

MINUTES OF THE HOWLAND TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES

The Howland Township Board of Trustees held their regular meeting on August 12, 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 James LaPolla and seconded by Matthew Vansuch to suspend the reading of the July 8, 2026, regular meeting and accept it 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 Dr. James LaPolla and seconded by Matthew Vansuch to vote on Resolution **2026-094:**

Per the recommendation of Administrator James Pantalone, effective September 1, 2026, renew the Township's Group Life Insurance with Principal Life Insurance with no increase.

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 **2026-095:**

Per the recommendation of Administrator James Pantalone and Planning Director Kim Mascarella, provide a resolution of support for the application proposing to extend the Mahoning River Water Trail.

Whereas, the Trumbull County Metropolitan Park District, Howland Township, Weathersfield Township, the Village of McDonald, the City of Niles, the City of Girard, the City of Youngstown, the City of Campbell, the City of Struthers, the Village of Lowellville, Poland Township, the Mahoning River Corridor Initiative, and the Mahoning River Corridor Mayors Association propose to extend the Mahoning River Water Trail as a means to encourage tourism and environmentally responsible educational, historical, cultural, and recreational activities along the Mahoning River; and

Whereas, Howland Township fronts on the Mahoning River and is also traversed by Mosquito Creek, one of the Mahoning River's principal tributaries, providing significant opportunities for water-based recreation, wildlife observation, environmental education, and conservation; and

Whereas, said water trail designations must meet the criteria and guidelines established by the Ohio Department of Natural Resources; and

Whereas, the Mahoning River Water Trail is a cooperative effort among the aforementioned agencies, communities, and organizations to obtain official water trail designation and to pursue grant funding for wayfinding signage, access improvements, safety enhancements, and related amenities; and

Whereas the participating communities recognize the long-term vision of extending the regional water trail network by developing a future Mosquito Creek Water Trail from the Mosquito Creek Dam to its confluence with the Mahoning River, further enhancing regional connectivity, public access, outdoor recreation, and stewardship of the Mahoning River watershed.

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 **2026-096:**

WHEREAS, the following list of properties have been identified during the month of August 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: 28-407400	1481 Duffus Rd.
Parcel: 28-900678	8067 Raglan Ext.
Parcel: 28-226801	2790 Valacamp Ave.
Parcel: 28-376975	9124 Singing Hills

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 **2026-097:**

Per Township Administrator James Pantalone, approve to utilize Compass Family & Community Services (CAPE) to provide an Employee Assistance Program for the period August 1, 2026, to July 31, 2027, for \$1,800.00. There is no increase from last year.

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 **2026-098:**

Approve the School Resource Officer #1 Contract between the Board of Education for Howland Local School District and the Board of Trustees of Howland Township for the period September 8, 2026, through June 3, 2027, for a total cost of \$75,899.62. (complete contract attached in its entirety).

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 **2026-099:**

Approve the School Resource Officer #2 Contract between the Board of Education for Howland Local School District and the Board of Trustees of Howland Township for the period September 8, 2026, through June 3, 2027, for a total cost of \$30,455.92. (complete contract attached in its entirety).

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 **2026-100:**

Per the recommendation of Administrator James Pantalone and Police Chief Nick Roberts, approve the five-year copy machine lease agreement between Toshiba Financial and the Howland Police Department for the amount of \$8,712.00.

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 **2026-101:**

Per the recommendation of Administrator James Pantalone and Fire Chief Ray Pace, accept the awarded 2026-2027 Ohio Department of Public Safety-Division of EMS - P1-Training and Equipment Grant in the amount of \$3,389.12

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 **2026-102:**

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 property.

1. Bullard T3Max Serial # 52786 Thermal Imaging Camera
2. 2026 Ford F250 Truck Center Console Seat

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 **2026-103:**

Per the recommendation of Administrator James Pantalone and Fire Chief Ray Pace, accept the resignation of full-time Firefighter Nicholas Schreckengost, effective July 20, 2026, for personal reasons.

