

**Town of Howard  
Town Board Meeting  
April 12, 2023**

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

Present were Councilman Ed Frey, Councilman Ed OBrochta, Councilman Ron Dyer, Councilman Gary Rice and Supervisor Donald Evia

Absent: Highway Superintendent Lee Pyer

Also present were: Barry Kidder (Planning Board), Ed Flaitz (Ed's Computers), Robby Patrick (Howard Fire Chief), Richard Stewart, Lynn King (Logging).

The pledge to the flag was led by Supervisor Evia.

**Previous Minutes:** The minutes for the previous meeting were reviewed by the Board. A motion was made by Councilman Dyer and seconded by Councilman Rice to approve the March 8, 2023 minutes.

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

**Public Comment:** Richard Stewart comments about the assessments of the windmills and the Pilot program agreement and the possibility that in the future there may not be a Pilot program. Mr. Stewart also comments that if the Pilot Program Agreement is terminated, the I.D.A. has to inform the town immediately. Supervisor Evia commented that he also had a conversation with Kevin Sheen regarding this issue and Mr. Sheen suggests continuing with the Pilot Program. Councilman Dyer mentions this is good to know and the Board will keep a watch on this.

**Department Reports:**

- A. Monthly Highway Report-** Written report by Highway Superintendent Lee Pyer. Reports says, The Highway Department has been taking plows and wings off the trucks and changing tires. They have been sweeping roads and raking roadsides and ditching on Dublin Road. Working on and off on Building #2 replacing the rotted wood with new. Superintendent Pyer also reports that on Monday 4/3/23 he witnessed a log skidder going down Mill Road with logging chains on all 4 wheels. He called Supervisor Evia and Councilman OBrochta for witnesses. They stopped the driver of the log skidder and called 911. The State Troopers came and filled out a report.
- Supervisor Evia discusses the 3 miles of road damage that was done by the log skidder. The roads were Wessels, Smith Pond, Mill and the start of Hughes. He sent around a estimate in the amount of \$49,000.00 from Sote Kote for the road damages. Lynn King was the person operating the log skidder on the roads and was

present at the meeting. Supervisor Evia offers Mr. King the opportunity to comment. Mr. King claims he had not received any tickets when asked and he claims to have no insurance. He also claims he has a statements from two Engineers claiming there was no road damage. The Board agree that this should not fall on the taxpayers and that Mr. King should be accountable for his actions. Both the Board and Mr. King will get their own Engineers to access the damage done to the roads.

- B. Monthly Planning Board Report-** Barry Kidder presented the Board with information including prices on several different types of trees to plant along the Salt Barn. Because it is too late to order trees to get started with the planting the Board decided to table this until next spring when the trees can be ordered. The Board gives Mr. Kidder thanks for his work.
- C. Monthly Fire Department Report-** Written report. Robby Patrick, Fire Chief, said they got the building cleared out. He said that there is an ice skating rink in the building that does not belong to the Fire Department. Mr. Patrick says he will check around to find a new owner for it. He also mentions the Councilman Rice asked him to stop by and talk about Ambulance Service. Mr. Patrick suggests that it is good for the Town to go with the Hornell Ambulance Service. The Board agrees.
- D. Monthly Assessor's Report-** None
- E. Monthly Building Inspector's Report-** None
- F. Monthly Town Justice Report-** Written report
- G. Monthly Animal Control Report-** Written report, nothing to report
- H. Monthly Town Clerk's Report-** Written report. Town Clerk, Fran Sharp also comments that we are done collecting property taxes and met with Steuben County Finance and settled up with them.
- I. Monthly Supervisor's Report-** Written report. Supervisor Evia reports that Judge Cornell is doing well in his new position. He also reports that the new Backhoe has been delivered, they still have to come back and do the adapter and put the broom on it. He will also deliver the signed Ambulance Service Contract to Mayor Buckley.

**Old Business:** Ed Flaitz (Owner of Ed's Computers in Hornell) is speaking on how the town does things electronically to make it more secure and more control for the town. He will also discuss the towns website and email. Mr. Flaitz highly recommends Courtney, I.B. Designs Studios, to set up our Towns official website. The Board gives Thanks to Ed for coming.

The Board members have decided to move forward with the New Town of Howard Website. A motion was made by Councilman Frey to hire Courtney, I.B. Designs Studios, to set up the Towns Website for \$795.00 (Basic Design Pkg.) plus \$28.90 p/yr. (Annual Domain Registration.) and seconded by Councilman Dyer.

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

Councilman Dyer will call Courtney and get things started.

There was further discussion regarding the Ambulance Contract with Hornell and the Board agreed to sign the contract.

A motion was made by Councilman Rice and seconded by Councilman Frey to sign the Contract with a flat rate \$706.00 per/call with the Hornell Ambulance Service.

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

More discussion on the Battery Storage. Councilman Rice questions about the Tier 1 and if that means that there needs to be a building permit for Solar Panels put up by the homeowners.

Mr. Kidder explains that if a homeowner puts in a solar panel system it would need to go through the Planning Board under the Code Enforcer, he explains that there should be an inter-connections agreement with the Electric Company. He also comments that the Planning Board wants to keep this simple but, keep it safe for the property owners with the necessary approvals and inspections. Councilman Dyer mentions the Section 5B is showing an article and that the Board should look at it and see what's involved in it and further discussion.

**New Business:** Fran Sharp, Town Clerk, addressed the Board about having a Rabies Clinic this year and what their thoughts were on it. The Board Members suggests collecting information on the availability of a Veterinarian, recruiting volunteers, contacting Steuben Public Health. The Board thinks the month of July during the weekday would be a good and move forward with setting up for the clinic.

Supervisor Evia presents the Members with the Library Report.

**Regular Business:** The following bills were presented for Audit:

Highway (Abstract #48-56)	\$272,802.20
General (Abstract #64-79)	\$39,632.95
Street Lighting (Abstract #63)	\$348.44

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

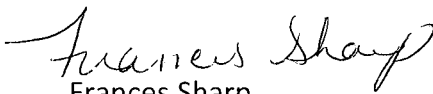
Carried: Councilman Frey, Aye; Councilman OBrochta, Aye; Councilman Dyer, Aye; Councilman Rice, Aye and Supervisor Evia, Aye.

**Town Board Discussion:** None

**Adjournment:**

A motion was made by Councilman Rice and seconded by Councilman Frey to adjourn the meeting at 9:16pm.

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

  
Frances Sharp  
Town Clerk