

## MINUTES OF THE HOWLAND TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES

The Howland Township Board of Trustees held their regular meeting virtually on May 12, 2021 at 6:00 PM via the Howland Township Web Page [www.howlandtownship.org](http://www.howlandtownship.org)

**Roll Call:**

Matthew Vansuch	-yea
Dr. James LaPolla	-yea
Rick Clark	-yea

A motion was made by Dr. James LaPolla and seconded by Matthew Vansuch to suspend the reading of April 14, 2021 meeting minutes and accept as written.

**Roll Call:**

Matthew Vansuch	-yea
Dr. James LaPolla	-yea
Rick Clark	-yea

A motion was made by Matthew Vansuch and seconded by Dr. James LaPolla to authorize 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 Matthew Vansuch and seconded by Dr. James LaPolla to vote on Resolution 2021-041:

Authorize the Fiscal Officer to request an Amended Certificate of Estimated Resources from the Trumbull County Auditor to increase and appropriate the following Fund. The money was received from Foremost Insurance Group and is held in escrow following a residential fire at 2536 Athens Dr., Warren, OH 44484.

9001 Fire Loss & Demolition Insurance Acct

<b>Revenue:</b>		
9001-892-0000	Other- Miscellaneous Non-Operating	\$17,484.53
<b>Appropriation:</b>		
9001-789-590-0000	Other Expenses	\$17,484.53

**Roll Call:**

Matthew Vansuch	-yea
Dr. James LaPolla	-yea
Rick Clark	-yea

A motion was made by Dr. James LaPolla and seconded by Matthew Vansuch to vote on Resolution 2021-042:

Per the recommendation of Administrator Darlene St. George, approve to enter into the 2021 Mosquito Control Grant Agreement with the Trumbull County Combined Health District. The grant will reimburse the Township up to \$2,000.00 for mosquito spraying within the township.

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

A motion was made by Matthew Vansuch and seconded by Dr. James LaPolla to vote on Resolution 2021-043:

Approve Occupancy Agreement as fully written herein, between the Trumbull Metro parks and Howland Township Trustees for 3983 North River Rd., Warren, OH 44484.

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

A motion was made by Dr. James LaPolla and seconded by Matthew Vansuch to vote on Resolution 2021-044:

Per the recommendation of Township Administrator Darlene St. George, approve to pay the Howland Fire Department's Firemen a one-time hazard/frontline pay, in the amount of \$1,000.

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

A motion was made by Matthew Vansuch and seconded by Dr. James LaPolla to vote on Resolution 2021-045:

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 Fire Department's Local 2876 as fully written herein, and approve the wage increase percentages of 0-5-0 per years of the contract for bargaining/non-bargaining full-time employees of the Fire Department.

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

A motion was made by Dr. James LaPolla and seconded by Matthew Vansuch to vote on Resolution 2021-046:

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

1946 Maxi Maxim Fire Truck VIN# 1509

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

A motion was made by Matthew Vansuch and seconded by Dr. James LaPolla to vote on Resolution 2021-047:

WHEREAS, the following list of properties have been cited during the month of May, 2021 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>
3503 Birchwood Ave	Parcel 28-094550
3448 Beechwood Ave	Parcel 28-300351
9149 Briarbrook Drive	Parcel 28-901080
1458 Castillion Drive	Parcel 28-006282
3087 Draper St	Parcel 28-083300
3727 Elmwood Ave,	Parcel 28-227452
3681 High Tree Ave	Parcel 28-181787
8848 Kings Graves Rd	Parcel 28-322475
6060 Mines Rd	Parcel 28-390900
1166 Niles Cortland Rd NE	Parcel 28-538800
1575 Niles Cortland Rd NE	Parcel 28-549200
568 North Road SE	Parcel 28-482900
2915 North Road NE	Parcel 28-334200
8618 Old Orchard RD	Parcel 28-222850
3231 Overlook Dr	Parcel 28-393450
3273 Valacamp Ave	Parcel 28-409700
3589 Valacamp Ave	Parcel 28-304650
1041 Westover Dr	Parcel 28-563000

717 Brentwood Ave  
3709 Valacamp Ave

Parcel 28-375700  
Parcel 28-354500

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

A motion was made by Dr. James LaPolla and seconded by Matthew Vansuch to vote on Resolution 2021-048:

Per the recommendation of Administrator Darlene St. George and Police Chief Nick Roberts, accept the resignation of Patrolman Adam Rios effective May 10, 2021 for personal reasons. Adams last day of employment is May 9, 2021.

