

**TOWN OF HOWARD  
TOWN BOARD MEETING  
APRIL 9, 2025**

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

**Present:** Town Supervisor Donald Evia, Councilman Ed OBrochta, Councilman Ron Dyer, Councilman Gary Rice and Highway Superintendent Lee Pyer.

**Absent:** Councilman Ed Frey

**Also Present:** Amarae Glick, Richard Stewart, Jen Dickson (Library Board Member), Mallory Richman (Library Board Member).

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

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

**A Motion** was made by Councilman Dyer and seconded by Councilman Rice to approve and accept the 2025 March Minutes.

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

**Public Comment:** Richard Stewart asked if Town Supervisor Evia had spoke to the Town Assessor Laura Snow regarding the assessment model being used for the Howard Wind Turbines. Supervisor Evia commented that he had discussed this matter with Laura and she is going to make the changes. Mr. Stewart also showed the Board the letter that he had written to Laura Snow. Mr. Stewart and Town Supervisor discussed the current assessments of the turbines in Steuben County. Richard also mentioned Solar farm negotiations going on and using the same grid. Supervisor Evia commented about Solar farms and grids playing into battery storage. Supervisor Evia mentions that he had spoken to William Thew (Planning Board Chair) about battery storage and get a copy of what Corning is going to use for their Battery Storage Law and finish the Battery Storage Law that the Planning Board was working on. He informed the Board Members they had a copy of this in their packets to review. He also suggests that they should make sure they have things in place and have training for the Fire Department and the cost of this training should not fall on the department, it should fell on the battery company.

**Department Reports:**

- A. Monthly Highway Report-** Highway Superintendent Lee Pyer addresses the Board that there are 3 generators down on the wind turbines, 2 on Magill and 1 on South Woods. He reports that the cranes will be coming in on the 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> of April. He goes on to report they have been grading pot holes, working on Robinson Road undercut. They also had some trees down. The part-time summer employee, Chris

Abbott started work and he is doing well. Lee reported the Cody Derrick had resigned on March 24. Lee asked to put the word out regarding filling this position. Highway Superintendent Pyer asked the Board if they were going to have a discussion regarding the purchase of a Hyundai Loader that was talked about at last months meeting. He went to say if they were not going to discuss the purchase of the Loader, he is asking for a resolution to purchase a cutting edge for current Loader. Councilman Rice commented that it is not right time to buy the Loader. Councilman Dyer comments that he says as a Board they need to have a specific time frame to purchase equipment, ex. (every 5 yrs, etc.), to have a plan and stay with it, not have to make decisions when a sales rep. calls with an offer. Supervisor Evia requests that Lee do another 5-year plan to get it updated. Lee responded that he would have it ready by next month's meeting. Superintendent Pyer comments that the truck purchases are every other year putting it in between the equipment purchases letting the Board know it will be tight. He also commented that the Massey Ferguson tractor will not be on that rotation because it can run 15-20 years. He goes on to discuss the Grader purchase, he suggests using the FEMA money to purchase it. He believes the FEMA should come in by mid-summer. Councilman OBrochta asked Lee to price out a Mulcher for the excavator and where that could save on man hours. Lee explains why it would not save any man hours. Lee asked the Board for a resolution to purchase a cutting edge for the Loader with all the hardware for \$1,844.99.

**A Resolution (#05-2025)** was made upon a motion by Councilman OBrochta and seconded by Councilman Rice to approve the purchase of a cutting-edge w/hardware for \$1,844.99 for the Loader.

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

- B. Monthly Planning Board Report-** Special meeting on April 10, 2025 for 2 subdivisions
- C. Monthly Fire Department Report-** Councilman Rice reports they had a meeting the week prior. The minutes were not complete at the time of the Regular Town Board meeting and only the Monthly Financial Business portions for Feb. and March were turned in.
- D. Monthly Assessor's Report-** No report
- E. Monthly Building Inspector's Report-** No report
- F. Monthly Town Justice Report-** A written report consisting of cases and fines for the month of March 2025. A check was written to the town in the amount of \$618.00

**G. Monthly Animal Control Report-** Nothing to report

**H. Monthly Library Report-** Written report consisting of a letter addressed to the Town Board Members, Expense Sheet, Miscellaneous attendance sheet. The letter to the Board informing them that Keeler Plumbing and Heating was installing the new furnace on April 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>. They stated they are incredibly thankful for the Town's cooperation and timeliness with this matter.

