

MINUTES OF THE HOWLAND TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES

The Howland Township Board of Trustees held their regular meeting on June 10, 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 Matthew Vansuch and seconded by Dr. James LaPolla to suspend the readings of the May 13, 2026, regular meeting and accept them as written.

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 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 Dr. James LaPolla to vote on **2026-076:**

Approve to schedule a Public Hearing on July 8, 2026, at 5:45 PM before the regular trustees meeting, to review the "Alternative Tax Budget of Howland Township" for the next fiscal year ending December 31, 2027.

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 **2026-077:**

WHEREAS, the Township Board of Trustees of Howland Township are authorized to request an advance of "REAL ESTATE TAX – 2nd Half Settlement" pursuant to ORC 321.24; and

WHEREAS, the Township Board of Trustees of Howland Township do hereby request an advance of "REAL ESTATE TAX – 2nd Half Settlement" pursuant to ORC 321.24 and 135.35
NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Township Board of Trustees of Howland Township do hereby request the Trumbull County Auditor to advance any "REAL ESTATE TAX – 2nd Half Settlement" money in the Treasury of the Trumbull County Auditor to the account of Howland Township.

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 **2026-078:**

A RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING A TEMPORARY MORATORIUM ON THE ACCEPTANCE AND PROCESSING OF APPLICATIONS FOR DATA CENTER DEVELOPMENT WITHIN HOWLAND TOWNSHIP TO ALLOW FOR THE STUDY AND ADOPTION OF APPROPRIATE ZONING REGULATIONS

WHEREAS, Howland Township is a limited home rule township with authority to exercise powers of local self-government and to adopt regulations necessary to protect the public health, safety, and welfare; and

WHEREAS, the data center industry has experienced rapid growth nationwide and within Ohio, driven by increasing demand for cloud computing, artificial intelligence infrastructure, digital storage, and related technologies; and

WHEREAS, Trumbull County has experienced recent interest in the potential development of data center facilities and Howland Township recognizes that such facilities may have significant and unique impacts upon land use patterns, public infrastructure, utility systems, environmental resources, and community character; and

WHEREAS, the current Howland Township Zoning Resolution does not contain specific definitions, use classifications, development standards, performance standards, or zoning district regulations addressing data centers as a distinct land use category, creating uncertainty regarding permitted locations, approval procedures, and operational requirements; and

WHEREAS, data centers present land use characteristics and impacts substantially different from traditional commercial and industrial uses, including but not limited to significant electrical power demands, water consumption, noise generated by cooling systems and backup generators, visual impacts, traffic associated with construction and maintenance activities, stormwater management concerns, emergency response considerations, and potential impacts on surrounding properties; and

WHEREAS, the Township currently lacks the regulatory tools necessary to ensure that data center facilities are appropriately sited, designed, buffered, and operated in a manner compatible with surrounding land uses and protective of the public health, safety, and welfare; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Trustees finds that additional time is necessary for the Howland Township Zoning Commission to study data center uses, evaluate their operational characteristics and potential impacts, review best practices and regulatory approaches adopted by other jurisdictions, consult with legal counsel and planning professionals, and prepare appropriate amendments to the Howland Township Zoning Resolution; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Trustees finds that a temporary moratorium is necessary to preserve the status quo, prevent uncoordinated or incompatible development, and protect the integrity of the Township's planning process while such study and regulatory review are conducted; and

WHEREAS, the Howland Township Zoning Commission recommended by motion on May 20, 2026 (Resolution No. 26-C-04), that the Board of Trustees adopt a temporary moratorium on new data center uses while the Township develops appropriate zoning regulations; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Trustees finds that the temporary moratorium established herein is reasonable in duration and scope and is necessary to protect the public health, safety, and welfare while comprehensive zoning regulations are developed.

Section 1. Moratorium Established

A temporary moratorium is hereby imposed on the acceptance, review, and approval of all applications for zoning certificates, conditional use permits, variances, rezonings, or any other approvals required for the establishment, construction, expansion, or operation of data centers within Howland Township.

