

**HOWELL TOWNSHIP BOARD REGULAR MEETING**

**MINUTES**

Howell Township Hall

August 14, 2017

6:30. p.m.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Mike Coddington      Supervisor  
Jonathan Hohenstein      Treasurer  
Matthew Counts      Trustee  
Carolyn Eaton      Trustee  
Dar Howard      Trustee  
Harold Melton      Trustee

**MEMBERS ABSENT:**

Jean Graham      Clerk

Supervisor Coddington called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. The roll was called. All rose for the Pledge of Allegiance.

**APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA:**

**MOTION** by Melton, seconded by Howard, **“TO APPROVE THE AUGUST 14, 2017 AGENDA AS PRESENTED.”** Motion carried.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

**MOTION** by Hohenstein, seconded by Counts, **“TO APPROVE THE JULY 10, 2017 REGULAR MEETING MINUTES AS CORRECTED: UNDER ITEM, HUMAN RESOURCES, CHANGE THE WORD 'VERSES' TO 'VERSUS'. UNDER REPORTS, WWTP, CHANGE 'THEIR RECOMMENDATION' TO 'THE LIVINGSTON COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT'S RECOMMENDATION'. ALSO CHANGE THE WORD 'DEBIT' TO 'DEBT'.”** Motion carried. (See July 10, 2017 Meeting Minutes)

**CORRESPONDENCE:**

See List.

**CALL TO THE PUBLIC:**

Longtime residents, Dennis and Denise Harp, 212 Edgemont Drive have concerns about the Township allowing chickens on smaller residential areas. The Township Board informed her that the Township had an ordinance in the past but then the “Right to Farm Act” came into effect and superseded our ordinance. Mr. and Mrs. Harp inquired if chickens are allowed, what stops someone from having other farm animals on small properties in a subdivision. They would like the Township to have an ordinance against allowing these animals in these types of zonings. It was recommended; to start the process of trying to change an ordinance, they will need to write a letter to the Board, stating their reasons for an ordinance change.

New resident, David Hazen, 2227 Oak Grove Road stated he was sent a notice from the Township stating that it is against the Township ordinance to park his boat in the front yard and that he needs to move his boat to the side or rear yard. He stated he does not have access to the rear yard and his house is build up to his side setbacks. He also stated, that you can see that there are many, who have campers, trailers, motor homes, horse trailers, boats, tractors and combines parked in the front of their house all over the Township and is in violation. He wanted to know even though his boat is plated and insured and has no other place to park his boat, is the Township going to say he has to get rid of his boat? He is also planning on buying a motorhome, where will he be able to park it? (He received the notice of violation because someone complained. Suggestion was to park off site. The farm equipment would fall under the “Right to Farm Act.) He would like to make an amendment to the ordinance. (You will have to go through the process. You first have to write a letter to the Board.) It was also suggested that he request the ZBA for a variance to place a pad on his side yard to park his boat. He stated he doesn't have enough room within his side yard.

**FINANCIAL REPORT:**

Deputy Supervisor Kilpela gave an overview of the township's Revenue and Expenditure period ending 06/30/2017 and the Cash Flow Using Budgeted Revenue Report and the Cash Flow Using Historical Average Revenue. The Board thanked Kilpela for the good work.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

None.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Pavilion/Gazebo Repair Bids – Two bids were received for repairs to the Township's pavilion/gazebo.

**MOTION** by Howard, seconded by Hohenstein, **"TO ACCEPT BID FOR \$1,975.00 FROM LOUIS JOHNSON FOR REPAIRS TO THE TOWNSHIP PAVILION/GAZEBO."** Discussion followed. Motion carried.

**REPORTS:**

A. SUPERVISOR:

(Coddington reported on the following items)

- Sewer on Warner Road, the manhole has been a challenge but it is in.
- Confirmed that on a certain property it was disclosed to the owner that before, during and after the manhole went in on Warner Road that the line would not be ran to their property by the Township.

B. TREASURER:

(Hohenstein reported on the following item)

- Tax collection is going well.

C. CLERK:

(Deputy Johnson reported on the following item)

- Although there are enough burial sites for a few years, it is getting time, where the Township will need to start thinking about cemetery expansion. Talked with Huron Cemetery Maintenance (the Township's grave opener and closer) about digging a hole in the circular section of the Pioneer Cemetery. This section is usually very wet. A few years ago several loads of dirt was put in the middle section, but all that dirt has now sunk in. This section has not yet been plotted out for burial sites. Huron Cemetery Maintenance will dig the hole in the spring to check the water table level but they are already suggesting to look for another site because it so wet along the back drive. It was suggested that the Board start looking into other property for another cemetery.