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 **2026-104:**

Per the recommendation of Administrator James Pantalone and Fire Chief Ray Pace, hire Volunteer Firefighter Lucas Brill as a part-time Firefighter/EMT effective August 16, 2026. Lucas will be paid \$17.00 an 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 **2026-105:**

Per the recommendations of Administrator James Pantalone and Fire Chief Ray Pace, approve the hiring of Adam Varner as a Full-Time Firefighter/Paramedic, effective August 2, 2026.

Starting Base Rate: 90% - Current Firefighter base pay - \$22.57 an Hr.

Adam will receive all benefits per the Township Personnel Policy and the Howland Township Fire Department's IAFF Local 2786 Contract.

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

Trustee Frank Dillon administered the Oath of Office to Firefighter Adam Varner

REPORTS FROM DEPARTMENT HEADS:

Administrator James Pantalone: At the last meeting, we discussed sending letters to State and Local officials about the fiber-optic problems that not only Howland Township is facing, but that many other Townships and Cities are dealing with. We met with State Rep. Nick Santucci and the OHIO811 representative to address our problems. The 811 group has a way to track work being done in the township, and with our app, residents could sign in and track it. The other day, the Commissioners held a meeting with township administrators and fiber optic representatives. In the meeting, it was reported that the biggest problem they are having is that they are subbing out the work, and that the company is subbing it out again. They are stopping that practice. Hopefully, this will solve some of our problems.

Trustee Dr. James LaPolla: I want the residents to know there will be an E-Waste Drop-Off on Saturday, September 12, 2026, at the Howland Scope Building from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm. Also, the Trumbull County COG held a meeting addressing issues everyone is having with data centers seeking to build in our area.

Public Works Director David McCann: Our department is dealing with all the rainstorms we have been having. We finalized the Silver Fox 2025 OPWC project. After the storm on July 5, we had over an inch and a half of rain within half an hour. None of our systems can handle this rain, but it highlights the problems we have with them.

Planning Director Kim Mascarella: We are starting to work on the Bolindale Plan that was included in the Township's 2023 Comprehensive Plan. We held our first meeting last Wednesday. The plan is to have more housing for this area. Trumbull County and Eastgate have awarded funding for this project.

Fiscal Officer Tom Krispinsky: I want the residents to know that the second-half property tax bills will be issued this week and are due on August 31, 2026. All homeowners should receive a reduction from their first half bill.

Comments from the Public: A group of residents from Meadow Lane came to address the Trustees about the flooding they are experiencing due to the rainstorms. They believe it is coming from the Sims Buick property. The residents who addressed the Trustees were Allana Bowman, Rosanna and Dan Montecalvo, David Butler, Amber Chappell, and Mike Zader.

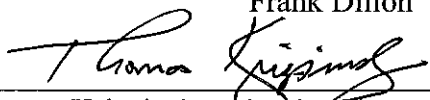
Comments from Lauren Hill, a representative from Trumbull County Engineer David DeChristofaro's office, noted to the Trustees that the Bronze Rd project is complete. She also said that she will share the Meadow Lane flooding concerns with her office.

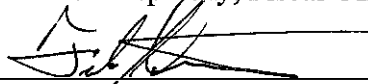
Comments from the Public: Tony Merola, a Howland resident, stated that there have been kids going into the Hillside Hospital building. Administrator James Pantalone told him that he would share this with the Police Chief.

Comments from the Public: Brian Bellus, Howland Fire Department: I want to thank the Trustees, Fire Chief, and Administrator for hiring our new firefighter.

A motion was made by Dr. James LaPolla and seconded by Matthew Vansuch to adjourn the regular meeting at 7:10 P.M.

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

Approved by:  Dated: 8/20/2026
Thomas Krispinsky, Fiscal Officer

Approved by:  Dated: 9/08/2026
Frank Dillon, Chair