

**TOWN OF HOWARD
TOWN BOARD MEETING
APRIL 8, 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 Gary Rice, Highway Superintendent Lee Pyer.

Absent: Councilman Ed OBrochta, Councilman Ron Dyer

Also Present: Barry Kidder (Planning Board Chairman), Richard Stewart

The Pledge to the flag was led by Supervisor Don 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 Rice to approve the March 2026 minutes.

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

Public Comment: Richard Stewart asked Supervisor Evia if the Annual Financial Statement was finished and if the Councilman members were provided with a copy. Supervisor Evia responded that it was completed and no they were not given a copy and he did not have a copy. Town Clerk, Fran Sharp commented that there is a copy in the office. Richard comments about the Battery Storage Project being canceled and was curious if there has been any further information regarding it. Supervisor Evia responded that he had not heard anything lately about the project. Supervisor Evia commented that the company that was looking at doing a Battery Storage and Solar in Howard was going to be coming in May or June to address the Board. Councilman Rice commented that the Battery Storage Project was not going to be built until 2030.

Department Reports:

A. Monthly Highway Report- Highway Superintendent Lee Pyer reports that the department has been cleaning up downed trees and wash outs from the last couple storms. And they had started brooming the roads. He also mentions that he would like to put the sander in the 5500 truck with the plow, get pictures and put it on Auction around June and see what it brings and that the new F600 will be coming by the end of May.

He mentioned to the Board Members that he has 4 Resolutions that need to be passed. 1). A Resolution for the 284 Agreement which was emailed to the Board Members to review 2). A Resolution to purchase another 2000 ton of sand from

Dolomite for the same price of \$7.00 per/ton and get it in the fall. 3). A Resolution to replace and sell the 2022 Dodge 2500 Pickup and buy a new 2026 Chevy 2500 Pickup from Towanda Chevrolet for \$53,323.00 and a Western snow plow for \$8,000.00. He explains that the 2022 Dodge is getting pretty rusty and starting to get holes in the body of the truck.

A Resolution (#12-2026) was made upon a motion by Councilman Rice and seconded by Councilman Burdin to approve and accept the 284 Road Agreement.

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

A Resolution (#13-2026) was made upon a motion by Councilman Rice and seconded by Councilman Burdin to purchase 2000 ton of sand from Dolomite for \$7.00 p/ton.

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

A Resolution (#14-2026) was made upon a motion by Councilman Burdin and seconded by Councilman Rice to sell the 2022 Dodge 2500 Pickup on Auction International and replace it with a 2026 Chevy 2500 Pickup for \$53,323.00 and a Western Snow Plow for \$8,000.00.

Adopted: Councilman Burdin, Aye; Councilman Rice, Aye and Supervisor Evia, Aye. Lee mentions that the Town Clerk had received an email from Dan Kahabka, Steuben County, addressing the issue of the correct spelling of McCHESNEY Rd. He explains that three of the four road signs do not have a space between the "Mc" and "CHESNEY" and it appears that it makes a difference when dealing with computers and software. The Board and Superintendent Pyer discuss the issue and decide to take the space out making the spelling "McCHESNEY" Rd. making all the signs the same.

A Resolution (#15-2026) was made upon a motion by Councilman Rice and seconded by Councilman Burdin to make this change.

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

- B. Monthly Planning Board Report-** March Minutes in Member packets and a request to approve Jennifer Martin as an Alternate Planning Board member. Barry Kidder, Chairman comments that they will be discussing the park pavilion, picnic tables and wheelchair accessibility around it at the next Planning Board meeting. He commented that the split in the damaged ladder tube had not been welded yet. Councilman Rice commented that he thought it was going to be taken care of. Barry asked the Board for their approval of Jennifer Martin for a Planning Board Alternate.

A Resolution (#16-2026) was made upon a motion by Councilman Rice and seconded by Councilman Burdin to approve Jennifer Martine as a Planning Board alternate.

Adopted: Councilman Burdin, Aye; Councilman Rice, Aye and Supervisor Evia, Aye. Councilman Burdin speaks on the idea of running water and bathrooms in the park and that he does not feel it is feasible for the town. He asks if the leaders of the Summer Youth Program discussed using the Community Building or the Church because they have running water available. Barry explained that the Patrick's bring in bottled water for drinking and the Town has started providing as of last year a

wash station from Larry's Latrine for hand washing, etc. Councilman Burdin also mentions that the Community Building would still be a good spot in case it is bad weather for the Summer Youth Program and that it would be worth looking into. Councilman Rice asked if anyone had heard if the Patrick's were going to lead the Youth Program again this year. Barry said he had not and that he would check into that.

