

MINUTES OF THE HOWLAND TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES

The Howland Township Board of Trustees held their regular meeting virtually on June 9, 2021 at 6:00 PM via the Howland Township Web Page www.howlandtownship.org

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 suspend the reading of May 12, 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 Dr. James LaPolla and seconded by Matthew Vansuch to vote on Resolution 2021-056:

Approve to schedule a Public Hearing on July 14, 2021, immediately following the regular trustees meeting, to review the "Alternative Tax Budget of Howland Township" for the next fiscal year ending December 31, 2022.

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 2021-057:

Per the recommendation of Administrator Darlene St. George, accept the retirement of part-time maintenance employee Ronald Holland after 24 ½ years of employment. Ron's last day of work is June 15, 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 2021-058:

Per the recommendation of Administrator Darlene St. George, approve to hire Joseph Gillespie as a part-time maintenance employee effective June 11, 2021. Joe will receive \$12.00 per hour with no benefits and scheduled on an "as needed basis".

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 2021-059:

Per the recommendation of Administrator Darlene St. George, approve for Planning Director Kim Mascarella to resume her 40-hour workweek schedule.

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 2021-060:

WHEREAS, the Township Board of Trustees of Howland Township are authorized to request an advance of "REAL ESTATE TAX – 2nd Half Settlement" pursuant to ORC 321.24; and

WHEREAS, the Township Board of Trustees of Howland Township do hereby request an advance of "REAL ESTATE TAX – 2nd Half Settlement" pursuant to ORC 321.24 and 135.35

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Township Board of Trustees of Howland Township do hereby request the Trumbull County Auditor to advance any "REAL ESTATE TAX – 2nd Half Settlement" money in the Treasury of the Trumbull County Auditor to the account 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 Matthew Vansuch to vote on Resolution 2021-061:

WHEREAS, the following list of properties have been cited during the month of June 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
100 Quail Hollow	Parcel 28-106609
8141 Castle Rock	Parcel 28-121275
1458 Castillion Drive	Parcel 28-006282
3681 High Tree Ave,	Parcel 28-181787
8848 Kings Graves Rd	Parcel 28-322475
6060 Mines Rd	Parcel 28-390900
332 Niles Cortland Road NE,	Parcel 28-596850
1575 Niles Cortland Rd NE	Parcel 28-549200
1764 Niles Cortland Rd SE	Parcel 28-162060
2878 Niles Vienna	Parcel 28-573401
2915 North Road NE	Parcel 28-334200
8618 Old Orchard RD	Parcel 28-222850
3478 Overlook Dr	Parcel 28-598100
3479 Overlook Dr	Parcel 28-590000
3231 Overlook Dr	Parcel 28-393450
3273 Valacamp Ave	Parcel 28-409700
3589 Valacamp Ave	Parcel 28-304650
3709 Valacamp Ave	Parcel 28-354500
7720 Glenn Oaks	Parcel 28-088740
3727 Evergreen	Parcel 28-146576
3546 Highlawn	Parcel 28-636900
2699 Fairview	Parcel 28-554520
1318 Rosewood	Parcel 28-508755

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 2021-062:

Per the recommendation of Administrator Darlene St. George and Fire Chief James Pantalone, approve to hire part-time Firefighter/Paramedic Jordan Gibbs as a full-time Firefighter/Paramedic effective June 3, 2021:

Base Rate: 90% - Current Firefighter base pay - \$18.06 per hr.
Medic Rate: 90% - Current Paramedic pay - \$56.25 per pay

Jordan will 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 Matthew Vansuch and seconded by Dr. James LaPolla to vote on Resolution 2021-063:

Per the recommendation of Administrator Darlene St. George and Fire Chief James Pantalone, approve to accept the resignation of part-time Firefighter-Paramedic Robert Geisleman for personal reasons effective May 17, 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 2021-064:

