

**Town of Howard
Town Board Meeting
June 14, 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: 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 Frey and seconded by Councilman Rice to approve the May 10, 2023 minutes.

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

Public Comment: Richard Stewart mentioned that is a Church supper Saturday, June 17, 2023. And the Historical Society was going to start meeting again in a couple weeks. Supervisor Evia asked Richard who are the persons involved with the Society were so that information can be put on the Towns Website. He was able to provide that information.

Department Reports:

- A. Monthly Highway Report** – Highway Superintendent Lee Pyer reports that the Department has been ditching, putting pipes in and grading and mowing road sides. The oil and stone will start June 19 weather permitting. Lee mentions that he has a quote from Georgia Swede in regards to the Excavator’s warranty. In order to keep the warranty, they have to do a complete oil change with everything on the machine which is an extra cost of \$2,059.75 + or - Lee expressed to the Sales Rep. that charge should have been included with the purchase of the machine. After this, the Highway Depart. will do the fluid changes. The Board approves having this done. Superintendent Pyer also talks about a Quote from Blades for paving that will be going on CHIPS. He discusses the options which include Mill Rd. and Hopkins Rd. - cost \$98,592.50, Turnpike Rd. from McBeth Rd. to Craig Rd. – cost \$51,500.00, Complete Town Hall parking lot – cost \$126,775.00 There is approx. \$175,000 – \$200,000 left in CHIPS fund. Because there is not enough CHIP money left to do all the work mentioned. After further discussion the Board decides to approve scheduling to have Turnpike Rd and the Town Parking lot to be done.

A motion was made by Councilman Rice and seconded by Councilman Frey to pave the Parking Lot and do a T. & L. on the Turnpike Rd.

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

Highway Superintendent Pyer also has a new quote for metal siding on the cold storage building. Larry & Randy Jackson from Fremont - \$56,000.00 and Jeff Henry - \$60,300.00. Both quotes include the removal of an addition on the side of the storage building. Lee also mentions that he had talked to other contractors and no one else had gotten back to him.

Lee mentions that they will need to get a dumpster for the debris from removing the addition. He will need to get a quote for that.

Lee mentions that there is \$66,294.11 in the building fund.

A motion was made by Councilman OBrochta and seconded by Councilman Frey to go with Larry & Randy Jackson to do siding job.

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

Superintendent Pyer brings up an issue regarding Demmon's Pond, in the past they got a Court Order to be a "Road by Use." Lee comments that at least 3 – 4 times a year the department goes over there to fill pot holes. Due to complaints from the people from Demmon's Pond, Lee suggests they do something about the road. His plan is to gravel it this year let it set through the winter than oil and stone it next year. The Highway Dept. would also cut the brush back from the road, replace the culvert pipe, clean out the ditches. Councilman OBrochta comments that everyone that he has spoken to at Demmon's Pond are excited about the possibility of getting a new road. He also mentions that there is a younger generation buying cottages and fixing them up. Councilman Rice expresses a concern on how they would successfully be able to do the road work due to limited road access. Superintendent Pyer explains how they would do the job and asked the Board for approval.

A Resolution (#25-2023) was made upon a motion by Councilman Rice and seconded by Councilman Dyer to put gravel on the Lake Demmon road for this year.

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

Highway Superintendent Pyer also discusses taking out a 900ft. section of Spencer Hill Rd. from County Route 27 going up the hill. The Highway department will be taking out the bends in the road and making it straight going up the hill resulting in 300 feet of new road. This road project is under FEMA due to the water shed. After 1 year of abandonment by the highway, the land owner will own this portion of the road and would no longer be the highway departments responsibility. Councilman Dyer mentions that an Engineer should be involved with this road project.

A Resolution (#26-2023) was made upon a motion by Councilman Dyer and seconded by Councilman OBrochta to hire an Engineer, Labela Doug Hastings to look at the new road for the Spencer Hill Rd project.

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

- B. Monthly Planning Board Report** – Planning Board Chairman William Thew sent via email the 2023 Logging Law for the Town Board to review and that the Planning Board vote on this Law was (4-3). He also mentions that there is no provision concerning an insurance requirement but if the board believes there ought to be one, there is the matter of the Amish loggers that have an insurance equivalent but is not called insurance.
- C. Monthly Fire Department Report** -No meeting, No report
- D. Monthly Assessor's Report** – No report
- E. Monthly Building Inspector's Report** – No report
- F. Monthly Town Justice Report** - Written report consisting of cases and fines.
- G. Monthly Animal Control Report** – Written report/Nothing to report currently.
- H. Monthly Library Report** – Written report consisting of a letter to the Board, event calendar for the month of June, Expense sheet and miscellaneous attendance sheets.
- I. Monthly Town Clerk's Report** – Written report consisting of revenue that was brought in from dog licenses, certified copies, building permits.
- J. Monthly Town Supervisor's Report** – Supervisor Evia reports that the Town Justice check for May is \$168.00. He reports no updates and through discussion with other towns there has been nothing regarding the Wind Company. The Wind Company did send the town new informational binders which include changes. Supervisor also mentions that it was talked about putting spray foam insulation in the Highway Dept. truck bays to help with the heating cost.

Old Business: Highway Superintendent Pyer talks about the Logging Law/Notification and his concerns with how he is to handle road damage going forward with loggers and farmers. Councilman Frey explained that road damage and the Logging law are separate and each incident is on an individual basis. The Councilmen also voiced concerns, had suggestions and questions regarding this logging law.

In further discussion about this the Board suggests addressing the Planning Board at the next Board meeting in July. Supervisor Evia also mentions he will consult with an Attorney to find out if this must be a law or if it can be a policy.

Councilman Dyer reports on the new website. He reports that that we have been working with Courtney on a regular basis and in regards to the emails Courtney sent the Board some options to look at. He explains that on option 3 which has just the office instead of a name of a person, it would be more convenient in the matter of changing hands.

Councilman Dyer comments that the Website is close to going live. The website name is www.howardny.com. He addresses the Board that if they want more information added ex. (park calendar, more information on Cemeteries, Fire Dept. minutes, Planning Board minutes etc.) it can be done even after it goes live. The Board discusses a few different ideas to look at. Councilman Dyer comments if the Board is approving of the website, he can give Courtney the go ahead to go live.

A Resolution (#27-2023) was made upon a motion by Councilman Frey and seconded by Councilman Dyer to launch the new website for the Town of Howard.

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

New Business: Town Clerk, Fran Sharp talks about the Dog Licenses. It was explained that since June 2022 to June 2023 the town has extended amnesty on overdue licenses. Fran ask the Board on how to move forward with this issue. It was agreed not to go back and charge for past years. The Board discussed a few different ideas ex. dog census whether it be door to door or through the mail, tying the license to a rabies vaccination, etc. The Board suggest checking with NYS Dept. of Ag and Markets and Williamson Law about the possibility of a multi-year renewal to correspond with the rabies vaccination.

Regular Business: The following bills were presented for Audit:

Highway	(Abstract # 88 – 104)	\$47,681.74
General	(Abstract # 103 – 125)	\$8,329.04
Street Lighting	(Abstract # 102)	\$319.69

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 Dyer and seconded Councilman Frey to adjourn the meeting at 9:25pm.

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


Frances Sharp
Town Clerk