

MINUTES OF THE HOWLAND TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES

The Howland Township Board of Trustees held their year-end special meeting virtually on December 31, 2020 at 9:00 A.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 December 9, 2020 meeting minutes and accept as written.

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 authorizing Fiscal Officer Robert Costello to pay all outstanding invoices incurred and approve all warrants issued.

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 **2020-128:**

Approve the 2021 Annual ODOT Mileage certification for 80.539 miles. There was no increase or decrease from 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 **2020-129:**

Per the recommendation of Administrator Darlene St. George, approve to participate in the Ohio Dept. of Administrative Services Cooperative Purchasing Program for Fiscal year 2021 for a fee of \$100.00.

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 **2020-130:**

Approve dues assessment for Trumbull County Emergency Management Agency for calendar year 2021 based on the 2010 Census.

19,106 @ \$0.21 = \$4,012.26

There is no increase from 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 **2020-131**:

Per the recommendation of Administrator Darlene St. George, approve to retain the following firms to provide legal services on an “as needed” basis for the year 2021.

Taft Stettinius & Hollister, LLP
O’Halloran & Ohanian LLC
Albers & Albers
Benesch, Friedlander, Coplan & Arnoff, LLP.
Manchester Newman and Bennett

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

A motion was made by Rick Clark and second by Dr. James LaPolla to vote on Resolution **2020-132**:

Per the recommendation of Administrator Darlene St. George, authorize an agreement for legal services with the office of the Trumbull County Prosecuting Attorney and Howland Township for the period January 1, 2021 through December 31, 2021 with no annual increase. (agreement attached)

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

A motion was made by Dr. James LaPolla and seconded by Rick Clark to vote on Resolution **2020-133**:

Approve that all Howland Township employees, as per the attached listing, be rehired at their current pay and benefits for year 2021.

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 2020-134:

Per the recommendation of Administrator Darlene St. George, approve the 2021 OPERS Sick Leave Conversion Plan for Howland Township. This is pursuant to Section 145.1 of the Ohio Revised Code and Administrative Code 145-1-26.

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 2020-135:

Authorize the annual salaries for the Howland Township Trustees and Fiscal Officer be paid maximum salary allowed per the Ohio Revised Code.

Also, approve to provide Life/AD&D insurance in the amount of \$25,000 and health insurance benefits as provided in the current group insurance policy, and as provided to the employees of Howland Township.

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 2020-136:

Per the recommendation of Administrator Darlene St. George, approve the Township to apply for the “MORE” (Managing Ohio Risk Exposures) Safety Reimbursement Grant in the amount of \$481.33 through OTARMA.

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 2020-137:

Per the recommendation of Administrator Darlene St. George and Police Chief Nick Roberts, approve to hire Matthew Bartolec as a full-time patrolman effective January 1, 2021.

Matthew will carry over 120 hours of unused sick leave from Canfield Police Department to Howland Township and receive 100% of the current hourly Patrolman rate. Patrolman Bartolec will receive all benefits as per the Township Policy, Police Contract and Regulations as per the Howland Township Police Rules & Procedures manual.

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 2020-138:

Per the recommendation of Administrator Darlene St. George and Police Chief Nick Roberts, approve to promote Patrolman Jon Coleman to Sergeant effective Jan 1, 2021.

Coleman will receive the current Sergeant rate of pay per the Police 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 2020-139:

Per the recommendation of Administrator Darlene St. George, approve a three (3) year Collective Bargaining Agreement July 1, 2020 thru June 30, 2023 between the Township Trustees and the Police Department’s Ohio Patrolmen’s Benevolent Association, as fully written herein, and approve the wages increase percentages of 0-2-3 per years of the contract for bargaining/non-bargaining full-time employees of the police department.

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 2020-140:

Per the recommendation of Administrator Darlene St. George, approve a three (3) year Collective Bargaining Agreement July 1, 2020 thru June 30, 2023 between the Township Trustees and Howland Township Road Department Employees Association, as fully written herein, and approve the wages increase percentages of 0-3-2 per years of the contract for bargaining/non-bargaining full-time employees of the road department.

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 2020-141:

To schedule a public hearing on Wednesday, January 13, 2021 at 6PM, immediately following the Board of Trustees meeting, to review the recommendation of the Howland Township Zoning Commission in regards to the proposed rezoning of 697 Howland Wilson Road, Parcel ID 28-129300 from its current zoning classification of Corridor Review District – Office and Institution (CRD-OI) to Single Family Residential (R-1).

