

**HOWELL TOWNSHIP
RESOLUTION OF REPRIMAND AND CENSURE OF TRUSTEE BOB WILSON**

Resolution Number 5.25._____

At a regular meeting of the Howell Township Board, Livingston County, Michigan, held at the Township Hall, 3525 Byron Road, Howell Michigan, on the 12th day of May 2025 at 6:30 p.m., Eastern Daylight Time.

Present:

Absent:

The following resolution was offered by _____ and supported by _____:

WHEREAS, Bob Wilson, was duly elected to serve as a trustee of the Howell Township Board (“Board”);

WHEREAS, Trustee Wilson, in assuming public office, assumed the obligation to uphold the laws of the State of Michigan, the policies and ordinances of Howell Township, and the state and local ethical standards expected of public officials;

WHEREAS, Trustee Wilson, in his capacity as a Trustee, has the responsibility to conduct himself in a manner reflecting integrity, respect, and accountability for the operations of local government and the public’s trust;

WHEREAS, Trustee Wilson has engaged in conduct inconsistent with these expectations and deemed inappropriate and not in alignment with the Township’s standards and ethical guidelines;

WHEREAS, Trustee Wilson’s conduct has impaired the effective functions of the Board, general staff morale, and undermined public trust in the government of Howell Township;

WHEREAS, the Board has reviewed the actions and decisions made by Trustee Wilson in the execution of his duties and found numerous discrepancies and violations of his fiduciary duties to his elected office that warrant formal censure;

WHEREAS, the actions of Trustee Wilson, which are inconsistent with the expectations and responsibilities of his office, include:

1. On or about February 10th through the 13th, of 2025, Trustee Wilson filed six (6) Ordinance violation complaints with the Township Ordinance Officer. Trustee Wilson requested to file these complaints in secret (anonymously) so he would not be identified as the complainant. Several of these residents appear to have had no prior contact with Trustee Wilson and appear to have been targeted by him at random. One victim of these complaints was a neighbor of Trustee Wilson's and had previously spoken out against Trustee Wilson's abhorrent past behavior. This resident appeared to have been targeted by Trustee Wilson for exercising that right, and part of the complaint attempted to prohibit that neighbor, a resident of the Township for over 50 years, from owning a tractor on his property.

Trustee Wilson's complaints against other unsuspecting residents appear to have been solely used to weaponize the Township Ordinances in an attempt to further Trustee Wilson's personal beliefs and misguided defense of another Township Board member who was later found to be responsible for violating the Township's Home Occupation Ordinance in the 53rd District Court. These "anonymous", secret Ordinance complaints filed by Trustee Wilson, an elected Township Official, created the very real possibility of hostilities between Township neighbors where none existed.

2. At a Special Planning Commission Meeting on February 11, 2025, Trustee Wilson, an elected Township Official, maliciously slandered the Planning Commissioners during a call to the public by accusing them of "being rogue as hell" among other derogatory statements. This slander was presumably because Trustee Wilson disagreed with the Planning Commission's well researched and discussed findings concerning detached Accessory Dwelling Units. Trustee Wilson was strongly in support of having detached Accessory Dwelling Units as rentals allowed and had been heard expressing his personal desire to have one in his own backyard as a source of income.
3. On February 25, 2025, at a second Howell Township Planning Commission meeting, Trustee Wilson again slandered the Planning Commissioners by accusing them of being "Dictators." This was again at the call to the public and was again referring to the Accessory Dwelling Units issue. It should be noted that as a sitting Township Board Member, Trustee Wilson plays a role in appointing Planning Commission members.
4. At a Howell Township Zoning Board of Appeals meeting on April 15, 2025, Trustee Wilson slandered another Township Board Representative performing his duties by calling him "Mr. Corruption" and stating to him, "you're so corrupt" with absolutely no basis.
5. On April 22, 2025, at a Howell Township Planning Commission meeting, Trustee Wilson, while recording the meeting from his chair in the audience, focused his recording on the posterior of an applicant addressing the Planning Commission. Trustee Wilson later posted a still photograph of his posterior video on local Facebook social media pages with the phrase "PSA. Never trust a fart". This behavior by an elected official, targeting a random business applicant of the Township, is juvenile and unprofessional, and has no place in Township governance.
6. On or about April 23, 2025, Trustee Wilson authored a public Facebook post in which he released information he was not lawfully authorized to disclose.

7. Trustee Wilson has attended Township Board meetings with the smell of marijuana on or about his person, indicating recent use. A Board member or Township staff member smelling of intoxicating substance(s) at a Public Meeting would not and should not be tolerated.
8. In November of 2024, Trustee Wilson started a social media thread suggesting donating municipality millage collected funds (taxpayer dollars) to a non-profit organization. After being advised very specifically that it was most likely illegal for this to happen and that the penalty in Michigan was a felony, Trustee Wilson responded, "Rules can be bent and changed". This is a gross violation of his fiduciary duty, Township's Ethic policy, and should be against any elected official's personal code of conduct.
9. Trustee Wilson has a long history of unprofessional conduct, disrespect and campaigning for personal causes and not those in the best interest of the Township as a whole. Trustee Wilson often fails to understand or educate himself on basic concepts that are essential to his effective role as a Trustee, such as the difference between net and gross, and often immediately claims corruption for his failure to understand or accuses others of being untruthful. Trustee Wilson consistently then presents this misinformation as facts to the public.
10. Trustee Wilson's past actions and threats, which include death threats, to Township Board members and Staff has resulted in numerous law enforcement complaints and the necessity of having an armed law enforcement Officer present for Township Board Meetings for safety reasons, this is at considerable expense to the Township. Township Staff have explored the need for security measures within their workplace due to Trustee Wilson's actions.

WHEREAS, in November of 2024, the Township's Ethics policy was reviewed and updated with the attached resolutions which were adopted unanimously, and which applied to Trustee Wilson's conduct. Trustee Wilson has violated numerous sections of the Ethics policy that he pledged to uphold. The Township Employee Code of Conduct is attached. A review of what is expected from Township employees should be the minimum expected of an elected official.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Howell Township Board hereby issues this formal reprimand to Trustee Wilson, formally censuring him for his aforementioned conduct.

WHEREAS, the Board hereby expresses its strong disapproval of Trustee Wilson's behavior and calls upon him to adhere to the highest standards of conduct and ethics moving forward;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board provides this censure as a formal reprimand and reminder of the standards of all township officials, and notes that further inappropriate conduct may result in additional actions, up to and including removal from office by the Governor of the State of Michigan as per the applicable laws and regulations.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board expects Trustee Wilson to refrain from conduct that disrupts the business of Howell Township, violates ethics policy, or erodes the trust of the public.

Yeas:

Nays:

RESOLUTION DECLARED _____

STATE OF MICHIGAN)
) ss
COUNTY OF LIVINGSTON)

I, Sue Daus, Clerk of Howell Township, hereby certify this to be a true and complete copy of this resolution, duly adopted on this day at a regular meeting of the Township Board.

Sue Daus, Howell Township Clerk