



Fw: January 12, 2026 Township Board Meeting

From Howell Township Deputy Clerk <deputyclerk@howelltownshipmi.org>

Date Thu 1/8/2026 10:34 AM

To Trent Cunningham <tcunningham@fsbrlaw.com>; Sophia <syoussif@fsbrlaw.com> <syoussif@fsbrlaw.com>

Please see the attached letter for reference in regard to Ms. Marhofer's FOIA appeal.

Tanya Davidson

Deputy Clerk

deputyclerk@howelltownshipmi.org

517-546-2817 ext. 105

Office Hours

Monday through Thursday - 8:00 am to 5:00 pm

CLOSED - FRIDAY and ALL Legal Holidays

From: Howell Township Treasurer <treasurer@howelltownshipmi.org>

Sent: Thursday, January 8, 2026 10:08 AM

To: Howell Township Deputy Clerk <deputyclerk@howelltownshipmi.org>

Subject: Fw: January 12, 2026 Township Board Meeting

Thanks,

Jonathan

Howell Township Treasurer
Howell Township Zoning Administrator
treasurer@howelltownshipmi.org
517-546-2817

From: Meg Marhofer [REDACTED]

Sent: Thursday, January 8, 2026 10:06 AM

To: Howell Township Clerk <clerk@howelltownshipmi.org>; Howell Township Supervisor

<supervisor@howelltownshipmi.org>; Howell Township Treasurer <treasurer@howelltownshipmi.org>

Subject: January 12, 2026 Township Board Meeting

Dear Members of the Township Board,

I'm writing because I'm unable to attend the January 12, 2026 Township Board meeting in person. I have a board meeting scheduled the same evening, and I can't be in two places at once. Even so, I wanted to share a brief explanation of why I submitted the FOIA fee appeal currently before you, and what I'm personally asking the Board to consider.

I want to start by saying that this appeal is not personal and not meant to be adversarial. I understand that FOIA requests take time, and I appreciate the work staff does to respond to them. I filed the appeal simply because, as the process unfolded, the fees grew well beyond what I expected and beyond what felt reasonable given the requests themselves.

The appeal involves four FOIA requests. I'll summarize them briefly and plainly.

For the **Assessor Tax Emails**, the original estimate was **\$379.92**. I paid a deposit of **\$189.96**. The final fee later quoted was **\$456.30**, leaving a remaining balance of **\$266.34**.

For the **Support and Opposition Emails**, the original estimate was **\$402.08**, and I paid a deposit of **\$201.04**. The final fee was later increased to **\$580.68**, with a remaining balance of **\$379.64**.

For the **NDA-related communications**, the original estimate was **\$100.00**, I paid a **\$50.00** deposit, and the final fee quoted was **\$221.64**, leaving a balance of **\$171.64**.

For the **signed NDAs request**, the original estimate was **\$114.88**, I paid a **\$57.44** deposit, and the final fee quoted was **\$231.36**, leaving a balance of **\$173.92**.

What prompted me to appeal for the support and opposition emails was learning that those emails had already been gathered and organized for the December board packet. From my perspective as a resident, it was difficult to understand why I was being charged again for locating and compiling records that had already been prepared for board use.

I'm asking the Board to look at whether these charges fairly reflect the work that was actually required, whether any of the work was duplicated, and whether the fees should be reduced. For the support and opposition request in particular, I am also asking that the deposit I paid be refunded.

This appeal and the FOIA request in and of itself isn't intended to create conflict. I'm simply asking for a second look so I can understand the fees and be confident I am not being charged for work that was already done. I wouldn't have appealed if I didn't believe the fees went beyond the work that was actually needed.

I appreciate the Board taking the time to read this and consider my request, and I thank you for your service to the township. Considering the trustees do not have email addresses listed publicly, I would appreciate it if this letter can be included in the packet for the upcoming board meeting or delivered to them electronically.

Warm regards,

Meg Marhofer