

MINUTES OF THE HOWLAND TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES

The Howland Township Board of Trustees held their regular meeting virtually on October 14, 2020 at 6:00 P.M. via the Howland Township Web Page www.howlandtownship.org

Roll Call: Matthew Vansuch – Present
Rick Clark - Present

A motion was made by Matthew Vansuch and seconded by Rick Clark to excuse Dr. James LaPolla for personal reasons.

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

A motion was made by Rick Clark and seconded by Matthew Vansuch to suspend the reading of September 9, 2020 meeting minutes and accept as written.

Roll Call: Matthew Vansuch – Present
Rick Clark - Present

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

Roll Call: Matthew Vansuch – Present
Rick Clark - Present

A motion was made by Rick Clark and seconded by Matthew Vansuch to vote on Resolution **2020-103:**

Approve to **repeal Resolution 2020-092** – Transfer of Funds – COVID Expenditures

Authorize the Fiscal Officer to adjust funds to reverse Transfers in Resolution 2020-092.

Authorize the Fiscal Officer to request an Amended Certificate from the Trumbull County Auditor to reflect the repeal.

Fund 2272 – Corona Virus Relief Fund	\$ 61,296.51
Fund 1000 – General Fund	\$(28,651.55)
Fund 2031 – Road and Bridge	\$ (6,509.99)
Fund 2081 - Police	\$ (843.52)
Fund 2111 – Fire	\$(23,323.69)
Fund 2281 – Ambulance & EMS Services	\$ (1,967.76)

COVID expenditures from township funds prior to receiving CARES ACT Money will be reallocated from the COVID Fund 2272.

Roll Call: Matthew Vansuch – Present
Rick Clark - Present

A motion was made by Rick Clark and seconded by Matthew Vansuch to vote on Resolution **2020-104:**

Authorize the Fiscal Officer to request an Amended Certificate from the County Auditor to increase the Township budget and appropriate as needed due to additional money received for the COVID-19 – CARES Act.

Special Revenue Fund 2272 –Coronavirus Relief Fund (LCRF) \$591,634.85

Revenue Account:

2272-519 – Other Federal Receipts \$591634.85

Appropriation Account:

2272-420-190 – Salaries \$100,000.00

2272-420-750 – Motor Vehicles \$400,000.00

2272-420-730 – Improvement of Sites \$ 91,634.85

Roll Call: Matthew Vansuch – Present
Rick Clark - Present

A motion was made by Rick Clark and seconded by Matthew Vansuch to vote on Resolution **2020-105:**

Per the recommendation of Administrator Darlene St. George, approve to hire the following as Part-Time Postal/Clerical employees, effective October 1, 2020. They will receive \$10.28 per hour with no benefits and scheduled on an “as needed basis”.

Payton Loomis

Deana O’Neal

Roll Call: Matthew Vansuch – Present
Rick Clark - Present

A motion was made by Rick Clark and seconded by Matthew Vansuch to vote on Resolution **2020-106:**

Per the recommendation of Administrator Darlene St. George and Fiscal Officer Robert Costello, authorize to purchase the following vehicles from COVID Fund 2272.

Through the State Co-Operative Purchasing Program

Advantage Ford Lincoln 2020 Ford F150 Police Responder Truck
\$33,105.00

2020 Ford F150 Police Responder Truck
\$35,115.00

Cerni Motor Sales 2020 International Dump Truck
\$97,321.00

The Gled Hill Road Machinery 2020 Dump Truck Body/Plow Package
\$67,847.78

PennCare

2019 Ford E 350 Braun Signature Ambulance
\$177,962.00

Not through State Co-Op Purchasing Program

Klaben Ford Lincoln

2020 Ford Ranger XLT 4X4 SuperCr
\$31,222.60

Roll Call: Matthew Vansuch – Present
Rick Clark - Present

A motion was made by Dr. James LaPolla and seconded by Rick Clark to vote on Resolution **2020-107:**

Per the recommendation of Administrator Darlene St. George and Fire Chief James Pantalone, hire Nicholas Lansinger as a part-time Firefighter/EMT effective October 1, 2020. Nicholas will be paid \$12.39 an hour with no benefits and scheduled on an as needed basis.

