

MINUTES OF THE HOWLAND TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES

The Howland Township Board of Trustees held their regular meeting on March 2, 2022, at 6:00 P.M at the Howland Township Government Building, 205 Niles Cortland Rd. NE, Warren, OH 44484 and virtually via Howlandtownship.org.

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

A motion was made by Dr. James LaPolla and seconded by Matthew Vansuch to suspend the reading of February 16, 2022 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. (attached payment listing)

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 2022-033:

Approve that the Board of Trustees adjourn into Executive Session at 6:03 PM to consider the appointment of a public official.

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 resume regular scheduled meeting at 6:10 PM

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 2022-034:

With regrets, accept the resignation of Fiscal Officer Robert Costello effective April 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 2022-035:

Authorize to appoint Thomas Krispinsky to fill the remainder of current Fiscal Officer Robert Costello's term, starting April 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 2022-036:

Per the recommendation of Administrator Darlene St. George and Public Works Director, after twenty-one years of employment, accept the retirement of Administrative Assistant Linda Vannelli effective May 1, 2022. Linda's last day worked will be April 30, 2022.

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

A motion was made by Dr. James LaPolla and seconded by Rick Clark to vote on Resolution 2022-037:

Per the recommendation of Administrator Darlene St. George, authorize an agreement for legal services with the office of the Trumbull County Prosecuting Attorney and Howland Township for the period January 1, 2022 through December 31, 2022. (full agreement attached)

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

A motion was made by Matthew Vansuch and seconded by Dr. James LaPolla to vote on Resolution 2022-038:

Per the recommendation of Administrator Darlene St. George, authorize the Township to apply to the Geauga Trumbull Solid Waste Management District's 2022 Drop-off Improvement Grant (DIG) program. If awarded, the \$10,000.00 in funding will improve the Bolindale drop-off recycling site with fencing, signage, and a security camera. The Township will be responsible for a 10% match of the project.

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 2022-039:

Per the recommendation of Administrator Darlene St. George, approve to enter into the 2022 Mosquito Control Grant Agreement with the Trumbull County Combined Health District. The grant will reimburse the Township up to \$2,000.00 for mosquito spraying within the Township.

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

A motion was made by Matthew Vansuch and seconded by Dr. James LaPolla to vote on Resolution 2022-040:

Per the recommendation of Administrator Darlene St. George, approve to contract Alexander Pest Control for the 2022 Mosquito Spraying Program. The following dates are scheduled.

May 9 th and 10 th	June 13 th and 14 th	July 11 th and 12 th
August 8 th and 9 th	September 12 th and 13 th	

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 2022-041:

Per the recommendation of Administrator Darlene St. George and Fiscal Officer Robert Costello, approve ARPA money out of Fund 2902-Local Fiscal Recovery Fund for the following project.

1) Purchase of Police Body Cameras	\$9,428.00
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Attorney Rodgers from Baker/Deublkar Attorneys of Law have opined that the purchase of Body Cameras is an appropriate expenditure of ARPA funds. (full resolution attached)

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

A motion was made by Matthew Vansuch and seconded by Dr. James LaPolla to vote on Resolution 2022-042:

Per the recommendation of Administrator Darlene St. George and Fiscal Officer Robert Costello, approve ARPA money out of Fund 2902-Local Fiscal Recovery Fund for the following project.

1) Purchase of New Ambulance	\$235,000.00 an amount not to exceed \$240,000.00
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Attorney Rodgers from Baker/Deublkar Attorneys of Law have opined that the purchase of an ambulance is an appropriate expenditure of ARPA funds. (full resolution 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 2022-043:

The Howland Township Trustees approve the sale of the following Zoning vehicle on auction site GovDeals. The car is unneeded, obsolete or unfit personal property.

2007 Chevrolet Impala VIN# 2G1WB58K679370319

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 2022-044: *******SEE BELOW**

Per the recommendation of Administrator Darlene St. George and Public Works Director David McCann, approve to purchase a 2022 New Power Box 1648 Paver from King Machinery, Statesville, NC in the amount of \$79,500.00.

Other Quotes Received:

Ohio CAT: \$104,442.17
Southeastern Equipment: \$ 96,000.00

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

REPORTS FROM THE DEPARTMENT HEADS:

Trustee Rick Clark

Darlene, I think you have an agenda item for us.

*******Administrator Darlene St. George**

We do have an additional agenda item that came in late this afternoon, and I'm going to call on David McCann to bring you up to speed.