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 2020-142:

Per the recommendation of Administrator Darlene St. George and Fire Chief James Pantalone, approve to apply for the 2020-2021 EMS Reimbursement Grant through the State of Ohio, Department of Public Safety.

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

Summary of Meeting:

Trustee Dr. James LaPolla

I will have a more detailed report in January but, I did ask volunteers about electric bills. I don't have the finals to give a report but overall the response has been outstanding from the residents of Howland. In January's meeting I should have all the stuff accumulated and will give a report.

Trustee Matthew Vansuch

I do want to thank Dave and our road crew for the excellent job they did over the Christmas holiday with the roads. They always do an outstanding job and that was a rough event and we appreciate the work that they always do.

Fire Chief James Pantalone

After a long 2020 and planning and dealing with the pandemic I am happy to report that 1st responders and EMS in Trumbull County began receiving their Moderna vaccinations this week. I know Chief Sapp has some detailed stats on it but it is just been a long year for everybody. It is a little blip of light at the end of the tunnel. I am happy to report that thru the Emergency Operations Center and Health Department we began the process of vaccinations this week. Chief Sapp, did you have some basic numbers form overall in the county?

Asst. Fire Chief James Sapp

One Tuesday and Wednesday of this week the Trumbull County Fire Chiefs opened the point of distribution of the Moderna vaccine provided to all the EMS providers. For our department the numbers were better than anticipated. Our first poll in the department was zero as nobody wanted the vaccine. I am happy to announce that 54 % of our full-time staff has received the first round of vaccination, 32% of our part-time staff also received the vaccination which gives us a total of 46% for our entire department. The national average right now is 25%. We are right in line with the State of Ohio as they are reporting 35-40% of first responders have been vaccinated at this point. One of the reasons why some of the others did not get the vaccine was because of their recent COVID exposure or contraction of the virus made them ineligible.

Trustee Dr. James LaPolla

Did anyone receiving the vaccine get any documented side effects?

Asst. Fire Chief James Sapp

We did have a couple of individuals that developed a low-grade fever the night of the vaccine. There were some body aches also. One thing we did find out was that if an individual had

previously contracted the virus and then received the vaccine after a period of time, those were more likely to be individuals that had more of the side effects. The only thing I can report was my arm was sore.

Trustee Dr. James LaPolla

I had the Pfizer and my arm was sore for 24 hours.

Asst. Fire Chief James Sapp

It is a deep intermuscular injection, so you are going to have that.

Trustee Matthew Vansuch

Where are our police officers inline for the vaccinations?

Asst. Fire Chief James Sapp

They are in Tier 1B I believe and not date has been set.

Fire Chief James Pantalone

The governor is rolling out direction and we expect to hear the announcement of 6 and older and on the cusp of that we expect the law enforcement rollout as well. We are looking at the potential public release by April.

Ed Palumbo – 201 Sanctuary

I have noticed a lot of flags along the southern side of Route 46. There are a lot of utility flags. Is anything going on?

Trustee Matthew Vansuch

Do you mean closer to the intersection or closer to the mall?

Ed Palumbo

They start by Farmers Bank and they come all the way up to the Administration Building.

Trustee Matthew Vansuch

Kim, do you have any information on that?

Planning Director Kim Mascarella

No, I don't actually.

Ed Palumbo

Is there a financial carryover this year?

Administrator Darlene St. George

We are in the process of closing out our books and actually we have a nice carryover going into next year. I can give you an exact number at the next meeting. Every year it used to be the government said you have to account for 2 months but because of how tax collections come in Trumbull County we have to account for 3 months.

Ed Palumbo

Do we have a total amount we have received via the state on the CARES act?

Administrator Darlene St. George

Yes we do. Just wait one minute and I can get that for you.

Ed Palumbo

You can tell me at the next meeting if you want. That will be fine.

Trustee Matthew Vansuch

Kim, is there a BZA hearing scheduled for Meijer's?

Planning Director Kim Mascarella

We are still working with Meijer's and nailing down the nature of their variances. We do not have a date scheduled yet.

Trustee Matthew Vansuch

They previously received variances and approvals and those are being carried forward from their prior plans that were put on pause.

Planning Director Kim Mascarella

Very little has changed from their prior submission. Looks like they are going to be seeking variances from our signage regulations. I think they are still eager to seek a height variance and potentially an area variance for the sign. They are still working with our office to finalize the nature of the variances.

A motion was made by Dr. James LaPolla and seconded by Rick Clark to adjourn the meeting at 9:35 A.M.

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

Approved by:  Dated: 1/5/21
 Robert M. Costello, Fiscal Officer

Approved by:  Dated: 1/8/21
 Matthew Vansuch, Chairperson-Trustee