Roll Call: Matthew Vansuch – Present
Rick Clark - Present

A motion was made by Rick Clark and seconded by Matthew Vansuch to vote on Resolution **2020-108:**

Per the recommendation of Administrator Darlene St. George and Fire Chief James Pantalone, approve to hire Eugene Cook as an Instructor for the Howland Township Fire & EMS Training Center effective October 1, 2020. He will receive \$12.50/hr. as a Probationary Instructor and \$18.50/hr. as a Lead Instructor with no benefits and scheduled on an “as needed basis”.

Roll Call: Matthew Vansuch – Present
Rick Clark - Present

A motion was made by Rick Clark and seconded by Matthew Vansuch to vote on Resolution **2020-109:**

The Howland Township Trustees approve the sale of the following Fire Department items on auction site GovDeals and disposal of Fire Department items. These items are unneeded, obsolete or unfit personal property.

SALE
24 Turnout Gear Coats
6 Turnout Gear Pants
9 Pair of rubber boots
11 Helmets
28 Old gloves
31 Old hoods

DISPOSAL
20 Turnout Gear Coats
36 Turnout Gear Pants

Roll Call: Matthew Vansuch – Present
Rick Clark - Present

A motion was made by Rick Clark and seconded by Matthew Vansuch to vote on Resolution 2020-110:

WHEREAS, the following list of properties have been cited during the month of October, 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>
1575 NILES CORTLAND RD NE	Parcel 28-549200
2878 Niles Vienna Road	Parcel 28-573401
3503 Birchwood Ave NE	Parcel 28-094550
1458 Castillion Dr. NE	Parcel 28-006282
3681 Hightree Ave SE	Parcel 28-181787
6060 Mines Road Rd SE	Parcel 28-390900
7654 Pegotty Dr. NE	Parcel 28-683738
3448 Beechwood Ave NE	Parcel 28-300351

Roll Call: Matthew Vansuch – Present
Rick Clark - Present

A motion was made by Rick Clark and seconded by Matthew Vansuch to vote on Resolution 2020-111:

AUTHORIZING THE PREPERATION OF THE FY2020 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ADMINISTRATION PUBLIC WORKS AND ECONOMIC ADJUSTMENT ASSISTANCE NOTICE OF FUNDING OPPORTUNITY KNOWN AS PWEAA2020 FOR THE GOLDEN TRIANGLE INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENT PROJECT.

WHEREAS The Board of Trumbull County Commissioners, the Trumbull County Engineer, Warren City, and Howland Township are planning partners in the Golden Triangle Infrastructure Improvement Plan application to the Economic Development Administration (EDA) Public Works Economic Adjustment Assistance Program (PWEAA).

WHEREAS The Board of Trumbull County Commissioners is the primary applicant of the fund request and authorizes the project partners to prepare the FY 2020 Economic Development Administration Public Works and Economic Adjustment Assistance Notice of Funding Opportunity (known as FY20 PWEAA NOFO) for the Golden Triangle Infrastructure Improvement Project in the EDA grant amount of \$3,287,964.00 (80%) of the total project cost of \$4,109,955.00 and;

WHEREAS The Golden Triangle Infrastructure Improvement Project includes the realignment of the Larchmont Avenue/Bronze Road/Overland Avenue intersection, the realignment of Dana Street and Paige Avenue, and the improvement of Bronze Road and;

WHEREAS The EDA PWEAA Program requires a local match of twenty percent. The Trumbull County Engineer is committing \$ 436,791.00 as a matching share; Warren City is committing \$267,620.00 from their Community Block Grant funds; and Howland Township is committing \$117,580.00, for a total match commitment of \$821,991.00 (20%) towards total project budget of \$4,109,955.00.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED Howland Township commits the \$117,580.00 in matching funds to the Golden Triangle Improvement Project. These matching funds are (i) committed to the project for the period of performance, (ii) available as needed, and (iii) not conditioned or encumbered in any way that may preclude its use consistent with the requirements of EDA investment assistance.

And the Board of Howland Township Trustees authorize designating Township Administrator, Darlene St. George, as the authorized representative with the authority to execute all documents associated with the proposal, application and any resulting grant.