Section 2. Definition

For purposes of this Resolution, “data center” shall mean one or more facilities containing computer servers and related electronic equipment used for data processing, cloud computing, telecommunications, internet services, artificial intelligence operations, cryptocurrency processing, or digital storage operations, together with associated mechanical equipment, cooling systems, emergency generators, substations, and security infrastructure.

Section 3. Scope

This moratorium shall apply to all zoning districts within the Township and shall apply to all new applications submitted after the effective date of this Resolution.

Applications deemed complete prior to the effective date shall not be subject to this moratorium.

Section 4. Duration

This temporary moratorium will apply for six (6) months, renewable for an additional six (6) months if necessary. The Board may extend the moratorium for an additional reasonable period if necessary to complete the study and adopt zoning amendments.

Section 5. Purpose and Study

During the moratorium period, the Howland Township Zoning Commission shall undertake a comprehensive review of data center development and prepare recommendations for amendments to the Howland Township Zoning Resolution. Such review shall include, but not be limited to:

1. Studying data center uses, operational characteristics, and potential impacts on surrounding properties and the community;
2. Reviewing best practices, model regulations, and zoning approaches adopted by other Ohio communities and jurisdictions nationwide;
3. Evaluating appropriate zoning district classifications and approval processes for data center uses;
4. Developing definitions, use classifications, performance standards, and development regulations addressing issues, including but not limited to:

- ✓ electrical demand and utility infrastructure;
 - ✓ water usage and cooling systems;
 - ✓ noise from generators, cooling equipment, and mechanical systems;
 - ✓ setbacks, buffering, landscaping, and visual screening;
 - ✓ traffic and construction impacts;
 - ✓ stormwater management;
 - ✓ emergency response and public safety considerations; and
 - ✓ compatibility with surrounding land uses;
5. Consulting with legal counsel, planning professionals, utility providers, and other relevant experts; and
 6. Preparing and recommending amendments to the Howland Township Zoning Resolution for consideration by the Board of Trustees.

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 **2026-079:**

WHEREAS, the following list of properties have been identified during the month of June 2026, in violation of the Howland Township Resolution 2003-58 (Abatement, Control or Removal of Vegetation, Garbage, Refuse or Other Debris, and Howland Township Resolution 2002-93 (Establish Fines), where the yards have not been Maintained

WHEREAS, Howland Township has identified the said properties that the condition of high grass and/or garbage, refuse or debris poses a safety and health threat to the neighborhood. The unsightly appearance of the properties is detrimental to the aesthetic value of the neighborhood and would cause a depreciation of property values and

WHEREAS the Zoning Office has contacted the property owner, and the condition of vegetation, garbage, refuse, or other debris has yet to be abated.

WHEREAS, at least seven days before providing for the abatement, control, or removal of any vegetation, garbage, refuse, or other debris, the board of township trustees shall notify the owner of the land and any holders of liens of record upon the land that the owner is ordered to abate, control, or remove the vegetation, garbage, refuse, or other debris, the owner's maintenance of which has been determined by the board to be a nuisance.

WHEREAS, if that vegetation, garbage, refuse, or other debris is not abated, controlled, or removed, or if provision for its abatement, control, or removal is not made, within seven days, the board in performing that task shall be entered upon the tax duplicate and become a lien upon the land from the date of entry.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that Howland Township declares and finds the following properties to be a nuisance.

Parcel**Address**

Parcel 28-217700	8376 Anderson Ave.
Parcel 28-568340	3782 Demura Dr.
Parcel 28-407400	1481 Duffus Rd.
Parcel: 28-532050	9299 Howland Springs Rd.
Parcel: 28-496250	9309 Howland Springs Rd.
Parcel: 28-292651	9595 Howland Springs Rd.
Parcel: 28-478500	1343 Howland Wilson Rd. NE
Parcel 28-427555	2700 Fairview Ave.
Parcel 28-099495	611 Heatherwood Dr.
Parcel: 28-573212	2957 Niles Rd.
Parcel: 28-573211	2969 Niles Rd.
Parcels: 28-338650 & 28-338649	3283 Niles Rd.
Parcel: 28-366000	2870 North Rd. NE
Parcel: 28-900678	8067 Raglan Ext.
Parcel: 28-226801	2790 Valacamp Ave.

