

## MINUTES OF THE HOWLAND TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES

The Howland Township Board of Trustees held their regular meeting on October 13, 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

Dr. James LaPolla and seconded by Matthew Vansuch to excuse Trustee Rick Clark, Fiscal Officer Robert Costello and Administrator Darlene St. George for personal reasons.

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

A motion was made by Dr. James LaPolla and seconded by Matthew Vansuch to suspend the reading of September 8, 2021 meeting minutes and accept as written.

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

A motion was made by by Dr. James LaPolla and seconded by Matthew Vansuch to vote on Resolution 2021-108:

Per the recommendation of Administrator Darlene St. George, approve to remove the following part-time employees from the Township payroll effective 9-16-2021.

Justine Bartko – Part-time Farmers Market  
Sandra Mink - Part-time Post Office

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

A motion was made by Dr. James LaPolla and seconded by Matthew Vansuch to vote on Resolution 2021-109:

Per the recommendation of Administrator Darlene St. George, approve to waive \$40.14 in the 2021 Settlement Agreement and Repayment Plan between Howland Township and employee Nicholas Schreckengost.

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

A motion was made by by Dr. James LaPolla and seconded by Matthew Vansuch to vote on Resolution 2021-110:

Per the recommendation of Administrator Darlene St. George and Fiscal Officer Robert Costello, authorize to reallocate the following purchase from the General Fund to the Local Fiscal Recovery Fund 2902.

4-Ton Air Conditioning Unit            \$4,947.00

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

A motion was made by Dr. James LaPolla and seconded by Matthew Vansuch to vote on Resolution 2021-111:

WHEREAS, Howland Township, Trumbull County is a member of the Ohio Township Association Risk Management Authority (OTARMA), a political subdivision risk pool established pursuant to Ohio Revised Code hereinafter "ORC," 2744.081;

WHEREAS, in accordance with ORC 3.061, the township must adopt a policy by resolution to allow the use of an "employee dishonest and faithful performance of duty" coverage document, rather than a surety bond, to cover loss by fraudulent or dishonest actions of employees and failure of employees to faithfully perform duties; the following shall apply to the policy;

1. An officer, employee, or appointee shall be considered qualified to hold the office or employment, without acquiring a bond, on the date the oath of office is taken, certified, and filed as required by law.
2. An officer, employee, or appointee shall have the employee dishonesty and faithful performance of duty policy in effect before the individual's term of office or employment and the officer, employee or appointee shall or commence the discharge of duties until coverage is documented.
3. All officers, employees, or appointees who would otherwise be required to file a bond before commencing the discharge of duties shall be covered by and are subject to the employee dishonesty and faithful performance of duty policy instead of a surety bond requirement.
4. The coverage amount for an officer, employee, or appointee under an employee dishonesty and faithful performance of duty policy shall be equal to or greater than the maximum amount of the bond otherwise required by law.
5. Elected officials, prior to taking the oath of office and holding office, shall obtain approval of the intent to use the township's OTARMA coverage agreement and affirm that the township's coverage complies with ORC 3.061. Said approval shall be obtained by the Howland Township, Trumbull County.

WHEREAS, Howland Township, Trumbull County's "employee dishonesty and faithful performance of duty policy" through the OTARMA coverage document complies with ORC 3.061: and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that on this date October 13, 2021, the Howland Township, Trumbull County hereby authorizes the township to purchase and use "employee dishonesty and faithful performance of duty policy" through OTARMA

instead of individual surety bonds for officers, employees, and appointees who are otherwise required by law to acquire a bond before entering upon the discharge of duties.

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

A motion was made by Dr. James LaPolla and seconded by Matthew Vansuch to vote on Resolution 2021-112:

Per The ORC 3796.29, approve to prohibit medical marijuana cultivators, processors, and/or retail dispensaries within the unincorporated territory of Howland Township.

