

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

**The Howland Township Board of Trustees held a special property tax meeting on April 29, 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

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**Opening Remarks – Chairman of the Board of Trustees**

**Purpose of meeting:**

To host State Representatives and Trumbull County Commissioners for discussion regarding property tax reform, legislative impacts to local government, and updates on homestead and owner occupancy exemptions.

**Special Note for Public Comment/Questions:**

A question/answer period will be provided at the end of the presentations. Questions will be submitted via form and read aloud.

**Introduction of Guests**

- State Representative Nick Santucci
- State Representative David Thomas
- Trumbull County Commissioners
- Other elected officials and distinguished guests

**LEGISLATIVE PRESENTATIONS**

**Remarks – State Representative Nick Santucci**

- Overview of current property tax reform movement
- Legislative intent and statewide context
- Broad impacts to local governments

**Presentation – State Representative Thomas**

- Detailed review of proposed legislation
- Specific policy changes under consideration
- Fiscal and operational impacts to townships
- Legislative timelines and next steps
- HB 124,129,186,309 and 335

## COUNTY UPDATE

### Presentation – Trumbull County Commissioners

- Status update on Homestead Exemption
- Status update on Owner Occupancy Credit (Rollback)
- Administrative process and implementation considerations

All Commissioners agree that they are not making a decision on HB 96, the credits for property tax owners, until the group trying to collect enough signatures to remove property taxes is successful or not. We have until July to make a decision. They also agree that the State has to send back more of the sales tax revenue received from the county back to Trumbull County.


### QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC:

- 1) There is a proposal to add two residents from the county to make the Budget Commission go from 3 members to 5 members. All Commissioners are in favor of this bill.
- 2) HB 778 would have abatement projects still pay for safety forces levies. State Rep Dave Thomas is a sponsor of the bill.
- 3) Who does the property evaluations of Trumbull County property bills? The County Auditor said that they use 1 of the 6 approved companies in the State for the property evaluations.
- 4) Could there be a change in the number of years in which evaluations are done? Rep Thomas told him that if the evaluations were longer than 3 and 6 years, the years the values came down would have been missed. He feels the 3 and 6 years are the right amount of time for them.
- 5) A Trustee asked about the money received from the state by the township is a lot less than it was when he started 20 years ago. Rep Thomas told him that there used to be 9 tax brackets, but now there's only 1. The townships are receiving less money, but since the state is receiving less, the percentage remains the same as before.
- 6) How much of the school funding is going to the voucher program for private schools? Rep Thomas said that the State has separate line items for public school funding and for voucher funding. The voucher funding is not coming from public school funds.

A motion was made by Dr. James LaPolla and seconded by Matthew Vansuch to adjourn the special meeting at 7:13 PM.

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

Approved by:  Dated: 5/5/26  
Thomas Krispinsky, Fiscal Officer

Approved by:  Dated: 5/8/26  
Frank Dillon, Chair