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

Item #1 - 25 Metal Chairs in various condition

Item #2 - Circular Floor Scrubbers Qty. 2

Item #3 - Various sizes and hardware for office cubicles

4 – 22W x 62H wall panel
6 – 34W x 62H wall panel
4 – 46W x 62H wall panel
11 – Connection Posts
Miscellaneous Hardware

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 2021-065:

Per the recommendation of Police Chief Nick Roberts, the Board of Trustees of Howland Township “Do Not” request a hearing for a TRFO D1 Liquor License granted to Chuck E Cheeses 2082 Niles Cortland Rd. SE Warren, OH 44484

D1 Beer only for on premises consumption or in original sealed containers for carry-out only until 1:00am.

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 2021-066:

Per the recommendation Administrator Darlene St. George, approve raises for all full-time and part-time employees not covered in previous Resolution 2021-045, Resolution-2020-138, and Resolution 2020-139 a 3% increase July 1, 2021 and a 2% increase July 1, 2022.

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 2021-067:

The Howland Township Board of Trustees, effective June 8, 2021 rescind Resolution 2021-054, passed on May 12, 2021 – Application for Nature Works Grant Program for updates.

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 2021-068:

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 3983 North River Road, to provide for safe access to the structure; and

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved by Howland Township Trustees:

That Howland Township approves filing this application for financial assistance.

That 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.

That Howland Township agrees to obligate \$8,770 required to satisfactorily complete the proposed project and become eligible for reimbursement under the terms of the **NatureWorks Grant Program, which reimburses 75% of project costs.**

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 2021-069:

Authorize the Howland Board of Trustees to apply for Clean Ohio Green Space Conservation Grant Funding to purchase an 84-acre tract along Mosquito Creek north of North River Road, and further identified as Parcel ID #28-383301; and

WHEREAS, the State of Ohio, through the Ohio Public Works Commission (OPWC), administers financial assistance for conservation purposes through the Clean Ohio Fund - Green Space Conservation Grant Program ("Clean Ohio"); and

WHEREAS, Howland Township desires financial assistance for the purchase and protection of approximately 84 acres situated between State Routes 82 and 46 to the north of North River Road to expand an existing corridor of protected lands;

WHEREAS, the property includes more than 2,500 feet of Mosquito Creek frontage, floodplain land, and wetlands; and as these natural assets are consistent with the land-use priorities presented in the Howland Township Comprehensive Community Plan developed in 2010 and updated regularly thereafter; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

1. That Howland Township Administrator, Darlene St. George, is authorized to submit a grant application to the OPWC for Clean Ohio Conservation Program Funds for the MOSQUITO CREEK MAFFITT ACQUISITION PROJECT; and
2. That Howland Township Administrator, Darlene St. George, is further authorized to enter into any agreements as may be necessary and appropriate for obtaining this financial assistance.

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 2021-070:

Per the recommendation of Public Works Director David McCann and Administrator Darlene St. George, approve to hire Zevon Braun-Whitehead as a full-time public works employee effective June 7, 2021. Zevon will receive:

100% of Truck Driver Wage \$23.95 per hour

Zevon will begin employment with 80 hours of sick leave, 80 hours of vacation and receive all benefits as per the Township Policy and Howland Township Road Department Association Collective Bargaining Agreement.

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 2021-071:

Per the recommendation of Administrator Darlene St. George, approve to hire Mark Rubino as a variable hour part-time seasonal public works employee at a rate of \$9.00 per hour with no benefits and scheduled on an "as needed basis" effective June 1, 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 2021-072:

Per the recommendation of Police Chief Nick Roberts and Administrator Darlene St. George, the Howland Township Police Department hereby offers a Conditional Offer of Employment to Walter L. Jones Jr. and Stephanie L. Slusher, candidates for the positions of full-time police officers of Howland Township, with a tentative start date of July 1, 2021. This offer is conditioned upon the candidates successfully completing the following examinations: Drug testing, Polygraph testing, Physical examination and Psychological testing.

