

**HOWARD TOWNSHIP
REGULAR MEETING
January 21, 2020 7:00 p.m.**

Call to Order/Pledge/Roll Call:

Bill Kasprzak called the regular meeting of the Howard Township Board of Trustees to order at 7:00 p.m. The meeting was held at Howard Township Business Office. Pledge to the flag was given. Board members Bill Kasprzak, Sheri Wozniak, Linda Rudlaff, Hank Johnson, Mike Gordon, and Mike Daly answered roll call. Phil Hurlbutt was absent. Tom Hable and Bruno Eidietis from the Barron lake Association, Ron and Thomas Smith from Smith Trucking, Michelle Asmus, Reese Han, Lucas Bentley and Vaughn Asmus from Howard School, Commissioner Mike Grice, Bob Thomas from the road commission, and Steve Stanage from Midwest Cooperative were also present.

Approval of Agenda:

The floor was open to the residents concerning the Agenda. No comments were made. A motion was made by Rudlaff, supported by Gordon to approve the Agenda, carried.

Minutes:

A motion was made by Daly, supported by Johnson to approve the December 17, 2019 regular meeting minutes, carried.

Financial Report:

Treasurer Rudlaff read the December 2019 financial report into the record. A motion was made by Wozniak, supported by Gordon to accept the December 2019 monthly financial report as presented with a beginning balance of \$320,686.67 and an ending balance of \$267,364.05, carried.

Trustee Phil Hurlbutt arrive at 7:04 p.m.

Approval of Bills

A motion was made by Johnson, supported by Daly to approve the monthly bills for payment, carried.

Departmental Reports

Commissioner Grice informed the board that 48 local artists had their work on display in Cass. Also, he reported that Dr. T.K. Lawless Park is now the 2nd "Dark Sky Park" in the State of Michigan, 66th in the Country and that there only just over 100 in the world. Robert Parrish worked two years on the application to get the park established as a Dark Sky. There will be a celebration April 24-26 at Lawless Park. Bob Thomas introduced himself and summarized some of the changes being made at the road commission. They have reinstated the roadside cleanup program through collective financial cooperation from the townships, County Commissioners and the County Road Commission. Chief Chris Corzine reported 6 fires and 26 medical calls for December 2019. Chief Corzine also stated that the department had been awarded a \$2,000.00 matching grant and he was currently working on three other grant applications. Another Medical First Responder (MFR) class is starting in March. The flag pole is getting repaired later this week. The fire department has recognized several firefighters for their life saving efforts. Lastly, Chief Corzine thanked Kenneth Smith Trucking for the unwavering support over the years. Smith Trucking has donated product, time and money. They have donated sand, gravel, their building for fire apparatus storage, a truck with driver to pick up trees for our annual Christmas Tree Sale and so on. We can't thank them enough for their support; we would like to present them with this Certificate of Appreciation and this retired helmet with the firefighters' signatures. Sheriff Behnke reported that in 2019 Howard Township had the most traffic stops. The sheriff added that Howard Township does have more traffic than other areas in the County. Some other interesting tidbits Mr. Behnke shared; 80% of county residents leave the county to go to work, the busiest days for traffic accidents are Monday and Friday, and that only 38% of the County Deputies live in the county. The sheriff also announced a charity basketball game between the Allstars and the Detroit Lions is scheduled for April 17 in the Cassopolis High School gymnasium. Proceeds will benefit local programs. Lastly, the sheriff mentioned there would be telescopes available for Star Gazing at the Lawless Park Celebration April 24-26. Supervisor Kasprzak reported an excellent audit for SMCAS this year; the best of the last five. He also reported one of the backup ambulances was in an accident that was called in on a day when there was a 14 our standoff that required an ambulance on standby at the standoff. Trustee Gordon discussed the high leaf removal bill with the Park Board and Park Supervisor Mather said it was worth the money; there are a lot of leaves. Mr. Gordon also stated the board is currently working on contracts with travel baseball and local baseball leagues. Lastly, he reminded everyone that the parks are closed right now. A motion was made by Johnson, supported by Daly to approve the monthly reports, carried.

Information

Chief Corzine explained that three fire fighters were recognized for saving lives in 2019. The incidents included a choking victim and a resident that overdosed twice. Our First Responders are credited with saving their lives. Mr. Corzine mentioned that Narcan had already been used to save a life in 2020. He wanted to thank all the fire fighters and first responders for their dedication to the township; it not easy answer calls day and night 365 days a year. The board, along with the public in attendance, also shared their appreciation for all they do. Treasurer Rudlaff presented Howard School Principal Asmus and students Reese Han, Lucas Bentley and Vaughn Asmus with donations from the office Christmas Tree; hats, gloves, socks and \$210.00.

Old Business

None

New Business

A motion was made by Gordon, supported by Johnson to approve Street Light Contracts with Indiana Michigan Power Company, carried. A motion was made by Daly, supported by Wozniak to approve Ordinance 223, the Franchise granted to SEMCO Energy Company Ordinance, carried. A motion was made by Johnson, supported by Gordon to approve the METRO Act Right of Way Extension for Century Link, formally known as Level 3 Communications, carried. A motion was made by Wozniak, supported by Gordon to approve Resolution 2020-001, the Poverty Exemption Guidelines 2020 Resolution, carried. A motion was made by Rudlaff, supported by Hurlbutt to set two special meetings for 2020-2021 budget workshops on February 1, 2020 at 9:00 am and February 27, 2020 at 6:00 pm, carried.

Correspondence

None

Other Business from the Board

Trustee Gordon informed Bob Thomas that he had received some complaints regarding the treatment of icy roads. Mr. Thomas explained that some roads had been missed on a Saturday and crews were called in to treat those roads on Sunday. Mr. Thomas added the workers are allowed to work a certain number of hours a day by law. The road commission does its best to structure the hours to make the roads safer during heavier traffic times.

Public Comment

None

Adjournment:

A motion was made by Rudlaff, supported by Gordon to adjourn at 7:44 pm, carried.

Sheri Wozniak
Howard Township Clerk