

**TOWN OF HOWARD
TOWN BOARD MEETING
DECEMBER 10, 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 Ron Dyer, Councilman Gary Rice and Highway Superintendent Lee Pyer.

Absent: Councilman Ed Frey

Also Present: Andrew Burdin and Richard Stewart

The pledge to the flag was led by Supervisor Donald Evia

Previous Minutes: The Regular and the Special Public Hearing Meeting Minutes from the previous month were reviewed by the Board.

A Motion was made by Councilman Dyer and seconded by Councilman OBrochta to approve the November 2025 Minutes.

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

A Motion was made by Councilman OBrochta and seconded by Councilman Dyer to approve the minutes from the Special Public Hearing Meeting regarding the "Battery Storage Law".

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

Public Comment: Richard Stewart asked Supervisor Evia he was aware of the Audit that took place at the Town of Hornellsville. Supervisor Evia said that he was. There was discussion regarding fund balances, reserves and sales tax appropriations between Mr. Stewart and Supervisor Evia. Mr. Stewart also asked the Supervisor if he knew that the Windfarm assessments issue had reared its head again and gave him an information sheet. Supervisor responded that he knew this and there was discussion concerning this.

Department Reports:

A. Monthly Highway Report- Highway Superintendent Lee Pyer reports that the department has been plowing and sanding. Worked on the Dump trucks, small sanders and did a brake job on the 2021 5500 Dodge. They also took care of a few downed trees. He reports that the CHIP reimbursement should be scheduled for 12/16/2025. He also reports that he heard that NYS was going to put in their 12.5% local share of FEMA.

Councilman OBrochta addresses Lee on blind corners in the town and asks if he could put up warning signs. Lee said that he could do that. Superintendent Pyer

gave the Board a heads-up that it will be a busy month for the highway department in February 2026 with a lot to discussions.

B. Monthly Planning Board Report- Supervisor Evia announced that this will be the last month for Planning Board Chairman William Thew's term. Supervisor Evia and the Board Members would like to thank William for his service on the Planning Board. He goes on to comment that William Thew had suggested Barry Kidder as the next Planning Board Chairman and said that he had spoken to Barry and that he would accept the offer.

Supervisor Evia asked the Board for a motion to appoint Barry as the Planning Board Chairman effective on January 1, 2026.

A Motion was made by Councilman Rice and seconded by Councilman Dyer to appoint Barry Kidder as the new Planning Board Chairman effective January 1, 2026. **Carried:** Councilman OBrochta, Aye; Councilman Dyer, Aye; Councilman Rice, Aye and Supervisor Evia, Aye.

C. Monthly Fire Department Report- There were no minutes. Councilman Rice reports that the new Fire truck has arrived and they have not had an opportunity to train on it yet. They are still using the old truck. He states that when they get the training in with the new truck they will put the old one up for auction.

D. Monthly Assessor's Report- No report

E. Monthly Building Inspector's Report- No report

F. Monthly Town Justice Report- A written report was submitted consisting of cases and fines for the month of November 2025. A check was written to the Town in the amount of \$50.00.

G. Monthly Animal Control Report- A written report was submitted that there was a dog at large on the Dublin Rd. Debra Matthews, Dog Control Officer gave warnings of the town's leash law and ID tags on the collar.

H. Monthly Library Report- A written report was submitted consisting of a letter addressed to the Town Board Members, Expense sheets, Miscellaneous attendance sheet.

I. Monthly Town Clerk's Report- A written report was given for November 2025 consisting of revenue brought in from 1 Building Permit (\$442.00), 10 Dog Licenses (\$93.00) totally \$535.00.

Disbursements: Paid out to Town Supervisor (\$535.00), NYS Animal Population Control Program (\$12.00) totally \$547.00.

The Clerk also states that there are detailed reports on Dog Licenses, building permits, marriage license report, etc.

Councilman Rice asked about the fee for the building permit. Clerk explains that it is for a brand-new construction.

J. Monthly Supervisor's Report- Supervisor Evia reports that he spent approx. 4 hours with the bookkeeper working with Williamson Law Co. in taking a look at where the town is at regarding balances in the bank. He reports that after paying out the bills and 2 payrolls and that will leave the town with a balance of about \$355,000.00. He also reports that the town still has CHIPS totally approx. \$568,000.00 coming and as far as FEMA, only what Highway Superintendent Pyer reported.

Old Business: Councilman Rice asked Councilman Dyer if there was any word on the Salt Barn Grant. Councilman Dyer said the last news was that it was moving on to the State Comptroller's Office and that it was stated that the NYS has until 2027 to complete (payout) the grant. Councilman Rice asked Councilman OBrochta if there was any word from Hunt Engineering regarding the Town Park walking path. Councilman OBrochta responded that he had not heard anything from them and that any information would come through the clerk's email. Town Clerk, Fran Sharp stated that she has not heard anything and was excepting something from them because they said we should hear results of the grant awards in December. Councilman OBrochta asked if anyone has heard from Collin Henry, Contractor that was hired to complete the work in the upstairs kitchen of the library. Supervisor Evia stated that he understood that Collin was moving to Florida. Councilman Dyer commented that he questioned whether Hunter Palmer (worked with Collin) would be taking over for Collin when he leaves. Councilman OBrochta reached out to Collin via text during the meeting and was waiting for a reply. Collin Henry responded and said he would finish the job after Christmas.

New Business: Town Clerk, Fran Sharp addresses the Board with her research of finding a Company, Spectrum Business Enterprises that bundles phone and internet services. She explains that right now the town pays out to Verizon for phone and a separate billing for the fax machine as well as to Spectrum for the internet totaling \$395.81. She states that there was an online and an in-person meeting between the Representatives, Town Supervisor Evia and myself. She presented the Board with the proposal which will be \$268.25 per month with a (one time setup fee of \$250.00) with 24/7 support and explained that it would be a significant savings of \$127.56 per month for the town and that it would benefit the town for the future. It was also discussed with our tech person Ed Flaitz and he felt it would be good for the town to move forward with it and that he is familiar with this company.

Councilman Dyer asked about future increases and Supervisor Evia commented that Ed Flaitz said they would do small increases but not to the amount we are already paying out now. Supervisor Evia asked if everyone was good with this proposal and if there was a motion to accept this proposal.

A Motion was made by Councilman Rice and seconded by Councilman Dyer to accept this proposal from Spectrum Business Enterprises.

Carried: 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	(Abstract #664-680)	\$40,770.61
General	(Abstract #705-725)	\$6,291.14
Lighting District	(Abstract #718)	\$226.92

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: Councilman OBrochta commented that the large tree limb that was hanging over County Route 70A was finally removed.

Adjournment:

A Motion was made by Councilman OBrochta and seconded by Councilman Rice to adjourn the meeting at 7:42pm.

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

Frances Sharp
Frances Sharp
Howard Town Clerk