Upon completion, both Walter and Stephanie will receive 100% of the current hourly rate of pay and all benefits as per the Township Policy, Police Contract and the regulations as per the Howland Township Police Rules & Procedure Manual.

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

Summary of Meeting:

Trustee Rick Clark

Matt you have any additional agenda items?

Trustee Matthew Vansuch

Nothing for the agenda.

Trustee Rick Clark

Jim anything for the agenda?

Trustee Dr. James LaPolla

Nothing for the agenda.

Trustee Rick Clark

Mrs. St. George, anything you'd like to discuss?

Administrator Darlene St. George

Nothing to discuss.

Trustee Matthew Vansuch

I just have a few things I want to go through. I want to thank Dave for addressing a few public works issues that came up since the last meeting. We can't do things in some places; in some places we can do things so the residents that we were able to help we're appreciative of that. So, I want to thank you Dave.

I also want to thank Dan Morgan. I know in an email you sent me you are at 115 open property maintenance cases. I'm sure there's probably been more since a couple of weeks since you mentioned that, so I want to thank you for being on top of those. Our residents do appreciate that they sometimes think they send complaints in, and the only way to check is if they contact you or me or Rick or Jim or somebody else to see if you have it in your system. So, we've always been very diligent on going out there and responding to those, so I appreciate that.

Nick, I know that you had some officers out looking on Laurelwood. We received complaints from some residents, and I know that appears to have been successful in keeping people's speed down, so that is what we'd like to see.

I got a call from Al Seaman from the park board. He wanted to talk to me about the project, opening up the waters, down there off of Castle Rock. I just have not had a chance to get back to talk to him about that because the park board owns that property down there where it's backed up and it's causing some problems for the residents down there.

I know we got invited to the American Recovery Plan summit with the chamber. I know that Mrs. St. George is not available to attend that summit. I am not sure what Rick's or Jim's schedule is, but I should be able to attend that if you would like me to attend. We are not sure whether we're getting the federal money yet, that's up to the state of Ohio. So, this was a bit premature. But, if we do get it, I would be available to attend that on her behalf if you have no objection. Now you are getting into federal dollars and things like that but like I said, we just got an email from the OTA. They are urging us to get the townships recognized and the final budget bill is being able to receive those funds, so it's still not a sure thing right now so we must be ready for that.

After the last meeting and the fourth of July discussion, I had a few residents that reached out to me and raised their hand and said they were willing to come together and help talk about Fourth of July activities for next year. Then possibly doing an event later this summer for our community coming back together after this pandemic. I had a wonderful conversation with Mrs. St. George and then Superintendent Spiker about that. I went to the school board meeting, and I presented that idea to them about doing a community event where we could have a parade where we could recognize our students and our community members who did a lot during the pandemic. Our vaccination rate is still below 40% in this county. I just checked and we need people to get vaccinated. We hope to get that up especially for our kids. Our hope is that by the end of August we can have an event. I am asking, Rick and Jim for your input on this as to whether you would be willing to have the township work with the schools, assuming they are willing to do it, to put together a coming community coming back together event. We just do not have the time and the resources to be able to do Fourth of July. I think that we can put something together that the community would appreciate and can be excited about. I know people that reached out to me are extremely excited about the possibility of that. So, I think this is an opportunity to re-engage with our community and to think about something that could be exciting for this year and then going forward. So, we are waiting to hear back from the schools. With your blessing, I would like to have a little bit of an organizing meeting later this month after the school board meeting. We can meet with the people who raise their hand and help organize something, so I just appreciate your thoughts on that.

Trustee Dr. James LaPolla

I am in full support of your project in the month of August. You and I have talked about this several times. I think it is a great idea. Some of my patients who live in Howland also think it's a great idea. It was brought to our attention in the newspaper that Trumbull County has one of the highest COVID rates in the state, not just the lowest vaccination rate but also the highest COVID rate. Even though overall it's coming down quite nicely in the state we're still kind of on the high side of things, so I do think it's a smart idea to do something for the township and waiting till August I think is appropriate.