Road Superintendent Dave McCann

Yes. At this time, I'd like to request the purchase of PowerBox paver for the Public Works Department. It was something that was put on the budget request earlier this last month. It is a direct replacement of the 1980s pocket paver that we have. It's been breaking down quite frequently. It's the machine that we use to do the skim paving program and also the machine that we used to do a lot of patch repair throughout the township. I've been diligently trying to get price quotes from different manufacturers and different dealers ever since beginning of the year and actually since last fall. I recently got the last price quote this afternoon. Unfortunately, I couldn't get it in quick enough to be put on this agenda but the piece of equipment is uniquely similar to the machine that we do have. Unfortunately, there isn't a whole lot of manufacturers out there that make this type of equipment. So, I do have a price quote that's it's similar to it, but it's a lot. It's a different gene. But it the price of it is substantially more than that. So, when I give you the prices, you'll know that that'll be the reason why it's substantially different in price. This machine is it's distributed from a dealership in North Carolina. I spoke with the dealer several times in the last

several weeks and they've given me a price quote. It is not under State Co Op but it is under a municipal discount source well, but I would like to be able to purchase this machine specifically because the price is very good at this moment. I'm getting indications that a lot of the equipment that we want to purchase for this year like the paver and the heat box, I'm getting statements from the dealers that everything's going up by 20 - 30%. This piece of equipment that I'm asking for has not gone up and any kind of increase in price so far 2022. So, I would like to purchase or at least get into a deal where we can at least get this contract so we don't get stuck with a huge price increase here in the next several months.

Trustee Matthew Vansuch

You haven't given us the price of the machine.

Road Superintendent Dave McCann

The machine is a power box. It's distributed by King Machinery. The price of it is \$79,500 which at that price, if you'll go back and look at my previous budget request, I was asking for a \$60,000 purchase at that time. Last year I was thinking that's what it was going to be. But this is a little bit more, I have it in my budget. I'm not worried about making this purchase. I expect to put our old machine on auction, expecting \$10,000 back. So, that's from King Machinery. The other two price quotes that I got were from Southeastern which is a Malden type paver. The price on it was \$96,000. I got another price quote from a very similar piece of machinery from Ohio Cat which is also under state Co Op pricing. That price was 104,422. So, as you can see the price that I'm asking for is substantially less than the other two that I that I've mentioned. So that's my request.

Trustee Dr. James LaPolla

One quick question that pertains to that. As you mentioned the other ones are going to go up significantly. Do we have to move on this soon?

Road Superintendent Dave McCann

I expect them to be moving up. You know the prices of everything that's going up this year substantially. I am moving on those but I do not have the price quotes. I don't have anything established yet but I'm working diligently to have three quotes.

Trustee Rick Clark

Any further questions for David?

Trustee Matthew Vansuch

David, do we look at this through the state Co Op? State co-op is not something that is contracted through the dealers in the state of Ohio.

Road Superintendent Dave McCann

Again, it's under a municipal discount through Source Well. I think I mentioned that I haven't agreed to the price quote right there. There. Is a 10% discount for municipal purchase.

Administrator Darlene St. George

Did you get a State Co-Op price?

Road Superintendent Dave McCann

I got a State Co-Op price thru Cat, which is very similar. It's a very similar piece of equipment.

Trustee Matthew Vansuch

Alright, so the state co-op pricing is \$104,000 and you were able to get it for 80,700?

Road Superintendent Dave McCann

Actually \$79,500. Five.

Trustee Matthew Vansuch

I'll make the motion.

Trustee Dr. James LaPolla

I'll second it.

Trustee Rick Clark

David, I just want to say we very much appreciate you're doing a due diligence on purchasing this piece of equipment.

Fiscal Officer Robert Costello

Roll Call:

Matthew Vansuch – yes, Dr. James LaPolla – yes, Rick Clark -yes

Trustee Rick Clark

Matt, anything you want to talk about?

Trustee Matthew Vansuch

So, a couple of things. I know that people are excited the weather is back above 50 and we'll have at least one more snow event. But we're happy to announce that we are doing Independence Day activities. We are doing them on Independence Day. Rick, I think you're going to do a run again, like you've done in the past. So, then we'll have a parade and then we will have a food truck event. Food trucks are very popular and we'll have some music. The WC for the Children's Choir has already reached out and asked if we were doing that. They always like to perform and I know Doc Walton is always up to performing. So, we'll have some music and then we'll have food trucks. We will not have any of the big tented festivities and activities. We found that the attendance at those we never get the bang for the buck that it costs us to do that. People we just want to get home that day. But they will stay and listen to some music and enjoy food trucks and vendors. So, it's not just food trucks. It's food vendors as well. We have a special events coordinator. More information will be out in the next couple of days on the website and people can start communicating with him about that. And then we have the food truck Fridays are coming back. First one being June 3, then throughout the summer. And that those I know we're always very popular events. Jim you've got some other events?

