

**TOWN OF HOWARD
TOWN BOARD MEETING
JUNE 11, 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 Frey, Councilman Ed OBrochta, Councilman Ron Dyer, Councilman Gary Rice and Deputy Highway Superintendent Thomas Dubois.

Absent: Highway Superintendent Lee Pyer

Also Present: Andrew Burdin, Richard and Wilma Stewart, Marcia Patrick, Beverly Falvey, Charles Woodworth.

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 May minutes.

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

Public Comment: Beverly Favley announced that the Howard Museum would be open this summer starting in July through September from 2 – 4pm on Sundays. She asked the Board permission to use the Town Office restrooms during this time frame. The Board Members have no problem with allowing the use of the restrooms for the Howard Museum as well as for “Old Home Days”. Town Supervisor Evia instructs the Town Clerk to have a key made up for this purpose. Supervisor Evia asked if there was any other public comment. Charles Woodworth said he came to get general information regarding the washout and his driveway pipe on Stone School Road. He asked if the highway department was getting ready to clean the ditch out and that his driveway pipe needed to be changed out for the larger one because with the heavy rains and high waters as it keeps getting washed out. Deputy Highway Superintendent Tom DuBois said they were and that the department was aware of that. Mr. Woodworth claims that a lot of the problem comes from a neighboring property diversion ditch being routed right at his ditch running along side of his house. He tells the highway department to do whatever they need to do to fix the problem including putting in a larger pipe. Deputy Tom Dubois explains that the problem is not the size of the pipe but the fact that the water running down in the ditch cannot make a 90 degree turn at the bottom and rock and debris fills up the ditch and goes right over the road. Councilman Rice questions Tom on what prevents the town from putting a pipe across the road. Tom explains that he has been told over the years that you cannot turn water onto someone else’s property if it already isn’t there. Supervisor Evia

suggest Tom should ask Soil and Water that question. Mr. Woodworth comments that the highway department is doing a great job.

Department Reports:

A. Monthly Highway Report- Deputy Highway Superintendent Tom DuBois gives the Highway report. He reports they have been cleaning up after the last two storms, trees down, washouts, damage from water going across the roads. He reports the paving is complete. They have been doing oil and stone in the good weather. He reports the Highway Department hired James Kring as full time MEO to replace Cody Derick. Also, the CHIPS for 2025 is \$558,960.64. Tom reports that they want to do the shoulders on the blacktop on the Turnpike and he presents the Board with a per/day quote from Blades. He explains that the County is not able to do them because they are very busy with their own responsibilities. He comments that Blades claims they could possibly complete this work in one day and could come when the town is ready for them and the town would be hauling the gravel for them. Supervisor Evia comments that there are other places that would need shoulder work and have them do that work as well. Councilman Frey suggests identifying these areas that would also need shoulder work.

A Motion was made by Councilman Rice and seconded by Councilman Frey to hire Blades to back-up the road shoulders that need to be done as soon as possible.

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

Councilman OBrochta asked how the new hire, James Kring was working out and Tom replied that he is doing very good and gave some history on his background.

A Motion was made by Councilman Frey and seconded by Councilman OBrochta approving the hiring of James Kring for the full time MEO position on May, 27, 2025.

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

Tom reports that they got the last layer of oil and stone on the Lake Demon Road and it all went well. He reports that a fellow on the West side of the Lake put a storage building very close to the road. The Board asked if it was code worthy and Tom believes that it is not.

Town Supervisor Evia reports that the part-time hire, Chris Abbott is signed up for the County CDL Program, however he cannot start until September because the class is full. Supervisor Evia said there is gentlemen named Todd Swimelar, "The CDL Guy" that does entry level driver training for commercial driver's license which is another option for Chris to speed up the process of getting his CDL. The cost for this program is \$1,300.00. The Board agrees this is a good option than to wait until September when the County will have their next class.

A Motion was made by Councilman OBrochta and seconded by Councilman Frey to have further discussion regarding this option.

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

Councilman Rice suggested going into Executive Session to further to talk about this CDL training option.

The Executive Session for this is noted below in the Executive Session part of the minutes.

Supervisor Evia talks about the CDL training opportunity and he would like to move forward with getting Chris Abbott enrolled in the program as soon as possible so he has time in the trucks before its time to plow snow.

A Motion was made by Councilman OBrochta and seconded by Councilman Frey approving the CDL training program for Chris Abbott with the "The CDL Guy" Todd Swimelar.

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

A Motion was made by Councilman Rice and seconded by Councilman Frey to pay the cost of \$1,300.00 for Chris Abbott's CDL training with Todd Swimelar. Also acknowledging upon completion of his training and obtaining his CDL license Chris will move from part time employment to full time employment.