That is all I have.

Trustee Rick Clark

Thank you, Jim anything you would like to discuss.

Trustee Dr. James LaPolla

I am happy to say that Ohio Edison has gotten back to the township pertaining to the transfer of electricity. They have gone from the exploratory phase, which is taking the data that we have accumulated over the last several months and now have gone to the feasibility stage. It now goes to the corporate leaders in Ohio. They will look at the cost and again the feasibility. Once it gets by that stage, then it goes into the production phase and implementing the transfer. So right now, we are finally seeing some movement in that, in a positive way for Howland Township. Anything you want to add to that Darlene, because I know they communicate with you more than I do?

Administrator Darlene St. George

No, it is fine.

Trustee Dr. James LaPolla

Okay, thank you very much. And then last thing, I know he will not blow his own horn, but I just want to congratulate Chief Pantalone on the graduation of his daughter from high school, so congratulations Chief.

Trustee Rick Clark

I really do not have anything just other than the Shred-it day was a huge success I think again this year we collected over two tons of paper that we had shredded. More importantly I think we filled four cruisers with donated food plus cash contributions. We want to thank the community again for their generosity.

Mrs. St George, anything you would like to discuss?

Administrator Darlene St. George

No, I think you guys have covered everything that has been going on in the township. We did have our garage sale this past weekend. I believe we had over 100 Community garage sales that took place.

Trustee Rick Clark

Chief Pantalone?

Fire Chief James Pantalone

I have just a few items. We are performing normal Fire Department operations. We are still adhering to some PPE safety precautions with COVID related items. Cases that we are seeing are minimal, not very severe cases, but certainly it's still out there. We have got high of 60-70% plus percent vaccinations from our staff. Everybody is staying healthy and well and doing a fabulous job, but we're still in the routine of disinfecting sanitizing and cleaning. We are going to continue with that process but usual summer activities for our inspection Bureau is busy. So new projects going on out there. Well, I've been working with the county, working with Dan and zoning with new businesses coming in, as well as scrappers field. As always, we have got fireworks down there that we maintain, and ensure that we get safety crews there. An inspector is always there from the minute the fireworks roll onto the property, till they are finished at the end and just before the shoot. We've got suppression staff that goes down there with a fire truck, so we continue to support that effort. Always a great time, and a great feeling and a great activity down there but we are in full swing with the fireworks. So other than that, come on nice weather and summertime.

Trustee Rick Clark

Any questions for the fire chief? Chief Roberts.

Police Chief Nick Roberts

Last month our officers responded to 768 calls for service.

They did 34 traffic stops, they issued 22 citations, we physically wrote 111 reports. We had 32, non- injury crashes, 15 crashes and made 18 arrests and we had two drug overdoses.

I can already see this month our call volume is going to be a lot higher. Being that the governor lifted the COVID-19 restrictions and the bars and the restaurants and everyone is back in full swing. We are just going to pray for everybody that we can maintain our safety and hope everything goes well this summer, but I can tell we're going to be busy.

Trustee Rick Clark

Any questions for the chief? Planning Director Kim.

Planning Director Kim Mascarella

Our plan reviews are picking back up. We see four different projects in various stages of planning, review, stormwater review with GPD.

We are doing some final inspections on some projects that have been ongoing, over the last year and so we're trying to close out those files and get the operation and maintenance plans all filed with the county.

So currently we are reviewing a new medical office in the southeast quarter of Niles Cortland Road and a new vehicle wash establishment down in that same area. We have plans to review a vehicle wash expansion here in Howland Corners area, and then a new fast food establishment on Elm Road. It does seem like interest in developing in Howland Township is picking up, and our office continues to feel the calls about potential development in the area as well. So that is all I have.

Trustee Rick Clark

Any questions for Kim? Dan any update on zoning?

