

**MINUTES OF THE HOWLAND TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

**The Howland Township Board of Trustees held their regular meeting on April 8, 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

A motion was made by Dr. James LaPolla and seconded by Matthew Vansuch to suspend the readings of the March 11, 2026, regular and accept them as written.

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

A motion was made by Matthew Vansuch and seconded by Dr. James LaPolla to authorize Fiscal Officer Thomas Krispinsky to pay all outstanding invoices incurred and approve all warrants issued.

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

A motion was made by Matthew Vansuch and seconded by Frank Dillon to vote on **2026-052:**

WHEREAS, R.C. 309.9 authorized the Board of Trustees to retain the services of additional legal counsel; and

WHEREAS, consistent with the Revised Code, the Board of Trustees hereby determines it is necessary to have additional legal counsel to advise them on legal matters.

NOW THEREFORE, it is hereby RESOLVED by the Board that:

Pursuant to R.C. 309.09, Harrington, Hoppe & Mitchell, LTD., is hereby engaged as additional legal counsel for the Board.

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

A motion was made by Dr. James LaPolla and seconded by Matthew Vansuch to vote on Resolution **2026-053:**

Per the recommendation of Administrator James Pantalone, approve for Howland Township to continue its participation in the Trumbull County Electric Aggregate with Dynegy Energy Services (East) LLC. Dynegy will provide retail electric generation service between the May 2026 and December 2027 meter-read dates at the retail price of \$0.1014/kWh.

<b>Roll Call:</b>	Matthew Vansuch	-yea
	Dr. James LaPolla	-yea
	Frank Dillon	-yea

A motion was made by Matthew Vansuch and seconded by Dr. James LaPolla to vote on Resolution **2026-054:**

Per the recommendation of Administrator James Pantalone and Planning Director Kim Mascarella, approve the participation in the detailed design phase of the Trumbull County Transportation Improvement District's (TID) TRU CH 69 (NILES WARREN RIVER ROAD) IMPROVEMENT PROJECT. The project, led by Trumbull County, will enhance public safety, traffic efficiency, and economic development associated with the new Kimberly-Clark manufacturing facility. The total cost of the design phase is \$121,250.00, with Howland contributing \$6,250.00 toward these costs.

<b>Roll Call:</b>	Matthew Vansuch	-yea
	Dr. James LaPolla	-yea
	Frank Dillon	-yea

A motion was made by Dr. James LaPolla and seconded by Matthew Vansuch to vote on Resolution **2026-055:**

Per the recommendation of Administrator James Pantalone and Planning Director, Kim Mascarella, and upon receiving the Howland Zoning Commission's recommendation regarding Case 26-C-01 and 26-C-02, which represents a zoning map and zoning text amendment, respectively, the Howland Township Trustees must set a date and time for a public hearing on the proposed amendments, which will be April 29, 2026 @ 5:00 PM.

<b>Roll Call:</b>	Matthew Vansuch	-yea
	Dr. James LaPolla	-yea
	Frank Dillon	-yea

A motion was made by Matthew Vansuch and seconded by Dr. James LaPolla to vote on Resolution **2026-056:**

Per the recommendation of Administrator James Pantalone and Planning Director, Kim Mascarella, accept the award letters from the Eastgate Regional Council of Governments' Transportation Alternatives Program for Phases 2 and 3 of the Howland SR46 Pedestrian Improvement Project. Funding details of the projects:

- a. Phase 2: Construct sidewalks from Carriage Hill to King Graves. Total project cost is \$226,055. Township awarded \$180,844 with a local match of \$42,211.
- b. Phase 3: Construct sidewalks from King Graves to North River Road. Total project cost is \$261,207. Township awarded \$208,966 with a local match of \$52,241.

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

A motion was made by Dr. James LaPolla and seconded by Matthew Vansuch to vote on Resolution **2026-057:**

WHEREAS, a rezoning application was submitted by AKGA Realty LLC, owner of two parcels (#28-098600 & #28-098500) and located at 4248 North River Road, Howland Township, Trumbull County, Ohio, requesting that said property, currently zoned CRD-1 (Corridor Review District-1), be rezoned to C (Commercial); and

WHEREAS, the Howland Township Zoning Commission held a duly advertised Public Hearing on February 18, 2026, and, after review of the evidence and testimony presented, adopted a Resolution recommending DENIAL of the requested rezoning by a vote of four (4) to one (1); and

WHEREAS, the Zoning Commission's recommendation was based upon findings that the proposed Commercial zoning is not consistent with the Howland Township Comprehensive Plan, represents an intensity of use not appropriate for the North River Road corridor, and is not consistent with surrounding zoning patterns; and

WHEREAS, the Howland Township Board of Trustees, pursuant to law, held a duly advertised public hearing on Wednesday, April 8, 2026, at 5:30 PM and reviewed the recommendation of the Howland Township Zoning Commission, public testimony, and all other documents presented to the Board of Trustees, and;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Howland Township Board of Trustees affirms the recommendation made by the Howland Zoning Commission to deny the rezoning of two parcels located at 4248 North River Road from CRD-1 (Corridor Review District-1) to C (Commercial).

