

**Town of Howard
Town Board Meeting
May 10, 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, Supervisor Donald Evia and Highway Superintendent Lee Pyer.

Also present were: Barry Kidder (Planning Board), Richard Stewart.

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 April 12, 2023 minutes.

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

Public Comment: Richard Stewart commented about the letter he had given to the Town Supervisor Evia from the IDA, Jamie Johnson regarding the Wind Energy and the Pilot Program. Supervisor Evia responded that he planned on getting down to the IDA in Bath to check this concern out.

Barry Kidder expressed a concern brought to his attention by some of the Howard Residents regarding quite a few Tractor Trailer type Manure trucks running up and down the road for 3 days in a roll with speeds up to 50 mph. Highway Superintendent Lee Pyer commented that to be able to put up a couple of speed zone signs to help the situation he would have to go through the DOT in Hornell which is a lot of red tape and maybe they could put up a "Children at Play" sign that may help.

Department Reports:

- A. Monthly Highway Report-** Highway Superintendent Lee Pyer reports they have been ditching and putting pipes in. Grading and hauling gravel. The highway department has 3 quotes for a new Dodge truck and it will be going on CHIPS for town reimbursement.

Lee also reports the Towns 2023-2024 CHIPS funding will be \$525,149.96. Also, the Town of Eaton gave the town a price on a 2019 Western Star 4900 Dump Truck of \$200,000.00 for 2025.

The Board discusses a plan on the purchasing of the highways dump trucks. They are requesting that a maintenance cost projection spread sheet over the past 10 years to put together in order to make future truck purchases. Councilman Frey comments that by having numbers to show the public when asked would be helpful when discussing these decisions made by the Board.

After further discussion, The Board agrees to make the decision to commit to purchasing the Town of Eaton Dump truck. Then, starting around the first of the year consider purchasing on a every two year rotation new dump trucks.

A Resolution (#21-2023) was made upon a motion by Councilman Rice and seconded by Councilman Frey to purchase a 2019 Western Star 4900 Dump Truck from the Town of Eaton for \$200,000.00.

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

Highway Superintendent Pyer also mentions that he has 3 quotes for a 2023 Dodge PU truck that will be on CHIPS that will replace a 2017 Ford. He has a trade-in value of \$30,000.00 on the 2017 Ford truck.

Lee also comments that he would like to put the new Loader that the town will be getting in August on CHIPS also.

He is asking for a Resolution to purchase the PU truck on CHIPS.

A Resolution (#22-2023) was made upon a motion by Councilman OBrochta and seconded by Councilman Frey to purchase the 2023 Dodge PU truck using CHIPS money.

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

Highway Supervisor Pyer also mentions that on the CHIPS they can put up a Rolled fencing along the Salt Barn instead of planting trees. Planning Board member Barry Kidder remarks that the Howard residents neighboring the salt barn want the trees and that he is working towards getting a Landscaper to put in the trees and the Contractor he is talking with landscapes for the County and the State.

The Board agrees to stay with planting the trees and hire a Landscaper to do the job. Highway Superintendent Pyer has a proposal on Building #2. Lee called 4 people and only one quote came back. Jeff Henry was the Contractor that turned one in. Lee explains that Building #2 can go on CHIPS. Supervisor Evia expresses that he wants to be sure that the town roads are taken care of first.

He also discusses the 284 Agreement (Roads that are on the schedule for this year). There are some changes in the roads to be done and the Highway Superintendent discussed those changes with the Board. One of the topics was paving the Town Hall parking lot. The Board request estimates for this project. The Board will further discuss this at the June meeting.

A Resolution (#23-2023) was made upon a motion by Councilman Rice and seconded by Councilman Dyer to approve the amendments to Agreement 284.

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

Highway Superintendent Pyer also discussed getting a plow for the Dodge truck that is getting purchased and that it will be funded by CHIPS, \$8,714.00 for a 9' Western plow with LED lighting from WILBRI in Avoca.

A Resolution (#24-2023) was made upon a motion by Councilman Rice and seconded by Councilman Frey to purchase the plow for the truck.

Adopted: Councilman Frey, Aye; Councilman OBrochta, Aye; Councilman Dyer, Aye; Councilman Rice, Aye and Supervisor Evia, Aye.
Highway Superintendent Pyer discusses the bills.

Monthly Planning Board report- Barry Kidder reports on the progress of the Logging Law.

Monthly Fire Department report- Written report consist of items discussed at their meeting and monthly expenditures

Monthly Assessor's report- The Town Assessor Laura Snow submitted a report regarding an Update on the Wind/Solar valuation restraining order. According to this update she writes: Since the Town Board voted to keep the turbine assessments the same as 2022, (which were derived using the model) the update means there are no changes to be made to the assessments for 2023, and the Town will NOT be at risk for any law suits for changing the assessments back to their 2021 assessments.

Monthly Building Inspector's report- None

Monthly Town Justice report- Written report consisting of cases and fines.

Monthly Animal Control report- Written report, reporting of 2 dogs that were at large.

Monthly Library report- Written report consisting of a letter to the Board, event calendar for the months of April and May, Expense sheet and miscellaneous attendance sheets.

Monthly Town Clerk's report- Written report consisting of revenue that was brought in from dog licenses, certified copies.

Monthly Town Supervisor's report- Supervisor Evia reports that the Town Justice check for April is \$486.00 and the sales tax check that finishes up last year for \$162,383.03.

Old Business: Councilman Dyer gives an update on the new Town Website. He spoke with Courtney, IB Designs and she has enough Town information including Town Board Members and the Town Planning Board Members to get her started. Councilman Dyer sent her a variety of pictures of the town buildings, etc. and Town Clerk, Fran Sharp sent Courtney the towns local laws, policies and procedures, Town Board minutes starting with January 2023.

Fran Sharp also gave an update on the Rabies Clinic. The date has been set for July 10, 2023 between 6 – 8pm at the Howard Fire Hall. She also discusses with the Board on what the Ad should look like and if we should put up a table to offer Dog

Licenses or just have an informational table with dog license applications to fill out at home and mail in. It was decided to do an informational dog license table. Town Supervisor Evia talks about the Road Damage and Engineering Report from LaBella resulting from the road damage caused by a Logger driving his skidder with the chains on the town roads. He discusses what was in the report and LaBella did not give anything definitive. Councilman Frey and Councilman OBrochta talked with the Chain manufacture and found out their skidder chains are not designed to be driven on the road. Councilman OBrochta presented the Highway Law 320 which states if you injure the road you are liable. Councilman Dyer brings up a concern going forward how will the town proceed with everyone that may be liable for road damage and that everyone get treated the same. Councilman Frey expresses that with this experience with this skidder damage that it gives just cause for the town to have a logging law in affect. Barry Kidder who is on the Planning Board explained that they are working on it and that he had talked with another Logger who claims other Loggers are in favor of a Logging Law. The Board has decided not to sue the Logger going forward, but do want to see a Local Logging Law in affect.

New Business: No new business.

Regular Business: The following bills were presented for Audit:

Highway	(Abstract #67-87)	\$105,168.86
General	(Abstract #83-101)	\$7,867.39
Street Lighting	(Abstract #82)	\$192.14

A motion was made by Councilman OBrochta and seconded by Councilman Frey 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 Frey and seconded by Councilman Dyer to adjourn the meeting at 9:06pm.

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


Frances Sharp
Town Clerk