Zoning Director Dan Morgan

Good evening, since our last meeting, zoning has issued 33 zoning permits. The project cost of these permits was \$923,000 that the property owners are putting back into their property to make their property, better.

The property at 2878 Niles Vienna Road has been an ongoing issue for about five plus years. We finally had Wolford Beemack trucking come out and they cleaned all the rubbish trash and debris off that property. The cost of that cleanup will be placed on the property owners as a lien on the property owner's taxes. You will see if you go up to 2878 half the property is in Weathersfield, they only cleaned the half that is in Howland. There are some other issues that we are still working on the property, but at least the trash and garbage and debris is gone.

We are quite busy with property maintenance. We currently have 132 open property maintenance cases. As soon as I can get the letters and phone calls out more and more cases come as you see the uptick in the number of lawns that public works is cutting. Without them, we would be in some serious, serious trouble.

One of the more troubling trends that I am seeing out in the township is folks are installing above ground and in ground swimming pools, without getting a permit. In doing so they are not aware that there needs to be a five- foot safety barrier around the pool. That is just not in Howland Township, that is an international property maintenance code that basically keeps children in the neighborhood, from unauthorized access to the swimming pools and a possible drowning. I have been kind of following the news throughout the country in the last week and there's been quite a few drownings in this country. We are really trying to prevent that from happening to one person. We do not want a child to lose their life because of unauthorized entry to a pool. If anyone sees a pool that does not have a barrier safety barrier around it, please either call the zoning office or you can go to our website and you can report under the zoning tab. There is a place to report a concern. You could do that for any property maintenance issue. But I am asking especially if you see any swimming pools without the barrier, please let me know. Because these are not phone calls that I am getting about the pools, I'm driving around and finding them. And, you know I am only one person and cannot find every swimming pool. There is a safety issue.

Trustee Dr. James LaPolla

Do you have the right to contact the swimming pool installers on their contracts or is that not an allowed option?

Zoning Director Dan Morgan

Probably 95% of the time the swimming pool installer takes out the permit. The ones I am finding I don't know who installed them. I do not know if it was the property owner or a pool company.

We are trying to contact each and every one of the owners, preferably by phone because it's quicker. If not than by letter If we cannot find a phone number to get a barrier put up, or the pool emptied.

Thank you. And that is all I have.

Trustee Rick Clark

Thanks Dan. David McCann.

We are doing our best to keep up with the grass situation because everyone knows how it is with the zoning yards. There is a number of them out there and we are keeping up with them. I mean Dan keeps handing them to us, but we are catching up on him. On top of trying to do that we are maintaining the sidewalks we have to maintain. We are trying to do the catch basin repairs. We had several catch basins that we were working on and culvert replacements that we were trying to get ahead of before the paving started this summer.

Which leads me into that. Last week, the RT Vernal came in to do to start the 2020 paving program. All the streets that are on that program have been milled to date. Their expectation to come in and start doing some minor partial depth repair and asphalt installation will occur soon as the weather changes. They have been hesitant on coming in and paving because of the rain, but this time next week I would expect that we will have most of the services that have been milled covered. Soon as we are finished with that, we'll be looking forward to having the 2021 paving program starting sometime in mid- July. We are trying to stay ahead of that and then soon as they're done with that, we'll be starting our skim paving process, I would hope by the end of July or early part of August. If weather is providing us good construction times. So that is where we're at, trying to keep up with it, and now got other miscellaneous things that come up, but we do our best.

Trustee Matthew Vansuch

Dave, I am finishing my 12th year of trustee and I thought I had seen everything until I saw people complaining that the road was being paved. But underlying that was an issue about just people knowing which roads were going to be paved and when they were going to be paved. Before we do the 2021 project can we put out, perhaps a week before these roads are going to start being milled, these days and so then at least the residents have a little bit of a heads up that there is going to be some milling which is disruptive. I know it is disruptive, but it needs to be done and then there is the paving so just want to let people know.