Jenn Dickson and Mallory Richman Library Board members addressed the Town Board regarding the renovations and updates they are planning for the library with a grant (\$.75 on the dollar) they are applying for through Southern Tier Library System. They inform the Board they do not have specific details as of yet and they are now getting bids in from Contractor's. They have spoken to an Architect about their plans and what they can and cannot do with the building. They got approval from the State and Historic Preservation Office. They also spoke to Museums with Merisa. They asked the Town Supervisor Evia if there was anything else needed from them and he asked for an overview of the project. They replied everything will be interior and update the technology as well as transform the inside front of the library making it more tech friendly and more up to date. They would like to change the carpeting and update the walls. They discussed utilizing the upstairs and putting in a chair lift on the back stairs for safety reasons.

Town Clerk, Fran Sharp addressed Jenn Dickson and asked if she had received the letter from the Town regarding the use of the building for 10+ years which was requested from them for the grant they were applying for and she replied they had received it and that it was sufficient.

Councilman OBrochta commented that the town is waiting on an estimate from Bullfrog Construction (Ellise McCullum) regarding the work in the kitchen that is located on the second floor as well as the electrical in the museum because there was only one outlet that is currently working. Supervisor Evia commented that he had also talked Douglas Electric. Councilman OBrochta commented on upgrading the fire and safety part of it.

Richard Stewart commented that all the dishes have been removed from the kitchen and taken to the Howard Church located next door.

Supervisor Evia commented that he thinks it is good what they are going to do with the library and letting them know if there is anything else they need from the town to reach out and let us know and to please keep the Board apprised on how it goes. Highway Superintendent Pyer asked if there was going to be anymore outside work to be down on the outside and asked if they still wanted the driveway removed that is between the library and the church and make it a yard. They informed him that they will be having a board meeting in the following week and will discuss it and get back with them.

- I. Monthly Town Clerk's Report-** Written report for March 2025 consisting of revenue brought in from 2 Building Permits (\$75.00), 16 Dog Licenses (\$150.00).

**Disbursements:** Paid out to Town Supervisor (\$225.00) and to NYS Animal Population Control Program (\$20.00) totally \$245.00.

Town Clerk, Fran Sharp also handed out "Town of Howard Discrimination and Harassment Policy" to all the Board members and informed them that all staff, employees and elected official received one to review, sign and date the Acknowledgment page and return to Clerk's office to be filed.

- J. Monthly Supervisor's Report-** Supervisor Evia reports that he received the check from the Justice Dept. (\$618.00) and the Town Clerk (\$225.00). He also reiterated that the funds from the Justice Dept. will no longer be going into a separate bank account, instead it will be going into the Money Market account. He also reports that there has been discussion with Hunt Engineers regarding the town park grant which Councilman OBrochta will give an updated report on. He also informed the Board that all the computers have been changed and will be putting in a fair size TV in the Board room for FEMA zoom meetings with Highway Superintendent Lee Pyer as well as any other town zoom conference or meetings involving training. Supervisor Evia is hopeful that this will be able to be done by the end of April.

