HOWELL TOWNSHIP REGULAR BOARD
MEETING MINUTES

3525 Byron Rd. Howell, MI 48855
May 11, 2026
6:30 P.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT:		MEMBERS ABSENT:
Robert Spaulding	Supervisor	
Sue Daus	Clerk	
Jonathan Hohenstein	Treasurer	
Matthew Counts	Trustee	
Tim Boal	Trustee	
Jodi Fulton	Trustee	
Bob Wilson	Trustee	

Also in Attendance:
Deputy Supervisor Kilpela, Livingston County Planner Martha Haglund, Howell Parks and Recreation Director Tim Church, Elmhurst LLC representative Ryan Joss.

Supervisor Spaulding called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. The roll was called. Supervisor Spaulding requested members rise for the Pledge of Allegiance.

CALL TO THE BOARD:
None

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA:
May 11, 2026
Motion by Hohenstein, **Second** by Counts, **"To approve the agenda as presented."** Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF BOARD MEETING MINUTES:
April 13, 2026
REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES
Motion by Hohenstein, **Second** by Boal, **"To accept the corrected minutes from April 13th as presented."** Motion carried.

CLOSED SESSION MEETING MINUTES
Motion by Hohenstein, **Second** by Counts, **"To accept the closed session meeting minutes from April 13th."** Motion carried.

CALL TO THE PUBLIC:

John Mills, 1750 Oak Grove Rd.- Spoke on trucks hauling aggregate using Jake brakes on Oak Grove Rd. and questioned reasons why members are serving on the Board.

Dan Wholihan, 8162 Majestic- Spoke on extending the data center moratorium

Greg Lehr, 2530 Tooley Rd- Spoke on opposition to the Tooley Road rezoning

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

A. Data Center Moratorium – Extension
Motion by Wilson, **Second** by Fulton, **"To extend it."** Trustee Boal provided an update on the Planning Commission's progress regarding the draft Data Center Ordinance. Discussion of Ordinance Number 298 followed. Roll Call: Boal-yes, Counts-yes, Wilson-yes, Daus-yes, Fulton-yes, Hohenstein-yes, Spaulding-yes. Motion carried 7-0.

B. Township Park Plan, Municipal Complex Plan, Voting Center Discussion
Treasurer Hohenstein reviewed and answered questions regarding the three different options proposed for voting center/park. Howell Park and Recreation Director Tim Church spoke on their position to contribute/manage/provide programs and DNR grants for a recreation center. Deputy Supervisor Kilpela spoke on funds available for the project. Discussion followed.
Motion by Counts, **Second** by Boal, **"To adopt option B as part of the park plan."** Motion carried 6-1.

C. Server/Microsoft License
Treasurer Hohenstein spoke on the options for Cloud based storage commercial vs governmental standards with a quote from Mann IT with costs of both options. Trustee Counts gave an overview and answered questions regarding the different options. Discussion followed. **Motion** by Hohenstein, **Second** by Counts, **"To transition to the Cloud base infrastructure with the premium licenses with the one-time cost of $9,846, an annual cost of $2,772 for the Microsoft 365 Commercial, as long as our information is kept in the United States as presented."** Motion carried. **Motion** by Hohenstein, **Second** by Fulton. **"To accept the budget amendment to increase 001-265-728.001 Township Hall IT Support expense by a one-time cost of $9,846 for server migration, increase account 001-265-728.001 Township Hall IT Support expense by $972.00, upgrade the ten Microsoft 365 business standard licenses to Microsoft 365 business premium licenses.** Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS:

A. Approval of the 2026/2027 Budget
Motion by Counts, **Second** by Daus, **"To approve the Howell Township 2026/2027 budget as presented."** Motion carried.

B. Zoning Board of Appeals Education Session
Treasurer Hohenstein presented two options of continuing education for the Zoning Board of Appeals members, Planning Commission Board members, Township Board members and office staff. Discussion followed. **Motion** by Counts, **Second** by Hohenstein, **"To approve a Township education class on Township ordinances directed by Fahey Schultz Burzych and Rhodes for $1,750.00."** Motion carried. Treasurer Hohenstein suggested adding Zoning Board of Appeal Board members to the Michigan Association of Planning membership which will include discounts to educational classes through MAP and resources on their website. **Motion** by Hohenstein, **Second** by Boal, with a friendly amendment **"To accept the addition of ZBA members to the Michigan Association of Planning membership starting July 1st."** Motion carried.

C. Human Resources Minutes
Carol Makushik announced she will begin her retirement in September and Amanda Bonnville will be her replacement as Deputy Assessor. Amanda will also be back filling Accounting Clerk duties as needed. **Motion** by Counts, **Second** Daus, **"To approve as presented."** Motion carried. Treasurer Hohenstein spoke on action of a Firearm Acknowledgement Policy to be added to the HR Manual. **Motion** by Counts, **Second** by Daus, **"Approval of Howell Township employee Firearm Acknowledgement as presented."** Motion carried 6-1.