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

A motion was made by Matthew Vansuch and seconded by Dr. James LaPolla to vote on Resolution **2026-058:**

Per the recommendation of Administrator James Pantalone and Planning Director, Kim Mascarella, approve a stormwater drainage facilities inspection and maintenance agreement between the Township and NNN Reit Inc, addressing the long-term maintenance of facilities at the new 7Brew location on parcel # 28-902319.

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

A motion was made by Dr. James LaPolla and seconded by Matthew Vansuch to vote on Resolution 2026-059:

**WHEREAS**, the Howland Township Board of Trustees – Trumbull County (hereinafter referred to as the "Political Subdivision") hereby submits this written agreement to participate in the Ohio Department of Transportation's (ODOT) annual road salt bid in accordance with Ohio Revised Code 5513.01(B) and hereby agrees to all of the following terms and conditions in its participation of the ODOT road salt contract:

- a. The Political Subdivision hereby agrees to be bound by all terms and conditions established by ODOT in the road salt contract and acknowledges that upon the award of the contract by the Director of ODOT, it shall be bound by all such terms and conditions included in the contract; and
- b. The Political Subdivision hereby acknowledges that upon the Director of ODOT's signing of the road salt contract, it shall effectively form a contract between the awarded salt supplier and the Political Subdivision; and
- c. The Political Subdivision agrees to be solely responsible for resolving all claims or disputes arising out of its participation in the ODOT road salt contract and agrees that each party hereto shall be responsible for liability associated with that party's own errors, actions, and failures to act.
- d. The Political Subdivision's electronic order for Sodium Chloride (Road Salt) will be the amount the Political Subdivision agrees to purchase from its awarded salt supplier at the delivered bid price per ton awarded by the Director of ODOT; and
- e. The Political Subdivision hereby agrees to purchase a minimum of 85% of its electronically submitted salt quantities from its awarded salt supplier during the contract's effective period; and
- f. The Political Subdivision hereby agrees to place orders with and directly pay the awarded salt supplier on a net 30 basis for all road salt it receives pursuant to ODOT salt contract; and
- g. The Political Subdivision acknowledges that should it wish to rescind this participation agreement it will do so by written, emailed request by no later than Friday, May 1, **by 5:00 p.m.** The written, emailed request to rescind this participation agreement must be received by the ODOT Office of Contract Sales, Purchasing Section email: [Contracts.Purchasing@dot.ohio.gov](mailto:Contracts.Purchasing@dot.ohio.gov) by the deadline. The Department, upon receipt, will respond that it has received the request and that it has effectively removed the Political Subdivision's participation request. Furthermore, it is the sole responsibility of the

Political Subdivision to ensure ODOT has received this participation agreement as well as the receipt of any request to rescind this participation agreement. The Department shall not be held responsible or liable for failure to receive a Political Subdivision's participation agreement and/or a Political Subdivision's request to rescind its participation agreement.

NOW, THEREFORE, be it ordained by the following authorized person(s) that this participation agreement for the ODOT road salt contract is hereby approved, funding has been authorized, and the Political Subdivision agrees to the above terms and Conditions regarding participation on the ODOT salt contract.

<b>Roll Call:</b>	Matthew Vansuch	-yea
	Dr. James LaPolla	-yea
	Frank Dillon	-yea

A motion was made by Matthew Vansuch and seconded by Dr. James LaPolla to vote on Resolution **2026-060:**

Approve to schedule a special meeting on Wednesday, April 29, 2026 @ 6:00 PM, located at 205 Niles Cortland Rd. NE, Warren, OH 44484. The purpose of the meeting is to host Representatives Santucci and Thomas, along with the Trumbull County Commissioners to continue discussions regarding the property tax impacts, and homestead and occupancy rollbacks.

<b>Roll Call:</b>	Matthew Vansuch	-yea
	Dr. James LaPolla	-yea
	Frank Dillon	-yea

A motion was made by Matthew Vansuch and seconded by Dr. James LaPolla to vote on Resolution **2026-061:**

Per the recommendation of Administrator James Pantalone and Police Chief Nick Roberts, hire Aeydin Penick as a full-time Patrolman effective April 1, 2026. Aeydin will begin employment with 120 hours of paid sick leave and will be paid 90% of the Patrolman's current hourly rate during his training period. He will receive all benefits per the Township Policy, Police Contract, and the Regulations in the Howland Township Police Rules & Procedure Manual.

Upon successfully completing a minimum two-month training period, Aeydin will receive 100% of the current hourly rate of pay.