Trustee Dr. James LaPolla

June's, going to be a busy month here and how like Matt was saying starting over summertime activities. June 4 is a Saturday will be our annual shred it day along with fill the cruiser day. I'll let the chief talk about the cruiser day but it's really self-explanatory. It'll be from 10 to 1pm at the Howland Scope Center. Little bit of a tag on it, residents may bring up to five large garbage bags of paper to be shredded, please no office or commercial shredding. In conjunction the Howland Police Department will be holding to fill the cruiser day they will be collecting nonperishable food items for the Bolindale food pantry. One week after will be the Howland community garage sale weekend where permit fees are waived for all garage sales June 9th, 10th and 11th. You may sign up by calling our office at 330-856-2340 and we will post your address on our website and have a list of garage sale addresses available at the township administration building for shoppers. We will place an article in the paper announcing the garage sale dates. So those are two other social activities we have planned.

Trustee Matthew Vansuch

Do you know when the outdoor farmers market starts?

Administrator Darlene St. George

The first food truck Friday is to kick off the summer Howland Farmers Market which will be on start on June the 4th so that will be our first outdoor market as well. So, June is going to be a very busy month for Howland Township. We're striving hard to sort of pick up and get back into the norm. I know that everyone was concerned about that and missed it so we so we're really pleased to be able to announce that we're doing our best to try to get everything back open again.

In addition to that, we also have people who will be able to sign up for the community gardens as well that are down at the Sloas Farm. You just call the township if you want to have a garden or you're not a current gardener and you'd like to reserve space; just call the township and we'll be sure to sign you up for a community garden and they're free to Howland residents.

Trustee Dr. James LaPolla

I'll say that the free garage sale day is very successful. It's not quite the seven miles down Route seven that Hartford has but it's pretty close. Yeah. It is well participated and well received.

Administrator Darlene St. George

Rick, are you going to talk about the recycling center?

Trustee Rick Clark

Since you mentioned the Bolindale Dale Food Pantry I want to congratulate Chuck Mackey and his wife for being selected as community stars for all their work and all these years at the Bolindale food pantry.

Those of you that use the recycling center North River Road may know that it's closed at the present time, we've had some issues down there. Mostly safety issues. I think the fire chief can maybe address those safety issues down at the recycling center on North River Road. It was sort of was taking a direction that was never intended to take and not anything that we wanted it to be. It is going to reopen, I think April 22. That will be reopened to the public and hopefully back to its original intention that was for 50 years. So, chief do you want to talk about the safety issues down there?

Fire Chief James Pantalone

Sure. I looked at the structure of it. Kind of the general operation of it. There are certainly some concerns as far as product stacked very high. So, my concerns are not only for those that are working there, but certainly those that are dropping materials off that they can get in and out of this so we'll probably be working through accessibility issues. Making sure that all the machinery that is outside is the proper electrical code and those types of things that are the judge of deserving looks for the electrician to make sure that everything was working properly. There are some general organizational items that I think from general public safety just need to be addressed. So, I spoke with Mrs. St. George the other day and I would prefer for our provider was a document of some items that should be addressed by the township for our concern of liability on both sides of things. So, we'll stay diligent with it.

Trustee Rick Clark

Yeah, that's township property and we don't charge the recycling people anything to use it. It's our building and everything but there is some liability that goes along with that and we have to make sure it's safe.

Administrator Darlene St. George

You know, it's been a different winter this year. So, there's been some difficulty with the buyers getting in to take the product out. So, it just kept stacking up so that was the main reason for the closure. To close it down so it'll give the operators of the center time to contact the buyers and get the supplies moved out and cleaned up a little bit. It is supposed to open up on Earth Day.

Trustee Rick Clark

Chief Pantalone do you have a report?

