

MINUTES OF THE HOWLAND TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES

The Howland Township Board of Trustees held their regular meeting on September 8, 2021, at 6:00 P.M at the Howland Township Government Building, 205 Niles Cortland Rd. NE, Warren, OH 44484.

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 August 11, 2021 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 Matthew Vansuch to authorize Fiscal Officer Robert Costello to pay all outstanding invoices incurred and approve all warrants issued. (attached payment listing)

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 2021-092:

Per the recommendation of Administrator Darlene St. George, approved to renew the Township's medical insurance with Anthem BCBS for all full-time employees utilizing Huntington Insurance, Inc. as brokers for the period of September 1, 2021 to August 31, 2022. There is a 4% increase in medical premiums / 0% in dental and life.

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 2021-093:

WHEREAS, R.C. 309.9 authorized the Board of Trustees to retain the services of additional legal counsel; and

WHEREAS, consistent with the Revised Code, the Board of Trustees hereby determines it is necessary to have additional legal counsel to advise them on legal matters.

NOW THEREFORE, it is hereby RESOLVED by the Board that:

1. Pursuant to R.C. 309.09, Tonya J. Rodgers and the firm of Baker, Dublikar are hereby engaged as additional legal counsel for the Board.

2. Compensation is fixed at the hourly rate of \$140.00 per hour for work on behalf of 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 2021-094:

Per the recommendation of Auditor of State and Fiscal Officer Robert Costello, approve a Settlement Agreement and Repayment Plan between Howland Township and Township employee Nicholas Schreckengost for recovery of overpayment payroll funds totaling \$1,204.20. (full agreement attached)

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 2021-095:

The Howland Township Trustees recommend to the Trumbull County Planning Commission that Darlene St. George be re-appointed to the Trumbull County Planning Commission for a third three-year term beginning January 1, 2022 thru December 31, 2024.

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 2021-096:

Per Township Administrator Darlene St. George, approve to contract Compass Family & Community Services (CAPE) to provide an Employee Assistance Program for the period August 1, 2021 to July 31, 2022 for \$1,800.00. There is no increase from last year.

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 2021-097:

WHEREAS, the following list of properties have been cited during the months of August/September 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
2878 Niles Vienna	Parcel 28-573401
568 North Road SE	Parcel 28-482900
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
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 2021-098:

Authorize Fiscal Officer Robert Costello to establish the following fund, establish revenue/appropriation accounts and request an Amended Certificate to increase the budget from the Trumbull County Auditor due to the awarded 2020 FEMA – Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG)

Fund 2904
 2020 FEMA Assistance to Firefighters Grant \$47,788.57

Revenue Budget
 2904-519 Federal Receipts \$47,788.57

Appropriation Budget
 2904-220-740-2501 Equipment, Machinery & Furniture \$47,788.57

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 2021-099:

I, Robert Costello, Fiscal Officer of Howland Township, certifies that Howland Township has the amount of \$2,389.43 in Fire Fund 2111 and this amount will be used to pay the 5% local share for the 2020 FEMA – Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG)

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 2021-100:

Authorize the Fiscal Officer to supplement the following appropriations from unbudgeted fund money:

Fund 2111 – Fire Fund:

2111-220-190	Salaries	\$60,000.00
2111-220-420	Operating Supplies	\$15,000.00
2111-220-740	Machinery, Equipment & Furniture	\$25,000.00

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 2021-101:

Per the recommendation of Administrator Darlene St. George and Fire Chief James Pantalone, hire Brendan Bockelman as part-time Firefighter/EMT effective September 9, 2021. Brendan will be paid \$12.76 an 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 Dr. James LaPolla and seconded by Matthew Vansuch to vote on Resolution 2021-102:

Per the recommendation of Administrator Darlene St. George and Fire Chief James Pantalone, approve to hire Jeffry Koehn as a part-time Fire Instructor in the Howland Township Fire & EMS Training Center effective September 8, 2021. As an instructor, he will receive \$12.50/hr. as a Probationary Instructor and \$18.50/hr. as a Lead Instructor, with no benefits and scheduled on an "as needed basis".

Roll Call: Matthew Vansuch -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 2021-103:

Per the recommendation of Administrator Darlene St. George and Fire Chief James Pantalone, approve the Howland Training Center to apply for the 2022 State Fire Marshal's Firefighter I Training Grant.

