

**TOWN OF HOWARD
TOWN BOARD MEETING
MARCH 13, 2024**

The regular meeting of the Howard Town Board was called to order by Town Supervisor Donald Evia at 7:00pm.

Present: Town Supervisor Donald Evia, Councilman Gary Rice, Councilman Ed Obrochta, Councilman Ron Dyer, Councilman Ed Frey, Deputy Highway Superintendent Thomas Dubois.

Absent: Highway Superintendent Lee Pyer.

Also Present: Amarae Glick, David Walden, Richard Stewart

The pledge to the flag was led by Town Supervisor Don Evia.

Previous Minutes: The minutes for the previous meeting were reviewed by the Board.

A Motion was made by Councilman Frey and seconded by Councilman Rice to approve the February 14, 2024 minutes.

Carried: Councilman Rice, Aye; Councilman Obrochta, Aye; Councilman Dyer, Aye; Councilman Frey, Aye and Supervisor Evia, Aye.

Public Hearing:

A Motion was made by Councilman Ed Obrochta and seconded by Councilman Ed Frey to open the Public Hearing regarding the Logging Law/Notification Form at 7:10pm.

Carried: Councilman Rice, Aye; Councilman Obrochta, Aye; Councilman Dyer, Aye; Councilman Frey, Aye and Supervisor Evia, Aye.

David Walden and Richard Stewart asked if you are on a County Road logging why would you need to notify the Town of Howard. Councilman Frey responded that this Logging Law/Notification form is specific to the Town of Howard border lines whether on town roads or county roads. Mr. Walden also asked in reference to the signs that need to be put out for the trucks entrance, who is responsible for those, the Logger or the Company? Supervisor Evia responded with the Loggers are responsible.

Mr. Walden also asked if the Notification form could be accessed online. Supervisor Evia said that once the Law has been approved and passed, it could be put on the Town's website and that the forms will also be available in the Clerk's office. Councilman Dyer pointed out the fact that the Town is not charging for the permit making it easier for the Loggers to get the permits and putting the Highway Superintendent in charge rather than the Code Enforcer. The Board comments that the main purpose of this law is to notify. Councilman Rice pointed out that he had a discussion with William Thew, Planning Board Chairman about this Law. And it was explained that it must be a Town law and not just a Notification. Councilman OBrochta suggested that the Town's mailing address should be added to the bottom of the form. Town Clerk will add this before putting on the website.

A Motion was made by Councilman OBrochta and seconded by Councilman Dyer to close the Public Hearing at 7:24pm.

Carried: Councilman Rice, Aye; Councilman OBrochta, Aye; Councilman Dyer, Aye; Councilman Frey, Aye and Supervisor Evia, Aye.

A Motion was made by Councilman Frey and seconded by Councilman OBrochta to pass the "The Town of Howard Logging Law"

Carried: Councilman Rice, Aye; Councilman OBrochta, Aye; Councilman Dyer, Aye; Councilman Frey, Aye and Supervisor Evia, Aye.

Public Comment: Richard Stewart asked if the Annual Financial Report was finished and Supervisor Evia responded that it is not and the Town got an extension and was not able to give a date when it would be finished.

David Walden thanked the Town Board because he has seen an increase in the presence of the Sheriff's Dept., this is because of the ATVs on the roads. Town Supervisor Evia responded that the Sheriff's Dept. had claimed they were going to try to do that.

Department Reports:

A. Monthly Highway Report- From written report, Deputy Highway Superintendent Tom Dubois reports that the department has been filling pot holes, working on the trucks, plowing, and sanding, cutting brush and fixing wash out on the roadsides. The 284 Agreement will be discussed in the April meeting along with discussion on gravel quotes and a quote from Lane Pipe for McBeth Road. Supervisor Evia also comments that the Board will need to be deciding on the gravel (15,000 ton) quotes for the April meeting. The quotes are from Hubbard (\$90,000.00) with the Town Loader in their pit and Hess (\$86,250.00) a difference of \$3,750.00. Deputy Highway Superintendent Dubois informs the Board that the Highway Dept. employees are getting training to run the loader in Hubbard's gravel pit. Supervisor Evia commented that they will be getting their sand from Hubbard. The Board discusses the pros and cons of where the town should get their gravel and will need to make a decision at the April meeting.

Deputy Superintendent Dubois asked for a resolution to hire Ethan Smalt on as part-time summer help.