PUBLIC HEARING

PC2026-05 Elmhurst St. LLC, Request to Rezone Parcel # 4706-22-100-014, Vacant Land from Agricultural Residential (AR) to Single Family Residential (SFR). **Motion** by Hohenstein, **Second** by Boal, **"To open the public hearing for the rezoning for Elmhurst LLC Parcel # 4706-22-100-014."** Motion carried. Representative for Elmhurst Ryan Joss gave an overview of his project. He is looking to rezone the property on the corner of Tooley and Bowen from Agricultural Residential to Single Family Residential. Clerk Daus questioned number of homes to be built. Trustee Counts questioned what the anticipated average value of the homes they are planning to sell. Chairman Spaulding questioned the past offer on the property and what was the number of homes proposed at that time. Trustee Fulton questioned the amount of acreage that was removed from their original plan.

Michelle Vecheta, 3252 Warner Rd- Spoke on concerns and opposition of rezoning

Debbie Mannisto, 2330 Tooley Rd- Spoke on concerns and opposition of rezoning

Don Atkins, 2660 Bowen Rd- Spoke on concerns and opposition of rezoning

Motion by Hohenstein, **Second** by Daus, **"To close the public hearing for the rezoning of Parcel # 4706-22-100-014."** Motion carried. Trustee Boal spoke on concerns of the road infrastructure and Planning Commission discussion to possibly re-open the Township Master Plan. He spoke on potential trips per day that would travel those roads. Clerk Daus questioned how many potential trips per day would be traveled if it was re- zoned multi-family vs single-family and the travel counts for Fisher Rd. Trustee Fulton questioned the current surrounding usage and if Fisher Rd. regularly requires gravel or funding projects. Chairman Spaulding commented on the Livingston County Road Commission's response to increased road maintenance of roads where there is an increase of traffic and when were funds last used for the intersections of Tooley/Bowen/Warner/ roads. Trustee Counts spoke on road millages, development and Future Master Plan and travel counts for Marr Rd near Indian Camp Trail. Clerk Daus questioned the possibility Tooley Rd. would need to be paved, and if the residents would incur tax increases and spoke on potential traffic during election times. Treasurer Hohenstein answered questions regarding past road projects and reviewed factors to be considered when deciding on rezoning of a property. Discussion followed. **Motion** by Hohenstein, **Second** by Daus **"To accept the rezoning request for Parcel # 4706-22-100-014 from Agricultural Residential to Single Family Residential based on the following A) The rezoning is less intense than the policies and uses proposed for that area in the Townships Master Land Use Plan B) The residential use for the proposed re-zoning matches the surrounding uses of the area C) Public services are not adversely impacted by this development because the site was planned for and has public sewer and water available and the added traffic to the county roads does not exceed any threshold for gravel roads nor would they be the highest traveled gravel roads in the Township D)The proposed re- zoning would be equally or better suited for the area because it aligns with the Master**

Plan and would match the surrounding residential uses." Roll Call: Fulton-no, Boal- no, Wilson-no, Counts-yes, Daus-yes, Spaulding-yes, Hohenstein-yes. Motion carried 4-3.

CALL TO THE PUBLIC:

Dan Wholihan, 8162 Majestic- Spoke on supporting of candidates

Martha Haglund, 5042 Preston - Spoke on support of the Township Recreation Plan

Debbie Mannisto, 2330 Tooley Rd- Spoke on her disappointment of rezoning decision on Tooley Rd.

Michelle Vecheta, 3252 Warner Rd- Spoke on concerns with the park plan

Todd Kosakiewicz, 6205 Radatz- Spoke on extension of the data center moratorium

Steven Stutesman, 2400 Tooley Rd- Spoke on condition of roads and concerns with additional traffic on Tooley Rd.

REPORTS:

A. SUPERVISOR: Supervisor Spaulding reported on his meeting with the Livingston County Road Commission and future road projects

B. TREASURER: Treasurer Hohenstein reported on the Comcast rate change for internet and governmental website update

C. CLERK: Clerk Daus reported that early voting location will change to Howell City Hall

D. ZONING: Permit list and Violation Report in packet

E. ASSESSING: See Assessor Kilpela's report

F. FIRE AUTHORITY: Supervisor Spaulding reported on awards ceremony and possible reduced pricing for their trucks being sold

G. MHOG: Trustee Counts reported that 60 million gallons were produced in March, it was high due to a main break in the City of Howell, and they needed use of the water for ten days. Transmission main water line update is still on track for completion later this year, electrical fix of wellhouse's approved

H. PLANNING COMMISSION: Trustee Boal gave overview of meeting. Discussion of Future Master Plan review and Preliminary and Final Site Plan review for a new HVAC company

I. ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS (ZBA): No report

J. WWTP: Report in packet

K. HAPRA: Report in packet

L. PROPERTY COMMITTEE: No report

M. PARK & RECREATION COMMITTEE: No additional report

N. SHIAWASSEE RIVER COMMITTEE: No report

O. TRUSTEE: Trustee Wilson would like a Jake Brake Ordinance, Trustee Boal thanked American Legion's committee Gone but Not Forgotten who have placed flags at both Township cemeteries for Memorial Day and recognition of National Police Week

DISBURSEMENTS: REGULAR PAYMENTS AND CHECK REGISTER:
Motion by Hohenstein, **Second** by Counts, **"To accept the disbursements as presented and any normal and customary payments for the month."** Motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT: Motion by Counts, **Second** by Daus, "**To adjourn.**" Motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 9:04 P.M.

Robert Spaulding, Howell Township Supervisor

Sue Daus, Howell Township Clerk

Marnie Hebert, Recording Secretary