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 2021-104:

The Howland Township Trustees approve the sale of the following police department vehicles on auction site Gov-Deals.

2014 Chevrolet Impala. VIN 2G1WD5E37E1181830

2014 Chevrolet Impala VIN 2G1WD5E38E1180993

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 2021-105:

Per the recommendation of Township Administrator Darlene St. George, approve to hire Alex Cornicelli as the part-time Farmers Market/Special Events Manager effective August 23, 2021. Alex will receive \$15.00 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 Dr. James LaPolla and seconded by Matthew Vansuch to vote on Resolution 2021-106:

Approve to authorize the submission of the Transportation Alternatives Program Grant Application to Eastgate Regional Council of Governments for the 2021 TRU-SR46 Sidewalk Improvement Project and agrees to share in the project cost and future maintenance of the proposed project. The total estimate of the project is \$187,825.00 with Howland Township's local share requirement of \$53,565.00

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 2021-107:

I, Robert Costello, Fiscal Officer of Howland Township, certifies that Howland Township has the amount of \$53,565.00 in the General Fund 1000 and this amount will be used to pay the local share for 2021 TRU-SR46 Sidewalk Improvement Project.

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

Summary of Meeting:

Trustee Rick Clark

First, we have representatives here from the Howland post of the American Legion. Chuck you have the floor.

Chuck Sayers

Thank you very much. The Howland American Legion, the American Legion Riders, American Legion Auxiliary, and the Sons of the American Legion all from the Howland Chapter. We want to thank the Howland Township Trustees for their support of veterans, veterans' programs in our community, and just all the things you can do to support the community. On behalf of all the organizations I like to introduce my counterparts here. I have Tina Gill, she is your American Legion Auxiliary President, Jim Campbell is a member of the American Legion Riders, and I'm here representing the American Sons of American Legion, I am the commander of that as well. We would like to donate, in support of the community festival that was recently held, and I have

a check in the amount of \$400. That is from all four of the American Legion families, so again we would like to thank you for your support and all that you do to support veterans. Thank you.

Trustee Matthew Vansuch

Thank you very much. Legion is a big, big component of our parades, our activities, and our community events. It's always nice to have a wall of honor there to remember those that we have lost as part of our community. With this check I'm happy to say that all the expenses for the community festival were covered by our community thru donations. I know there was an outpouring of interest in doing that and people really stepped up and made it happen for our community. So, thank you very much.

I want to thank the Township employees that helped to make that happen. I want to thank the Legion and the other sponsors as well. We had the PTO, TLC, 717 Credit Union, Dr Natoli, Whetstone Group, Servpro and Winner Aviation all donate. ServPro provided the water for the event. We had five food trucks that attended. We had a really nice crowd. I was disappointed by the movie. I thought there might be more that might have come out for the movie but that's okay it was a wonderful evening and a wonderful day. People were happy to have an event back in the community, and they liked the format as well. I know that we also didn't disrupt a major portion of our business community on a Saturday afternoon, with the parade. So, I want to thank everybody for that.

Trustee Dr. James LaPolla

I do want to also comment that Matt and his committee did a great job. It was a fun afternoon. I think it is something to consider that having an activity around that time of year is kind of fun for the township and I think everyone really did enjoy it. I did not hear one negative comment about your event and I think you should be commended on that.

I myself don't always attend the commissioners meeting but I do get information about the Commissioner's meeting. Today during their workshop, they did mention the Golden Triangle and it's important to our area.. So, I wanted to make a little statement about that. We hope they keep that in mind and supporting the extension of the sanitary sewer along Larchmont to the bypass. Without their financial support, providing sanitary sewer to the to that area will not be completed. This project will open up land for additional industrial manufacturing operations. This is a multi-jurisdictional project with Warren, Howland Township, and hopefully the County Commissioners. The current companies in the Golden Triangle continue reinvesting in their companies and retaining and adding to their workforce. This area is one of the largest small manufacturing hubs in the state of Ohio. To date, only Howland, Warren City and the County Engineering Department have contributed money toward financial grants, acquiring an improvement in the Golden Triangle. We are now asking the County Commissioners to contribute financially, for the first time to the Golden Triangle industrial areas. As most of us, we've all said before, this is essential in the job area. So, I do want to make that statement to everybody here today. Thank you.