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

A motion was made by Dr. James LaPolla and seconded by Matthew Vansuch to vote on Resolution 2021-113:

Per the recommendation of Administrator Darlene St. George and Planning Director Kim Mascarella approve the following Healthy Community Store Initiative resolution;

WHEREAS, Howland Township recognizes that healthy food access is an important step in preventing obesity and many other chronic diseases in both children and adults; and

WHEREAS, the Healthy Community Store Initiative encourages a collaboration between government agencies, businesses, institutions, and non-profit organizations around the growth of a reliable and healthy local food system; and

WHEREAS, the Trumbull Neighborhood Partnership and Trumbull County Health Combined District is currently involved in the healthy community store initiative and with grant funding available that would allow improvements to be made in corner stores currently participating in Howland Township which would increase the availability and marketing of healthy foods; and

WHEREAS, the Healthy Community Store Initiative fosters a civic culture that inspires young people, adults, and elders to shop at locally owned community stores year-round to have access to healthy foods and affordable healthy foods within low-income neighborhoods that will benefit health, social engagement, and financial stability; and

WHEREAS, the Healthy Community Store Initiative supports many of the public health goals identified in the Howland Township Comprehensive Community plan.

WHEREAS, the Howland Township Trustees, Trumbull Neighborhood Partnership, and Trumbull County Combined Health District has been notified of approval of our application by the Healthy Community Store Initiative;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY HOWLAND TOWNSHIP That Howland Township does hereby support the Healthy Community Store Initiative and values the collaboration of the Trumbull Neighborhood Partnership and Trumbull County Health Combined District in bettering the public health outcomes of the community.

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

A motion was made by Dr. James LaPolla and seconded by Matthew Vansuch to vote on Resolution 2021-114:

WHEREAS, the following list of properties have been cited during the months of September/October 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>
8141 Castle Rock	Parcel 28-121275
2775 North River RD	Parcel 28-211925
3681 High Tree Ave	Parcel 28-181787
8848 Kings Graves Rd	Parcel 28-322475
6060 Mines Rd	Parcel 28-390900
332 Niles Cortland Road N	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

A motion was made by Dr. James LaPolla and seconded by Matthew Vansuch to vote on Resolution 2021-115:

Per the recommendation of Administrator Darlene St. George and Police Chief Nick Roberts, approve the Police Department's Reimbursement Grant IDEP/STEP-2022 in the amount of \$45,659.22.

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

A motion was made by Dr. James LaPolla and seconded by Matthew Vansuch to vote on Resolution 2021-116:

Per the recommendation of Administrator Darlene St. George and Police Chief Nick Roberts, approve the Police Department to apply for the Office of Criminal Justice System Body-Worn Camera Grant in the amount of \$9,700.00.

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

A motion was made by Dr. James LaPolla and seconded by Matthew Vansuch to vote on Resolution 2021-117:

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

Fund 2081 – Police Fund:

2081-210-190	Salaries	\$37,500.00
2081-210-213	Medicare	\$ 2,500.00
2081-210-323-6500	Repairs and Maintenance (Vehicles)	\$10,000.00

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



A motion was made by Dr. James LaPolla and seconded by Matthew Vansuch to vote on Resolution 2021-119:

Robert Costello, Fiscal Officer of Howland Township, certifies that Howland Township has the amount of \$106,890.00 in the General Fund 1000 and that this amount will be used to pay the local share for the EDA-2021-ARPA EAA Program.

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

A motion was made by by Dr. James LaPolla and seconded by Matthew Vansuch to vote on Resolution 2021-120:

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

- 1) Shady Lane / Old Farm Trail intercept
- 2) Allyson / North Rd. Storm Culvert
- 3)

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

A motion was made by Dr. James LaPolla and seconded by Matthew Vansuch to vote on Resolution 2021-121:

Per the recommendation of Administrator Darlene St. George and Fire Chief James Pantalone, approve the Fire Department to apply for the 2022 State Fire Marshal's MARCS Grant.

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

A motion was made by Dr. James LaPolla and seconded by Matthew Vansuch to vote on Resolution 2021-122:

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.