A Resolution (#10-2024) was made upon a motion by Councilman Rice and seconded by Councilman Dyer to hire Ethan Smalt on for part-time summer help in the Highway Department.

Adopted: Councilman Rice, Aye; Councilman OBrochta, Aye; Councilman Dyer, Aye; Councilman Frey, Aye and Supervisor Evia, Aye.

Deputy Superintendent Dubois asked for a resolution for Larry Miles with the mowing.

A Resolution (#11-2024) was made upon a motion by Councilman OBrochta and seconded by Councilman Frey to have Larry Miles continue with the mowing.

Adopted: Councilman Rice, Aye; Councilman OBrochta, Aye; Councilman Dyer, Aye; Councilman Frey, Aye and Supervisor Evia, Aye.

Deputy Superintendent Dubois is asking for a resolution to hire Larry Jackson, Contractor to put metal siding on the wash bay building, the cost is \$10,450.00 which includes corners, soffits and taking the old chimney down. Councilman Rice commented that the plus side to hiring Larry Jackson to do the work on this building is that he already here with his equipment. Supervisor Evia suggest they could use the Covid Grant to fund this building project. He also discusses other areas that could use some maintenance work and the importance of keeping the town buildings in good shape. The Board agrees.

A Resolution (#12-2024) was made upon a motion by Councilman Rice and seconded by Councilman Frey to hire Larry Jackson to do the work on the wash bay building.

Adopted: Councilman Rice, Aye; Councilman OBrochta, Aye; Councilman Dyer, Aye; Councilman Frey, Aye and Supervisor Evia, Aye.

B. Monthly Planning Board Report- Supervisor Evia reports that an individual in the town asked if the town was going to put in new sidewalks and Supervisor Evia said they were not the towns. In a discussion with William Thew, Planning Board Chairman, pertaining to the

sidewalks, Mr. Thew commented that he believed there were grants for this. The Board, through discussion questioned who would be responsible for the maintenance of the sidewalks. Councilman Frey believed the sidewalks belong to the County because of the County right of way. Supervisor Evia and the Board agree that they are not in favor of resuming responsibility of the sidewalks.

Another topic that William Thew discussed with Supervisor Evia was ideas for improvements in the park. The Planning Board would like to do a mailing to get input from the residents. Supervisor Evia suggested finding the old plans for the park. Richard Stewart said that the Planning Board estimated the cost of the \$250,000.00 for the park. The Board discusses different ideas for the park improvement and to make it more attractive. Councilman Frey commented that are more young families that would benefit from the use of the park and Councilman OBrochta suggests talking with Avoca on how they funded the work done with their park. They also discussed on how to bring it to the public's attention ex. public hearing with 2 or 3 different plans opposed to a mailing. Councilman OBrochta asked what our Liability Insurance covers at the park. Supervisor Evia was unable to answer that without looking at the policy. It was also discussed that something needs to be done with the bleachers and it was suggested that they be removed before summer. Deputy Superintendent Dubois said he could mention it to Superintendent Pyer and set a date to look at them.

- C. Monthly Fire Department Report-** Written reports consisting of January 2024 Monthly Expenditures, February 2024 Monthly Business Meeting and Monthly Expenditures, March 5, 2024 Meeting. Mr. Cleeves has left the 2023 Yearly Financial Report for the fire department in the Clerks office if anyone is interested in looking at it.
- D. Monthly Assessor's Report-** No report
- E. Monthly Building Inspector's Report-** No report
- F. Monthly Town Justice Report-** Written report consisting of cases and fines. Justice Cornell wrote a check to the town in the amount of \$729.00.
- G. Monthly Animal Control Report-** Written report stating that there were 2 dogs on the loose, one on Hammer Creek Rd. and one on Robinson Rd.
- H. Monthly Library Report-** Written report consisting of a letter addressed to the Board, Expense sheet, miscellaneous attendance sheet, March, and April Calendars. They also report that during the winter months there were a couple of instances of folks falling on the ice in the parking lot that they shared with the Church, no one was injured. They wanted to make the town aware of the situation. Supervisor Evia commented that the town used to plow for them until the driveway was made to narrow with the big rocks on each side making it to difficult to fit the plow truck through so the town no longer plows for them. Councilman Frey asked who was doing it now and Supervisor Evia said they had someone plowing for them however, the gentleman that was plowing for them has recently passed away. Supervisor Evia commented that their concern was duly noted.