Administrator Darlene St. George

When we first applied for the planning grant all the entities put in \$9,000 match towards the planning grant. They committed Julie Green to work on it. But financially they have not yet committed. I think our hope is they will use ARP money to contribute to this extension of sanitary sewer. None of the sanitary sewer area is in Warren but Warren has pledged \$250,000 towards the project, as have we have out of our ARP money.

That's what that money is for, the extension of water and sewer. They have way more ARP money than we do. So, we're hoping that they'll contribute some of their money as well to open up that area. We've had inquiries from companies that want to go over there, we just don't have any more

land. One company in particular, is looking for 50 acres in the Golden Triangle. To locate a company there we have to open up some more land over there.

Trustee Dr. James Lapolla

One thing about the money that I've basically learned to counsel governments is that, and people may or may not know, they may have read about in the newspaper that our funding is designated to certain areas. So, sewer lines are one and the broadband is the other. So, this is definitely within the allocation of the ARP fund. I just want people to consider we just can't give it around, it has to be within allocations and this is a well within the allotment allocation provided by the ARP funds.

Trustee Rick Clark

I think some folks natural gas aggregation program is expiring. Our township's rate is still \$3.09 until the end of February 2022. If any residents who are not members of our aggregation program now want to opt in, at \$3.09, per 1000 MCF, they can do that until the end of February 2022. Now we don't have any numbers beyond that day. The company is Constellation Energy.

Chief Pantalone, you had big night last night.

Fire Chief James Pantalone

We started bright and early this morning. So, we had a house fire on Howland Wilson. Although a bad situation, I can report that all the occupants were out safely, three adults and three children. They were alerted to a loud explosion, and in turn we also had a passer-by, which we may be recognizing in the near future about assisting. She stopped backed up and help them get out of the house, and actually called 911. So, the occupants as well as all of our fire-fighters are safe this morning. Unfortunately, a total loss of the house but no injuries.

Trustee Rick Clark

It started in the garage?

Fire Chief James Pantalone

Yes, we have kind of an area of origin in the garage. The gentleman has been doing some improvements. Working through the zoning department as well and he's been doing a fabulous job. A lot of these improvements were not fire related. But yeah, it was in the original garage area.

Trustee Rick Clark

Any other departments come to help?

Fire Chief James Pantalone

Yes, we had some assistance from the Youngstown Air Base, who is back on mutual aid responses which is fabulous. Last month, they came back online, and also Cortland City. Assistant Chief Sapp was the Incident Commander and Captain Luman was Shift Commander. We also had assistance from public works as well as police. We ended up shutting down both sides of Howland Wilson. I'm sure it was an inconvenience at the 7am business commute time. But we did shut it down and Dave and his crew put up barricades. They are being assisted by Board up company and contacted their insurance and I'm confident that, unfortunately, the house has to be probably fully rebuilt. They're already making that effort in a positive direction.

Trustee Rick Clark

Anything else you wanted to discuss?

Fire Chief James Pantalone

We did assistance in some water events lately but nothing catastrophic. Additional response was provided by public works. We kind of work together on these issues to try to look at some hot spots in areas of the township.

And it's been a usual busy month with the EMS operations without getting in any political issues, the COVID situation is seeing an uptick in the community. Our people are wearing PPE, we're doing our disinfecting regimens, and also those things are kicking up again. So, regardless of what position you sit on that, it is happening and we are seeing it in the community this past week. So, I would encourage everybody to use their best decision making. Those things that we started this off with and that would be wash your hands regularly and if you're a mask wearer I would certainly encourage it. Some of the other things that the CDC is recommending or whatever but we are seeing it out there and some of these patients are very sick. So, please be mindful of it.

Trustee Matthew Vansuch

I think if I want to have a vaccine clinic in this room we have the capability to do it. I don't think there would be the objection up here of you're using that space for that purpose.

Fire Chief James Pantalone

I certainly would say we're happy to help facilitate. I worked closely over the last 18 months with health board. There are booster issues coming up as well, which might be the conduit for a booster clinic here, as opposed to full vaccination service. So, the booster ideas are coming. If you've been vaccinated around that eight-month mark, is when we're talking about. There's already been anyone that's been immunocompromised prior to that, but just standard booster vaccination 8-month marker when you're looking at doing booster stuff.