Rescue Air Shore Sizes A through F with corresponding extensions and ground plates

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

## **Summary of Meeting:**

### **Trustee Dr. James LaPolla**

I don't have anything myself, or here from the board. Chief anything you want to talk about tonight?

### **Fire Chief James Pantalone**

Well October's Fire Prevention Month, so I would be remiss not to point out, you start getting ready here for fall back and while we do clock changes, change batteries in your smoke detectors. The last several weeks we've been out in multiple schools, preschools and daycares doing our usual public prevention stuff so it's good to be back out in the public. Last year we were all stifled off in the station but it's great to be back out. Following all necessary precautions with getting out with, with the kids and enjoying some time the past month or two.

We've been doing our mandatory items that we have to comply with in NFPA so all of our hoses tested annually at certain pressures our ladder was just tested yesterday to NFPA standards. We've done all of our annual maintenance and just as we get this all done proof going in the wintertime so it's been it's been a busy couple of months, but everything has been doing very well.

We did have one incident with a truck that lost the drive shaft, so we've just been slowly getting it back, but it has not depleted any or response capabilities.

### **Police Chief Nick Roberts**

Trick or Treat is Saturday October 30 from five to seven, we will have additional patrols out on the streets we call trick or treat patrols. I hope the kids have a good time and everyone be safe out there. Please remember to drive slow through the neighborhoods, we'll be out there. Thank you.

### **Trustee Dr. James LaPolla**

The only thing I'm going to discuss is the we do have our annual limp branch pickup and the leaf pickup.

### **Trustee Matthew Vansuch**

Yes, they took them last night, I was hoping that they were going to start this weekend and I was pleasantly surprised and happy that they did start the 10 bags.

### **Trustee Dr. James LaPolla**

Matt, I want you to talk about some upcoming things for us.

### **Trustee Matthew Vansuch**

Yes, I know Jessica Gault is planning the Holiday Tree Lighting. It is always the Sunday after Thanksgiving and she's already making plans for that. This year we switched the company that's going to be doing the lights down there so there is going to be more lights than we've had in the past, same price. Every year people say hey I know a guy that can do this better and then they always say that and it's six weeks before the event and we just needed time to switch. So, this year



we did make a switch to the provider. I think it's going to be lit up very nicely down there. So, we're looking for that, it will be in person and she hasn't hit me up for the sponsorship yet.

**Trustee Dr. James LaPolla**

My guess is our next meeting will probably get close to having a little bit more information on sponsorships.

**Trustee Matthew Vansuch**

Yeah, who's doing that so I know that was very popular. We sent out thank you letters for the community coming together event that was 100% paid for by sponsors, and the only other comment that I would have tonight is that community Food Initiative. I will add that this is the 11th year of our comprehensive plan and put together and every two years we do an update for that. We didn't have it for September but we have it for October and now we can include that food initiative in it. As I was preparing it, I was struck by how much we do and what we do on a regular basis now that goes towards things that are in our comprehensive plan has become what we do and what we are guided by. Then also looking back to the first one that we did some of the things that we did that are now coming to fruition one that I really highlighted is the RG Steel property, the Bettors property. We put on a demolition requirement, so that if you're going to demolish a property, whether it's residential, commercial or industrial, you have to take it down to the Greenfield, or you're going to keep to the concrete slab if you're going to use it. The reason for that was, we did not want our community to be stuck with the blight of 422 in Girard and Youngstown, looking at old steel mills that were not taken down, or that were partially demolished. Ultimately it becomes the government's burden to take that down because people have just left it there, and we were not going to do that. So, Delphi Packard was there and they were making changes, and we fought with them to make them do that but also Mr. Betters who owns BDM. We did some research on him and about his business practices and knew he was a bit of a scrapper. So, if he wanted to scrap a steel mill, and he wants to take the value out of it. We were going to make him take it down to greenfield. I'm going to go out there and I'm going to say that, but for Howland's demolition permit, I don't think that property would have passed at EPA compliance. The assessment was just done. I don't think that the port authority would have taken it over. I don't think the port authority would have put all the properties together, and now you actually have a large property that is marketable that has rail access, that has road access, improving sanitary sewer and the water access. It's a large property for industrial development that as we talk about what we do with planning, you plant a seed, and years later you see the fruition of it. That property is in the condition that it's in because we made that property owner take that steel mill down to the ground. We're not left with the Riverside Hospital situation. We're not left with that blight over there, we're left with an open field. So, yes, we'll take credit for that. Because it's things like that, that ultimately improve the community and lessen the burden of governments, so now we actually have a piece of property that can be developed.

