter/EMT effective August 2, 2020;

Base rate: 80% - Current Firefighter base pay - \$20.07 per hr.

Zachery will receive all benefits as per the Township Personnel Policy and the Howland Township Fire Department's IAFF Local 2786 Contract. Conditional Offer of Employment attached in its entirety.

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

A motion was made by Dr. James LaPolla and seconded by Rick Clark to vote on Resolution **2020-090**:

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
674 Shady LN,	Parcel 28-618551
3503 Birchwood Ave NE,	Parcel 28-094550
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
3448 Beechwood Ave NE,	Parcel 28-300351
1420 Patchen Ave SE,	Parcel 28-021800

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

A motion was made by Dr. James LaPolla and seconded by Rick Clark to vote on Resolution **2020-091**:

The Howland Township Trustees approve the sale of the following Public Works Department item on auction site GovDeals. The item is unneeded, obsolete or unfit personal property.

2000 International 4900 10 Ton Dump (#423) Vin# YH257405

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

Summary of Meeting:

Trustee Dr. James LaPolla

I just want to remind everyone listening that this coming Saturday we are going to have Shred-it-Day along with Fill the Cruiser Day. These will be held behind the John Emanuel Senior Center.

Police Chief Nick Roberts

To add to what Dr. LaPolla was saying, our police department will be collecting non-perishable food items for the Bolindale Food Pantry. We will have a couple of cruisers there.

Another thing I wanted to touch base on was the traffic citation scam alert that I put on our Facebook page. We were recently notified by one of our Howland residents that they received a traffic citation via email for speeding. The email states that the violation must be paid within 72 hours through the Easy Pay Center or they could contest the citation by “clicking here” to contact your local Department of Motor Vehicles via secure mail. Please know that the Howland Police Department does not email residents traffic citations. If you receive one of these emails do not click on the links and delete it from your inbox.

Fire Chief Jim Pantalone

We continue to monitor situations within the township and county with respect to Covid-19 pandemic right now. We are sitting at orange right now. We are doing well; the hospitals are holding their own and the availability of ventilators is good. We did not experience a full surge in Trumbull County. Currently from the health commissioner, we are at a 5-week low although we are still experiencing positives out in the public. I would like to encourage everyone to continue what you are doing. I felt encouraged this week as I had to get out and pick up some plumbing supplies at a local place. People were wearing masks and that is good to see. We need to continue that and stay on top of this. It is possible if we continue this downward slope, we could see us moving into yellow in the next week or so. Please be vigilant, continue being safe, social distance and wear masks, wash hands and sanitize. We are moving in a good direction for the county.

Trustee Dr. James LaPolla

If I can add one thing to what the chief said. One of the things we are promoting at the hospital and various medical places is also cover up your nose. A lot of people are covering up their mouth and exposing their nostrils. They are making us just as vulnerable by not covering up their nostrils.

Zoning Director Kim Mascarella

Howland Farmers Market is still going on, still going strong, at the Richard Orwig Park. The vendors are doing everything they can to make sure that they are delivering the best products, keeping everyone safe. All the market goers are wearing masks and keeping distance. It is good to see people getting fresh local produce. We are there every Saturday from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm.

Trustee Matthew Vansuch

I want to thank you for the work on the Golden Triangle infrastructure projects and making sure that we are out there working with our partners to apply for those grants and to address the issues that area might have. It is something we can do with them and with their help.

Zoning Administrator Dan Morgan

Zoning has issued 33 permits for a total project cost of \$1,376,000. Out of that number the major project cost was a \$1,200,000 addition at Wheatland Tube.

Trustee Matthew Vansuch

Dan, I see there is a BZA meeting next week. Will this be the first one you have done thru Zoom?

Zoning Administrator Dan Morgan

Yes, it will be the first BZA hearing that we are going to have on Zoom, and it is for a proposed car wash on Niles Cortland Road.

Trustee Matthew Vansuch

I am going to read a statement and hopefully have answered many of the questions we have received by email this month. All of them are related to the next subject and I believe we will be able to address all your questions in them. After that I will explain how we are going to take public comment.

This is a statement from the Howland Township Trustees on the status of the discussions with the City of Niles concerning their annexation ordinance.

It has been many months since we have talked with you about Niles' Annexation Ordinance. We have heard you loud and clear. You have not heard much from us. But silence does not mean inactivity. To the contrary, in the spirit of good faith, we respected the Mayor's request to not talk past each other through the media but rather on a one-to-one basis. We have spent that time meeting with City officials and, on many occasions, trying to show them that what they are doing is wrong and illegal. We can simply do no more on that front.