Fire Chief James Pantalone

Well, EMS services is strong, fire is strong. We're busy still responding to all types of medical emergencies as weather kicks up and gets a little nicer. Please be careful out there. You know, drive carefully drive safely and we are getting a little bit of law enforcement as well. The other item actually, Chief Sapp and I just returned from Columbus as we were down there for a conference where we got to meet with our State Reps and Senators talked about legislation not only in the fire service, but law enforcement as well as what is being done. There's some really great legislation going on for our support in law enforcement and first responders and PTSD issues. Over the years, we've had a tendency to kind of push them to the sides. We're finding that we're experiencing high suicide rates, and really some statistics that are concerning to us in the frontline or first responder arena and so there's some good legislation out there and hopefully some funding this year. That's going to be released by the Department of Public Safety in upwards of \$75 million across the state of Ohio to hopefully give us some support with some new programs. We have a great Cap and EAP program here in the township, and hopefully we can come up with some other programs that may be comparable and have funding source so it was always a good time. We do that every year. So, thank you for the support.

Trustee Rick Clark

Do we have any questions for the chief? Chief Roberts.

Police Chief Nick Roberts

Yes, thanks. I didn't get a chance to recognize our officers and our detectives with the January 31 shooting that we had on Elm Road. We were able to identify and take into custody a suspect within three to four days and just hats off to them for the awesome work they do for the township. Also, not only that shooting this past weekend, we had several car break ins. Our officers and our detectives were able to identify the subject responsible for that, and we currently have warrants for his arrest. So, it's kind of we have a shooting one weekend and car break ins another weekend so it doesn't matter what type of crime it is we give them all the same attention our residents deserve.

Trustee Rick Clark

Any questions for the Chief? I'm glad you said that chief. He gave me a little Segway here. I wasn't in attendance at the last meeting. I want to clear that I have not talked to my two colleagues about this, but nobody likes paying more taxes. None of us like putting a levy on for our residents. If they approve it they are going to have to pay more taxes. But I know looking at your budget, and how your revenue streams have been cut over the years. If we don't go on the ballot in November I don't know how you can continue to provide the same level of safety to the community that you do now. So, I'm just going out there and saying in my opinion, and like I said, I have not discussed this with my two colleagues yet that we're definitely going to have to look at going on a ballot November for the police department.

David, any report?

Road Superintendent Dave McCann

Well, it's only been several weeks since the last snow and fortunately, we haven't had any major snow events like we had in the early part of February and last part of January. So fortunately, our guys have got a reprieve because of that. I also think we're like 1,800 and last time we use about another 200. So, we're about 2,000 tons of salt for the year. Which our normal usage being between 2,500 and 2,700 tons, so we're still under normal usage, which hopefully things are going to change and we'll stay under that. Now at least we don't have to put it out there and makes it cost savings for not so much for this year, but for next year. So personally, I probably just jinxed myself. But we are trying to catch up on the number of potholes. There's a lot. With the weather the way it's been. With the freeze thaw's that we've had, there's a lot of potholes out there. We are diligently trying to take care of those as they come in. We had in excess of I think probably about 60, closer to 70 mailboxes that we had to repair or replace due to the previous snow events and we've completed that task. It's part of the program part of snow removal an ice control. Outside of that we are still actually believe it or not, we're still picking up some Christmas trees. It's where we weren't able to pick up what was left out there during the major snow events and now the snow has melted off. We're still picking those up. So, some people called in recently asked if we were going to still pick them up and we will be doing that. So outside of that I want to thank the trustees for approving the purchase of firebox paver that we're definitely in need of. The one that we have is very tired and it's breaking down on us and I know how you like the skim paving program Rick and I want to try to keep it going.

Trustee Matthew Vansuch

Dave, I want to thank you. I know. Residents always contacted me about a number of issues and many times we're not able to help them because it's not a township right off way. You've worked through the last couple of weeks with me on two issues. One where there's not an easement and then one where there might be something that we're going to be able to do certainly for the for the resident that's specifically directed specifically to drainage. You know, there's places where we could do things and places where we can't. That's just the constraints that we have so I appreciate that. Also, our residents understanding that in the middle of winter is not the time that we're going out and dig drainage ditches.

Road Superintendent Dave McCann

So, I do appreciate that and to that effect. We have been doing a substantial amount of flooding and drainage control over the last two weeks because of circumstances dealt with that.

Trustee Rick Clark

Very good. Anything else? Anything else from David? No? Okay, Kim's not with us tonight. Dan any report?