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

B. Monthly Planning Board Report- No report

C. Monthly Fire Department Report- April and May 2025 Financial Reports with minutes to follow.

D. Monthly Assessor's Report- Supervisor Evia reports that the Town Assessor put in the request for 2.5 million per/turbine with the Wind Company and at first, they pushed back and then they decided to accept it.

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 May 2025. There were no fines, no check was written to the town for May 2025.

G. Monthly Animal Control Report- Nothing to report. Gary Hadsell also gave the Town Board his Notice of resignation as Dog Control Officer effective June 30, 2025.

A Motion was made by Councilman Frey and seconded by Councilman OBrochta to accept Gary Hadsell's (Dog Control Officer) resignation.

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

H. Monthly Library Report- Written report consisting of a letter addressed to the Town Board Members, Expense Sheet, Miscellaneous attendance sheet. They also state that the Summer Reading Calendar for July and August will follow soon.

I. Monthly Town Clerk's Report- Written report for May 2025 consisting of revenue brought in from 6 Certified Copies (\$60.00), 5 Building Permits (\$291.00), 13 Dog Licenses (\$161.00)

Disbursements: Paid out to Town Supervisor (\$512.00) and to NYS Animal Population Control Program (\$20.00) totally \$532.00.

Town Clerk, Fran Sharp also reports there were no marriage licenses issued for May and there were 3 handicap permits issued. Fran also addressed the Board what their thoughts were on changing the set-up in the meeting room to make it more functional to the new addition of the T.V. on the long wall. They all agreed to try it out and if it does not work out, can always change it back.

J. Monthly Town Supervisor's Report- Supervisor Evia reports a check in the amount of \$3994.00 was deposited in the bank. He also presents to the Board Members a map of the wind turbine locations for the Prattsburg Wind, Town of Howard. He also reports that there have been Constructions Companies reaching out with questions regarding permits for different parts of the projects as they are starting to put in bids. Supervisor Evia also mentions that the Town has a new Attorney, Dwight Kanyuck from KNAUF SHAW LLP out of Rochester, NY, he will be representing the Town with the Wind project. Aaron Mullen, (Mullen Associates) turned everything over to him. He comments that this Lawyer has a lot of experience in Wind business. Supervisor Evia goes on to say that possibly the Wind Companies might be getting started late this year with some clearing.

Old Business: Supervisor Evia asked the Board if there was anything that they would be revisit in the Lake Demon Navigable Waters Law. He comments that he spoke with the Town Atty. Brian Schu and Mr. Schu stated that was not much they could do with the law as far as enforcement, however could do some changes with wording. Councilman Dyer comments that he believes it should be updated to be in compliant with NYS law because it was done in 1986, suggesting adding a line regarding NYS Navigation Law has jurisdiction over the town law. It was suggested that it be drafted to our law. Supervisor Evia said he would pay another visit to the Town Attorney.

Councilman OBrochta gives an update on the park. He reports that the new shed has been delivered and set up. He reports that Hunt had the walking path encompassing the perimeter of the park. He says that there was discussion of making a change to the outline of the path to make it more appealing for accessibility of medical emergency vehicles and helovacs as well as a safety issue with children getting out of visibility with the path going around the perimeter. He explains the diagram of the path is not accurate and will need to be revised. The Board gives their thoughts on the path route. Councilman Frey suggests asking the Fire Chief Robby Patrick what his input would be as far as the walking path to where the emergency vehicles would be coming in to the park. Town Clerk, Fran Sharp reminds the Board there are time

constraints on getting information to the Grant Writer and cannot wait until next month meeting for answers. Councilman OBrochta commented that he will get answers by the following week. Fran also informed the Board that there are Environmental Assessment Forms in their packets that need to be reviewed and the Supervisor will need to sign as well as doing a SEQR Resolution that will need to be passed.

A Resolution (#10-2025) was made upon a motion by Councilman Frey and seconded by Councilman OBrochta to approve the SEQR Resolution as written regarding the Howard Park Walking Path.

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

The Town Clerk also reminded the Board Members to reach out to family, friends and neighbors to ask for letters of support for the walking path.

New Business: Councilman OBrochta discussed the kitchen upstairs of the library. He suggests that because Bullfrog is not coming back to finish repairs to the soffits and do the work in the kitchen that Contractor Collin Henry can do the job for \$5,000.00.

A Motion was made by Councilman OBrochta and seconded by Councilman Frey to hire Collin Henry to do the work needed in the kitchen for \$5,000.00.

