

**TOWN OF HOWARD
SPECIAL TOWN BOARD MEETING
PUBLIC HEARING
NOVEMBER 24, 2025**

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

Present: Supervisor Donald Evia, Councilman Ed OBrochta, Councilman Ron Dyer, Councilman Gary Rice

Absent: Councilman Ed Frey

Also Present: Dan Williams (EIP Storage Co.), Barry Kidder (Planning Board), Mike Kidder, Richard Stewart, Andrew Burdin, Bill Holevinski

The Pledge to the flag was led by Supervisor Don Evia

Supervisor Evia requested a motion to open the Public Hearing on the Town of Howard Battery Storage Law at 7:05pm.

A Motion was made by Councilman Rice and seconded by Councilman OBrochta to open the Public Hearing on the Battery Storage Law at 7:05pm.

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

Supervisor Evia explains what the Battery Storage Law is about and what it entails, such as fire safety issues and training. Councilman Rice who is also a member of the Howard Fire Department commented that the training for possible fires at Battery Storage Sites is similar to the Wind Turbine Sites or an electric car. He explains that the departments responsibilities are to keep the fire from spreading in the surrounding areas and they already have what they would need as far as equipment. Barry Kidder, Planning Board commented that things are changing rapidly with the laws on this from the original law that was written by the Planning Board and this current one. He states that NYSERDA is making the recommendations. He also presents pictures of the different types of battery storage units and the different tier levels (ex. residential and commercial). He also explains that battery storage will help power the grid. The town residents expressed a concern of possible fires, lithium from the batteries leaking into the ground and getting into the water sources. Dan Williams, EIP Storage Representative explained that the company is making sure all safety issues are addressed and safety is at the top of their priorities, he also comments that this is newer technology.

Richard Stewart questioned why 10 acres for this project and Dan Williams explains that there will be 30 battery storage containers and they would need the space for emergency vehicles if needed. Andrew Burdin asked about when the Storage Company sells back into the existing grid, would it make the rate go up to the rate payors paying for electric. Mr. Williams explains

that there will be a spot market and they would have to compete however, it would have a moderating effect. He also comments that it has a balancing effect on the grid, it can prevent the spikes that can happen with renewable energy sources. Councilman OBrochta asked how much the decommissioning fund would be that is mentioned in the law that the Storage Company would keep maintained. Mr. Williams said that would be up to The Town of Howard and April Montgomery. He then asked how much the Storage Company was investing in this project. Mr. Williams said \$120 Million. Councilman OBrochta commented that with that kind of investment he did not want the taxpayers to get hooked on the decommissioning of this project. Councilman OBrochta also asked if they were going to provide the training to the fire department. Mr. William commented that they would be taking care of that. Councilman OBrochta also commented that he had looked up the battery containment system and they look pretty safe to him. He also asked what our Code Enforcement Officers thoughts were on this and Supervisor Evia responded that Brad Laverty's (C.E.O.) main concern was that the fire department got the proper training.

After much discussion regarding safety, the possible benefits, etc. Supervisor Evia asked if there were any more questions.

A Motion was made by Councilman Rice and seconded by Councilman Dyer to close the Public Hearing on the Battery Storage Law at 7:45pm.

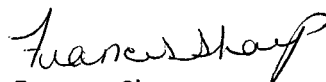
Carried: Councilman OBrochta, Aye; Councilman Dyer, Aye; Councilman Rice, Aye and Supervisor Evia, Aye.

A Resolution (#14-2025) was made upon a motion by Councilman Rice and seconded by Councilman Dyer to adopt the Battery Storage Law.

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

A Motion was made by Councilman Rice and seconded by Councilman OBrochta to adjourn the meeting at 7:40pm.

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



Frances Sharp
Howard Town Clerk