Road Superintendent Dave McCann

In past years we usually had the contractor go through and give out flyers, prior to paving the streets. The important thing with that is when people find out that their streets being paved, we get an onslaught of calls, of them asking if we could delay it one day or they got a party. They have got some type of event that they got scheduled and asked us to hold back and quite honestly once we get into contract with the contractor, you're only really at his beckon mercy. You know he has to do his job and you know we really can't dictate methodology or times unless we specifically know that we've got an event, and we let them know prior to paving. When he starts, we pretty much let him do his job so he can finish it up and move on to the next project that he is contracted with. So that is the difficulty and most people don't understand that. If you have a road plan to be actually paved today, but if we have three days of rain, and it can't get paved and then all of a sudden, we're going to pave next week. When we tell them that we expected it to be paved on a certain day, it becomes an issue.

Trustee Matthew Vansuch

Yeah, but I think if we at least say these are the roads that are being paved. It is going to start on this date, we can't guarantee the specific dates and times and we can't control the contractor. People are at least aware of that and no we are not changing dates. That is up to the contractor when it's getting done, but we only give them a notice ahead of time that work will be started on that particular street.

Road Superintendent Dave McCann

I guess we can give them a blanket date on start this week and be done next month, but yeah, we can do that.

Trustee Matthew Vansuch

Yeah, and we can get that out there on social media. You know, people get surprised by things and I completely understand that, but thanks.

Trustee Rick Clark

David you guys had to cemetery looking great, by the way. We had a memorial remembrance service there and it really looked nice.

Road Superintendent Dave McCann

I appreciate that. I was going to comment on that, by the way. The guys busted their butts to try to make it as nice as we could. We had some pretty bad weather, and we had a very tight window to make things pristine up there. That is what we tried to do before Memorial Day, and we had 14 or 16 foundations that we had to put in within less than a week and a half and the guys really pushed hard and made that happen. I do appreciate you bringing that up. Normally we see between 30 to 35 burials per year, and I think we are past 20 already this year. That was another strain on having multiple burials over the winter.

Trustee Rick Clark

Yeah, an aging population.

Trustee Matthew Vansuch

Never to let a good thing go without a complaint. You guys took some trees down, so it was nice. That was noticed up there, so it looked good. I know they had to come out, but fortunately the weather was not a scorcher this year.

Road Superintendent Dave McCann

Thank you and I will relay that to the guys by the way.

Trustee Rick Clark

Before I forget, this was our last Zoom meeting. Next month in July, our meetings will resume in person. So, Bob, any correspondence?

Fiscal Office Bob Costello

I was contacted by the State Auditor's office on Monday. Any entity or subdivision that expends over \$750,000 of federal funds is required to have a federal single audit. Our Cares Act money, we spent probably \$950,000. So, we got a notice they are probably going to be coming in a week or two to start on it. The estimated cost is \$10,450. It won't be like a regular two-year audit it's just going to be just the year 2020.

Trustee Rick Clark

Now if anyone would care to address the board or any of the department heads you have the floor. Just state your name and address, please.

Ed Palumbo- 201 Sanctuary Drive

This one is for Chief Roberts. Is the front license plate removals still for July 1 this year?

Police Chief Nick Roberts

Are you asking if we are required to have a front license plate now? Yes, it is supposed to have a removal date July 1 of this year. Now that has been in effect for some time, I don't remember the exact date of when I went to effect but it's, it's been in effect.

Ed Palumbo

I have another question.

The wetlands that you are looking to buy to remove the timber, is that same wetland that was discussed a couple of years ago when he talked about building a hospital?

Trustee Rick Clark

No, we're not removing any timber. We are not allowed to remove any timber, we're just using the standing timber, as the match for the grant. These 84 acres actually is not too far from where you live Mr. Palumbo, up on North River Road along Mosquito Creek.

Anyone else care to address the board?

