

**Town of Howard
Town Board Meeting
September 13, 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, Robin Phenes (P.B.), Barry Kidder (P.B.), Mike Kidder.

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 Dyer to approve the August 9, 2023 minutes with the correction in the Highway report.

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

Public Comment: Mike Kidder asks about the street lights in the town and if it has been addressed. Town Supervisor Evia responds that they are being addressed and that Councilman Dyer talked to NYSEG about a year ago and they were going to take care of it and did not and Fran Sharp, Town Clerk spoke with them on August 17th and have not heard anything back from them. Supervisor Evia also comments that he just had a conversation with NYSEG about the street lighting issues and explained to them that the Town will be withholding payment until the issue has been fixed.

Mr. Kidder asked about Library maintenance on the outside and who is responsible, the Town or the Library? Supervisor Evia responds that he understood that the library was going to have it pressure washed. He explains that in the past the Town has taken care of the maintenance, he said he will talk to them about this.

Mr. Kidder also addresses the Board about the park and says it is time to dress it up a bit. He says the playground equipment needs attention, the joints on the swing set are twisting on the bolts and this can only be seen when it is in motion. He questioned the p-gravel material under the climbing equipment and if that is what is in code. Supervisor Evia responded that was in code at the time.

Mr. Kidder asked about the electric in the park and Supervisor Evia said they had Douglas Electric make the repairs to the electric service. He also asked about water and Supervisor Evia said there is no water.

He also wanted to thank the Town Highway Dept. for all the work they do on the roads including over at Lake Demon however he informed Highway Superintendent Lee Pyer that not everyone was in favor of having the road oiled and stoned which was in the plan for next year. They were concerned that people already go fast enough and speed is a concern. With much discussion about this issue, it was agreed that Mr. Kidder will reach out to the Lake Demon residents and do a petition on whether to finish the road and get back with Superintendent Pyer with the results so he will know whether to go ahead or leave the road with just gravel which is already down.

Superintendent Pyer also mentions that he would like to remove the gate at the entrance of the lake to give more room for the town trucks to get through.

It was also brought up with the problem of boats speeding on the lake and Supervisor Evia explained that when it was discussed before, the Town has no way of enforcing that and they would have to call on the Sheriff Dept. or State Troopers.

The Board and Highway Superintendent Pyer thanked Mike Kidder for that input.

Barry Kidder asked Highway Superintendent about the bush that blocks the view of entering the road safely on Cty. Rt. 55. Superintendent Pyer comments that it is on the four-lane side of the fence and that he would take a look at it.

Department Reports:

A. Monthly Highway Report- Highway Superintendent Lee Pyer reports that the department has been hauling gravel and grading. The T/L paving on the Turnpike Rd is completed from McBeth Rd. to Craig Rd. The Town parking lot is on schedule for Sept. 25th, he also comments there could be a delay in the start date. They have started grading in the parking lot to get it ready for paving. Lee talks about the bills. Councilman Frey asked about the Kenworth truck update and Superintendent Pyer says they will be starting the work on it Sept. 14th and reports that the transmission has a bad gear in it and will need to be replaced and “Niche” will not be able to do that part of the job. Lee reports that he will take the truck to “Sonny’s Service” for the transmission work when the injectors get changed. He also reports that the hot water tank has been ordered through Bath Plumbing and should be receiving it Sept. 14th.

B. Monthly Planning Board Report- No written report. Councilman Frey and Councilman Rice asked about the Logging Law and Robin Phenes said the William Thew was creating the form that the town is waiting for before setting a Public Hearing regarding the Logging Law. Barry Kidder (P.B.) reports that the Board needs to decide on which type and color of trees they want for the barrier around the Salt Storage Building to be able to get them ordered. Barry gives all the options and answers the Boards questions regarding the choices. They decide that the Dark American Arborvitae would be a good choice. The Board also requested that he check with the Landscaper regarding a watering system and get a quote because someone needs to water these trees.