**Trustee Dr. James Lapolla**

I have been approached on that and again you're correct the requirements for demolition report prior to my time on this board. I have been approached by several people, both newspaper and members of the development board. Basically, very impressed with what the area and basically,

besides the Golden Triangle and besides the industrial area in Lordstown. That's now the new area of expansion for Trumbull County not just for Howland Township but for Trumbull County. So, you're correct Matt. You have your eyes in the future.

**Trustee Matthew Vansuch**

We enforce it. We don't we don't let it go. And that's important, and that consistency that we've had through our policies and working with the Trumbull County engineer's Mr. Pappalas.

So up on our website. I'll make the Edit actually to include the food initiative, and then we'll have it up on the website tonight, which will kick things off. That's how you judge us by what we do, and we're the only community that does that. It's our 11th year, and I intend should I still be here in three months to include in our budget for next year, some updating of the comprehensive plan. That is the direction we want to continue to be going, I don't think it needs to be scrapped but I think I'd like to have another set of eyes look at it.

**Trustee Dr. James LaPolla**

Dave, you have anything?

**Road Superintendent Dave McCann**

Yeah, we've still performing our summertime/fall operations right now. Grass hasn't stopped growing. Finished up contract township contract paving, adjustments to manholes and punch list items have been completed. So, a successful season. I think we paved 19 roads this past summer. We're still also working on some skim paving yet. As long as the weather holds out. Looks like we're going to lose it after probably this week. As long as we have a little bit of time we'll continue with some skim paving. We've had a little bit of difficulty with this year's skim paving with equipment breakdowns. We're currently borrowing the roller from the county, because the machine that we have 1963 roller source is about to die on us. We borrowed a machine from the county to try to complete this year's programs. Thanks Steve.

**Trustee Dr. James LaPolla**

Is there any funding or grants, I should say available to replace some of that equipment?

**Road Superintendent Dave McCann**

I'm going to be looking for next year's budget, we're probably talking about something, a roller is special piece of equipment usually bought by paving contractors. That's an expensive piece of equipment that probably isn't something we're probably going to want to go out and buy new if I can buy something used if I find it. If nothing else might be something to rent during our program. It's a very expensive item and if your using it for four or five weeks out of the year. It really doesn't make a whole lot of sense to be putting \$125,000-\$140,00 for a piece of equipment.

**Trustee Dr. James LaPolla**

Is there any other township that will share?

### **Road Superintendent Dave McCann**

There's not a whole lot of townships that do what we do and how we do it. Like I said, the county was the easiest place to go to find that piece of equipment to borrow. We've got the Hilda storm sewer upgrade project currently going on. It's a large project, CBG grant funding project that is going to benefit a lot of the residents over there and some of the flooding issues that we've had. You know the 25 years that I've known that it existed over there and a lot longer before that. That project will go until probably middle of next month. Some of it entails going down Crestview, it's not just the Hilda area it's down Crestview and also a little bit down Boston. Some of the people are commenting or calling in asking why some areas down, Boston and Crestview are marked out, that's part of that project.

### **Trustee Matthew Vansuch**

They're back working on it?