Zoning Director Dan Morgan

Yes, thank you. Since our last meeting, we have issued four permits for a valuation of \$289,560. One of those permits was a new single- family home. We are in the period right now where we're starting to experience nicer weather. So, we're starting to get complaints from neighbors about other neighbors. We're starting to process those. One of the biggest items I'm trying to relate to all the residents is one check on your property. See if you need to clean up your property. Whether you physically live there or it's a rental property, please check on it now that now that the weather has gotten somewhat nicer in the snow is thought and the other is check on your neighbor trying to communicate with them. Let him know there's a problem. If you can't do that, please feel free to call us or you don't get a resolve. But those calls are starting to pick up and we're just going to start to process those and I would like to thank David's crew. The budget only accounts for about

\$7,000 worth of property cleanup. When we have an abandoned property David's crew has been able to go to some of the properties that don't have in the budget to clean up and Public Works has been able to provide for the cleanup of that property. And then in turn we turn that in at the end of the year as a lien on the property owner's property taxes. So, definitely kudos to David. And that's all I have.

Trustee Rick Clark

Any questions for Dan?

Trustee Matthew Vansuch

A question that I saw floating around was Mission Barbecue. There's going to be a location. Do we know where that's going to be?

Zoning Inspector Dan Morgan

Approximately six months ago, I was contacted by the company and he was going to go where Rise Pies is and I'm not sure that is the case at the moment.

Trustee Rick Clark

Bob any correspondence?

Fiscal Officer Robert Costello

Rick being this is my last meeting I'm just going to fade away quietly.

Trustee Rick Clark

Any comments from the public questions or comments for any of us? You do have to state your name and address if you do have a comment for any of us? The floor is open.

I'm seeing shaking heads. I'll move to return. I'm sorry, is there anybody online?

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

William Robinson – 1180 Howland Springs

Yes. Good evening everyone. We've heard a rumor up here on Howland Springs Boulevard and road that there's going to be a light going in at the bottom of the hill down by the dentist's office. Can you shed any light on the possibility of that?

Trustee Rick Clark

You mean at Howland Springs and 46? I believe that is in the long-range plan that there will be a traffic light there. I just can't tell you when.

Trustee Matthew Vansuch

In the comments ODOT has put that in writing. Rick in response to the public comments about the DDI was one of the comments was a concern that many of us share about Howland Springs and their response to that was we are going to be putting in a traffic light there. So, we do have that in writing from ODOT. They're not saying when but they have put that in writing, which all of those comments are reviewed extensively by the government bureaucracy and would not be in there if they did not intend to do that.

Trustee Rick Clark

Anything else?

Ed Palumbo -201 Sanctuary

So, the Ambulance is it fully loaded or is it just a shell?

Fire Chief James Pantalone

It's fully equipped as far as shell wise, it does have a cart and the load system but it does not include an EKG monitor. That does not include the loose items that go in there and actually we already have those items because this is going to be kind of a replacement. So, we won't be looking at 1,000s of dollars on top of that. Just to expand a little bit more with all this COVID stuff that's going on there's been some technology and stuff changed with the standards. So, we see a little higher price with that such UV light has become the standard for that. We currently manually UV light all of our trucks after possible exposures. This will come with UV light integrated into it. This will also come with a closed door between the cab and the box area. As a new item you could purchase that stock or without. It is now coming standard. So that we have that separation during COVID we utilized visqueen and duct tape. We have always preferred communication between the driver and the back. But we have to close it up so some new standards have come up. Unfortunately, yes, it's getting expensive. Yes. I don't know if you were here I spoke about nitrile gloves, which is our preferred gloves. They have increased by 300%. The Price has come down. We're starting to see a benefit. And kudos our guys. They came in under budget for our EMS supplies for the year even with a 300% markup for gloves. We utilized a lot of PPE from EMA agencies and from the state. But everything has just skyrocketed.

Trustee Matthew Vansuch

The one going out of service is one that I helped signed the check for and that's 85% increase in 12 years. So, with taking out the lift to do apples to apples. I don't see any more Hands Rick.

Trustee Rick Clark

I entertain a motion to adjourn.

Trustee Dr. James LaPolla

I'll second.

Trustee Matthew Vansuch

So, moved.

Trustee Rick Clark

Bob, call the roll please, your last your last roll call.

A motion was made by Rick Clark and seconded by MattDr. James LaPolla to adjourn the meeting at 7:07 P.M.

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

Approved by:  Dated: 3/3/22
Robert M. Costello, Fiscal Officer

Approved by:  Dated: 3/3/22
Dr. James LaPolla, Vice Chair