Roll Call: Matthew Vansuch – Present
Rick Clark - Present

Summary of Meeting:

Police Chief Nick Roberts

We are having an uptick with our police calls and activity. I think it has a little to do with people letting their guard down during the pandemic. I want people to follow the governor's order, wearing masks and social distancing. The last couple of months we were down to 500-600 calls a month. This month we were up 1,064 calls for service. Officers made 201 traffic stops, 54 citations, 160 incident reports, 36 crashes, 12 injury crashes and made 37 arrests with 3 drug overdoses. We are hoping with the holidays coming that people don't let their guards down and we can manage this virus.

Trustee Rick Clark

Chief, do you want to comment on the car break-ins?

Police Chief Nick Roberts

Yes, over the past few nights, the Forrest Springs area, Henn Hyde area, Bayhill area and Cain Drive area have had sightings of two males vandalizing cars. We don't have any good descriptions other than them wearing dark hoodies and dark pants. It has been occurring anywhere from midnight to 4:00 AM in the morning. They are smashing windows if they see any valuables inside. Our midnight officers are aware. It is like finding a needle in a haystack. If you see something, please call us right away so we can get up in that area and put this to a stop. Lock your doors and bring valuables into the house.

Fire Chief Jim Pantalone

I concur with the uptick in call volume. At the beginning of the pandemic we were experiencing a lull where people were staying at home and not calling for certain emergencies. We are gaining ground back to high call volume. We are doubling back very strong and seeing the same call volume spread that Chief Roberts has been seeing across the board. Please be vigilant, take good care of yourselves during this.

We are continuing with our annual inspections of air packs, cots, and our vehicles as we have to keep those items moving ahead during this time. October is usually a huge fire prevention month for us. We have put some posts on our social media to ask people to submit if you want a public education event or a fire prevention event, submit it to us, we will look it over, we'll talk about it, but there is no guarantee that we will come out. We are still trying to get out there with the community but we are just asking that you provide us with some documentation.

I would like to recognize four of our medics here. On two different calls (ST Elevation) is basically a heart attack. Our guys immediately recognized this upon arrival to the scene. They transmitted 12-lead EKG's to the hospital, started their protocols and directives. Getting these patients to the hospital and into the cardiac Cath lab within 120 minutes is the target and very crucial. The first crew of Jeremy Bahen and Zack Holmes hit 105 minutes. Our second crew of Nick Graf and Jesse Zivoder got the person there in 79 minutes. These two were recognized by Stewart Health Care as positive outcomes and super saves. Our crews are performing across the board even with all the stresses we are dealing with and I want to tip a hat to those four.

Road Superintendent Dave McCann

The Rosegarden project started in August. The contractor, Z-Tech, completed the work pretty efficiently. They got it done in less than 3 weeks. It is certainly going to help with the flooding situation down there. Additionally, we have been working on some catch basins throughout the township that have sprung up on us. A lot of them are in the roadways. We are trying to squeeze in the additional skim paving program. Limb and branch pickup start on the east side on 10/26 for two weeks and the west side will begin on 11/9.

Planning Director Kim Mascarella

I would like to give a shout-out to all volunteers who helped the township implement the creative crosswalk project over the weekend. It was an all-women volunteer group. We spent three days painting the creative crosswalks by Howland Middle School. It was possible thru a grant given to the township by the Community Foundation of Mahoning Valley. Its goal was to make these crosswalks more visible to vehicular traffic and a safer environment for pedestrians.

Today the partners did a walking tour of the Golden Triangle for YSU's community economic development office as well as the Cleveland Urban Design Collaborative. They were typically looking at sites or opportunities to do small plans for aesthetic improvements and some adaptive reuse of some properties.

Outdoor season for farmers market is done. We are looking at continuing the winter market with a little bit of a different format. We'll have some more information coming in the next few weeks about how that is shaping up.

Zoning Director Dan Morgan

The online zoning application portal and payment system is on our web site. Residents no longer have to drive to the administration building to drop off paperwork. They can submit their zoning application on line, once it is reviewed and approved, they can pay online or mail in a check.

Since our last meeting we have issued thirty-three permits. A total project cost of \$207,772. Zoning has issued three citations to three properties that were not following our property maintenance code. We are just waiting for the court hearing on these properties.