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

A motion was made by Matthew Vansuch and seconded by Dr. James LaPolla to vote on Resolution 2021-049:

Per the recommendation of Administrator Darlene St. George and Police Chief Nick Roberts, accept the resignation of Patrolman Mark Klaholz effective May 17, 2021 for personal reasons. Marks last day of employment is May 16, 2021.

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

A motion was made by Dr. James LaPolla and seconded by Matthew Vansuch to vote on Resolution 2021-050:

Per the recommendation of Administrator Darlene St. George and Police Chief Nick Roberts, enter into a Mutual Aid Agreement for Law Enforcement with Mahoning and Columbiana Counties. (agreement attached)

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

A motion was made by Matthew Vansuch and seconded by Dr. James LaPolla to vote on Resolution 2021-051:

Per the recommendation of Administrator Darlene St. George and Public Works Director David McCann, accept the bid for the OPWC 2021 Roadway Resurfacing Project from Shelly and Sands Inc., Akron, OH in the amount of \$504,623.00

Other Bids Received:

Chagrin Valley Paving Inc.	Chagrin Falls, OH	\$521,759.40
Lindy Paving	New Galilee, PA	\$536,137.00

RT Vernal Paving	Youngstown, OH	\$539,027.00
Barbicas Construction	Akron, OH	\$553,038.50
Perk Company Inc.	Cleveland, OH	\$554,491.00
Ronyak Paving	Burton, OH	\$555,775.20

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

A motion was made by Dr. James LaPolla and seconded by Matthew Vansuch to vote on Resolution 2021-052:

Authorize Fiscal Officer Robert Costello to advertise through GPD for bids for the 2021 Storm Sewer Upgrades Project. The project will repair and make improvements to the following locations.

- 1) Rolling Meadows culvert
- 2) Shady Lane / Old Farm Trail intercept
- 3) Allyson / North Rd storm culvert

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

A motion was made by Dr. James LaPolla and seconded by Matthew Vansuch to vote on Resolution 2021-053:

Per the recommendation of Administrator Darlene St. George and Public Works Director David McCann, approve to purchase through the State Cooperation Purchasing Program from Southeastern Equipment Company, one (1) Kolbelko Excavator at a cost of \$59,539.66

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

A motion was made by Matthew Vansuch and seconded by Dr. James LaPolla to vote on Resolution 2021-054:

WHEREAS, the State of Ohio through the Ohio Department of Natural Resources, administers financial assistance for public recreation purposes, through the State of Ohio NatureWorks grant program and

WHEREAS, Howland Township desires financial assistance under the NatureWorks Grant Program, for the purpose of installing an ADA-compliant access ramp at the Howland Sloas Nature Preserve house located at 3982 North River Road, to provide for safe access to the structure.

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved by Howland Township Trustees

That Howland Township Trustees approve filing this application for financial assistance; and,

That Township Administrator, Darlene St. George is hereby authorized and directed to execute and file an application with the Ohio Department of Natural Resources and to provide all information and documentation required to become eligible for possible funding assistance; and;

That Howland Township agrees to obligate \$ 2,850 as the local match, representing 25% of the total grant amount of \$11,400. The local match of 25% is required to satisfactorily complete the proposed project and become eligible for reimbursement under the terms of the **NatureWorks Grant Program**.

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

A motion was made by Dr. James LaPolla and seconded by Matthew Vansuch to vote on Resolution 2021-055:

I, Robert Costello, Fiscal Officer of Howland Township, certifies that Howland Township has the amount of \$2,850.00 in the General Fund 1000 and that this amount will be used to pay the local share for the 2021 NatureWorks Grant Program.

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

**Summary of Meeting:**

**Trustee Rick Clark**

Jim do you have any additional agenda items?

**Trustee Dr James LaPolla**

Nothing for the agenda.

**Trustee Rick Clark**

Matthew, anything for the agenda?

**Trustee Matthew Vansuch**

Nothing for the agenda.

**Trustee Rick Clark**

Mrs. St. George, anything for the agenda?

**Administrator Darlene St. George**

Nothing for the agenda.