Back in December, we were told that we were blowing things out of proportion. We didn't think that we were then, and we know that we aren't now. So, we, your board of trustees, want to let you know exactly where everything stands. There are some general items that we can agree upon, but there are others where we cannot and where we are extremely far apart.

That brings us to the major source of disagreement: the development incentive agreement. The City has now said that the DIA would be amended to allow nonresidents receiving a City utility service to simply pay an incentive fee but not have to annex. These individuals would pay the City for the privilege of not being annexed in the amount of \$47/month, a significant increase from what is currently in the Annexation Ordinance. That "incentive fee" would not go into the City's restricted funds that can only be used for utility-related costs but into their general fund that they could use for any City expenses. In other words, it is a tax. And we don't believe that this tax on nonresidents who don't live or work in the City is right or legal. It is extortion.

Many decades ago, the City made the choice to lay utility lines to customers in its neighboring townships without requiring those new customers to annex into the City. This was not an accident. Those nonresident users would pay more than the residents so that the residents could enjoy the same utility service a lower rate. Based on this, you purchased homes and businesses in Howland Township, knowing that you would pay more than someone across the street in Niles, but you would not have to pay the City's income tax. That is how it's worked for nearly a half-century. Now a new administration at the City wants a do-over. It thinks it can ignore its prior decisions and simply cut off the utilities for nonresidents who do not acquiesce to its extortion. That it cannot do.

There are two other items upon which we disagree. It's trying to reopen no-annexation agreements that it and the Township made decades ago even though the property owner hasn't even asked to get out of them. And it is trying to force the townships to agree to allow the

annexation of property on Stillwagon that isn't even able to be annexed because it isn't contiguous. We offered to come to the table to talk with the City and those owners for a good-faith discussion about those properties if the theoretical became reality, but, in the Administration's words, "that isn't good enough." At that point, there is nothing that we can do.

We have done everything we can possibly do to explain to the City that what it is doing is wrong, unconscionable, and illegal. We simply cannot agree with the City that you will agree to sign any "development incentive agreement" or that the people who buy your home or business will agree to do so. We do not have the statutory authority to do so. And we believe that what the City is asking for goes beyond what it can do.

So we need your help. You, our residents, have just as strong of a voice as we do. The only people who can do anything about this extortion are the Mayor and the members of the Niles City Council. They need to hear it. Contact your county and state officials. Let them know that you will not stand for the Niles Shakedown and that you will remember those who are doing this and those that will stand by and allow this to happen. There are no fence-sitters. Let the business community know that Niles' go-it-alone stance threatens economic development in our area. In the meantime, we will be holding neighborhood meetings with our residents when we are able to do so.

Finally, we need you to remain vigilant. Because of these ongoing discussions, there has been an informal détente that has kept the parties out of court. To our knowledge, the City has not attempted to enforce the Annexation Ordinance against any of our residents or business. If you receive or are asked to sign a development incentive agreement, please contact the Township. We have done our homework and are absolutely prepared and ready to fight this battle in court. We have tried absolutely everything to avoid doing so. But we are ready if that is what this new City administration wants.

None of this is necessary or helpful. The Mahoning Valley needs its elected officials and local governments working together to tackle the obstacles to economic development that will benefit all of us in the long term. It does not need us fighting over a parochial attempt to grab more money from people and businesses. That is the wrong message to send to the businesses that are here and the businesses that we want to be here.

Mayor and City Council: stop this now.

Public Comments:

Trustee Matthew Vansuch

I do want to answer a couple questions that came thru email. One of the questions involved in what role do the county commissioners play in this? The county commissioners have to approve all annexations from a township into a city. They absolutely have a role to play in this and absolutely have a role to play in the utilities provided throughout the county and many parts of our township. As I said please contact your county officials and let them know what you think about this.

Trustee Dr. James LaPolla

I would like to comment you and our legal team for your due diligence and hard work in this matter. And I know I can speak for myself, many of my patients that come to my office and many of the Howland residents that a resolution to this problem needs to come and I am glad we are getting aggressive with you and your legal team strong arm and strong effort.

