

MINUTES OF THE HOWLAND TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES

The Howland Township Board of Trustees held a special property tax meeting on February 25, 2026, at 6:00 pm at the Howland Township Government Building, 205 Niles Cortland Rd. NE, Warren, OH 44484.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Roll Call: Matthew Vansuch – Present
Dr. James LaPolla – Present
Frank Dillon – Present

Opening Remarks and Welcome - Trustee Chairperson F. Dillon

- Formal Welcome – Complete the Sign-in Sheet on the table in the back of the room
- Recognition of Guests
- Opening Remarks by Trustees and Commissioners

Special Note for Public Comment/Questions – A public comment period will be held at the end of the meeting and will be kept to 3 minutes per person.

Property Tax Reform Overview – Administrator J. Pantalone

- Update on petition-based property tax abolishment efforts
- Legislative reform updates affecting Owner-Occupancy and Homestead Credits

Township Fiscal Impact Presentation - Fiscal Officer T. Krispinsky

- Breakdown of a sample Howland Township residential tax bill
- Current Owner-Occupancy Credit (2.5%) explanation
- Current Homestead Credit explanation
- Proposed expansion scenarios
- Estimated revenue impact to Township funds

County Impact & Credit System Overview - Trumbull County Auditor M. Yoder

- Explanation of how the Owner-Occupancy Credit and Homestead Credit system works
- State reimbursement structure and local implications
- Overall fiscal impact to Trumbull County finances

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC:

Len Gantler, Howland resident. I think this is a good meeting and I'm totally supportive of the township services, but why aren't the State Reps and someone from the School District here? Trustee Matt Vansuch told him that schools have a different source of revenue than townships and that this meeting was for townships because their funding is the same. He also had a question about the upcoming triennial update and how it would affect property taxes. County Auditor Yoder told him that it would affect every property owner differently.

Tony Merolla, Howland resident. I agree this is a good meeting, but I think the School Districts have been told that their funding is unconstitutional and that they should be funded without property taxes as their main source of revenue. Trustee Matt Vansuch told him that their funding is entirely different from the township's method of collecting our revenue.

Tony Bernard, Rick Hernandez, and Denny Malloy, Trumbull County Commissioners, all believe that Townships are a very important form of government and that the State is passing this problem on to them, resulting in reduced revenue for the Townships. We are all in agreement that we have until July 1st of this year to make a decision on the Homestead and Owner Occupancy credits for calendar year 2027, and we will take our time making that decision. 14 counties have already passed this credit on to their residents, reducing revenue for their political subdivisions.

Bob Tucker, Howland resident. I think this is a great meeting, and we should have another meeting with both State Reps Nick Santucci and Dave Thomas here to explain the problems we are facing as Townships. Administrator James Pantalone will reach out to both of them and arrange another meeting.

A motion was made by Matthew Vansuch and seconded by Dr. James LaPolla to adjourn the special meeting at 7:23 PM.

Roll Call:
Matthew Vansuch -yea
Dr. James LaPolla -yea
Frank Dillon -yea

Approved by: Thomas Krispinsky Dated: 3/11/26
Thomas Krispinsky, Fiscal Officer

Approved by: Frank Dillon Dated: 3/11/26
Frank Dillon, Chair