

**HOWARD TOWNSHIP  
SPECIAL MEETING  
June 20, 2017      6:30 p.m.**

**Call to Order/Pledge/Roll Call**

Craig Bradfield called the special meeting of the Howard Township Board of Trustees to order at 6:35 p.m. The meeting was held at Hope Community Church, 2390 Lake Street, Niles. Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Board members Craig Bradfield, Sheri Wozniak, Linda Rudlaff, Bill Kasprzak, Mike Daly, Mike Gordon and Hank Johnson answered roll call. Also, 198 people signed in for the public hearing, Deputy Pompey counted 267 people.

**Public Hearing**

Supervisor Bradfield opened the Public Hearing at 6:37 pm. After reading the hearing rules, Mr. Bradfield explained this hearing was for a proposed special assessment of \$45.00 per year for five years for all real parcels to build a new fire station. Mr. Bradfield then read the names and addresses of residents who sent in correspondence in support of the special assessment; Mary and Karen Lowe of 1326 Breezy Beach. Reasons given for support were the fire station is old and in bad shape, support the firefighters in their jobs and keep homeowners insurance lower. Mr. Bradfield then read names and addresses of residents who sent correspondence opposing the special assessment; Jerry & Angie Wagley of 2282 White Street, Arthur & Lois Bowman of 28234 M60, Raymond Masterson of 1273 Roase Drive, Clifford and Mary Poehlman of 28003 M 60, West Kathy Lee Malone of 1237 Rose Drive, Veronica Rosetto of 2220 Yankee Street, James Skinner of 2220 Yankee Street, Kenneth Hall of 2569 Williams, Laurence Burns Trust - Diana Wroblewski of 1250 Anderson, Robery & Nancy Lord of 1208 Elder Court, James & Anita Novak of 993 Ruth Ln, Tim Enders of 2290 Yankee Street, Ester Crawford of 1736 Dodd, Pat Kujawa of 1730 Dodd, Denise Beckman of 2259 Catalina and Patrick & Evelyn Feeny of 3144 E Detroit Road. Reasons given for opposing assessment is no new taxes, should be voted by the people, fixed incomes, taxes keep rising, haven't maintained current buildings and owning multiple parcels. Supervisor Bradfield opened the floor for people supporting the assessment. Mr. Fred Cribbs of 1130 Greenfield stated the firefighters need this to be able to do the jobs they do. Mr. Mike Seward of 2584 Mary stated the current station isn't big enough and needs too many repairs. Ashley Wentz of 1419 Barron lake Road stated the township is fortunate to have firefighters and first responders and there is not enough money for the township to continue all these services and others, such as roads. Tamela Phillips of 1935 stated having an active fire department keeps homeowners insurance down for residents, Bonnie Velthouse of 2434 Lake Street asked if it could be guaranteed to not increase later, Pete Bennett of 2269 Thunderbird asked if people could get the .6 calculated for their property, Dave Mattiford of 1104 Carberry stated this is the closest the township has been to getting a desperately needed new station, Paul Rogge of 2880 Yankee Street asked why the current building was allowed to dilapidate so bad, Fran Curtis of 2990 Yankee Street asked if it would be in a different location for homeowners insurance could change for people, Pat Kelley of 1137 Shady Shores confirmed it would be \$45.00 for five years, Jack Frost of 107 Marshlyn stated the department needs money to be better equipped, Mary Chapman of 1213 Thomson voiced concerns about property values, Morgan Frend of 2615 Korn Street stated we support fire department, John LaMore Jr. of 1117 Shady Shores stated 7772,00 was too high and other options should be investigated, Keith Stetler of 1155 Shady Shores stated township population is shrinking and the current building was neglected, Larry Eckler of 1879 Barron lake Road believes there is wasteful spending and the building does not need replacing, Bill Wozniak of 2544 Holly believes building can be saved and the millage would continue after five years, Michael Holt of 2747 Mannix believes contracting fire service should be considered, Diane Wroblewski of 1250 Anderson asked about grants, Greg Poehlman of Poehlman Farms stated they own 31 properties and it is too costly, Levi Chapman of 1213 Thomson stated he would help repair the current department and the township should get volunteers and Marcia Pedzinski of 2385 Yankee Street stated more information needs to be presented. Prior to closing the public hearing, Bradfield asked the residents opposing the \$45.00 per year for five years for a new fire station to please stand; about ¾ of the room stood. And, Mr. Bradfield asked anyone supporting the millage to please stand; ¼ of the people stood is support. Supervisor Bradfield closed the public hearing at 7:10 pm.

**Adjournment**

A motion was made by Rudlaff, supported by Johnson to adjourn at 7:10 pm

Sheri D. Wozniak  
Howard Township Clerk