

**HOWELL TOWNSHIP REGULAR BOARD
MEETING MINUTES**

3525 Byron Rd. Howell, MI 48855

April 13, 2026

6:30 P.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

| | |
|---------------------|------------|
| Robert Spaulding | Supervisor |
| Jonathan Hohenstein | Treasurer |
| Matthew Counts | Trustee |
| Tim Boal | Trustee |
| Jodi Fulton | Trustee |
| Bob Wilson | Trustee |

MEMBERS ABSENT:

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| Sue Daus | Clerk |
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Also in Attendance:

17 people signed in

Supervisor Spaulding called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. The roll was called. Supervisor Spaulding requested members rise for the Pledge of Allegiance.

CALL TO THE BOARD:

Treasurer Hohenstein requested that Agenda Item 10-O, Trustee, be added to the Reports section and Agenda Item 7-E, Road Projects, be added to Unfinished Business.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA:

April 13, 2026

Motion by Hohenstein, **Second** by Counts, **“To accept with amendments.”** Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF BOARD MEETING MINUTES:

March 10, 2026

REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Trustee Boal requested that discussion regarding North Truhn Road be included in the meeting minutes.

Motion by Hohenstein, **Second** by Boal, **“To accept the Board minutes from March 10, as amended.”**

Motion carried.

CALL TO THE PUBLIC:

Debbie Mannisto, 2330 Tooley Rd.: Spoke on Tooley Rd. property development, Township Master Plan, McCririe lawsuit.

Angela Barbash, 4211 Crandall Rd.: Spoke on Township financials, the moratorium, ordinance adoption, revenue concentration risk, technology obsolescence, and ordinance enforcement.

Ryan Kott, 222 Bain Dr.: Spoke regarding a dispute with Township Trustee Wilson and related concerns.

Mark Gatesman: Introduced himself and announced that he is running for Livingston County's 44th Circuit Court judgeship.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- A. Amend Resolution 02.26.261 to Resolution 02.26.561

Motion by Hohenstein, **Second** by Boal, **“To amend the resolution number of resolution 02.26.261 passed on February 9, 2026 to have the resolution number be 02.26.561.”** Motion carried.

- B. IT Updates

Mann IT representatives Aj [AJ] Russo and Doug Fuller, along with Deputy Treasurer Murrish, presented and discussed IT options with the Board and responded to inquiries. Topics included internet services, server infrastructure, website management, and Township Board email systems.

Internet Services – **Motion** by Wilson, **Second** by Fulton, **“To accept the plan for a better internet speed.”** Motion carried.

Server – Deputy Treasurer Murrish explained the options under consideration were to either purchase of a new server or to transition to a cloud-based infrastructure. Aj [AJ] Russo answered the Board's questions. It was the consensus of the Board to table the decision until next month to allow for additional information.

Phone Security and Flexibility Concerns – **Motion** by Counts, **Second** by Hohenstein, **“To accept the quote from Mann IT, option 2, Voice over IP desktop phone leasing phones with an annual fee of \$4078.44.”** Motion carried.

Budget Amendment – **Motion** by Hohenstein, **Second** by Counts, **“To increase account 101-265-728.001 Township Hall IT Support Expense by \$350.00 for the one time lease fee for 13 phones, installing, and training. Increase account 101-265-728.001 Howell Township Hall IT Support Expense by \$843.24 per year for VoIP annual monthly fee.”** Motion carried.

Email Addresses – **Motion** by Hohenstein, **Second** by Boal, **“To accept the creation of email accounts for all elected and appointed members of the Township and for the creation of the FOIA account billed annually at \$1344.00.”** Motion carried.

Budget Amendment – **Motion** by Counts, **Second** by Fulton, **“To increase account 101-265-728.001 Township Hall IT Support Expense by \$1411.20 annually for 14 new email accounts.”**

Website – **Motion** by Hohenstein, **Second** by Boal, **“To accept the quote from STG for the Gold package to create a new Township Website that is ADA compliant.”** Motion carried.

Budget Amendment – **Motion** by Hohenstein, **Second** by Fulton, **“To increase account 01-265-851.000 [101-265-851.000] Township Hall Web Expenses by \$3295.00 to upgrade the Township Website including ADA compliance and increase Account 101-265-851.000 Township Web Expenses by \$750.00 for the annual hosting and support plan.”** Motion carried.

- C. Howell-Mason v. Howell Township

Supervisor Spaulding reported that the court documents for Howell-Mason v. Howell Township were included in the packet for the Board's review.

- D. William McCririe v. Howell Township
Supervisor Spaulding reported that the court documents for William McCririe v. Howell Township were included in the packet for the Board's review.
- E. Road Projects
Supervisor Spaulding reported that he contacted Laura Eisele, Handy Township Clerk, regarding cost sharing for North Truhn Road maintenance. She indicated that all of Handy Township's road funds have already been allocated, and the township does not have available funds to participate in cost sharing for this project at this time. The Board reached a consensus to postpone the North Truhn Road project until next year and to discuss future cost-sharing opportunities with Handy Township.