**Trustee Rick Clark**

Anything you'd like to discuss Jim.

**Trustee Dr. James LaPolla**

Yes, I do want to bring one thing up. I know a lot of people are anticipating the Township's position but I'm going to read this on behalf of the Township. Basically, I wish to inform Howland Township residents that due to the current conditions of the COVID pandemic, and the current regulations and recommendations of our local, state and federal governments that the July 4 activities in the township will be postponed for an additional year. This includes the parade, post parade activities, carnival and anything else associated with Township on July 4 activities.

I believe May 22, is the Shred-it-Day here in the Township combined with Fill-the-Cruiser Day. Those are two things I wrote down to bring to the Township's attention.

**Trustee Rick Clark**

The time 10:00 to 1:00 is the Shred-it-Day and Fill-the-Cruiser Day, and it'll be at the John Emanuel Senior Center. It worked out very well last year. We pull in the one drive and circle around the back of the building and exit the other way.

Matthew anything you'd like to talk about?

**Trustee Matthew Vansuch**

Yes, the American Legion post will be having their Memorial Day remembrance on the 31<sup>st</sup>. I believe it's at 10:00 am at the Township cemetery. I will do my best to come attend that. That's always a very nice event that they put on.

Also, I want the public to know that ODOT does listen and does respond to their comments. We did receive this week, their responses to all the comments on Howland Corners proposal to expand the turning lanes. I published those on my page, so people can go read them. I want people to know that when they do submit comments for the Howland Wilson Project that ODOT does actually listen to those, and does actually respond to all of the comments. Whether it changes their mind or not is a different question, but they do review all of the comments. I believe in that project they did not change their opinion and it appears that a lot of the comments were all supportive of what was being proposed.

I just want the public to know that and looking forward to the summer.

**Trustee Rick Clark**

Thank you. Mrs. St George.

**Administrator Darlene St. George**

I just wanted to tell the board that this past Monday, Kim and I met along with partners in the Golden Triangle. The City of Warren, County Engineer, the Planning Commission, Commissioners, met with our new State Senator Sandra O'Brien, and our State Representative Michael O'Brien, to discuss funding opportunities that might be available for the Golden Triangle. We have outstanding about \$7 million worth of projects that we still need funding for in that area. We wanted to put that on the radar of the new state senator.

**Trustee Rick Clark**

Did she give any feedback?

**Administrator Darlene St. George**

She was receptive to our comments. She said that she had requested money in the capital budget for improvements in the Golden Triangle.

**Trustee Rick Clark**

I just have a couple of things. We've got the community garage sale on June 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>. You can sign up by calling the administration building or stop in there and sign up. There's a tablet, outside the post office you can put your name on. May 28 is the last day to sign up. We waive the fee for permits. We're not putting an ad in the newspaper this year listing all the locations because the costs become prohibitive. We will put up all the locations on our website.

The other thing, I want to touch upon I'm not much of a presence on social media. Apparently, a hot topic this week has been the Capri Motel. People are complaining and saying when are we going to shut down the Capri Motel. Well, number one, I know that we don't have the authority to just arbitrarily shut down a business. They keep the area up. They pay their hotel taxes. And although there are some obviously unsavory characters that stay there from time to time, that's not any reason that we could go in there and shut a business like that down. Now, if they would become a public nuisance and Chief Roberts, you can you can speak to this if you would. That's a whole different story but at this point, the owners and the actual facility is not a public nuisance. When we have a problem, it comes from people that are staying there. I just wanted to mention that to people that want to know why we're not marching over there and just shutting them down. We don't have the authority to do that, they're licensed by the state. They're not licensed by the Township. Matthew, you know, as an attorney if there's anything you want to add to this? I just want to put it out there that we're not going to capriciously go and shut down the Capri Motel or any other business without just cause. Matt, do you want to anything further to add to that.

**Trustee Matthew Vansuch**

It's a very high standard to shut down a business and if you make a mistake it's extremely costly. There are very big legal fights, and it's the ones you've seen in the news are the most egregious examples of businesses that have blatantly disregarded the law. They have participated in wrongdoing themselves, as opposed to the people that might stay or occupy the business, or the restaurant for that matter. So, so we rely on our law enforcement or safety services and our law director to guide us as to what the appropriate standard is. And I know that we've regularly discussed this when it comes up from time to time. It's my understanding Rick and perhaps Chief Roberts can, if he so desires, jump in on this but the situation has not elevated or escalated to the point that it would trip the legal threshold for shutting down a business.

