

**TOWN OF HOWARD
TOWN BOARD MEETING
FEBRUARY 11, 2026**

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

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

Absent: No one

Also Present: Barry Kidder, Planning Board Chairman, Mike Kidder, Brian Kidder, Richard Stewart.

The pledge to the flag was led by Supervisor Donald Evia.

Previous Minutes: The regular meeting minutes from the previous month were reviewed by the Board.

A Motion was made by Councilman Burdin and seconded by Councilman Obrochta to approve the January 2026 minutes.

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

Public Comment: Barry Kidder comments that he has been out knocking on doors trying to recruit individuals for the Planning Board. While doing this he comments that people are inquiring about what is going on with the Town Board and is there any updates regarding the Town Park project and that some of the community members expressed they would like to contribute to the park like planting flowers and shrubs, doing fund raisers and that some of the community residents are getting concerned and are upset because of the lack of community involvement. He strongly recommends that the Board be more transparent about the park plans. He states that there is misinformation regarding the walking path and how it should have been written for a grant. The Board explained that the path was written to be an 8' paved multi-use path that went all the way around the perimeter of the park. Councilman Burdin commented that the meetings are open to the public and if the people have these concerns why aren't the chairs filled. Barry replied that the people do not like dealing with the Town Board. He went on the comment that the Town of Horseheads put in the paper asking for Community support. Councilman Burdin replied that the Board did ask for letters of support from the community and the town can only submit what the people give the town which was not a lot. Barry comments that the Board should show a plan of the park. The Board responded that there was a plan and it was submitted at the meeting for review before it was all submitted to Hunt Engineering. The Clerk states that the minutes with all this information are

posted on the Town's Website and that it is too late to make any changes to the Grant because the grant application has been submitted. The Clerk also commented that all this park information is in the office and anyone is welcome to come in and request to see it. Supervisor Evia informs the Board that Hunt Engineering presented the Board with a probable cost of \$634,455.00 for the project cost and the Town would have to front that amount of money and that Parks and Recreation would pay that faster than the DEC Salt Barn Grant has, which is still not paid to the Town. Councilman OBrochta commented that we are on the hook with Hunt Engineering and we have to wait it out to see what happens mid-summer which is the projected time for an answer. There was more discussion regarding what to do if the town does not get this grant. Barry asked the Board for permission as Planning Board Chairman to gather information and get costs for the park project. The Board okays it. Supervisor Evia asks for total cost before anything is agreed to first. Councilman Rice comments that when this got started it was all about applying for a grant, so the town went with a grant process. He asked Barry if they were to front the money for this out of taxpayer money how much would the people want their taxes to go up. The Board agrees to table further discussion on the park and wait to see what happens with the grant process in the summer.

Department Reports:

A. Monthly Highway Report- Highway Superintendent Lee Pyer reports that the department has been plowing and sanding, working on the dump truck sander chains, changing the wing & plow cutting edges, pushing snow banks back with the Excavator and unthawing pipes. He reports that the New York State's share of 12.5% was paid along with the FEMA estimate of \$374,338.86 for the West Buena Vista Rd. damages due to storm Debby. He also reports that Truck #19 is at Sonny's Service for a new radiator, Truck #13 is at Sonny's Service for a new injector fuel rail, Truck #16 broke a bell housing for a second time and the 2023 Dodge pickup (White) is at Simmons Rockwell for repair due to it went into park while driving. Lee is asking the Board for a Resolution to hire a summer part-time person.

A Resolution (#3-2026) was made upon a motion by Councilman Rice and seconded by Councilman OBrochta to hire a Summer Part-time person.

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

Lee comments that the blacktop price came down from \$118.00 to \$105.00 p/ton. He also states that the County bid comes out on February 19th so it could come down some more. He explains that he has not done a 284 Agreement because he wanted to get the oil and blacktop prices first. He comments that this month has not been good for road maintenance. He presents the board with the work order for the 2023 Dodge pickup. He states that he got quotes on pickups if the Board should decide to replace the 2023 Dodge because the warranty is soon to run out and electrical is not part of the power train. The Ferrario Ford Quote is \$53,631.40 for a 2026 Chevrolet Silverado 2500HD 4WD Crew Cab 159" Custom. Discussion on what to do and how it would be funded followed.

A Motion was made by Councilman OBrochta and seconded by Councilman Burdin to purchase the 2026 Chevy Silverado for \$53,631.40 from Ferrario.

Carried: Councilman Burdin, Aye; 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 sell the 2023 Dodge pick-up (White) on Auction International.

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

- B. Monthly Planning Board Report-** January 2026 Minutes were submitted. Planning Board Chairman Barry Kidder reports that Planning Board needed to be updated and presented the Board with an updated Planning Board Member list. He goes on to explain that Member Sean Turner needed to be re-appointed (1/1/26 - 12/31/2030) and there were new members that needed to be approved by the Board, Rob Patrick, Tim Richman and Larry Rose along with the new alternate members, Don Willis, Bob Cleeves and Mike Robords. The Board is in agreement with the new members.

A Blanket Resolution (#4-2026) was made upon a motion by Councilman Rice and seconded by Councilman Burdin to approve the 1 re-appointment and to approve the 3 new members and 3 new alternate members to the Planning Board.