Trustee Matthew Vansuch

I know there was an article about a property on Friday where the City of Niles cut off some utilities. That property is not in Howland Township. For the last 9 months or so Niles has stayed hands-off on going after any properties in Howland. It doesn't prohibit us from going into court but gives us some breathing room to talk. We are not sure now how aggressive the city is going to be. If the city is going to be aggressive, we will be aggressive right back and jump into court. We hope the city would not be that aggressive and start cutting off utilities to our residents or making people sign annex development agreements. We are going to let the city make the next move. If that next move is to enforce this ordinance against our residents, then we are ready to take the next appropriate step.

Trustee Rick Clark

Matt, you did a nice job speaking on our behalf. The only thing I hope happens or does not happen is our residents are living under the threat of this annexation agreement or tax as you call it from the City of Niles. Hopefully they don't take any action; they would rescind that, so our residents are not living underneath a cloud of that possibly happening.

Trustee Matthew Vansuch

There is a question that came in thru group chat. Why can't Howland become a city?

The answer to that question is that when the discussion of townships becoming cities was had in the 60's and 70's, the laws were different. The law now requires the affirmative recognition of permission of the cities within 3 miles of the proposed city's border. We would have to get the permission of Niles, Warren and possibly Cortland.

Why can't we switch to another utility company? Is there an update of First Energy taking over the utility?

Administrator Darlene St. George

We are working vigorously with First Energy along with Weathersfield on switching our utilities. That would be township wide. When they do that it means that everyone currently has Niles electric will switch to First Energy. First Energy owns the franchise for Trumbull County and the areas outside the municipality. So yes, it is possible and we are working on it.

Douglas Wilcox – 8001 Raglan

We also own multiple properties in Howland. One unit is on Curtis Street. I have a question for Dan Morgan. We put that fence up there to block that house under construction at 3944 Flory. Could you provide an update on that house and where it currently stands?

Zoning Administrator Dan Morgan

I was out there yesterday. They have put a front door on the structure. They put some Visqueen over the garage door. The garage door is due in the next week or two. They have been ordered to clean up all the trash and debris and that inspection is due 8/26. In addition, the Trumbull County

Health Department was out at the end of last week to evaluate the trash condition and possibly of rodents and I have not received that report yet.

Doug Wilcox

I have to direct my next question to Mrs. St. George. In regard to the annexation, if Niles was to go to Weathersfield first and direct their impact toward Weathersfield and not come toward Howland, would that set any type of precedence that could be used against Howland residents?

Trustee Matthew Vansuch

I can answer that. Right now, there is no legal case pending. I am not aware of Ralph's RV owner going into court. If there is any legal action involving the annexation ordinance please be assured the township will be involved in protecting our residents. Niles had not taken any aggressive action against our residents. We have been successful in thwarting their enforcement of that ordinance against our residents.

There is a comment about an organized campaign. I will be posting on my Facebook page the contact information for the officials that I mentioned, so that you can contact them by email and by phone. When we are physically able to get together again, we are looking at some neighborhood meetings to discuss what can be done. This is a time for action. We tried to work with the city and have gotten to where we are now, and it is time for some organized action.

Ed Palumbo – 201 Sanctuary

At any time when your meeting with Niles, is the county represented?

Trustee Matthew Vansuch

There was an attempt to have a sit down with the city and the county, but the city chose not to participate in that discussion organized by the county. At this point we have sat down with the city and Weathersfield to have these discussions. We have not brought the county into them. The county has not sat down with Howland, Niles or Weathersfield.

I do see another comment. One commissioner said annexations is not up to them. They have to follow the law and advice of the prosecutor. Is this so?

Trustee Matthew Vansuch

We all have to follow the law, but the law in certain circumstances gives the commissioners great authority over annexation and some other circumstances it doesn't. The commissioners absolutely have an important role; they are the ones who must sign the final paperwork. Given what has been asked about this and what is in the paper, the commissioners would have great control over. If everyone agrees on annexation the commissioners have the least amount of power. When everyone does not agree on it the commissioners have much greater authority.

Question:

If Weathersfield goes to court will Howland Township join them?

Trustee Matthew Vansuch

We will not be absent from legal proceeding if those take place.

Question:

Are the commissioners in favor or against annexation?

Trustee Matthew Vansuch

We suggest you ask the commissioners what their stand is on that and get them on record and hold them accountable.

Justin Thomas – 940 Shady Lane

Thanks to the trustees for working so hard on this. This doesn't affect me as an individual that is about to get annexed, but it does affect me as a resident of the township. Just because it may not be knocking on your door today doesn't mean that this can't become a problem later. We all need to be getting ahold of the county commissioners.