It was also determined that a recent survey map which was done in 2000 by Jeff Gilbert needs to be presented and re-establish the property pins due to questions regarding the property lines and the available room for planting the trees. Councilman Dryer reiterates the importance of the survey and knowing where the trees are going to go. Robin Phenes (P.B.) comments that the agreement was supposed to be a visual barrier to all neighboring land owners. Superintendent Pyer responds that he understood that when it was in the hands of the Planning Board during the planning of the Salt Building there was a barrier involved in the discussion whether it would be trees or a fence. Barry comments that it works out to be 75 trees in a single row. More discussion and planning to follow.

Robin Phenes asked whether the town has any updates on the Wind project. Supervisor Evia said we received another set of books, "Second Supplement to Application Pursuant to Section 94-c of the New York State Executive Law" from them but, no updates and have not heard from them. Supervisor Evia states that he had a conversation with Kevin Sheen, Wind Company requesting that he have the courtesy to contact the towns involved at least once a month. Richard Stewart asked if there was a Pilot Agreement in place, Supervisor Evia said no, they were not that far along yet. However, the Wind Company said that was what they were going to do and the reason being is that their lenders want certainty. Superintendent Pyer claims the Wind Company has not given him a confirmed haul route yet. Supervisor Evia said he would reach out to the Wind Company.

- C. Monthly Fire Department Report-** No written report. Councilman Rice reports that was not enough people to have a meeting so they changed the date to Sept. 22, 2023.
- D. Monthly Assessor's Report-** No written report.
- E. Monthly Building Inspector's Report-** No written report. Supervisor Evia reports that he did talk to Brad Laverty, Code Enforcer and there is a house that Brad has had some issues with the Contractor and will not issue a Certificate of Occupancy.
- F. Monthly Town Justice Report-** Written report consisting of cases and fines. Justice Cornell wrote a check for \$1,528.00 to the town.
- G. Monthly Animal Control Report-** Written report, reporting nothing to report currently.
- H. Monthly Library Report-** Written report consisting of a letter to the Board, event calendar for September and October, Expense sheet and miscellaneous attendance sheet and included a survey form and requests that the survey be put on the Town's Website.
- I. Monthly Town Clerk's Report-** Town Clerk, Fran Sharp reports that it was a good month. The written report consisting of revenue that was brought in from 3 marriage licenses (\$22.50), 5 Certified Copies (50.00), 43 dog licenses (\$414.00) totaling \$610.00
Disbursements from this total: \$486.50 to the Supervisor for General fund and \$56.00 to the NYS Animal Population Control Program and \$67.50 to NYS Health department for Marriage licenses.
Fran also informs the Board that there is a recent email regarding Round 18 WQIP Salt Award- Next Steps are in their packets.

J. Monthly Town Supervisor's Report- Supervisor Evia reports that he has started working on the budget. He reports that the town received a check in the amount of \$1,528.00 from the Justice Department and a check in the amount of \$486.50 from the Town Clerk and ready to go in the bank. Supervisor Evia also reports that he has received positive comments about the new website.

Old Business: Fran Sharp, Town Clerk reports that was a positive response to the Dog License Letter that went out to all the Howard residents. The Board thanks Fran for all her work.

New Business: No new business to report.

Regular Business: The following bills were presented for Audit:

Highway	(Abstract #133 – 146)	\$22,616.46
General	(Abstract #174 – 197)	\$8,380.46
Street Lighting	(Abstract #173)	\$381.27

A Motion was made by Councilman Frey 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: Councilman Obrochta suggests earmarking some money in the budget to make the necessary changes in the Town Park due to a complaint regarding the condition of the equipment, the electric and the water. Supervisor Evia said the electric has been fixed. Councilman Frey talks about the water situation and what it would take to make it possible to have running water. Supervisor Evia responds that they can look and see what kind of money can be allocated for the park. It is also recognized that there are a lot more youth in the town than in the past. Councilman Obrochta and Councilman Frey both suggest that there should be a plan going forward for the park. It was also discussed the possibility of a grant for the park. Supervisor Evia suggests putting the Park project in the hands of the Planning Board.

Adjournment:

A Motion was made by Councilman Rice and seconded by Councilman OBrochta to adjourn the meeting at 8:42pm.

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

Frances Sharp
Town Clerk