NEW BUSINESS:

- A. Road Chloride Quote
Treasurer Hohenstein reported on the road chloride application. The new quote includes a notation stating that the quoted price may be amended as necessary, and that Chloride Solutions will notify the Township at least 15 days in advance of any additional price surcharge. **Motion** by Counts, **Second** by Hohenstein, **"To approve the quote from Chloride Solutions for dust control well brine at the presented rate, no more than two (2) applications."** Discussion followed. Motion carried.
- B. Livingston County Master Plan Notice
Provided as informational for Board review.
- C. Resolution Road Millage Renewal
Motion by Counts, **Second** by Hohenstein, **"To approve Resolution 04.26.562, as presented."**
Roll call vote: Wilson – yes, Counts – yes, Boal – yes, Fulton – yes, Hohenstein – yes, Spaulding – yes. Motion carried. **[(6-0)]**
- D. Planning Commission Appointment to Open Seat
Supervisor Spaulding invited the applicants who applied for the Planning Commission seat to stand and introduce themselves. Maureen Heikkinen introduced herself. Jim McEvoy introduced himself. Dan Bonello introduced himself. Motion by Spaulding, Second by Boal, **"To appoint Dan Bonello for the open PC seat, term length through December 31, 2028."** Roll call vote: Fulton – yes, Boal – yes, Wilson – yes, Counts – no, Hohenstein – no, Spaulding – yes. Motion carried. **[(4-2)]**
Discussion followed regarding the correction of appointment terms. Motion **[Motion]** by Counts, **Second [Second]** by Hohenstein, **"To extend Cory Alchin's seat on the Planning Commission to December 2028."** Motion carried.
- E. Financial Report – Deputy Supervisor Kilpela
Deputy Supervisor Kilpela gave an overview of the Township Revenue and Expenditure report ending March 31, 2026, discussed the general fund, legal fees, road fund, park/rec fund, sewer/water fund, and requested a budget amendment to decrease the utility billing water user fees. **Motion** by Counts, **Second** by Hohenstein, **"To decrease utility billing water usage fees income by \$90,000.00 to account for eliminating the debt fee."** Discussion followed. Motion Carried.

CALL TO THE PUBLIC:

Rob Spaulding: Spoke on his appointment as Supervisor, Spring clean-up advertising.

REPORTS:

- A. SUPERVISOR:
No report
- B. TREASURER:
See Treasurer Hohenstein's prepared report
- C. CLERK:
No report
- D. ZONING:
Trustee Wilson discussed the Brewer Road drainage issue and a conflict with Ryan Kott.
Trustee Boal inquired about the progress of the clean-up at 5057 Warner Road.
Zoning Administrator Hohenstein reported that the Township has received a complaint about engine braking on Oak Grove Road.
- E. ASSESSING:
See Assessor Kilpela's report
- F. FIRE AUTHORITY:
Supervisor Spaulding reported on Fire Authority
- G. MHOG:
Trustee Counts reported on MHOG
- H. PLANNING COMMISSION:
Motion by Boal, **Second** by Hohenstein, with friendly amendments, **"Request that the PC Members that are attending the data center subcommittee meetings be compensated at their regular rate for all meetings attended."** Discussion followed. The Board reached a consensus that no compensation will be provided to Trustee Boal. Motion carried.
- I. ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS (ZBA):
No report
- J. WWTP:
Motion by Hohenstein, **Second** by, Counts, **"To accept the Dell Technologies computer replacement and the CSM Mechanical quote for the check valve for pump station 71."** Motion carried.
- K. HAPRA:
See Clerk Daus's report
- L. PROPERTY COMMITTEE:
No report

M. PARK & RECREATION COMMITTEE:

No report

N. SHIAWASSEE RIVER COMMITTEE:

No report

O. TRUSTEE:

Trustee Boal reported that he and Trustee Fulton attended the MTA County Conference for a data center presentation.

CLOSED SESSION:

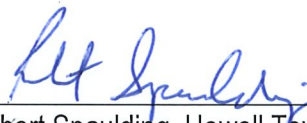
Motion by Hohenstein, **Second** by Counts, **"To enter into closed session to discuss the potential purchase of Township property per MCL 15.2681(d) [MCL 15.268(1)(d)]."** Motion carried.

Motion by Spaulding, **Second** by Hohenstein, **"To enter back into open session."** Motion carried.

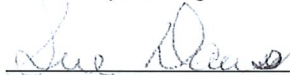
DISBURSEMENTS: REGULAR PAYMENTS AND CHECK REGISTER:

Motion by Hohenstein, **Second** by Counts, **"To accept the disbursements as presented and any normal and customary payments for the month."** Motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT: **Motion** by Boal, **Second** by Hohenstein, **"To adjourn"** Motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 10:48p.m.



Robert Spaulding, Howell Township Supervisor



Sue Daus, Howell Township Clerk



Tanya Davidson, Recording Secretary