Public Comments:

Jessica Williams – Children Services

We have been speaking at different meetings to educate the communities in regards to our levy. We are doing this to encourage people to vote yes for our renewal levy on November 3rd. Trumbull County Children's Services, we are your neighbors, your friends, our kids go to school with your kids, we go to your church and we sing in the same choirs as you. We have chosen a career in social services in a branch that involves protecting our most vulnerable neighbors, our children. As an agency our #1 concern is the safety of our children. We go to family homes that are experiencing drug abuse, domestic violence, mental illness, generational abuse and other family challenges. Eighty percent of the time we work with families and our community partners to help bring stability and safety to the home. We usually accomplish our shared goals with the family in about sixty days. In cases of serious abuse, we work with local law enforcement and the county prosecutors to make sure that those who harm children cannot repeat this horrible offense. We provide care to children whose families cannot. We have many dedicated foster parents who take children into their homes at any time of the day or night. We provide residential treatment services on our campus. We are the only county in Ohio that has an onsite residential facility. It is for

youth whose behavior cannot be tolerated in a traditional family setting. We also help youth who could never rejoin their own family. We are blessed with many caring parents who open their homes and hearts to those who are in most need. We respond to emergencies involving youth and their families, 24/7, 365 days a year even during this pandemic. We work long hours during the day to make sure we are an effective part of the community team that is working with the child and family. We have regular office hours but we also have an emergency team that is on call after hours. We have a beautiful campus in Warren that houses our staff. Our campus holds multiple events such as parenting education, foster and adoptive parent training and community trainings as well. We do our jobs with courage, dedication and compassion. In 2019 we provided services to 3,844 youths and 1,985 families. We served 222 in foster care and 33 children currently reside in our children's center. 503 were alleged to be sexually abused, previously physically abused or neglected as who were dependent. We have also placed 57 children in paid placements and 32 children who were placed in adoption or who had adoptions finalized. The reason we do all of these things is because there are children in our community who are abused, neglected or made dependent every single day. We strongly believe every child deserves a safer living home.

As an agency we are known for our innovation and service delivery with our alternative response leadership state wide. Additionally, our efficient responsible expenditures of your tax dollars. So, for the current compensation package which was 2018-2021 the board approved wage increases averaging 1.67% compared to a national average of 3.2%. In 2020 the employee contribution to the monthly health care premium increased from 11% to 12% with savings of \$100,000 in overall annual premiums. From 2005 to present we have reduced staff by over 10% from 185 employees to 164. Administration held the agency to 6.6% increase in expenditures from 2016-2019. The average annual increase was 2.2% per year considerably under the average in comparable regions. We are transparent. We publish quarterly dashboards comparing our performance to federal and state mandates. Ohio relies on more local support than other states. Children services rely on the local taxpayers in order to provide child welfare services to children and families of Trumbull County. Renewal of the 2-mil levy would cost the home owner of a \$100,000 property \$61.25 per year. We say all of this just too simply ask that you please vote for Trumbull County Children Services renewal levy. It is no new taxes.

Ed Palumbo – 201 Sanctuary

Where are we on the annexation?

Trustee Matt Vansuch

We are at the same place we were last month with respect to Niles. Niles has not taken any efforts or steps to enforce their ordinance on any of our property owners. I don't believe they have gone after anyone in Weathersfield. We are approaching month ten without any impact on our current residents.

Ed Palumbo

Are we ever going to recoup any of this cost when it is over and done with?

Trustee Matt Vansuch

Not likely. America follows that everyone pays their own unless there is a statute that authorizes the payment of attorney fees. There is no statute that authorizes payment of attorney fees in these particular circumstances.

Ed Palumbo

Is there a moderator?

Trustee Matt Vansuch

We talked about that with the city. We went down that road and it did not end up happening. Right now, the city is not enforcing and we are not pushing the city to try and enforce it. We are ready to defend against it if it happens.

Ed Palumbo

Are they giving any information at their council meetings?

Trustee Matt Vansuch

I am not aware that they have.

Trustee Matt Vansuch

We have not changed our position on Halloween. We encourage our residents to do so safely if you going to do so. If you don't want to do so please turn your lights out. It is going to be an individual choice. Be safe and do it safely if you are going to do it.

A motion was made by Rick Clark and seconded by Matthew Vansuch to adjourn the meeting at 6: P.M.

Roll Call:	Matthew Vansuch	-yea
	Rick Clark	-yea

Approved by:  Dated: 10/28/20
 Robert M. Costello, Fiscal Officer

Approved by:  Dated: 11/13/2020
 Matthew Vansuch, Chairperson-Trustee