D. ZONING:

(Prepared by Daus)

- See report.

E. ASSESSING:

(Prepared by Assessor Kilpela)

- See report.

F. FIRE AUTHORITY:

(Coddington reported on the following items)

- The Fire Marshal received the “Executive Officer” through the National Fire Academy.
- Election of officers. They remain unchanged.
- Expansion is going to the City of Howell Planning Commission to get their approval.

G. MHOG:

(Howard reported on the following items)

- Discussion on new connections.
- Have acquired most of the properties for the Cross County Main.
- Growth on water usage.
- Consideration of the Township becoming a Charter Township.

H. PLANNING COMMISSION:

(Counts reported on the following items)

- Set two Public Hearings.

I. ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS (ZBA):

(Eaton reported on the following item)

- The next ZBA Meeting is set for Monday, August 21<sup>st</sup>.

J. WEBSITE:

(Counts)

- Nothing new to report.

K. WWTP:

(Hohenstein reported on the following items)

- Oak Grove Pump #5 generator stopped working. A bid from Cummins Sales and Service for \$2,329.10 was given to get the generator working again. **MOTION** by Hohenstein, seconded by Melton, **“TO ACCEPT THE BID OF \$2,329.10 FOR THE OAK GROVE PUMP #5 GENERATOR AS PRESENTED.”** Discussion followed. Motion carried.
- Sludge Tanks Valves are down 15 feet and under asphalt. One of these valves need to be replaced. The estimated cost is roughly \$40,000.00. Discussion on putting in a manhole would be feasible for future replacement of valves because there is no other way to access. Treasurer Hohenstein will get with G/O to see what the cost would be and if it is the best way to go.
- UV Treatment update – the company that installed the system is no longer in business. There is a company that can retro-fit the current UV treatment with an updated model. The new retro-fit bid is for \$145,000.00 for 2 modules. Discussion followed. It was the consensus of the Board to have the Plant Manager bring this back to the Board with more information.

L. HAPRA:

(Graham)

- No report.

**CALL TO PUBLIC:**

John Mills, 1750 Oak Grove Road – 1) felt that the two residents who spoke at previous Call to the Public had legitimate issues. Mr. Mills stated that he was at a City Council Meeting dealing with the same issues. Chicken owners are required to have containment according to USDA specifications. They also would require to have the neighbor’s written permission to have the chickens. Would like the Township to look into their ordinance as

a proto type. 2) The issue of parking, the city is ruthless when violating the parking of vehicles. He suggested that the Township provide a list where residents can park their boats, motorhomes and etc. 3) Attended a Cohoctah Township Board Meeting where it was stated they received monies from the County Road Commission. He asked if the Board felt connected with the County Road Commission and if the Board is getting their fair share. 4) There was discussion at a previous meeting about installing a left-turn signal at the light at the corner of Oak Grove and M-59. (The preliminary results from MDOT is that, they are denying the request.) 5) Wanted to know the REU's ratio for facilities like the new Senior Living Facility on Burkhart Road. (There is a formula, 1 per bed, plus extra for things like kitchens.) He also stated that the facility is planning on expanding. (The Township is aware of this and site plans have been approved.) 6) Talked with Bio-tech, injection of bio-solids on some Township properties should commence soon.

**DISBURSEMENTS: REGULAR AND CHECK REGISTER:**

**MOTION** by Eaton, seconded by Hohenstein, **“TO APPROVE THE REGULAR DISBURSEMENTS THROUGH AUGUST 9, 2017 AND CHECK REGISTER AS PRESENTED, ALSO ANY CUSTOMARY AND NORMAL PAYMENTS FOR THE MONTH.”** Discussion followed. Motion carried.

**ADJOURNMENT: MOTION** by Hohenstein, seconded by Howard, **“TO ADJOURN.”** Motion carried. The meeting adjourned 7:40 p.m.

**APPROVED:**

As Presented:         X        

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Jean Graham  
Howell Township Clerk

As Amended:                                 

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mike Coddington  
Howell Township Supervisor

As Corrected:                                 

Dated         09.11.2017        

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Debby Johnson  
Recording Secretary