

**HOWELL TOWNSHIP BOARD REGULAR MEETING**  
**September 26, 2011**  
**Howell Township Hall**  
**7:00. p.m.**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Carolyn Eaton	Clerk
Jonathon Hohenstein	Treasurer
Carolyn Henry	Trustee
Matthew Counts	Trustee
Dar Howard	Trustee
John Hubbel	Trustee

**MEMBERS ABSENT:**

Mike Coddington	Supervisor
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Clerk Eaton called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. The roll was called. All rose for the Pledge of Allegiance.

**MOTION** by Hubbel, seconded by Howard, **“TO HAVE CAROLYN EATON CHAIR THE SEPTEMBER 26, 2011 MEETING IN THE ABSENCE OF THE SUPERVISOR.”** Motion carried unanimously.

**CALL TO THE BOARD:** **MOTION** by Henry, seconded by Counts, **“TO APPROVE THE SEPTEMBER 26, 2011 AGENDA AS AMENDED. REMOVE ITEM 8a, SPLIT REU DISBURSEMENT POLICY.”** Motion carried unanimously. This item will be placed on next meeting’s agenda.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** **MOTION** by Hubbel, seconded by Howard, **“TO APPROVE THE AUGUST 22, 2011 REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES AS PRESENTED.”** Motion carried unanimously. See appropriate Board Meeting Minutes.

**CORRESPONDENCE:** See attached list. Added to list; Brown & Brown Insurance Co., MTA Online, Miss Dig’s CEO Retiring, M.A.P. Voting, Michigan Manufactured Homes Selling and Servicing , Government Payment Ad.

**CALL TO THE PUBLIC:** Marilyn Duncan, 1306 Dufree – Reported her concerns about Digital Smart Meters which collect energy-use data. These are installed by companies like DTE, Consumers Power etc. There is no notification as when they are going to do this. DTE says you cannot opt out. Ms. Duncan stated she believes this is a loss of our 4<sup>th</sup> amendment. She believes there are health concerns with these meters. She referred to Shelby Township, Oak Park and other municipalities adopting a resolution against these meters. Pauline Houlton from Shelby Township handed out packets of information about the Smart Meter to each board member. She then went on to state that these meters will eventually be on electric, gas and water. Under Bill #3925, chips will be in all appliances and equipment. Companies will then be able to track and control how you use your utilities through these meters with the ability to shut them off and or change prices with tier pricing. Because the consumer could have 3 or 4 different meters installed in their homes, there is a health issue with the electronic field going all the time. These smart meters can affect defibrillators and cause other medical issues. DTE, Consumers Power and other companies will not have to be liable for these medical affects. She is also concerned with the safety issue of the high voltage which may cause fire, especially in older homes. She has a resolution that she has prepared or is asking that the township to draft a resolution to tell MPSC (Michigan Public Service Commission) no to the Smart Meters.

Kaye Don LeChevalier, 2900 Brewer Rd. – Stated for years he has had ongoing problems with a neighbor. He would like to see something in a positive manner happen with this issue. The neighbor has a fire going at all times. He is conducting a business on his property. He brings items to his property from foreclosed homes. He then burns or just buries the items. On 5/26 – 6/28 brought in and filled a 20 yd dumpster and then again from 9/19 – 9/22. He has refrigerators and freezers that he burns or scraps out. Mr. LeChevalier would like to know what his neighbor is doing with the free-on. He has burned 30-35 mattresses and box springs along with rubber products. There have been explosions from propane canisters and paint cans. Because there is no clay lined pit, Mr. LeChevalier is concerned that the most of the things that are being buried are affecting the ground water. Mr. LeChevalier stated that he has been to the township several times to complain. He believes that enough ordinances have been violated. Warnings from the township are not enough because his neighbor is still violating the ordinances. There are parties going on way after 10 p.m. and that is when the noise really gets loud. This was reported to the Sheriff Department but, they say they cannot do anything about a noise violation as they do not have a contract with the township to uphold ordinance violations. He stated that he knows his neighbor has made threats against a township official along with 3 or 4 of his neighbors. This too has been turned over to the Sheriff Department but could not file the complaint because it was just hearsay. Mr. LeChevalier stated that he believed that a threat against a township official would be against Homeland Security. His neighbor has also dug a good size pond. He has put in a complaint with DEQ. DEQ says that with the new Governor that they can only do high priority issues. He would like the township to be more Pro-active on this issue. If the township gives a warning and the violation continues then there needs to be an actual citation or fine be given.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

None

**NEW BUSINESS:**

A. Cleary University Presentation – Mr. William Tehero handed out pamphlets on Tuition Grant Programs. With this Tuition Grant Program, any Howell Township board member, employee and or dependents will receive free lab fees, free parking fees, free application fees, free textbooks and a 20% reduction in tuition fees. There is no cost to the township for this program. Cleary College started in 1883 in Ypsilanti Michigan. They now have campuses in Ann Arbor, Flint, Dearborn and Howell. Other local municipalities involved with this program are City of Howell, Marion Township, Genoa Township, Handy Township and Howell Carnegie District Library. They have just hired an Athletic Director for football, basketball and wrestling. Cleary College is in the process of building a Community Recreation Fitness Center. Mr. Tehero is asking the township to participate in the Tuition Grant Program. Discussion followed. Resolution for this item will be placed on the next agenda.

