

**Town of Howard  
Town Board Meeting  
October 11, 2023**

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

Present were: Councilman Ed OBrochta, Councilman Ron Dyer, Councilman Gary Rice, Supervisor Donald Evia, and Highway Superintendent Lee Pyer.

Absent: Councilman Ed Frey

Also present: Amanda Glick, Amarae Glick, Richard Stewart, Barry Kidder (P.B.), Mike Kidder, Jason Morrell.

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 OBrochta to approve the September 13, 2023 minutes with a minor correction in the Public Comment.

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

**Public Comment:** Amanda Glick, resident of Howard, introduced herself and daughter Amarae who is homeschooled to the Board and proceeded to explain to them that they are organizing a Jr./Sr. Prom for Homeschoolers for next year June 7, 2024 at the Friends of Howard Community Center. Amanda proceeded to ask the Board if they could use the Towns Website and the bulletin to help get the word out. Councilman OBrochta suggested the Community Buildings Facebook page and Councilman Rice said that he was okay will putting it on the Towns Website as well. Supervisor Evia said he has no problem with posting it on the website as well as the bulletin board.

Mike Kidder follows up with the Board that he had reached out to the Andy DeFazio from Lake Demmon and talked to him about what went on at the monthly board meeting regarding the oil and stoning of the Lake Road and who is for it or not for it. Andy said there would have to be a quorum in the Association, so there no decision made. Mike said there was a lot of going back and forth about this on the Lakes Association Facebook and he said that most people on the Lake do not care. Highway Superintendent Lee Pyer suggested that they have more discussion on this after the 284 Agreement (work schedule for the roads) in February or March 2024 when the Board makes decisions on the roads. Superintendent Pyer explains that the road work at the Lake was discussed but not set in stone. He said that he also talked with Andy and asked him what he thought about the road work and he said that everyone that he talked to at the Lake was for it and just a handful of people are not. Lee explains in regards to the concern of run off that one of the benefits to oil and stoning the road it would make it better. It was also brought up that a road after 10 years of being a "road by use" it than becomes the Towns. Councilman Rice brought up that it would be helpful if they had a list of Ayes and Nays from the Lake residents regarding the road.

Mike asked about any progress on the Street Lighting issue. Supervisor Evia said he has been in contact with a NYSEG Representative and they will be sending a quote for changing to LED. He explained that after NYSEG was told the town would be withholding the payment they responded quickly. They said we had to go with one size LED and we went with the 3000 Kelvin light and manufactures equivalent. The town must pay to get rid of the old lights that are still working, it is because of the useful life left in them. However, there is no charge for the lights that are out. The Representative said that it could take a year before they get lights around to change them. Supervisor Evia said that it sounded to him that they would put the same style lights into the ones that are out until they get them all changed to LED. Supervisor Evia said the town should go through with this change over to LED lighting and he will also mention to the Representative that there is a lot of trees trimming around some of the lights.

Mr. Kidder questioned why the towns people are the only ones paying for the street lighting on their taxes. Supervisor Evia explains that the people in the lighting district get the benefit from the street light. Mr. Kidder said that in all fairness the cost should be spread out among all the Howard residents.

Richard Stewart comments that any record that is going to be discussed at the monthly meeting should be on the website. He presents a State Law document to the Board that says any topic being discussed at a meeting needs to be available 24 hours on the website ahead of the meeting and beyond and he is not finding this information. When Supervisor Evia asked what he was not able to find on the website Mr. Stewart said the Supervisors Report, the Abstracts, invoices, and the agenda. The Clerk responded that the agenda has been put on the website. There was more discussion regarding abstracts, invoices, etc... Supervisor Evia said we will look into this.

#### **Department Reports:**

- A. Monthly Highway Report-** Highway Superintendent Lee Pyer reports that the department has been grading and hauling gravel on the seasonal roads, cutting brush on roadsides, and getting the trucks ready for winter. He states that Blades would be coming in the following week to start paving the parking lot. He reports that the September CHIPS payment was \$279,083.32. Lee also has a quote for 6" commercial seamless gutters over the shop and highway office area from Larry Jackson (Contractor who is doing the metal siding) for \$2,450.00 He also comments that they put in 2 drains in under the parking area so the gutters could get tied into them. Superintendent Pyer asked the Board for a Resolution to purchase the gutters.

**A Resolution (#30-2023)** was made upon a motion by Councilman OBrochta and seconded by Councilman Dyer to purchase the gutters.

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

Lee mentions that Steve Hess who does the towns crushing for the gravel and sand has not showed up to do the crushing of the sand when he claimed he would around the end of September to 1<sup>st</sup> of October. Lee says he has done some checking around for pricing on sand, Hanson's (\$15.00 p/ton), Spalino (\$9.00 p/ton), Blades (\$13.50

p/ton) and Knight settlement (\$22.00 p/ton) and Hub-Boy Gravel has 4000 ton already made and wants \$6.00 p/ton. Lee claims Hub-Boy's sand is good quality and it would total \$24,000 for the 4000 ton, which works out less expensive than what the town had been paying for this service. Superintendent Pyer is asking for a Resolution to rescind the motion they had with Steve Hess to make the town's sand and go with Hub-Boy.

**A Resolution (#31-2023)** was made upon a motion by Councilman Rice and seconded by Councilman OBrochta to rescind the agreement with Steve Hess making the town's road sand.

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

**A Resolution (#32-2023)** was made upon a motion by Councilman Rice and seconded by Councilman OBrochta to purchase the town's road sand from Hub-Boy Gravel Products.

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

Superintendent Pyer said that Hub-Boy would like to accommodate the town with this service every year.