**Old Business:** Councilman Ed OBrochta reports that he has been talking with Tammy Knuzman, Grant Administrator for Hunt Engineering. He reports that Tammy had sent the town information regarding a 90/10% grant for the playground equipment and the Pavilion for the town park and the Town's portion will be 10% of the grant. He reads the email sent from Tammy to the Board members, it states that the match can be met through in-kind services specifically any work completed at the site by Municipal Employees, Volunteers can help meet that match. In addition, administrative efforts are also considered. It also states you cannot complete any work associated with these items until you are awarded otherwise, they will become ineligible. He continues on to talk about the "Plug n Play Grant which is designed to get children off computer devices and get them outside and the Parks Grant that will be regarding the walking track and that grant will be coming out next month, May. Councilman OBrochta also mentioned that the storage building that they had been talking about is not an allowable item because the Plug n Play grant goal is designed to get children back outside so the Pavilion would be eligible and Tammy believes that picnic tables would be as well. He comments that Tammy will be reaching out to some contacts regarding the playground equipment such as "GameTime" and they will provide layouts and suggestions for the Board to review. He states that Hunt Engineering is doing the designing and that is what the town has paid them to do. Town Clerk, Fran Sharp informs everyone at the meeting that we welcome any comments, thoughts and suggestions that they may have regarding the town park project and there is paper and pencils available for them to use to draft a letter of support of the park and what it would mean to them to have improvements done to the park. Councilman OBrochta addresses the Board regarding the storage building and shows pictures of a building that is being sold by Mike Sweet in Bath, NY. He says they can order the building any way they perform however, the one he has right now is a marked down item at \$4,702.50 and

it is free delivery. He believes this building would be less money than ordering one special. Supervisor Evia said that he will get down there and take a look at this building. He continues on regarding the walking track and it measures out to be approx. 1600ft. all the way around the park. He said, in order to not have to cut trees, they would have to move the "Carl Willis Memorial Rock" to a different spot. Councilman Dyer asked about the storage building and if picnic tables would be stored in it and Councilman OBrochta replied it depends on what style table is agreed upon.

Councilman Rice mentioned that he talked about the park and the grant at the Fire Department meeting. Supervisor Evia mentioned that he learned from Councilman Rice that pickleball is very popular and that it would be a very good addition to the park. He also commented that playground equipment would be appreciated. Councilman Dyer mentioned that he learned from an individual that he was talking to that he had his grandchildren at the park and next thing he knew he had more children over there will them. Councilman Rice mention that the park is also used as a landing zone for helicopters and would not to be implemented in with the design of the park. He also mentioned that in the Fire Department meeting they talked about having water available for hand washing because of the Summer Youth Program that the Fire Chief Robby Patrick and his wife Dawn sponsor in the summer, he said that hand washing is a concern of theirs. He said he called Larry's Latrine and they don't have a combination sink and toilet, they do have a standalone sink (25 gallon- \$125.00 p/month and a 45 gallon-\$150.00 p/month) that they would keep serviced. Supervisor Evia comments that would be good for the month the Summer Youth Program will be going on. It was also mentioned that when the walking track gets paved to put in a pad for the handicap porta-john to be placed on. Councilman Rice said he would check this out further.

Councilman OBrochta comments that the Board has to make a resolution regarding the SEQR Type II Town of Howard Park Improvements Phase 1.

**A Resolution (#06-2025)** was made upon a motion by Councilman OBrochta and seconded by Councilman Dyer to accept the State Environmental Quality Review Act Type II Resolution regarding Town of Howard, Howard Park Improvements Phase 1.

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

**New Business:** Supervisor Evia mentions that the Board needs to set a date for the Public Hearing regarding rescinding the Local law #01 Regulations of Navigable Waters of Lake Demon in the Town of Howard.

**A Motion** was made by Councilman Rice and seconded by Councilman OBrochta to set the date for the Public Hearing for Local Law #01 on May 14, 2025 at 7:10pm.

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

Councilman Dyer mentions to the Board the legalities regarding Zoom meetings. He checked into it and found out that only in special circumstances could Board members attend the meeting via Zoom. Anyone else such as a representative from a company addressing the Board could attend via Zoom.

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

Highway Fund	(Abstract #535-547)	\$56,715.54
General Fund	(Abstract #534-548)	\$12,298.35
Street Lighting	(Abstract #535)	\$354.92

**A Motion** was made by Councilman Dyer and seconded by Councilman OBrochta to approve and pay these bills.

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

**Executive Session:** None

**Town Board Discussion:** None

**Adjournment:**

**A Motion** was made by Councilman Dyer and seconded by Councilman OBrochta to adjourn the meeting at 8:03pm.

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

  
Frances Sharp  
Howard Town Clerk