

**Town of Howard
Town Board Meeting
Aug. 9, 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: Richard Stewart, Joshua Ferguson (Planning Board)

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 Rice and seconded by Councilman Frey to approve the July 12, 2023 minutes.

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

Public Comment: Richard Stewart comments about a letter sent in by Jim Emo complimenting the highway departments work done on the Dublin Road.

Department Reports:

A. Monthly Highway Report- Highway Superintendent Lee Pyer reports that the department has been grading, hauling gravel, mowing roadsides for a second time, and mixing gravel. He reports that the CHIPS forms have been filed to New York State for September payment. That reimbursement is \$272,226.32

Lee asked for a resolution for #1A (2,000 ton) @\$22.00 per/ton (\$44,000) and #1 stone (1,000 ton) @ \$19.50 per/ton (\$19,500) total \$63,500.00 for year 2024 from Hanson's in Bath, NY.

A Resolution (#28-2023) was made upon a motion by Councilman Rice and seconded by Councilman Obrochta to purchase the #1A and #1 stone from Hanson's in Bath, NY.

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

Superintendent Pyer also talked about and explains the CHIPS Cost Report that he presented to the Board. Councilman Frey thanked Lee for the that report.

Lee mentions that the Town parking lot will get started Sept. 5, 2023 (Labor Day week).

He also mentions that there are truck problems, the 2013 Kenworth still skipping and the transmission jumping out of 7th and 4th gear. He is sending it to "Niches" in Hornell

to have 6 injectors changed before sending out to someplace to be put on a D.I.N.O.

Sonnys in Avoca did the brakes on the water truck, sending down the 2012 truck to Sonny's to have the oil leak fixed and the 2016 truck's tie rod ends and drag link changed.

Highway Superintendent Pyer mentioned that the department needs a new hot water tank, it is leaking.

The Board discusses the different types of hot water tanks, costs, and different service companies.

A Resolution (#29-2023) was made upon a motion by Councilman Rice and seconded by Councilman Frey giving Highway Superintendent Lee Pyer permission to replace the hot water tank for under \$2,000.00 rather than wait until next month with quotes.

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

Highway Superintendent Pyer mentions that Larry Jackson, Contractor will be starting the Cold Storage building project the following week and that the Fire Department still has stuff in the building that is to be torn down.

Councilman Rice comments that the new cutting head on the Excavator does a really nice job and that it was a good purchase. Lee also comments that the new Loader is doing good as well. He also informs the Board that they are over on the Burt Hill area grading and graveling Hammer Creek Hill, Feenaughty Hill and still must do Carter Hill off from Burt Hill Rd. They still have Harris Hill Rd and McBeth Rd. and graveling around Smith Pond Rd. Lee will also be putting this on the 284 Agreement (CHIPS) to be finished for next year.

Highway Superintendent Pyer talks to the Board about cutting back on gravel for next year. He wants to cut it back by 5,000 ton. He feels at this time that they are at a point where the roads can just by maintained using less gravel.

Lee says the bills are about the same and he talks about the price of sand and that Steve Hess is suppose to come in September to do the sand.

- B. Monthly Planning Board Report-** Nothing to report, Joshua Ferguson reports they had no meeting for month of July. It was also mentioned by Supervisor Evia that they are waiting on the appropriate forms regarding the Logging Law to be able to move forward with the new Logging Law.
- C. Monthly Fire Department Report-** Reports no meeting, However, will be meeting on August 22nd instead of after September 1.
- 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. Justice Cornell wrote a check for \$1389.00 to the town.
- G. Monthly Animal Control Report-** Written report, 1 dog at large and 1 dog transferred to Finger Lakes SPCA.

- H. Monthly Library Report-** Written report consisting of a letter to the Board, event calendar for July and August, Expense sheet and miscellaneous attendance sheets.
- I. Monthly Town Clerk's Report-** Written report consisting of revenue that was brought in from 1 Building Permit (\$153.00), 18 dog licenses (\$215.00) totaling \$423.00. Disbursements from this total: \$368.00 to the Supervisor for General fund and \$55.00 to NYS Animal Population Control Program.
- J. Monthly Town Supervisor's Report-** Written report, Supervisor Evia reports that the town received a Sales Tax check in the amount of \$76,055.27 and the \$1,389.00 from the Justice Dept. will be deposited in the bank the next day. Supervisor Evia talks about the Verizon bill, \$4,811.28, that the town received to due damages done to one pole by the Highway dept while working on Saxton Road. Supervisor Evia explains that he had discussed this matter with the Town's insurance company and they said the town is not responsible and does not have to pay for this damage since it happened in a work zone. Supervisor Evia also mentioned that he met with a Howard Resident, Nancy Kelley regarding her concern of the availability of internet service in the rural areas of the Town. She had talked to Representative Phil Parmesano's aid and they sent her to the Dept. of Public Service to talk to Mike Williams whom Supervisor Evia also spoke with. Mr. Williams provided Supervisor Evia with phone numbers to move forward regarding what can be done regarding "Under Served and the Un Served" customers in the town and it is called "Connect All." Supervisor Evia says his next step in this matter of internet service is to visit Mr. Parmesano's office.

Old Business: Update on the Logging Law, waiting for the logging forms from the Planning Board before being able to move forward.

Town Clerk, Fran Sharp presented the Town Board with Dog License Letters and requested that they review them and decide which one they would like to send out to the town residents. The Board reviewed the letters and decided to have combined information into one letter. The Board gives their approval to move forward with the mailing of this letter.

Fran also gave all the Board members a copy of the Dog License Law.

There was also discussion regarding the Dog Control Officer writing tickets to the dog owners for unlicensed dogs. Supervisor Evia says that he will have a discussion with the Dog Control Officer regarding this matter.

In further discussion regarding the Freedom of Information Law on the Website. The Clerk presented the Board with information the Board requested regarding cost per/page and what is allowed to be disclosed and not to be disclosed on a F.O.I.L. request. It was agreed by the Board not to put the F.O.I.L. request form on the website however put contact information on the site for anyone requesting information.

Fran Sharp, Clerk also presented the Board with a Thank you letter and picture from the Summer Youth Recreation Program.

New Business: No new business to report.

Regular Business: The following bills were presented for Audit:

Highway	(Abstract #120 – 132)	\$58,095.76
General	(Abstract #148 – 172)	\$9,532.23
Street Lighting	(Abstract #149)	\$318.19

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

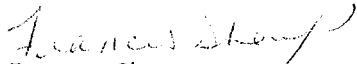
Carried: Councilman Frey, Aye; Councilman Obrochta, Aye; Councilman Dyer, Aye; Councilman Rice, Aye and Supervisor Evia, Aye.

Town Board Discussion: Councilman Rice asked if there was any updates on the street light situation and there has not as of yet.

Adjournment:

A motion was made by Councilman Dyer and seconded by Councilman Rice to adjourn the meeting at 8:36pm.

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


Frances Sharp
Town Clerk