Trustee Matthew Vansuch

So, eight months from the second?

Fire Chief James Pantalone

Correct. Remember there's a two- week marker right in between that second shot. That might be an option, as far as boosters.

Trustee Dr. James LaPolla

Have you heard anything different or like when the 20th of September will be the earliest that were announcements on the booster Program?

Fire Chief James Pantalone

That sounds about right. I haven't talked to Mr. Migliozi in about two weeks or so, you get regular emails on cases and there are different intricacies with that speculating on it but that sounds about right, September, October is when he's looking to kick off some boosters.

Trustee Dr. James LaPolla

Related to another path, we had open houses for the kids and we do it every other year. I know we probably canceled because of COVID. Are there any plans is to try to bring that program back either this year or next?

Fire Chief James Pantalone

Not this year. It takes several months and we usually kick that off in October for Fire Prevention Week. But we do intend on getting back in this with fire prevention and getting into the schools, if allowed, but we're all once again just monitoring to see what goes on with stuff but last year would have been our open half year. So, canceled so we're going to keep our fingers crossed for

next year to kick it off but it's several months of planning and accounting. I know that after social media there was some questions about our safety town as well. We took a little hiatus from the safety time for the kids, and we might jump back into that route as well.

Trustee Rick Clark

David anything to discuss from public works?

David McCann-Public Works Director

The 2021 paving program was kicked off this week, Shelley and Sands is the contractor. They're doing the work throughout the township. They are milling and they actually started resurfacing, same time today so they're pretty fast. They're a very good contractor and I anticipate they'll probably, as long as weather holds out, be done this time next week. So, that's a good thing before the weather turns sour. Sometimes some of the contractors come in late in the season because of the weather. It takes them six weeks to pave but they should be in and out real soon.

The Bolindale Storm Sewer Project is just about to start. The contractor was staking out the area. The area which entails the Hilda area, Fairhill, and Orchard. New storm sewers are going to be constructed and put down and tied into 422. Also, there's some improvements going to be done at the Crestview area down there, closer to North Road. That's the Bolindale storm sewer project, that starts up this week.

Since we last met we've had a couple rain events that kept us on our toes. We've been trying to take care of some of the issues that came to light because of the flooding issues that we had. Unfortunately, we don't know of any inferior catch basins or piping networks that are in bad shape until we get these kinds of deluges and then they all come to light. So, I've got a list of areas where we're trying to repair some storm sewers and try to get those fixed before the snow flies but the same time, it's put a delay on what we intended on doing and that was our skim paving program which we initiated. We started at the end of July. Unfortunately, our paving machine, went down and we lost about three weeks' worth of time waiting for a part to come in for that. Right when we got our part we had nothing but rain in August, so that's kind of delayed our in-house paving program which is our skim paving program we've got various streets out the township that we intended. We're still going to probably get most of it done. Think the weather's going to cooperate.

As long as we don't have any freezing weather and we should be able to get most of what we intended to get done this year finished. We worked on a couple different issues throughout the township, helping the school put the flags up. We got those up before the before the event, and I want to say that Matt's event on Saturday was a was a nice event for the township. Maybe sufficed not having a parade, but I think the people that really wanted it enjoyed that aspect. We've continued to cut grass the entire season. Normally by mid-July thru the end of August, we're done cutting grass. I mean we got a lot of grass in the township. Trustees hire four or five summertime college students that help us with this grass cutting scenario throughout the summer. Unfortunately, in the summertime students go back usually the first or second week of August, we lose them. Here we are going on the second week of September, the grass is growing just like it was in spring, so we're trying to cut as much as we can and keep up with that. So, it's been fun. But we're doing what we have to do. And this guy keeps giving us zoning yards to cut and that doesn't help.

Zoning Inspector Dan Morgan

We really appreciate your help, believe me.

Trustee Rick Clark

Any questions for Dave?

Trustee Matthew Vansuch

Dave there were a couple of areas that I know that residents asked us to look at. Did we see any structural issues that needed that we need to know about?

