

**TOWN OF HOWARD
TOWN BOARD MEETING
OCTOBER 8, 2025**

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

Present: Supervisor Donald Evia, Councilman Ed OBrochta, Councilman Gary Rice, Deputy Highway Superintendent Tom Dubois

Absent: Councilman Ed Frey, Councilman Ron Dyer, Highway Superintendent Lee Pyer

Also Present: Richard Stewart, April Montgomery (EIP Storage), Dan Williams (EIP Storage)

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 Rice and seconded by Councilman OBrochta to approve the September 2025 Minutes.

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

Public Comment: Richard Stewart asked if the Tentative Budget was available and if he could get a copy. The Clerk provided him with one.

Department Reports:

- A. Monthly Highway Report-** Deputy Highway Superintendent Tom Dubois reports that the highway department has been grading roads, doing some ditching, roadside mowing and hauling sand to the Sand and Salt Barn. He asked for the Board's approval to list the 2010 Western Star Dump truck with plow, wing and sander on Auctions International to be auctioned off.

A Motion was made by Councilman Rice and seconded by Councilman OBrochta to put the 2010 Western Star Dump truck with the plow, wing and sander on Auctions International to be auctioned off.

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

Councilman OBrochta asked Tom if there have been any more issues with the Superintendent's Dodge truck since the starter issue. Tom responded there is no further issues with the starter, however, when you lock in the 4-wheel drive you go 10 to 15 miles down the road before it unlocks.

- B. Monthly Planning Board Report-** July, August and September minutes in Board Members Packets.

- C. Monthly Fire Department Report-** August, September Business Financial Report and September Minutes in Board Members Packets.

- D. Monthly Assessor's Report-** No report

- E. Monthly Building Inspector's report-** Supervisor Evia spoke with Brad Laverty, Building Inspector, regarding the new NYS building code for 2026. This addresses that all new building construction will only be electric no gas lines will be permitted. Councilman Rice commented that he understood it as no fossil fuels. Supervisor Evia comments that Brad has been reading through the code and was informing the town that this change was coming.

- F. Monthly Town Justice Report-** A written report consisting of cases and fines for the month of September 2025. A check was written to the Town in the amount of \$1,085.00.
- G. Monthly Animal Control Report-** A written report was submitted reporting that there was one dog at large on Stephens Gulch Road. Gave a warning of the town's leash law.
- H. Monthly Library Report-** A written report consisting of a letter addressed to the Town Board Members, Expense sheet, Miscellaneous attendance sheet and October's activities calendar.
- I. Monthly Town Clerk's Report-** A written report for September 2025 consisting of revenue brought in from 1 Marriage License (\$7.50), 1 Building Permit (\$25.00), 21 Dog Licenses (\$198.00) totally \$230.50.
Disbursements: Paid out to Town Supervisor (\$230.50), NYS Animal Population Control Program (\$27.00) and NYS Health Dept. for Marriage Licenses (\$22.50) totally \$280.00. Also included is the Handicap and building permit reports. Town Clerk, Fran Sharp reports that the countertop workstation for the office is finished and installed. She reports that it will be a valuable addition to the present and future Town Clerks. Fran also reports that the internet modem was update with a new one due to repeated internet outage only affecting the town offices. She also asks the Board's approval to research internet/phone service bundle prices with Verizon and Spectrum. The Board gives her approval to do so.
- J. Monthly Supervisor's Report-** Supervisor Evia reports that he has received two checks (Justice and Clerk) to be deposited. He reports that the Preliminary Budget is in the Member's packets for them to review. Richard Stewart commented that the expenditure report only goes to the end of May and asked why it doesn't go to the end of September 2025. Supervisor Evia explained that it was due to a new Bookkeeper and there are reports in the hands of Williamson Law to help sort out and get caught up in the General Fund and they are getting closer to reconciling. Supervisor Evia goes on to explain that on the Cover sheet of the Budget report it shows that the property taxes will increase by just under .03 cents a thousand.

Old Business: Councilman OBrochta asked about the quote from GSC Authorized Independent Builder for \$160,900.00 (Prevailing Wage Estimate) for the new addition for the Highway Department garage. The Board liked the idea that the building would be all engineered and it is a metal truss building. Councilman OBrochta commented that he understands that if the town commits and puts down the deposit the company will deliver the building and erect when the town is ready. Councilman Rice comments about money that has not come in yet that would pay for this building and he cannot see making that commitment this soon. It was also discussed to further check with spray-in insulation for the new addition and include the existing building, wiring and heating which are not included in this estimate. Supervisor Evia suggests getting these prices than check back with the company to see if there the price is still the same. It is tabled till next month's meeting on November 12, 2025.

New Business: Supervisor Evia instructs the Board they need to set up a date and time for the Budget Workshop.

A Motion was made by Councilman Rice and seconded by Councilman OBrochta that the date and time for the workshop will be Monday, October 20, 2025 @ 6:00pm.

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

On the issue of Battery Storage: Supervisor Evia comments that the Board has been asked by the Planning Board to put in place a 60-day Moratorium. The representatives from EIP Battery Storage Company, April Montgomery (North Caroline) and Dan Williams (Hammondsport) were present to present a potential EIP Battery Storage project. April explains that they are proposing to construct a battery storage system adjacent to the substation on Wesley Coots property which is where the Howard Wind Farm connects to the grid. April hands out information literature and explains about the project and why energy storage is an interest in this area. She explains that there

benefits to the community in the form of how it impacts the operating Wind Facility because it can store some of its electrons and for the tax base. She goes on to explain that safety is always a concern and speaks on the training of the local fire department. As far as noise concerns it will be located quite away from neighboring homes except for Mr. Coots. April assures the Board they will be doing a noise study. She informed the Board that they will be planning on attending the Planning Board meeting. April explained to the Board and had previously explained to the Planning Board Chair, William Thew that there is a timing concern. She explains that there is permit application that will need to be submitted by Dec. 11, 2025 and if there was a moratorium in place when that happens that would make the project look less favorable with the state. Supervisor Evia comments that Planning Board Chair William Thew said that a 60-day moratorium would be suffice and should not be an issue. The Board thanks them for their time in explaining the project and April thanked the Board for their time.

A Motion was made by Councilman OBrochta and seconded by Councilman Rice to put in place a 60-day Moratorium regarding the Battery Energy Storage project.

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

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

Highway Fund	(Abstract #624 – 643)	\$259,170.03
General Fund	(Abstract #657 – 679)	\$5,973.62
Lighting District	(Abstract #671)	\$214.98

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

Carried: Councilman OBrochta, Aye, Councilman Rice, Aye and Supervisor Evia, Aye.

Executive Session: None

Town Board Discussion: None

Adjournment:

A Motion was made by Councilman Rice and seconded by Councilman OBrochta to adjourn the meeting at 7:47pm.

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



Frances Sharp
Howard Town Clerk