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

Marcia Patrick asked about the repair work that needed be do done at the Historical Museum. She comments that the floor needs to be replaced in the section back where the filing cabinet is and where the stove is. Beverly Favley comments that they were trying to figure out a good time to make these repairs. Beverly suggests that the Museum members would be comfortable holding the County wide tour date at the Howard Church so they could close the museum for the repairs after "Old Home Days". Supervisor Evia comments they will need to get someone in to assess and give a quote and see when they could do the job and go from there. They also discussed checking out the electric heating system for the Museum. Beverly also mentioned the small room at the top of the stairs that currently has a lot of old town records and law books and discussed with the Board about sorting through to decide what to keep or get rid of. Councilman Frey comments about the records that the town needs to keep, such as Birth, Death and Marriage. She asked for the assistance with getting them moved. Councilman Rice suggested hiring someone to remove the old records from the upstairs of the Museum due to the fact the Highway department is very busy with fixing the damages from the last storm. Supervisor Evia suggests they start by taking a look at what is there and make an assessment on what can go and what to keep. Richard Stewart asked the Board if they could use the town's Wi-Fi connection in the case that someone should ask for information that would require the use of the internet. Supervisor Evia said that would be fine to use the town's internet. Richard also commented that he has a set of Dairies from 1909 to 1971 that belonged to his grandmother's brother, Floyd Miller which he will be bringing over to the Museum. He said they hold a lot of town information.

Supervisor Evia informed Marcia Patrick, Historian, that her fire-proof cabinet is coming, it is scheduled be shipped on June 17th.

Councilman OBrochta suggests having the Contractor, Jeff Henry, that gave a quote for putting metal on the Howard Museum roof for \$12,500.00 also look at the floor repairs. Supervisor Evia questions what are the plans for the roof? Councilman Frey suggests replacing it. Councilman Rice suggests replacing the few bad shingles and spray a preservative on the entire roof and that would push out the life time of the shingles.

A Motion was made by Councilman Frey and seconded by Councilman OBrochta to hire Contractor Jeff Henry to put on a metal roof with matching trim at the Howard Museum for \$12,500.00.

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

The Board agrees that the metal should be gray.

Councilman Rice asked about getting rid of the old metal shed at the park. Supervisor Evia comments that the Backyard Shed Co. offered to take the old shed and place the new one in its place for \$125.00 to \$175.00 or the town would have to tear it down and dispose of it.

A Motion was made by Councilman OBrochta and seconded by Councilman Dyer to except Backyard Shed Co.'s offer to take care of the old shed for no more than \$200.00.

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

Beverly asked Councilman OBrochta about the cream separator that was given to the Museum and if he was going to be taking it back because they did not want it because it is too heavy. Councilman OBrochta responded that the owner of the creamery said to donate it to the Museum and they could contact Amy Badeau, Friends of Howard. Beverly also gave the town a picture of Harry Sharp along with a plaque honoring him for 30 years of dedicated service to the Town of Howard and a picture of Eldon Stewart. Wilma Stewart showed Supervisor Evia a sample of some screening for an idea for the town park pavilion. The members of the Howard Museum thanked the Board for their time.

Supervisor Evia mentions that the town has to hire a new Bookkeeper. Christine Haar, current Bookkeeper has accepted a new full-time job but, has agreed to stay with the town till they find someone else. He comments that Councilman Dyer knew of a protentional applicant, Jill Cermak who is the Bookkeeper for the Town of Bath and who has experience with Williamson Law for the last 8 to 10 years. He comments that he and Councilman Dyer had a conversation with Jill prior to the Board meeting and she is willing to take on the job and start anytime. He also stated that she would start with an annual salary of \$13,500.00. He said he would like to offer her the position and asked the Board their thoughts.

A Motion was made by Councilman Frey and seconded by Councilman OBrochta to hire Jill Cermak for the part-time bookkeeper with a starting annual salary of \$13,500.00.

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

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

Highway Fund	(Abstract #564 – 576)	\$418,059.07
General Fund	(Abstract #573 – 592)	\$10,440.70
Street Lighting	(Abstract #591)	\$201.75

A Motion was made by Councilman OBrochta and seconded By Councilman Frey to approve and pay these bills.

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

Executive Session:

A Motion was made by Councilman Frey and seconded by Councilman OBrochta to go into Executive Session to further discuss the CDL training program at 7:46pm.

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

A Motion was made by Councilman Frey and seconded by Councilman OBrochta to come out of Executive Session at 8:04pm.

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

Town Board Member Discussion: None

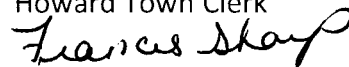
Adjournment:

A Motion was made by Councilman Rice and seconded by Councilman Frey to adjourn the meeting at 9:03pm.

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

Frances Sharp

Howard Town Clerk

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Frances Sharp". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized 'F' and 'S'.