**Trustee Rick Clark**

Thanks Matt. Chief do you want to add anything?

**Police Chief Nick Roberts**

Yes, we've already been through this with the prosecutor's office. We have to find that the owner or management is directly involved in illegal activity. That's the first thing we have to prove in order to get this process moving forward. We have not been able to do that. I can say that the owner of this business and management has always been very cooperative with law enforcement anytime we go down there for these unsavory individuals that are disrupting peace in the Township. We deal with them directly, they are criminally trespassed from the property, therefore they're no longer able to go and occupy any rooms at the hotel ever again. If they do show back up at the property, management calls us and we can arrest them for criminal trespass. So that's kind of what we're doing now, like I said, I understand we get some unsavory characters there. We are continually monitoring traffic coming in and out of the Capri Motel and also individuals that frequent the Capri Motel. We're not targeting them, just like we wouldn't target Fairfield Inn, the Holiday Inn, or Avalon Inn. We also get calls from these other establishments for unsavory characters that go to their establishments and we deal with them in the same manner. So, we're going to continue business as usual, and we're going to make sure that everyone's safe and nobody



gets hurt, and everyone goes home at the end of their shift, and all of our business owners around that area and the children going to the school are safe, that's our main goal.

**Trustee Rick Clark**

Thank you. She's cooperative with your efforts, I assume, the owner.

**Police Chief Nick Roberts**

Yes, she is cooperative. As a matter of fact, I'm going to reach out again for the summertime and ask if she would like us to work another security detail at that facility as in the past when they have more occupancy there. She has reached out and asked us to work certain days on the weekends, and we've been able to do that for her. So as the warm weather starts kicking back up, I'm going to be in contact with her and we're going to see if we can get another officer to work the premises during summertime.

**Trustee Rick Clark**

Thanks, Chief. Since you're already there chief why don't you go ahead and give your report. If you have one.

**Police Chief Nick Roberts**

We've been very busy in the office this week. We have a lot of candidates that we have lined up to be interviewed. We started the interview process yesterday. Hopefully, we'll be able to fill these two slots sooner than later and we'll get moving on are conducting our background investigations. So, we are still open for applicants and as always, we're looking for the best candidate for the job.

**Trustee Rick Clark**

Does anyone have questions for the Chief? Chief Pantalone, do you have a report?

**Fire Chief James Pantalone**

April's a busy month for the fire department, in other ways other than call volume which is always steady. We try to make sure that we're maintaining our stations adequately for the Township. April is big spring- cleaning month. The crews have been doing a phenomenal job and if you notice the outsides of the station we work on those items as well. Just some odd things that you would not always think about what we're doing, maintaining our facilities.

This month, we are going to be out and about with our annual hydrant inspections, and we've also had some interaction with some community partners about helping us with some painting of hydrants. I've been trying to catch a phone call with Clark Dietrich industries about doing some community work to help us in Golden Triangle area with sprucing up some hydrants.

You know those little things that happen in the background besides a regular call volume which compliment what Chief Roberts said. Busy as always, all volume is still maintaining. EMS-wise, we are continuing proper PPE right now, mask wearing and all of those disinfection and sanitizing regimens that we've been doing for the past year. Although COVID probably has slowed down and the numbers seem to have trickled, we're still having patients with it. We're still maintaining temperature evaluations of our members in and out and all the proper PPE items.

Usually we look forward to being out and about for summer block parties. We're still going to look at those and we do get some people that submit, so we'll be looking at those one at a time. Will be reviewing what we can do and any other public education.

On the resolution regarding Athens Drive, that was a fire that we had back in April. The reason that resolution was passed was, it is going to be rebuilt, and they are moving forward. We are going

to have a new residence there, fully up to code. So that's always obviously a good thing for the community. Any questions?

**Trustee Rick Clark**

Thank you Chief. Kim Mascarella, Planning Director.