Jack Mullen – 667 North Road

Over a month ago I surveyed many of the townships and municipalities in Trumbull and Mahoning Counties on their current and past mosquito spraying practices. I wanted to share that information in a document for your review, and you should have that a document in your packet.

Trustee Matthew Vansuch

I'm looking at it right now, Jack. Thank you.

Jack Mullen

If you want, I can take about four minutes to highlight some of those key points of the document. But, noting it was written it speaks for itself. So regardless, I hope you will read it carefully and I'm at your pleasure if you want anything additional.

Trustee Rick Clark

I've read it through. For those of you that do not have a copy the document addresses mosquito spraying in Howland Township and the possibility of changing our protocol on how we do it or if we do it.

Going forward I am not against in the off season of reviewing our protocol and how it's done and why we do it. I will say this, we do get numerous calls in our office about people wanting us to spray for mosquitoes and make sure we are going to spray. So, I know Cortland does it, Newton Falls does it, and Champion Township does it. So, there are other communities that are still spraying for mosquitoes, and I know you got some information Jack from the Board of Health about mosquito spraying in Howland Township, but I will add that it is the board of health that pays for our mosquito spraying.

Jack Mullen

Rick am I able to give you three or four minutes some explanation for those in the audience?

Trustee Rick Clark

Sure, go ahead.

Jack Mullen

Okay. Well, as I mentioned, I surveyed many of the townships in both Mahoning Trumbull County. First of all, Howland has one of the highest numbers of summer mosquito sprayings in the county with five. Most of the townships are government entities and the county has zero or two sprayings per summer. There is virtually no spraying in Mahoning County, which I thought was interesting, except for a few parts, and that includes Boardman and Austintown. Boardman said even when they sprayed in past years it was only in the parks.

As you mentioned, I did talk with the Trumbull County Health Department, and during the month of May 2021, this year, mosquitoes in Trumbull County were virtually non-existent due to the dry weather and the low rainfall in the county. They basically found no mosquitoes in their mosquito traps, so that was useless, and quit doing that. But that begs the question under the circumstances did the townships consider postponing mosquito spraying in May?

Look at apparently what is happening in Mahoning County with the basically not spraying at all the summer.

I'll come back to that, but Trumbull County Health Commissioner also noted that over the last year and a half, only one mosquito has been found in their traps that are associated with West Nile disease out of the 24 townships that they provide resources for. Upon talking to the Mahoning County Department of Health on June 8, yesterday, as well as talking to some of the townships directly, the Mahoning County Health Department offered spraying to their townships. Last year 2020, just a few took advantage of that. It's understood by the county that they will have very few sprayings in the townships in Mahoning County. Yeah, I wanted to just touch on that briefly.

Many Howland residents have gardens and would prefer not to have insecticide fall in their vegetables. In fact, they often grow their vegetable gardens to avoid that very issue. So, unfortunately the applicator cannot tell citizens if we are spraying. Which of the two nights, the township will be spraying on their street or road? Now that kind of goes contrary to a lot of things we do, limb branch picked up is on the west of the creek one night and east the other night. Howland athletic club used to have registrations by east or west of the creek. So, I am wondering why the applicator can't tell us which night he will be spraying on our street or road. It takes me an hour to cover my vegetables and if I must do it two nights because I don't know which night they're coming and that's needless in my mind. I'm wondering if maybe for this upcoming spraying we could find that out, if we're going to spray.

Just a couple other things. There's not enough knowledge out there on spring dates for whatever reason. Residents do not seem to know when they're spraying in Howland and social media was filled with various accounts of Howland residents in May, leaving windows open, not knowing about the spraying. One resident had an asthmatic attack because of it and another one had some allergic reactions, and others heard it this spring coming down the street and had to run to close their windows. So, I'm wondering if there's, we can explore maybe better ways to alert residents and I've given some suggestions and the packet that I gave you.

