

**HOWARD TOWNSHIP
REGULAR MEETING
November 19, 2024, 7:00 p.m.**

Call to Order/Pledge/Roll Call:

Supervisor 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, Mike Gordon, Bill Kasprzak, Hank Johnson, Phil Hurlbutt, Mike Daly, Gary Conover and Sheri Wozniak were present.

Approval of Agenda:

A motion was made by Conover, supported by Daly to approve the agenda, carried.

Minutes:

A motion was made by Johnson, supported by Hurlbutt to approve October 15, 2024, regular meeting minutes, carried.

Financial Report:

Treasurer Gordon read the November 2024 financial report into the record. A motion was made by Johnson, supported by Kasprzak to accept the November 2024 monthly financial report as presented with a beginning balance of \$1,682,055.03 and an ending balance of \$ 1,629,387.57 carried.

Approval of Bills

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

Departmental Reports

Commissioner Jeremiah Jones explained the State of Michigan is reviewing sites possibly contaminated with Forever Chemicals-PFAS. The state will spearhead reclamation and containment efforts. No sites in Cass County have been identified at this time, but he will update us if circumstances change. The Fire Department is requesting that in addition to a fire truck, a full-time firefighter position and hourly wages for the firefighters be implemented. The Chief expressed ongoing concern that the lack of daytime coverage is a liability that should be addressed with the additional funds from the millage. The Chief also would like to see firefighters paid hourly as opposed to the current point system used. The Undersheriff reported that the department continues to ramp up its staffing, he also reported that CCDET had served several search warrants for narcotics outside of Howard Twp. SMCAS ambulance ran 44 calls in Howard Twp this month. The parks are closed for the season. The parks have been experiencing increased vandalism this fall. A motion was made by Johnson, supported by Conover to approve the monthly reports, carried.

Information:

Old Business:

New Business

Approve Purchase of a Rosenbauer 2,500-gallon pumper tanker from Emergency Vehicle Plus for \$1,066,461.00. A motion was made by Kasprzak, supported by Conover, carried.

Approve Resolution 2024-009 Cass County Mitigation Plan. A motion was made by Conover, supported by Wozniak, carried.

Thank You to Mike Daly for many years of service to the citizens of Howard Charter Twp. A challenge coin was presented to him on behalf of the Cass County Board of Commissioners by Commissioner Samuel Barrera.

Thank You to Jack Frost for 40 years of service to Howard Twp Fire Department. A plaque was presented by Chief Chris Corzine and a challenge coin was presented to him by the Cass County Board of Commissioners by Commissioner Samuel Barrera.

Correspondence

Other Business from the Board

Public Comment:

Tom Hable questioned the safety and liability of having only one firefighter on staff to respond to daytime calls.

David Kroa is tired of paying taxes and thinks we should be getting grants for a new fire truck.

Bill Wozniak does not want new taxes.

Denise Kasprzak does not agree with the board's position on the millage and believes it should have been voted on. She did not agree with the single full-time firefighter position as most fire policy is two in and two out. She indicated that volunteer fire departments are run by people who do the job for the love of it and if you are looking to get rich this job is not for you.

Adjournment: Adjourned at 8:30 pm, carried.

Sheri Wozniak
Howard Township Clerk