### **Road Superintendent Dave McCann**

They've never stopped. There have been a few issues where there have been some delays but they've never really stopped. You did mention the limb and branch pickup, which is going to be starting at the end of the month, slated for October 25 is the deadline date for the east side that will go for two weeks. Then on November 8 will be the deadline for the west side and the delineation between West side and east side is quite simply the creek. East of the creek is the east side and the west of the creek is the west side. We're going to be picking up branches up until November 19. We've had a pretty successful tire scrap tire program this year. I don't know how many we have sitting in the lot. There's probably 1200 or more sitting there. I didn't count them up but we'll have those hauled off soon. But, you know we pick up scrap tires all year round. You know we have dedicated dates where we go out and pick them up curbside but, we're finding them in the ditch side of the road all the time so we're picking them up. We certainly encourage anybody that has a tire that may want to dispose of to dispose of it at our facility. We're in the process of starting to look at winter time operations and breaking down our trucks and getting them ready for the events that we know are coming. Hopefully it's not until a couple months.

### **Trustee Dr. James LaPolla**

Alright, Kim Mascarella tell us about the sidewalk projects.

### **Planning Director Kim Mascarella**

The sidewalk projects are going pretty well. We haven't really run into any unexpected discoveries so sometimes that happens but, in the end, it will be really great, providing some kind of activity in terms of sidewalks in around the school and a commercial hub that's really important to try and get people meeting their daily needs on foot. We have a long way to go but we're chipping away at it. I did want to report, Daniel Morgan is our zoning administrator and he left me a few notes to share. I think he usually reports on the past month's zoning permit activity, but before the meeting started I pretty much did the year to date number of permits that have been issued by the township. About 230 for a valuation of 12.5 million dollars. This time last year, year to date, we issued as many permits 228 for 6.5 million dollars in valuation so we're really catching up from the year that

was last year. Pretty much no activity. So, and we are still reviewing some upcoming projects that if permitted this year we'll double that valuation yet again. Basically, he's issued demolition permit for the Super Kmart so we should be seeing that coming down very soon. We're starting our review for the Mijers, there. We've been working with them for over a year, and looking at different parts and pieces of the plan so we're excited to have them in the township and Dan Morgan, also when he started working as a Zoning Administrator he inherited probably 150 open property maintenance violation cases. He's reported that he is down to 62 open property maintenance violation cases and those are not easy. They're not easy to tackle from beginning to end.

**Trustee Matthew Vansuch**

There's always some that will be there for him.

**Planning Director Kim Mascarella**

Well there's violations and chronic violators. Things that crop up, so he worked so diligently and so hard and works with the property owner to really try to give them the time that they need, and yet be mindful of the neighborhood. So again, that's outstanding. Dan Morgan is doing a fabulous job. That's kind of the zoning end of things. I did want to announce that our last outdoor Farmers Market is this Saturday. We're running through the middle of October from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 pm. It will go indoors at Howland Scope, the first and third Saturdays from November through May. Howland Scope is in person. Last year we were all online. The market is 10:00 to 1:00, and then we'll be issuing some news ads and some press releases to talk about that, and that also feeds into the whole food access. We also accepted our market a double up program so people on food assistance can come and swipe their Ohio direction card. And we're working through a grant with the Youngstown Neighbor Development to double that for fruits and vegetables so it's an incentive program to try to get people to eat more fresh fruits and vegetables. So, it's going very well. So, I know that Howland Township is kind of noted along with the other farmers market that do accept those benefits though. We are finishing the 14 year. The farmers market has been around for a long time. You see lots of small businesses try their products out of the market. It's like a little test market. Little incubator down there, we see people graduate into the stores like a Rudy's Hot Peppers. They started at the farmers market they're now in stores. Donofrio's started the farmers market, they're now in stores. We had a maple syrup producer that is now opened her own restaurant. We see good vendors come and go, but the mainstay of the market is food and buying local. So, our community supports that wholeheartedly and so the market continues to grow and meet the needs of our local community. I thank you for supporting the farmers market.

**Trustee Dr. James LaPolla**

We all enjoy that. I think the rest of the township enjoy that. You're working at a great farmers market.