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

Barry explains to the Board what his plans going forward looks like with him being Chairman and ask for clarification on how the Planning Board gets paid (\$25.00 p/meeting). He explains that he would like to take a town law and go through it so the members understand what it is. He questions if all the Planning Board Members as well as all the Alternates come to those meetings, do they all get paid. Supervisor Evia asked if there was going to be someone taking minutes. Barry said that Shane Slayton will be taking on that responsibility. Supervisor Evia explained that when the minutes (with who is present) gets turned into the Clerk, that is what generates them getting paid. Barry also explains how the minute lineup will look like. He will be keeping it user friendly. Supervisor Evia states that he had talked to Brad Laverty, Code Enforcement Officer about doing some training with the Planning Board. Barry comments that he would like to see Brad attending the meeting.

- C. Monthly Fire Department Report-** Sept./Oct./Nov./Dec. Minutes were submitted
- 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 January 2026. A check was written to the town in the amount of \$386.00.

Town Clerk, Fran Sharp, mentions that the Board has to do a Resolution to approve the Town Justice Audit that was completed and reviewed by the Town Bookkeeper. **A Resolution (#5-2026)** was made upon a motion by Councilman OBrochta and seconded by Councilman Burdin to approve the Justice Audit.

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

- G. Monthly Animal Control Report-** A written report was submitted reporting 2 unleashed dogs, 5 unlicensed dogs. Warnings were given.
- H. Monthly Library Report-** W written report was submitted consisting of a letter addressed to the Town Board Members, Expense Sheets, Miscellaneous attendance sheet and a program attendance sheet for all activities.
- I. Monthly Town Clerk's Report-** A written report was given for the month of January 2026 consisting of revenue brought in from 5 Certified Copies (\$50.00), 1 Building Permit (\$92.00) and 12 Dog License (\$108.00) totally \$250.00.
Disbursements: Paid out to Town Supervisor (\$250.00), NYS Animal Population Control Program (\$12.00) totally \$262.00.
The Clerk also reports there are other detailed reports included in the packet. She also reports that tax collection has been going very well and that the Town has received their portion of the 2026 Town/County Property Tax Revenue.
- J. Monthly Supervisor's Report-** Supervisor Evia reports that the tax collection money and the sales tax check had been deposited in the bank. He also mentions that he was at a meeting recently that Congresswoman Claudie Tenney was attending and the discussion of the very high electric bills and slow walking of government grants were talked about and the leaders that were present were very well aware of these issues. He questions if this park grant, if awarded, is going to be the same as the DEC Salt Barn grant is with still waiting for the money to come through, which is now going on 3 years. Councilman Dyer comments that the DEC Grant is now in the hands of the State Comptroller and he feels that the grant will be paid out because it has been awarded and they have until the year 2027 to do this.

Old Business:

- A.** Councilman Dyer comments that he would like to add to the discussion of the park. He agrees with the plans to wait and see how the grant process goes than he feels the Board needs to put together a plan going forward on how much money and what can be to done to update and improve the park. He also suggests putting on the Town Website what has been proposed on the grant application. He continues on to suggest that if the grant does not go through than add information on what the town is proposing to do going forward (Ex. prioritizing the projects and weighing costs). Councilman Burdin comments that it would not have to be done all at once, it can be done over time, a project each year. Councilman Rice also suggests adding

money to the park reserve fund. This way residents will see that the Town Board's attention is on this issue. Town Clerk, Fran Sharp asked if they wanted her to start putting this on the website now. Supervisor Evia commented that was originally 2 separate grants on the 1st go round is now all in one grant for the 2nd round. Councilman Dyer suggests to go ahead and put on the website the details of this recent grant which will include the pavilion, playground and the multi-use walking path. Fran commented that she will get this implemented on the website as soon as she can connect with the Web designer.

B.

New Business:

A. Supervisor Evia states that Fran Sharp, Town Clerk and Loreen Karr, Deputy Town Clerk will begin purging old valueless records from the record room to start making room for future records. Fran explains that Board approval is needed and will need to do a Resolution. She also explained that they are following the "Retention and Disposition Schedule for New York Local Government Records (LGS-01).

A Resolution (#6-2026) was made upon a motion by Councilman Rice and seconded by Councilman Dyer to approve the purging of valueless old records.

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

B.

Regular Business:

The regular bills were presented to the Board for Audit.

Highway	(Abstract #19-40)	\$80,092.06
General	(Abstract #25-51)	\$83,695.86
Lighting District	(Abstract #31)	\$215.12
Fire District	(Abstract #46)	\$107,000.00

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

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

A Resolution (#7-2026) was made upon a motion by Councilman OBrochta and seconded by Councilman Burdin to approve the transfer of money from the DA5110.4 budget line to DA9089.8 budget line in the amount of \$3,000.00 for the Clothing and Boot allowance.

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

Executive Session:

A Motion was made by Councilman Rice and seconded by Councilman OBrochta to go into Executive Session with Highway Superintendent Pyer regarding Personnel reasons at 8:05pm.

Carried: Councilman Burdin, 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 Burdin to come out of Executive Session at 8:35pm.

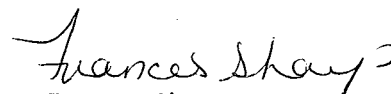
Carried: Councilman Burdin, Aye; Councilman OBrochta, Aye; Councilman Dyer, Aye; Councilman Rice, Aye and Supervisor Evia, Aye.

Town Board Discussion: Supervisor Evia commented that the Mayor of Canisteo called him and asked if they were going to renew their Ambulance contract with them because they were working on their budget which starts in July. Supervisor Evia asked the Board what their thoughts were on this. Discussion followed regarding this matter. Councilman Rice suggested maybe just do an annual contract. The Board decided to continue discussion in the June meeting.

Adjournment:

A Motion was made by Councilman Rice and seconded by Councilman Burdin to adjourn the meeting at 9:24pm.

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



Frances Sharp
Howard Town Clerk