**Kim Mascarella Planning Director**

Good evening. I just wanted to talk a little bit about the Golden Triangle. Usually we have a clean up there in the Golden Triangle with the Howland Township, Senior Day of Service. I did receive an email, and they are going to still do the cleanup down there on May 26. So, we're working with the Trumbull Geauga Solid Waste District and getting them the equipment that they need. There'll be cleaning up litter along Dietz, Bronze and Griswald. They'll leave it there and then we'll do a sweep through there and pick up the debris they pick up, it really does need it. So that's going to move forward, the students, about 40 of them, will meet down there at about 10 o'clock. That's always a welcomed cleanup in the Golden Triangle.

We're working with the Trumbull County Health District in creating healthy communities' Program. You may remember this program. They helped fund some improvements in our Bolindale Park. They did the pickleball down there, they helped us to do a little Bolindale pop up farmers market some time ago. This funding round, they're trying to promote healthy vending and they are targeting the industrial businesses in the Golden Triangle. We did an email blast this week, letting the businesses know that there's some small little grants available to the businesses to actually buy some shelving or small refrigeration, posters, or materials to help promote better food choices in their kitchens and in their commissary areas. To date we haven't received anybody that's been interested but we'll still pursue some follow up calls. Chris, he works with the health department, he's doing a really good job.

Another program they have also we're targeting the Golden Triangle area is an active transportation component to their small grant program, and this is trying to get some bike racks and some bike fix it stations at some of the industries in the Golden Triangle. So, Chris and I are working together to do a small email blast on that next week so hopefully we'll get some of these industries to incorporate some of these new practices. We'll see how that goes but I wanted to keep you up to date on that. The creating healthy communities' program is very helpful. They're constantly changing to the needs of public health and so I want to give a shout out to them.

The Farmer's Market, it's still going well. This is the last week of the online market so you can still place your order up until Thursday at about 10 o'clock Saturday is the last online pickup curbside pickup. And then the market will move back out to the park, an open- air market. Come May 29 Saturday from nine to one and then every Saturday thereafter until mid- October. We're going to still be practicing our wearing of masks and social distancing, and we're going to be out in the open field like we were last year to try to get some distance between vendors and tents, and visiting customers. We'll keep you up to date on that. We're excited to get back out in the field, and the vendors are excited to meet with their customers again. They miss seeing people and the customers miss talking to the vendors so that's a welcome change. During the online market, it is a lot of work to help the vendors aggregate their orders on Saturday, make sure the orders are complete, and then greeting the customers as they come through, taking the groceries out and delivering them. We did have the Howland National Honor Society, volunteers come out every market that we had. We had at least two or three volunteers come out and I did want to acknowledge these very hardworking and very professional. Young adults that came out. Maria Glaros, Alex Linton, Kylie McLean, Katie Gaskey, Tyler Church, Mackenzie Caribe and Mia Pantalone. All of those volunteers helped tremendously. I just wanted to give a shout out to them. And that's all I have.

**Trustee Rick Clark**

Any questions for Kim?

**Police Chief Nick Roberts**

You mentioned the Golden Triangle cleanup with the students, when is that?

**Kim Mascarella Planning Director**

That's May 26 at 10 o'clock.

**Police Chief Nick Roberts**

Okay, I'll make sure we have officers available to assist with the cleanup.

**Kim Mascarella Planning Director**

It's a scaled down cleanup it's not as big as it was in years past, last year we didn't have it at all. But this year, it's just the students. We will be supplying the gloves and bags and stuff but it's a little bit scaled down, but your presence would be welcome. Thank you.

**Trustee Dr. James LaPolla**

Is one of the companies sponsoring lunch like in the past or anything like that.

**Kim Mascarella Planning Director**

No, it's scaled back so it's just the students doing their day of service, and I believe the school might have made lunch arrangements for the volunteers.

**Trustee Dr. James LaPolla**

Let me know if you need something. If you need some funding for lunch or something like that I can help you out. I think they deserve something for their hard work.

**Kim Mascarella Planning Director**

Yeah, they will be fed, I'm just not sure if the school was making the arrangements this year.

**Trustee Matthew Vansuch**

Kim, did we get any response, or how was the response to the broadband survey that went out a couple months ago? I know that part of the Cares Act of one of the line items is specifically to address broadband in our county. It was identified as one of those that had, I'm not sure the correct term, of areas of concern of getting people internet and broadband access.

**Kim Mascarella Planning Director**

I know they were concerned about the level of response but I don't have any numbers for you, but I can get that for you.

**Trustee Matthew Vansuch**

In fact, the survey is closed now.

**Administrator Darlene St. George**

I think that if you get on Eastgate website, you'll probably find that.