Roll Call:	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 **2026-080:**

Per the recommendation of Administrator James Pantalone and Public Works Director David McCann, accept the bid for the OPWC 2026 Castlerock, Carriage Hill, etc. Resurfacing Project from RT Vernal Paving & Excavating, Inc., 11299 South Ave., North Lima, OH 44452, in the amount of \$680,321.60.

Other Bids Received:

Shelly & Sands, Inc.	\$ 715,816.27
Karvo Companies, Inc.	\$ 879,353.00

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

A motion was made by Matthew Vansuch and seconded by Dr. James LaPolla to vote on Resolution **2026-081:**

Per the recommendations of Administrator James Pantalone and Fire Chief Ray Pace, approve the sale of the following items on GovDeals and/or disposal. The items are unneeded, obsolete, or unfit personal property.

Item	Quantity	Reason
Plastic Gasket Toolbox	1	Broken
3" Fill Hose	5	Multiple Leaks
Yellow 2.5" Hose	2	Delaminated
2.5 Gated Wye	2	Cracked / Leaking Internals
2.5" Siamese	3	Broken Handle / Missing Internal Face
Hux Bar	1	Bent
Deck Gun Stacked Tips	2	Missing Larger Sized Barrels
Deck Gun Combination Tip	2	Multiple Broken Parts
2.5" Play Pipes	2	Broken Handles
Hydrant Wrenches	2	Stripped Threads
5" to 4" Storz Adapters	2	Non-Locking
5" Storz Cap	1	Non-Locking
Various Brands: Spanner Wrenches	10	Bent / Broken
2.5" Elbows	7	Worn Threads
2.5" Plate Reducers	5	Worn Threads / Broken Lugs
2.5" Double Males	6	Worn Threads

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 **2026-082:**

Per the recommendations of Administrator James Pantalone and Fire Chief Ray Pace, approve hiring Cooper Downing as a variable-hour, part-time seasonal employee in the Fire Department, effective June 1, 2026, at a rate of \$13.24 per hour with no benefits and scheduled on an as-needed basis.

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 **2026-083:**

Per the recommendations of Administrator James Pantalone and Fire Chief Ray Pace, approve to adopt the 2025 Ohio Fire Code as Howland Township's Fire Code and related Permit Fee Schedule (Resolution attached in its entirety)

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

REPORTS FROM DEPARTMENT HEADS:

Trustee Matthew Vansuch: Since we will be having a July 4th celebration at Orwig Park, there will be no Farmer's Market on that Saturday. Please come out to enjoy all the activities.

Trustee Dr. James LaPolla: There was a nice turnout for the Memorial Day service at the Township Cemetery. We also want to let the public know that the Rotary/Township Banners are only for one year.

Fire Chief Ray Pace: With the motion on the agenda dealing with Gov Deals for the Fire Department, this was done because of doing our annual spring cleaning. The department has been doing training at the township-owned house by the cemetery, in case you see our trucks over there. We have also been doing our hydrant testing throughout the township.

Police Chief Nick Roberts: This coming Saturday, June 13, 2026, we will be having our Protect-N-Shred and Fill-the-Cruiser Day at the Howland Scope Center between 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM.

Public Works Director David McCann: The Department has been busy putting up the Memorial Day banners, mowing grass, and doing our catch basin work in the township.

Planning Director Kim Mascarella: The Zoning Commission approved the Mixed Use District effective June 12, 2026. Our Farmers Market started last Saturday and was well attended.

Zoning Director Dan Morgan: In May, we issued 33 permits. We handled 71 property cases. There are still 124 cases open. We also did 140 inspections since the last meeting.

A motion was made by Dr. James LaPolla and seconded by Matthew Vansuch to adjourn the regular meeting at 6:39 P.M.

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

Approved by: Thomas Krispinsky Dated: 6/14/26
Thomas Krispinsky, Fiscal Officer

Approved by: Frank Dillon Dated: 6-17-2026
Frank Dillon, Chair