Road Superintendent Dave McCann

We have a washout on in the gulch on Howland Wilson that came to light that we didn't know anything about. We've got an area over on Pegotty. One of those drainage ways where the roads getting undermined and we're going to try to repair that. But we didn't have any major wash outs like we had in 2003. I will say that 2003 was a very bad year, that's when we had several 100-year storms and a 50-year storm. We had a lot of infrastructure blowout. It took us about a year to repair all that. This summer hasn't been like that, although we've had a few 2.6, 2.4 inches of rain within an hour's time, that causes a lot of stress on some of our areas but we haven't had those main wash outs like we had back in 2003. Okay, but we've had a lot of debris and stuff, we're cleaning up in the ditch lines and what not that plug up our system. But fortunately, they've haven't had any kind of major expense problems. What did we end up spending in 2003? We were up to, like, probably like \$400,000 worth of infrastructure repair that FEMA paid for.

Administrator Darlene St. George

We definitely hired an engineering firm to do a drainage study of the whole township. Pinpointed the areas of the township where we could start doing some stormwater repairs. Rick has been here as long as I have and he remembers when this room was full, overflowing with residents where they were actually getting water in their basement. The township since that time has done a great job of attacking those problems.

Road Superintendent Dave McCann

And I'll agree with that because, if we didn't have some of the stuff that we had repaired, since 2003 we probably would have had those issues again this past summer.

Administrator Darlene St. George

We have invested millions of dollars in stormwater repair projects through OPWC. Now we get maybe a handful.

Road Superintendent Dave McCann

They are localized. We got flooding streets, we have flooding areas and neighborhoods but for the most part we're not seeing those total washout and blowouts in the infrastructure.

Trustee Rick Clark

Dan, any report from zoning?

Zoning Inspector Dan Morgan

Yes, since our last meeting we've issued 23 permits that equaled out to \$435,000 in valuation that property owners are putting back into their property. We do have 114 open property maintenance cases. Year to date we've closed out 140 So we've had a total of 254 for the year. We're chipping away at it. Sometimes it's hard to get to the re-inspections, because the phone's always ringing. But we are chipping away at getting things repaired, fixed and cleaned up. And that's all I have.

Trustee Rick Clark

Anyone else care to address the board or the department heads. Now would be the time. Mr. Gump?

Bruce Gump – 1441 Spring Trace

I'm just wondering if there was any update on the Niles annexation? Is there going to be any problem? Are we just going to wait for them?

Trustee Dr. James LaPolla

I asked every month. Nothing's changed or they're not being aggressive towards us. It's an ongoing project, but again it hasn't gone backwards. We haven't stopped it. The steps forward are much smaller right now, but we are still making phone calls to see what is going on. They're still looking into it, they're doing all their allocations and their studies with Ohio Edison.

Bruce Gump

Surely, you're not telling me we're going to wait for Niles to get aggressive with us before we start pushing back on that?

Trustee Dr. James LaPolla

No, we're not waiting for them to be the quarterback.

Bruce Gump

Be proactive in this now that we know that they want to do that and they've already moved me to legal for them to do that and then it's a possibility, they couldn't do that. It would be very advantageous for us, I would think to be able to prevent that from happening by making this change.

Trustee Dr. James LaPolla

I think we've done that already by even starting a more organized effort to even look into the transfer of electricity. I think that's open their eyes enough anyway that we're basically serious about, not letting them come through Howland. So, I think we've pretty much made that point pretty clear. I think there's a reason why you don't see much from their end at this point. I think the long story short of this is that it is not dead. We're still pursuing it. We make the phone calls and keep working with them on their toes so to speak.

Bruce Gump

There's only so much we can do. It's up to them to make that happen. You know, it just seems like there's something that we can do to encourage them and help them to move that along and make that happen so that we never have to worry about Niles.

Trustee Dr. James LaPolla

Correct, we were working with a business. Ohio Edison has its rules and regulations.

Bruce Gump

So, we try to do with all sorts of regulations and people looking over their shoulder. Yeah, I get that too. So, all more reason to push that along because we know how quickly government moves stuff. Okay, so yes. Thank you.

Trustee Rick Clark

Anyone else? Going once, twice. Can I have a motion to adjourn.

A motion was made by Matthew Vansuch and seconded by Dr. James LaPolla to adjourn the regular meeting at 7:10 PM.

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

Approved by:  Dated: 10/1/21
Robert M. Costello, Fiscal Officer

Approved by:  Dated: 10/1/21
Dr. James LaPolla, Co-Chairperson-Trustee