**Trustee Matthew Vansuch**

Are you aware of any concerted effort amongst any of the local government entities that are looking to try to work together on something for expanding broadband.

**Trustee Dr. James LaPolla**

Didn't Warren try that a year or two ago?

**Trustee Matthew Vansuch**

This is through the Cares Act, because one of the funding items in it was specifically to address broadband in the world, and I don't think undeveloped is the right word, but in certain areas and I know that our area is underserved. They were specifically providing funds for that.

**Trustee Rick Clark**

Okay, Anything further Matt? Dan, Zoning Inspector?

**Zoning Inspector Dan Morgan**

Thank you. Since our last meeting, zoning has issued 29 zoning permits, with a total project cost of \$833,000. That's money that property owners in Howland Township are putting back into their property. Zoning office has been very busy. The property maintenance complaints have ramped up. It's been kind of a tough spring with all the rain and the cold weather. We're just asking the citizens of Howland to be good neighbors. If your property needs cleaned up, your grass needs cut please get out as soon as you can. And that's all I have.

**Trustee Rick Clark**

Okay, any questions for Dan.

**Trustee Matthew Vansuch**

Dan I've seen a few more electronic signs going up. They seem to be catching on.

**Zoning Director Dan Morgan**

Yes, we have permitted for electronic signs to this point. We are working with each company to make sure that the signs are programmed correctly. We've had a few glitches where they were not programmed correctly but we're trying to address those as they come up.

**Trustee Rick Clark**

Public works director David McCann.

**Public Works Superintendent David McCann**

I've got a little bit to talk about. We've been pretty busy trying to fight through some of the grass that is growing as fast as we can imagine. We've been diligently cutting grass around sidewalks and the cemeteries. We are a little behind on the cemeteries. We'll make sure we catch up on that before Memorial Day.

In between some of the raindrops that we've been fighting last weekend we had a slight some small flooding issues. Nothing of major concern but fortunately the rain came down at a pace that was slow enough where it didn't cause too many problems. We did have a few areas in the Township that called in some complaints. We're in the process of doing catch basin repairs in anticipation of the two paving programs. We've got four or five basins right now opened up on several different streets trying to get those closed up so we can open up some other ones. We recently replaced a dry or a pavement culvert on Weir Road. Weir Road is expected to be paved this year so we needed to put a new culvert across that. The 15 inch that was there was completely rusted out, it would have just collapsed after we paved the road. So, we have to make sure that we took care of that and that was accomplished this past week.

Community gardens have been tilled and are ready to go. I don't know if Kim mentioned that, but I wanted to say they were tilled probably about a week and a half ago. They're ready to be planted whenever they want to start using those lots.

Roadside mowing will start very soon, soon as we get done with the limb and branch pickup. We should be done by Friday, with the west side. The east side was accomplished in a two- week time period. There were relatively small piles this spring, but it's still hard work. The rain didn't help because it delayed us on several days when we couldn't do any of the pickup. And that's really everything.

**Trustee Rick Clark**

Thank you. Any questions for David? Bob do you have any communications?

**Fiscal Officer Bob Costello**

I have nothing to report tonight.

**Trustee Rick Clark**

Okay, very good.

At this time if anyone in the public would care to address at the Trustees or Department Heads now, it'd be the time to do that. Just have to identify yourself, give your name and address. Mr. Gump?

**Bruce Gump 1441 Springwood Trace**

Good evening. Thank you. Dr LaPolla, with the Governor's announcement today that he's going to be dropping all of the COVID related restrictions on June 2. Is that going to lead to a revisit of the decision to not have the July 4 parade?

**Trustee Dr. James LaPolla**

You have to remember that the planning for the parade goes on months ahead of time. To put something together within a month is not impossible, but it wouldn't be at the standard that citizens of Howland would expect from us. So, quite honestly, it really would not be that favorable to put something together last minute. So, at this point, not knowing completely what restrictions are going to be lifted, I think the Township and myself personally will continue with the position of play on the safe side and to postpone for one more year.

**Bruce Gump**

Sure. Understood, thank you.

Mrs. St. George in your conversations with regarding funding for the Golden Triangle with some of our State government officials, did you happen to bring up anything about the Howland Springs Road relocation possibilities?

