

HOWELL AREA FIRE AUTHORITY

May 20, 2026 – 5:30 pm

Oceola Township Hall – 1577 N. Latson Rd, Howell, MI 48843

Board Members/Officials Present: Chairman Bill Fenton, Vice Chairman Sean Dunleavy, Secretary Mark Fosdick, Treasurer Nick Hertrich, Member Robert Spaulding, Deputy Chief/FM Jamil Czubenko, Admin. Asst. Barbara Souchick, Attorney Kevin Gentry

Chairman Fenton called the meeting to order at 5:30pm.

Discussion/Approval the minutes of the regular meeting of April 15, 2026: MOTION by Mr. Dunleavy, SUPPORT by Mr. Hertrich to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of April 15, 2026. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Discussion/Approval the minutes of the Closed Session of April 15, 2026: Adjourned to the June 17, 2026 meeting.

Call to Public: No Response

Discussion/Approval 2026/2027 Howell Fire Department Budget: MOTION by Mr. Hertrich, SUPPORT by Mr. Dunleavy to approve, as presented, the 2026/2027 Howell Fire Department budget. Subject to possible amendment. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Discussion/Approval Purchase of 3 Mobile Data Devices: MOTION by Mr. Dunleavy, SUPPORT by Mr. Hertrich to approve the purchase of 3 Mobile Data Devices from Dell Technologies in the amount of \$7,733.84. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Discussion/Approval Bills and Payroll: MOTION by Mr. Hertrich, SUPPORT by Mr. Fosdick to approve the payment of bills and payroll in the amount of \$564,178.29 for period ending May 8, 2026. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Fire Chief Comments: E-22 was sold for \$110,000 minus 10% to the broker.

New Business: Disciplinary Hearing. Employee requested a Closed Session.

MOTION by Mr. Fosdick, SUPPORT by Mr. Dunleavy to enter Closed Session at 5:45 PM and for Mr. Hertrich to take minutes. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY BY ROLL CALL VOTE. Dunleavy –Yes, Fenton –Yes, Fosdick – Yes, Hertrich – Yes, Spaulding – Yes.

MOTION by Mr. Dunleavy, SUPPORT by Mr. Hertrich to exit Closed Session at 6:03 PM. MOTION CARRIED BY ROLL CALL VOTE. Dunleavy – Yes, Fenton – Yes, Fosdick – Yes, Hertrich – Yes, Spaulding – Yes.

Mr. Fosdick relayed that the Personnel Committee has determined that in light of past and the present disciplinary issues the Committee has lost all confidence in the Deputy Chief of Operations and recommends dismissal. MOTION by Mr. Fosdick, SUPPORT by Mr. Hertrich to dismiss the employee. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY BY ROLL CALL VOTE. Mr. Dunleavy – Yes, Mr. Fenton – Yes, Mr. Fosdick – Yes, Mr. Hertrich – Yes, Mr. Spaulding – Yes. Mr. Gentry advised that the Board may offer the employee the option to resign. After an approximately 5 minute recess the employee and his attorney declined the offer to resign. The employee and his attorney exited the meeting.

Contract Review and Appointment. MOTION by Mr. Dunleavy, SUPPORT by Mr. Fosdick to offer a limited contract, as presented by Mr. Gentry, to Mike Evans for the position of Interim Fire Chief to begin on May 26, 2026. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Hiring Process. MOTION by Mr. Fosdick, SUPPORT by Mr. Dunleavy to instruct Mr. Gentry to post the Fire Chief position on job boards, social media and contact EMPCO to begin the hiring process and continue through with interviews and assessment center.

Old Business: The Station 22 renovation project has been placed on hold due to the final numbers from Summit Construction coming in more than a million dollars higher than the estimate. MOTION by Mr. Dunleavy, SUPPORT by Mr. Hertrich to approve payment to Summit Construction the outstanding balance of \$9750.00. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Closed Session: MOTION by Mr. Hertrich, SUPPORT by Mr. Fosdick to enter Closed Session at 6:24 pm. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY BY ROLL Dunleavy -Yes, Mr. Fenton -Yes, Mr. Fosdick -Yes, Mr. Hertrich -Yes, Mr. Spaulding -Yes. MOTION by Mr. Fosdick, SUPPORT by Mr. Hertrich to exit Closed Session at 6:28 pm. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY BY ROLL CALL VOTE. Mr. Dunleavy – Yes, Mr. Fenton -Yes, Mr. Fosdick -Yes, Mr. Hertrich -Yes, Mr. Spaulding – Yes.

Adjourn: MOTION by Mr. Hertrich, SUPPORT by Mr. Fosdick to adjourn the meeting at 6:35 pm. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Respectfully Submitted: Barbara J. Souchick
Barbara Souchick Admin Asst

Approved By: Mark Fosdick
Mark Fosdick, Secretary