And one of the most important things perhaps the township can tie in bait traps in the future to dry weather and develop like an algorithm to when they spray and when not to spray. That might save

some money. You can maybe buy some more bait traps. Obviously, there are some concerns especially in certain townships about the effects on beekeepers and the effects of on pollinators like butterflies and birds and eating the dead insects from the spring. The township in my mind also should put the MSDS Material Safety Data Sheets information on the website, which would show the ingredients and the precautions, of the insecticide used in Howland. That might have applied to the resident that had the asthmatic attack. If he had to go to the hospital at least they would know what insecticide was used and what was in it.

One trustee in the township as I conclude here, drove around in his township behind the mosquito spraying truck, and basically viewed it as ineffective. He said the spray only went out about 20 or 30 feet, and never got to the backyards, which is where you probably needed most. They decided in their Township, to use the resources to educate people about changing the bird bath water, the dog's water out in the yard, so on and so forth. You can get larvicide free from the county if you have larger ponds and wet areas. The final point is hopefully your review, and looking at the practices we take, maybe see how we can maybe revisit that protocol or that practice. I would be glad to help in any way I can.

Trustee Rick Clark

I think certainly we could publish when the spraying is going to be.

Administrator Darlene St. George

We do publish it in the newspaper.

Trustee Matthew Vansuch

It's on the website and it's always been put on the website. It's been put in the newspaper, and it's always the second Monday and Tuesday of the month. It's from what I can see, June, July, August and September. We have all shared it. Those are pretty consistent dates, but we can talk about whether we're going to do it but I know mosquito control is an issue in the township.

Trustee Dr. James LaPolla

I have read the letter briefly. Quite honestly, I have said the mosquito spraying personally as a kind of a mixed yes or no. I know this year we've already committed so we can't change this year. Honestly, knowing the data, not just from what Jack put together but some other information, I do not think we need to eliminate it, but I think reduction or isolation can definitely be looked into. In the offseason I think Rick kind of gave me a hint to that. I do think that is a viable option for us to take a look.

Jack Mullen

One last thing is, and that's the point I raised about, can we find out which night they're spraying the different roads in the township?

Trustee Matthew Vansuch

Darlene, don't they do it all on one night unless it rains and then they do it the second night?

Administrator Darlene St. George

That is correct. It is always on the first night when they spray unless it rains that night, then they do it the second date that they publish.

Jack Mullen

Okay, so it is not on two nights then it suddenly was a makeup night. There is not a makeup night after that. When I talked to the applicator, he didn't indicate that but fine that's okay if you're doing.

Administrator Darlene St. George

He did not implicate that to you that they do it all on one night.

Jack Mullen

No, he did not. I asked him if he could split. He says I never know when I'm going to leave or where I'm going to leave off at and so he found that was a two-night situation.

Administrator Darlene St. George

Well, it's never been how it worked in the past so if he started doing that, I'll follow up with that tomorrow and see if they are doing it on two nights. Then definitely we can split the township like we do for other things. The reason we have two dates is that they completed on one night, and that second night is only used if it rains on the first night.

Trustee Matthew Vansuch

Jack, I am going to ask our website person to note that on the second night is a makeup night. When I read it now it does say in case of rain, the spraying will take place the following evening, which you could read that to be three days. I reckon that could be a little bit clearer.

Jack Mullen

Okay, Darlene, will you follow up with the sprayer?

Administrator Darlene St. George

I will follow up tomorrow and then I'll call you and let you know or email you.

Jack Mullen

Whatever, that is fine, thank you.

Trustee Rick Clark

Thank you, Jack. Anyone else care to address the board?
No one further, I'll entertain a motion to adjourn.

Trustee Dr. James LaPolla

So moved.

Trustee Matthew Vansuch

Second.

A motion was made by Dr. James LaPolla and seconded by Matthew Vansuch to adjourn the meeting at 7:11 PM.

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

Approved by:  Dated: 6/30/21
Robert M. Costello, Fiscal Officer

Approved by:  Dated: 6/30/21
Rick Clark, Chairperson-Trustee