Superintendent Pyer addresses the Board with an issue with the cutter shaft on the flair mower. He claims the shaft is worn so bad it is taking out the bearings, the set of 2 bearings cost \$650.00 p/set and the cost of a new cutter shaft is \$3,315.00.

After further Board discussion it was decided it would be cost effective and beneficial to purchase a new cutter shaft.

**A motion** was made by Councilman Rice and seconded by Councilman Dyer to purchase a new cutter shaft for the flair mower.

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

Superintendent Pyer talks about the bills.

- B. Monthly Planning Board Report-** Supervisor Evia mentioned that he did receive the Logging Law Form from the Planning Board and that a copy of it is in the Board Members packets. Councilman Rice asked about setting a date for a Public Hearing on this and Supervisor Evia suggested scheduling it for the December meeting. Barry Kidder (P.B.) reports on the trees. He gave all the Board Members copies of 2 Landscape estimates, Meadowview LLC (75 trees for \$19,875.00, 150 trees for \$31,500.00) and Countryside Property Maintenance (76 trees for \$11,400.00, 74 trees for \$11,100.00, 32 trees for \$4,800.00, 30 trees for \$9,600.00, 182 trees for \$18,200.00 and \$2,500.00 warranty with a total of \$57,600.00) and explains that neither of them is correct, one did not add things correctly and one did not have warranty information. He had these estimates done in hopes that it would help the Board decide on whether to go with 1 row or 2 staggered rows of trees. He talks about the property lines being re-established in regards to where the trees would be planted. When this gets done, he would be able to get more accurate quotes. Supervisor Evia asked Barry to explain the last page of costs on the estimate. He

explains there would be a 1-year warranty, this warranty does not cover damage from natural causes such as animal or weather. Barry asked if the Board could decide for certain if going with one or two rows staggered. Councilman Rice responds that they should wait until they know for certain where the property lines are and, in his opinion, there should be only one row of trees. Councilman Rice comments that the purpose of this is to do a screening not fencing something off. Barry comments that if they wait to long it will be to late to order the trees this year. Supervisor Evia and the rest of the Board agrees with Councilman Rice that one row of trees is sufficient. Supervisor Evia states that he left a message with the Surveyor to get ahold of himself or Councilman Rice asap. When Mr. Kidder asked about property owner Morrell's side as far as planting trees, Councilman Rice responded that in his opinion, that side does not need to be screened and he does not believe they would want the Arborvitae's shading out their "Rose of Sharon" bushes. Supervisor Evia agrees with Councilman Rice. Supervisor Evia hopes to get with the Surveyor and be able to move forward with this before the next Board meeting.

- C. Monthly Fire Department Report-** Bob Cleeves presented the Board with the Fire Department's 2024 Budget. He comments that the Department has been able to save the \$25,000 towards their new truck. Mr. Cleeves mentions the upcoming events be put on by the Fire Department. The Town Clerk confirms they are on the Towns Website. Mr. Cleeves mentions that the next Fire Department meeting has been moved from November 7<sup>th</sup> to the 14<sup>th</sup> because of Election Day.
  
- D. Monthly Assessor's Report-** No written report.
  
- E. Monthly Building Inspector's Report-** No written report. Supervisor Evia said he did place a call to Brad Laverty (C.E.O.) to check to see if he had anything to report and was not able to get through to him.
  
- F. Monthly Town Justice Report-** Written report consisting of cases and fines. Justice Cornell wrote a check for \$3,061.00 to the town.
  
- G. Monthly Animal Control Report-** Written report, reporting a dog was running at large at Lake Demon.
  
- H. Monthly Library Report-** No written report.
  
- I. Monthly Town Clerk's Report-** Written report consisting of revenue that was brought in from 3 building permits (\$223.00), 34 dog licenses (\$327.00) totaling \$598.00.

Disbursements from this total: \$550.00 paid to the Supervisor for General fund and \$48.00 paid to the NYS Animal Population Control Program.

- J. Monthly Town Supervisor's Report-** Supervisor Evia reports that Town Justice check was \$3,061.00 and that the activity has picked up in the Justice Department.

**Old Business:** Town Clerk, Fran Sharp, reports that even though it had been decided by the Board to not include an official F.O.I.L. form on the Town's website, there is an option in the contact form on the site to be able to request F.O.I.L. information as well as general information.

Councilman Dyer mentions that he received notice that the Salt Barn Grant has been approved and it is in the final stages and will have until January 31, 2024 to submit the financial information on the Salt Barn to receive the grant money. He is not sure how long it will take after that. Councilman Dyer said he has an appointment with the Town's Bookkeeper to get this information together and sent to the DEC. The Board Thanks Councilman Dyer for his work on this grant project.

**New Business:** The Board decided to set the Budget Workshop date to Monday October 23, 2023 @ 6:00pm. Supervisor Evia instructs Clerk to put in the paper and on the website.

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

Highway	(Abstract #149 – 164)	\$25,645.59
General	(Abstract #198 – 216)	\$8,451.54
Street Lighting	(Abstract #217)	\$407.76

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

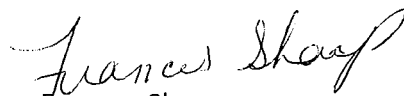
**Carried:** Councilman OBrochta, Aye; Councilman Dyer, Aye; Councilman Rice, Aye and Supervisor Evia, Aye.

**Town Board Discussion:** None

**Adjournment:**

**A Motion** was made by Councilman Rice and seconded by Councilman Dyer to adjourn the meeting at 8:30pm.

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

  
Frances Sharp  
Town Clerk