- C. **Monthly Fire Department Report-** No report. Councilman Rice said they had their meeting the night before the Board meeting and in March they had their physicals so there was no meeting.
- 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 March 2026. A check was written to the town in the amount of \$599.00.
- G. **Monthly Animal Control Report-** A written report was submitted reporting that there were 1 unleashed dog running loose on the highway.
- H. **Monthly Library Report-** A written report was submitted consisting of a letter addressed to the Board members, expense sheets, miscellaneous attendance sheet. The letter mentions that there was a live bird in the front stairway and they are not sure how it got in.
- I. **Monthly Town Clerk's Report-** A written report was given for the month of March 2026 consisting of revenue brought in from 2 Certified Copies (\$40.00), 15 Dog Licensed (\$182.00) totally \$222.00
Disbursements: Paid out to Town Supervisor (\$222.00), NYS Animal Population Control Program (\$27.00) totally \$249.00.
The Clerk also reports that there are other detailed reports in the members packets. She also reports that the tax collection has been successful and informed the Board members of the settle up date with the County Finance Department would be April 14, 2026. She also reports on that the record purging is moving along and mentions that she will be checking into some shredding company for pricing that will come out on site and shred. She also comments once this is complete and we keep up with the purging the records, it would mean less shredding meaning we could invest in a bigger shredder and do our own shredding or store the purged records for a couple of years and have the shredding company come back.
- J. **Monthly Supervisor's Report-** Supervisor Evia reports that he has some checks to be deposited in the bank. He reports that the Prattsburg Wind Project which consists of

the Towns of Howard, Avoca, Wheeler and Prattsburg and about the Decommissioning Agreement are in the Board members packets and needs to be reviewed and to do a Resolution to approve it. He comments that it has us with the same wording as Wheeler and Prattsburg. He comments that he is not sure of the Town of Avoca because he has not spoken to the Town Supervisor. Councilman Rice comments that all the high points were there and believes they would be fine approving it and that all 5 towns should be on the same page. Councilman Burdin asked if the dollar amount would be put in for the Town of Howard. Supervisor Evia responded that it makes a difference in the number of Wind Turbines each town would have. Councilman Burdin asked if they make a Resolution if the that number could still change from the tentative number to the actual number of turbines the Town of Howard ends up with. Supervisor Evia responded that he would think so depending on the number of Wind Turbines in the town. Supervisor Evia comments that they can still approve the Decommissioning Agreement with that caveat noted. Councilman Burdin also asked if the amounts go up at all. Supervisor Evia responded that it gets reassessed every 3 or 4 years. Councilman Rice comments that we have LaBella overseeing our existing Wind project and they set the prices.

A Resolution (#17-2026) was made upon a motion by Councilman Burdin and seconded by Councilman Rice to approve the Prattsburg Decommissioning Agreement pending with a question as to what the amount will be for the decommissioning on the bond for the Town of Howard.

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

Supervisor Evia states that there was a call from a resident asking about any zoning in the town for doing business out of a home such as buying and selling firearms and that the "ATF" was asking for this information. Supervisor Evia states, he does not recall any zoning in place in the "Land Use" law. Councilman Rice commented that the size of signs is in the "Land Use" law if there was going to be a sign involved. The Board members discussed this and because it was determined there are no zoning laws in place for this type of home business and they have no objections to him doing this in the Town of Howard and granted the Town Clerk permission to write this statement up for the individual.

Old Business: Supervisor Evia addresses the Board regarding another Park Grant opportunity that Hunt Engineering is offering us. He asks the Members what their thoughts are on this offer and if they would want to pursue it. Councilman Rice comments that he is not in favor of this grant opportunity and to just let the previous grant play out and see what happens with that one. He also says if the town does get the grant than see if it can be pieced out. Councilman Burdin states that he had called and talked to Desiree Cady, Hunt Engineering, and she was going to send a follow up email on what was discussed and we have not received that email as of yet. He asked about the \$650,000.00 grant and Desiree said "We are reaching for the stars" with this \$650,000.00 to try and get the grant. He asked her if things could be changed if they were to get the grant and she told him that the town did not have to follow the plan that they

drew up, you do have to follow the scope. He continues on to say the 3 big items are the walking path, pavilion and playground equipment and they would not have to cost as much as what was in their plans and you do not have to spend all the money and it could be spread over 5 years. He also explains that Ms. Cady said that these grants are a 6 week turn around unlike the DEC Grant for the Salt Storage Building which is going on 3 years. After discussion they decide not to accept the offer. They all agree that if the town is turned down on the grant that has already been submitted, that they make a plan for the park and move forward on their own. It was also discussed asking the Prattsburg Wind Co. and the possible Solar Company for a donation towards fixing up the town park.

New Business: None

Regular Business:

The regular bills were presented to the Board for Audit.

Highway	(Abstract 57-72)	\$56,045.81
General	(Abstract 81-100)	\$7,079.48
Lighting District	(Abstract 91)	\$210.03

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

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

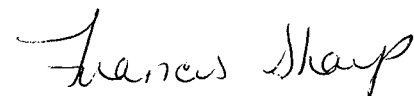
Executive Session: None

Town Board Member Discussion: None

Adjournment:

A Motion was made by Councilman Rice and seconded by Councilman Burdin to adjourn the meeting at 8:04pm.

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



Frances Sharp
Howard Town Clerk