**Administrator Darlene St. George**

We talked about infrastructure in general. So, we're looking for infrastructure money for road improvements and for specific projects in the Golden Triangle. She's aware of the needs in Howland Township and we'll see what they can come up with?

**Bruce Gump**

I mean we all know how long things take especially. So, you know, the sooner we can get a project like that on the on the agenda and into their budget, the more likely it is to actually happen.

And thank you, I realized that you know you can only take advantages as opportunities arise. So, please, please remember us if you can.

**Administrator Darlene St. George**

We have not forgotten. We have a list of things.

**Trustee Matthew Vansuch**

Bruce, as I mentioned last month when we get the comments back from ODOT like we did last time, my attention is fully to send those comments along. I'm sure that based on the feedback that I've heard from people that need will be will be identified in the public comment side of it. I'm not sure on the response side what the State's going to say, we have no idea. But I certainly intend on using that to provide some materials to our State Legislator to let them know that this is a need in our community and to provide them some documentation for that. That's the timeframe Bruce.

**Bruce Gump**

Good. Thank you, Matt. We did what we could to try to get that issue included in in the comments. Thank you.

**Trustee Rick Clark**

Thank you. Anyone else care to address the board?

**Ed Palumbo – 201 Sanctuary**

Going down 46 toward Cortland there is a yellow house on the right-hand side, an old yellow house. It's got a dead tree and it's close to the road. A very dead tree and the center branch going up the center is actually broken off and it's laying on another branch. Sooner or later, that thing's going come down. I think it's a law office, it's close to Squires Lane.

**Trustee Matthew Vansuch**

Oh, you mean where east wind comes out by Squires Lane?

**Ed Palumbo**

We're talking about close to where Leon's is.

**Trustee Rick Clark**

We know the house.

**Trustee Matthew Vansuch**

I was thinking you meant closer to you when you were saying Cortland I was trying to think of up by your house.

**Trustee Rick Clark**

Yeah, on the side. David, do you want to look at that when you to get a chance?

**Road Superintendent David McCann**

Okay, no problem, looking at it. I mean we're talking about an ODOT right away but I'll look at it and see if it is posing a hazard. The best I can do is get a hold of ODOT maintenance support and let them be aware that there may be an issue in the right of way.

**Trustee Rick Clark**

They're pretty responsive when you have tree issues too.

**Ed Palumbo**

Thanks. I have not asked in several months, what's the latest news on the annexation?

**Trustee Rick Clark**

There's really been no movement in any fashion that I know of or heard of. Niles hasn't made any move to annex any property or do anything. It's just out there right now.

**Ed Palumbo**

It's costing us every month illegally?

**Trustee Rick Clark**

No. Well, there's nothing going on with it right now. There're no court issues. There's nothing right now.

**Ed Palumbo**

So, it's off the table?

**Trustee Rick Clark**

I can't say that. I just say it's dormant right now.

**Ed Palumbo**

The last thing I have. I just happened to be watching the six o'clock news the other night, WKBN and they were talking about the CARES money. They said, if you want to know the money that your community got you would take a picture of that square that everybody takes a picture of like a code. So, I took a picture of it. I was able to find the 46 pages I think of communities and I found Howland. By any chance, do you have this on your website?

**Trustee Rick Clark**

No

**Ed Palumbo**

I think that would be a good idea of every community and schools, that CARES money should put on their website. How much they got and how they spent it.

**Trustee Matthew Vansuch**

The PDF that you have, does it have four pages or two pages for Howland?

**Ed Palumbo**

Right now, the one that I have had one page.

**Trustee Matthew Vansuch**

Because when I looked at that they did not publish everything that we gave to them. They were still showing that they had not showed the latest numbers. We could talk to those, that's the report from the auditor through Vanessa, right? Is that what you're looking at?

**Ed Palumbo**

Yes.

**Trustee Matthew Vansuch**

I think that we have that information, it's a public record and I think we can provide that to people.


**Trustee Rick Clark**

Thank you. Anyone else need to address the board or any of us? If not, I'll entertain a motion to adjourn..

A motion was made by Matthew Vansuch and seconded by Dr. James LaPolla to adjourn the meeting at 7:05 PM.

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

Approved by:                       Dated: 6/2/21  
Robert M. Costello, Fiscal Officer

Approved by:                       Dated: 6/2/21  
Rick Clark, Chairperson-Trustee