**Fire Chief James Pantalone**

I have one item before you open for public comments I do have a public recognition as well. Patiently waiting through a long meeting. If you'll remember about a month or so ago, we had a fire on Howland Wilson. And although very devastating the house, things and circumstances that led up to it in the morning was about 5 minutes to 6:00 Vicky Raptis, who's here, and I'd like you

to introduce your family here shortly as well. But she was passing by in the morning and saw something that kind of looked like sparks flying in the air, backed around and heard a noise, and was helpful in getting that family out and everybody out safely. We've got some crazy video footage of her getting up to the door, talking on the phone. She was our first caller to 911 as well, which was her on a lot of the news clips as well. I'd like to recognize her. Please introduce us to everyone you have here as well. Communities and situations of this nature can be absolutely devastating. I am a believer in fate. In this field things happen for reasons. I think that she was placed there in that time at a proper time to be an assistant for those kids. Coming out she met the homeowners literally at the front door. The video footage will just jerk at you a little bit. But tonight, I'd like to introduce you to her and say thank you very much for the community and the home owner as well as they're working through the rebuild process. This could have been very bad. We had three adults, three kids in the house. Fire was in the garage. It got a lot of headway on us before the phone call came in, it was moving through that garage very rapidly. We tend to believe that it was smoldering in there for quite some time, from the night before. So, very dangerous. I'll give my couple words of safety here, before I turn over to hear from everybody but please be mindful of what you leave plugged in for long periods of time. There's a lot of accessories out there, everybody's got iPhone accessories, Apple stuff, Android, whatever your phone accessories and computers. Please be mindful of not leaving them charged and running constantly. This situation was an item that was left on and plugged in was a battery maintainer that we believe was the situation that in and of itself is normal. But, if you leave it on too long, you could have other problems that go into that. So, I use this as an opportunity for a safety message as well. I want to say thank you to Vicki, for being there. That's a tough thing to deal with. We deal with it every day, but you got to see it up front, not a lot of people have been at that situation at that time. So, thank you very much for being there and willing to step up and help. Those first minutes can be treacherous. Thank you very much. I wanted to recognize her and her family.

### **Vicki Raptis**

It's important for me to have my family here because I have my small boys and wanted them to know if you see something, do something. You know that that was the whole thing between our conversations Chief. So anyways, this is my husband Eli and my sons, Nico and Eris Raptis and my mother in law Kelly Raptis. Like I said to the firemen on the scene I got a new appreciation for first responders that day because I felt okay in the moment and when I got home with my husband to get ready for work I just was trembling because of the adrenaline and I was exhausted the rest of the day. So, we appreciate all first responders. That was quite a scene and I appreciate that. You know I didn't want to talk to the media or come but it was important for me and for my children to see.

### **Trustee Dr. James LaPolla**

But the media came to you tonight. But again, she said a lot of very nice words. But I thank you personally for your dedication to the safety of not just to your family, but what you did for the community. In that house and those residents at home I mean, there's probably no set of words that can really encompass what people really truly feel. I want to say thank you for that and it's important in a small way, like he said. That, we're not afraid to help each other and not afraid to

make that first step and you recently have proven that wholeheartedly so I'll say thank you. Matt do you have something to say?

**Trustee Matthew Vansuch**

It's heartening in today's day and age that somebody stepped out beyond themselves and thought of people other than themselves, to be able to do that. To save six lives. It's touching. It really is that you did that and thank you.

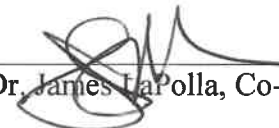
**Trustee Dr. James LaPolla**

If anybody here can beat that I'll open up questions to our community members. Hearing an issue, I want to let you know that I tried to talk slower tonight because I know your comment is I talk too fast so I hope I did a nice job of slowing down my speed of speech. Hearing no comments can I have a motion to end the meeting. Thank you all for coming and now that the meeting is over I would like to say thank you all for everything you've done for us and I hope you've enjoyed everything we've done for you. We look forward to working with you in the next four plus years.

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

Approved by:  Dated: 10/14/21  
Robert M. Costello, Fiscal Officer

Approved by:  Dated: 10/14/21  
Dr. James LaPolla, Co-Chairperson-Trustee