

**HOWARD TOWNSHIP
SPECIAL MEETING
July 18, 2017 6:00 p.m.**

Call to Order/Pledge/Roll Call

Craig Bradfield called the special meeting of the Howard Township Board of Trustees to order at 6:00 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, 100 people signed in for the public hearing, Park Board Member Denise Kasprzak counted 118 people.

Public Hearing

Supervisor Bradfield opened the Public Hearing at 6:02 pm. After reading the hearing rules, Mr. Bradfield explained this hearing is for objections to being placed on the Special Assessment Tax Roll for the Construction of a new fire station with a project costs of \$770,000.00 and a result of an assessment of \$30.00 on every real property winter tax bill (multiple properties will result in multiple assessments) for five (5) years under Public Act 33 of 1951, as amended. Mr. Bradfield then read the names of residents who sent in correspondence opposing the special assessment; Clifford and Mary Poehlman of 28003 M 60, Patrick & Evelyn Feeny of 3144 E Detroit Road, Arthur & Lois Bowman of 28234 M60, Greg Hodgson Sr., holding power of attorney for Amanda Cunningham, Vanessa Norris and Gregory Hodgson Jr. of 1701 Thomson and 2578 White Street, and David Reits of 2659 Terminal. No correspondence in favor was received. Supervisor Bradfield opened the floor to the public. Mike Seward of 2584 Mary supports the assessment to better equip the firefighters. Robert Brown Jr. of 3011 Yankee opposes the assessment and feels the board should not put an extra tax burden on the people. Diane Wroblewski of 1250 Anderson stated she opposed that it didn't go to a vote, not the station itself. Bill Wozniak of 2544 Holly strongly suggested preventative maintenance for the new station. Lawrence Stoops of 2725 Horton Court supports better equipment and housing. Deb Floor of 2606 Miars supports the station and the means for, such as loans, to do so. Jack Laymon Jr. of 2657 Harrison suggested adding on to the existing station. Tom Cavanaugh of 2511 Heath stated the project was too expensive and the board may be putting the cart before the horse. Larry Eckler of 1879 Barron Lake Road asked about insurance costs and interest costs, and reminded the Board that they are spending other people's money. Robert Labre of 2576 Huntly confirmed no more cost to the people and asked Board to give final cost. James Skinner of 2220 Yankee told the board to listen to the resident, he is feeling forced into this. This is a stepping stone into bigger equipment purchases. Summer Hathaway of 2453 Dick Street stated the Township should look more into repairing the building or building only what the township needs to serve the community; does bigger bays mean buying bigger trucks and is the demolition included in the projected costs. Lucy Eckler of 1879 Barron Lake Road asked if demolition is included, are township offices included, why station is in such disrepair, and stated concerns over current high construction costs. She suggested waiting to build. Morgan Friend of 2615 Korn Street stated the existing trucks barely fit in the current station, let alone any future purchases on equipment. She also stated demo costs are included in the current projected costs and bids have been requested. Shaun Norris of 1211 Thomson asked why people are arguing over \$30 a year for five years, most people waste that. Dave Mattiford of 1104 Carberry stated fire service won't change whether the assessment is approved or not. He has been with department 19 years and has never seen major building maintenance, but the past is the past, lets get this going, it needs to be done. Marjorie Pinard of 2316 Yankee believes most people support the department, but do not waste \$30, simply do not have extra money. Leon Cuthbert of 1253 Anderson stated the problem is no maintenance for 19 years. Mary Nigro of 1054 Almaugus asked about building maintenance annual budgets. Supervisor Bradfield closed the public hearing at 6:40 pm.

Adjournment

A motion was made by Daly, supported by Gordon to adjourn at 6:40 pm

Sheri D. Wozniak
Howard Township Clerk