<b>Roll Call:</b>	Matthew Vansuch	-yea
	Dr. James LaPolla	-yea
	Frank Dillon	-yea

**Trustee Frank Dillon gave the Oath of Office to Aeydin Penick**

A motion was made by Matthew Vansuch and seconded by Dr. James LaPolla to vote on Resolution **2026-062:**

Per the recommendations of Administrator James Pantalone and Fire Chief Ray Pace, approve applying for the Ohio Department of Public Safety, Division of EMS, 2026-2027 P1-Training & Equipment Reimbursement Grant.

<b>Roll Call:</b>	Matthew Vansuch	-yea
	Dr. James LaPolla	-yea
	Frank Dillon	-yea

A motion was made by Dr. James LaPolla and seconded by Frank Dillon to vote on Resolution **2026-063:**

Per the recommendations of Administrator James Pantalone and Fire Chief Ray Pace, approve applying for the 136<sup>th</sup> General Assembly Capital Budget Community Project with the State of Ohio, for the Trumbull County Regional Fire Training Facility. The asking project cost is \$750,000.00 with no Township match.

<b>Roll Call:</b>	Matthew Vansuch	-yea
	Dr. James LaPolla	-yea
	Frank Dillon	-yea

#### **REPORTS FROM DEPARTMENT HEADS:**

**Administrator James Pantalone:** Department Heads will meet with ODOT and Kirila Contractors this coming Friday morning to discuss the upcoming projects: Rt 82 and Rt 46 corner, the Howland Wilson closure, the light at Howland Springs and Rt 46, and the sidewalk from the DDI and Rt 82 and Rt 46 corner.

**Fire Chief Ray Pace:** The Department will be starting hydrant testing in the township, and we have also started our annual spring cleaning at all the stations. We just completed our annual maintenance of different areas for the department.

**Police Chief Nick Roberts:** Glad to be back to full staff. The officers are working on our professional training for 2026.

**Public Works Director David McCann:** We broke down the trucks, so hopefully we will not have to put the plows back on until next winter season. The limb and branch pickup will start on Monday, April 13. The Department will begin moving tomorrow and working on the northern part of the cemetery so it can be plotted out soon.

**Zoning Director Dan Morgan:** In the first quarter of the year, we have issued 63 permits, handled 47 property maintenance cases, and completed 64 inspections.

**Fiscal Officer Tom Krispinsky:** On April 28<sup>th</sup>, I will be attending the Annual Howland Community Scholarship Breakfast, where the Trustees, the Administrator, and I will present a scholarship to a Howland High School student. At the next meeting, I will share with you who received our scholarship.

**Trustee Dr. James LaPolla:** I would like to read a statement addressing the work being done in the township by different companies laying fiber-optic cable.

**My fellow Howland residents,**

**I've heard from many of you regarding the significant increase in fiber optic installation work throughout our Township, particularly the boring and excavation occurring in residential neighborhoods. Many of your concerns relate to property disturbance, restoration issues, and overall workmanship—and I want you to know those concerns are being taken seriously.**

**These projects are being conducted by private telecommunications providers regulated by the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio and the State of Ohio. While the Township does not directly manage this work, we do have a responsibility to ensure that our residents and their property are protected.**

**It is important to understand that we operate under the statutory provisions of the Ohio Revised Code, which limit our authority—particularly when it comes to regulating or monitoring the documented or undocumented workforce performing this work. However, within those limits, we are actively holding contractors accountable for any damage to private property, public rights-of-way, and Township infrastructure.**

**Contractors are required to ensure a legal workforce, properly restore all disturbed areas, and we will continue to follow up to ensure those obligations are met. If they are not, the Township has mechanisms in place to address those deficiencies and pursue corrective action.**

**We will continue to monitor these projects, advocate on your behalf, and push for improved communication and performance from these companies. Where additional authority or changes are needed, we will work with our state elected officials, who legislate a legal workforce, to pursue those improvements.**

**Thank you for your patience and for continuing to bring these issues to our attention.**

**Trustee Matt Vansuch:** Dealing with the above is why we need you to let us and PUCO know about any issues you may have with the companies installing the wiring.

**COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC:**

**Eugene Nastasi,** Howland resident. I live on Kenyon Drive, and we have a water problem there because of how it flows in this area. Public Works Director David McCann answered him, listing some of the reasons for what is happening there.

**Let the minutes show that Trustee, Dr. LaPolla left at 6:53 PM**

A motion was made by Matthew Vansuch and seconded by Frank Dillon to adjourn the regular meeting at 6:55 P.M.

<b>Roll Call:</b>	Matthew Vansuch	-yea
	Frank Dillon	-yea

Approved by: Thomas Krispinsky Dated: 4/14/26  
Thomas Krispinsky, Fiscal Officer

Approved by: Frank Dillon Dated: 4/14/26  
Frank Dillon, Chair