- I. **Monthly Town Clerk's Report-** Written report for February 2024 consisting of revenue that was brought in from 7 Dog Licenses (\$63.00)

Disbursements: The report says \$63.00 to be paid to the Town Supervisor however, the check was written in the amount of \$50.00 to the Town Supervisor due to an error of an overpayment of \$13.00 in the December check and \$7.00 paid to the NYS Animal Population Control Program totaling \$57.00.

Town Clerk, Fran Sharp addressed the Board that in further discussion of the appearance of the towns buildings she would like to dress the entrance of the Town Hall up with some flowers. She asked for funds to purchase flower boxes or ½ barrels, potting soil and the flowers. Fran also informed the Board that she had the Highway department take the outside bulletin board down, which she has taken home to get redone or rebuilt so we can start posting Town information outside again.

A Motion was made by Councilman Frey and seconded by Councilman Obrochta approving an amount up to \$500.00 to purchase the boxes, flowers, and soil.

Carried: Councilman Rice, Aye; Councilman Obrochta, Aye; Councilman Dyer, Aye; Councilman Frey, Aye and Supervisor Evia, Aye.

Town Clerk, Fran Sharp also addressed the Board that she had received an email from Erica from Cornell Cooperative Extension asking if she could partner with us during our Rabies Clinic in July to offer information on different energy programs that are available in Steuben County to the residents. The Board has no problem with that.

- J. **Monthly Town Supervisor's Report-** Supervisor Evia reports that Longroad Energy is looking to re-power all the windmills in the Town of Howard and they want to have a meeting with myself and William Thew (PBC) about how to make this happen. Supervisor Evia reports that we received a copy of the Canisteo Dog Control Inspection Report that was completed on 2/28/2024 and everything was "Satisfactory". He also states that he needs authorization from the Board to sign the Hornell Ambulance Contract. He comments that nothing has changed.

A Motion was made by Councilman Dyer and seconded by Councilman Rice giving Supervisor Evia authorization to sign the Hornell Ambulance Contract.

Carried: Councilman Rice, Aye; Councilman Obrochta, Aye; Councilman Dyer, Aye; Councilman Frey, Aye and Supervisor Evia, Aye.

Supervisor Evia talks to the Board about a program with "American Energy Partners about saving on the town's electric bills and being able to lock in at price for a certain number of years. The company is asking for a copy of the town's electric bills to determine how much they could save the town. Councilman Dyer mentions that he heard information from a gentleman that works for NYSEG regarding the LED lights needing to be changed out more than the vapor lights did. Supervisor Evia also passed around information to the Board regarding Telecommunications Ceiling from NYS ORPTS-Dept. of Taxation & Finance. He also passed around information that Highway Superintendent Lee Pyer wanted the Board to look at regarding the cuts to the Local Transportation Programs. Supervisor Evia reported that the town received the Pilot check which he said was around \$310,000-\$320,000 (he did not have an exact amount). He commented that the Wind Company pays out these pilot checks in lieu of property taxes and this one was written after February and they do not have to pay any penalties.

Old Business: None

New Business: Town Clerk, Fran Sharp informed the Board that the Corning Community Regional Leadership Conference is April 4, 2024 and that anyone interested needs to get registered by March 21, 2024 and the fee is \$75.00 per registrant. She also reported that this information was emailed to the Planning Board.

Regular Business: The regular bills were presented to the Board for Audit.

Highway Fund	(Abstract #1 – 18)	\$53,605.39
General Fund	(Abstract #302 – 322)	\$47,428.38
Street Lighting	(Abstract #319)	\$448.61

A Motion was made by Councilman Obrochta and seconded by Councilman Rice to pay these bills.

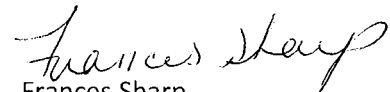
Carried: Councilman Rice, Aye; Councilman Obrochta, Aye; Councilman Dyer, Aye; Councilman Frey, Aye and Supervisor Evia, Aye.

Town Board Discussion: None

Adjournment:

A Motion was made by Councilman Dyer and seconded by Councilman Obrochta to adjourn the meeting at 8:45pm.

Carried: Councilman Rice, Aye; Councilman Obrochta, Aye; Councilman Dyer, Aye; Councilman Frey, Aye and Supervisor Evia, Aye.



Frances Sharp
Howard Town Clerk