B. Lucy Road Resources Conditional Rezoning Application – **MOTION** by Henry, seconded by Hubbel, **“TO APPROVE TO TURN OVER THE CONDITIONAL REZONING APPLICATION FOR LUCY ROAD RESOURCES FILE #08.11.04 TO THE PLANNING COMMISSION FOR REVIEW AND RECOMMENDATION.”** Motion carried unanimously.

C. Township Owned Pineview Village Parcels Assessment Resolution – Clerk Eaton reported that Howell Township received the Pineview Village Property from the state when it didn’t sell at the last sale in 2010. The Special Assessment was paid out of the General Fund and was put into the Special Assessment Account. This should not have been paid but left owning the township. The \$30,693.95 needs to be reverted back into the General Fund. **MOTION** by Henry, seconded by Counts, **“TO APPROVE RESOLUTION #09.11.295, TO AMEND THE SPECIAL ASSESSMENT**

**LEVY SEWER 6 AND WATER 2 Ext.”** A roll count was taken, Hubbel-yes, Eaton-yes, Howard-yes, Henry-yes, Counts-yes, Hohenstein-yes. Motion carried.

**REPORTS:**

A. Supervisor – No report.

B. Treasurer – Treasurer Hohenstein gave an extensive report on Howell Township's Estimated Total Revenue. Treasurer Hohenstien also reported that the governor is asking for all townships to put something on their websites for the residents to see just how their township tax dollars are being handled. A Dashboard is not required but is a good way to communicate that information on our website. Further research will be done on placing a Dashboard to the township web site.

C. Clerk/Zoning – See attached report(s). Clerk Eaton also reported that Severn Trent submitted a bill on 9/21/2011 retroactive from July. There has been a 3.629% plus 1% increase for CPI-U. The monthly fee will now be \$22,766.08 with a total yearly fee of \$273,192.91, resulting in over a \$12,000.00 increase. Discussion followed of concerns why we are being billed retroactive for 2 months with an increase that we were never told about. The township needs to be notified of these increases before the yearly budget is put into place. Clerk Eaton will talk with the Township Supervisor concerning this issue. It was reported by the clerk that Severn Trent is however, doing an excellent job. Clerk Eaton also reported that 39 residents have paid their \$2,500.00 Sewer Connection Fees. There also has been one partial payment and one being a previous opt out resident. There also has been 16 residents paying the \$2,500.00 Water Connection Fees with one of those being a previous opted out resident.

D. Airport - Clerk Eaton reported that the budget was approved. Also grading for the new Terminal project will soon start. Construction will also start next summer. The de-icing concern was settled and there will be no de-icing going into the sewers. It was reported that there were no meetings in September.

E. Planning – See attached. Trustee Howard reported that the Magna Building expansion was approved. Also Lucy Road Resources is asking for a Conditional Rezoning from “I” Industrial to “RSC” Regional Service Commercial. This rezoning will go to the Township Planning Commission on Oct. 18 and is due to come to the Township Board for final approval in November.

F. Zoning Board of Appeals – See attached. Zoning Administrator Eaton reported that Wittmann's came back for approval for their woodstove. The approval was granted.

G. MHOG – Trustee Howard reported instead of mining the old lime from the retention ponds that it was hauled away in liquid form. This has saved money. Also, there will be an increase Debt Fee but also a decrease in the Water Rate Fee from MHOG.

G. Assessing – See attached.

**DISBURSEMENTS:** MOTION by Henry, seconded by Hubbel, “**TO PAY REGULAR DISBURSEMENTS AS PRESENTED**”. Motion carried unanimously.

**CALL TO PUBLIC:** Kaye Don LeChevalier, 2900 Brewer Rd. Wanted to be reassured that he will be called about the issue with his neighbor.

**CLOSED EXECUTIVE SESSION:** MOTION by Hubbel, seconded by Howard, “**TO GO INTO CLOSED EXECUTIVE SESSION AT 8:18 P.M - LEGAL OPINION STATE SEPTEMBER TAX SALE PROPERTIES.**” Motion carried unanimously.

**MOTION** by Howard, seconded by Hubbel, **“TO CALL THE REGULAR TOWNSHIP MEETING BACK INTO SESSION AT 9:28 P.M.”** Motion carried unanimously.

**SEPTEMBER TAX SALE PROPERTIES:** **MOTION** by Howard, seconded by Henry, **“TO APPROVE THE BID ON SPECIFIC PROPERTIES TO THE MAXIMUM AMOUNT DISCUSSED IN CLOSED SESSION.”** A roll call was taken. Henry-yes, Hohenstein-yes, Hubbel-yes, Counts-yes, Eaton-yes, Howard-yes. Motion carried.

**ADJOURNMENT:** **MOTION** by Howard, seconded by Henry, **“TO ADJOURN.”** Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 9:31 p.m.

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_

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Carolyn Eaton  
Howell Township Clerk

As Amended: \_\_\_\_\_

As Corrected: \_\_\_\_\_

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Mike Coddington  
Howell Township Supervisor

Dated: \_\_\_\_\_

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_  
Debby Johnson  
Recording Secretary