Ed Palumbo – 201 Sanctuary

It seems to me that Niles has all the power. That everything is on Niles side. The county commissioners are just sitting back and watching this. This could go on for years. There is something they want. Is anyone in the state government willing to force something? If they are not afraid of losing electricity, then they have got something else they are working on. There is something holding it up.

Trustee Matthew Vansuch

When I spoke with the mayor a few weeks ago, I asked him why charging our residents more for utility fees was not good enough? Do you not have enough money for your utility funds? You can charge more for out of city users than for inside. His answer was very frank. We want the general fund monies. They want general fund monies that they can use other than in their utility funds. Niles is acting like they have all the cards. We would not be sitting here today if we didn't think we had a very good legal position. The city thinks they have better legal position. That is why we have courts. We want an agreement that we can all live with, good or bad, for the future so we can stop bit by bit land grabbing. We are here because the city insists on collecting the development incentive funds. We will defend against this in court.

Ed Palumbo:

When Niles came with their utilities years ago was the annexation clause there then?

Trustee Matthew Vansuch

They were able to require people to annex to the city if they wanted utilities. They did not have an ordinance that required it.

Administrator Darlene St. George

The utilities did not come with any annexation. Niles doesn't produce their power, they purchase it. When they purchase power they can purchase more than they use. Then they can sell that

outside the city. So when they extended their power outside the city they charged outside user rates. This would reduce the rate for residents inside city limits.

Ed Palumbo

There is no government program that they stand to benefit from now or in the pipeline that is pushing this?

Administrator Darlene St. George

The mayor expressed clearly why the city wants to do this. They are targeting areas of opportunity. Those are the areas they are going after. Areas of opportunity will be in a higher tax rate where they think people will have to pay a larger amount of income tax to them or businesses. Cities qualify for more money based on their population, so as a city grows in population it allows them to qualify for more federal money.

Claudia Fox – 209 Darlington

Other than the Howland community knowing to go to your Facebook page, is there some way that Howland residents can more efficiently get information on who they notify, sample letters, yard signs and letting business know we won't be attending their business because of this?

Trustee Matthew Vansuch

There are certain restrictions as to things elected officials can and can't do and how we can use township web site for information. We can post contact info for county officials as well as city officials.

Administrator Darlene St. George

We will do our best. Feel free to call the office if you have any questions or need help with anything. I want to address one other thing that comes thru email. Some people in the community have expressed concern about the cost of all of this. People were asking if they could help. The township trustees and fiscal officer can't solicit funds from our residents. Residents can donate money to the township for legal fees that is put into a special account that can only be spent on legal fees. Ohio Revised Code 505.01 allows townships to accept donations.

Pamela Jones -2533 Johnnycake

I don't currently live in Howland but my roots are there. As a property owner if anything happens would I be notified or would it go to the people living there? I currently get utilities from Niles. You were talking about electric. Would that also include water?

Trustee Matthew Vansuch

I am not sure how the city is going to notify. I would call the city and ask that question.

Administrator Darlene St. George

We have asked the county to change our water supplier to a different supplier. If Niles owns the waterline where you are at then you can't change suppliers.

Vince Brancaccio – 2529 Forest Springs

As you know this is one of the areas being targeted, because we do get Niles electric. I moved here 14 years ago from Niles. I'm proud to be a citizen of Howland Township. As you know my son is a Howland Township Police Officer. I feel like we need to step it up and show more teeth. When the mayor made his announcement, I stopped frequenting some of my favorite restaurants in Niles. Going back to a comment earlier are you looking at your vendors? I wouldn't use Niles vendors at the township. There are a lot of people out there looking for business. As citizens we need to step up and let the business owners know their decision by their leadership is affecting them. I challenge everyone to start looking at that. Everyone is asking why is Niles doing this? It is a money grab. It was caused by years of fiscal mismanagement. Annexing Howland and Weathersfield is not going to solve the problem for Niles until leadership looks at what they are doing. I appreciate what you are doing and what you have done so far. Thanks for having our back.

Douglas Wilcox- 8001 Raglan

Tim Ryan is a Howland resident. Has he reached out to the trustees to offer any help?

Trustee Matthew Vansuch

All of the discussions have been at the local level at this time. Our county commissioners are interested in this and would like to see a resolution. We have not reach out past the county and state level.

A motion was made by Dr. James LaPolla and seconded by Rick Clark to adjourn the meeting at 7:20 P.M.

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

Approved by:  Dated: 8/24/20
Robert M. Costello, Fiscal Officer

Approved by:  Dated: 8/24/20
Matthew Vansuch, Chairperson-Trustee