

**TOWN OF HOWARD
TOWN BOARD MEETING
OCTOBER 9, 2024**

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

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

Absent: Councilman Ed Frey

Also Present: Richard Stewart, Barry Kidder (P.B.)

The Pledge to the flag was led by Town Supervisor Don Evia.

Previous Minutes: The minutes for the previous meeting was reviewed by the Board. Supervisor Evia comments on a statement that he had made under the Old Business regarding the use of FEMA reimbursement money being used for the town park, he explains that he had misspoke and makes the correction that the reimbursement money was not being used for the park and suggests striking that portion of the statements from the minutes. Councilman OBrochta points out that Lynelle from Hunt Engineering last name is missing and that her last name is Farber. The Clerk, Fran Sharp, takes note of the changes that need to be made.

A Motion was made by Councilman Rice and seconded by Councilman Dyer to accept the September minutes with the corrections.

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

Public Comment: Richard Stewart asked if the Annual Financial Report was done yet. Supervisor Evia responded that he did not ask the bookkeeper the progress on the report. He comments that the bookkeeper and Rick Blafield, Consultant, also retired from the State Comptroller's Office had finished up last years reconciliations. Mr. Stewart also asked if the Tentative Budget was filed with the town clerk's office by Sept. 30th. Supervisor Evia responded that it was. Mr. Stewart asked for a copy of the Tentative Budget. Supervisor Evia responded that at this point in the process they are not available to the public. Mr. Stewart commented that he will F.O.I.L. for it.

Department Reports:

- A. Monthly Highway Report-** Highway Superintendent Lee Pyer reports that the department has been working on hauling gravel to Oak Hill Road and South Nicholson Rd. He reports that Nicholson and Buena Vista are 80% complete and Dublin Road is 100% complete for the FEMA work. They have also been cleaning ditches and replacing pipes and they started hauling sand from Hub-Boys for the winter. He states that the gravel in the Helms pit is all gone. He addresses the Board that he has a quote from Steve Hess for 3 years of crushing out of Pfitzenmaier's pit, \$4.50 p/ton for 2025 and \$4.70 p/ton for 2026 & 2027. Councilman Rice questioned if the Board agrees to sign a contract with Hess and he should not come through for

the town like what has happened in the past, will there be an opt out?
Superintendent Pyer explains that it is just a quote for price p/ton. Councilman OBrochta would like to see what happens with the fuel prices for next year before committing to these prices, He suggests agreeing to the \$4.50 p/ton for 2025. Lee explains that these are the same prices that Hess gave him back in February 2024. Councilman Rice believes that they should get Hess to commit to these prices for the next three years. Through more discussion, the Board decides to sign a contract with Steve Hess (Daggett Sand & Gravel, Inc.) locking down quoted pricing.

A Motion was made by Councilman Rice and seconded by Councilman OBrochta to sign a 3-year Contract with Daggett Sand & Gravel, Inc. for crushing gravel (2025 @ \$4.50 p/ton, 2026 and 2027 @ \$4.70 p/ton).

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

- B. Monthly Planning Board Report-** A draft of August minutes is in the Board Members packets. The Clerk reports that the Bookkeeper is requesting that the Planning Board Members to please cash their checks as soon as they get them to make the end of the month reconciling easier.
- C. Monthly Fire Department Report-** Written report consisting of September Monthly Minutes and financial 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 for the month of September. Justice Cornell wrote a check to the town in the amount of \$143.00 for September 2024.
- G. Monthly Animal Control Report-** Written report for September, nothing to report.
- H. Monthly Library Report-** Written report consisting of a letter addressed to the Town Board Members, Expense Sheet, Miscellaneous attendance sheet and September and October Program Calendars. In the letter they express their gratitude to the Town Board for the quick repair time on the roof and appreciated the fact that it was scheduled as to not interrupt any activities in the library. They are also pleased with the town's dedication in the upkeep of the community's library.

- I. **Monthly Town Clerk's Report-** Written report for September 2024 consisting of revenue brought in from 10 Certified Copies (\$100.00), 2 Building Permits (\$171.00), 21 Dog Licenses (\$201.00).
Disbursements: Paid out to Town Supervisor (\$472.00) and to NYS Animal Population Control Program (\$29.00) totally \$501.00.
- J. **Monthly Town Supervisor's Report-** Supervisor Evia reports the town has received a check for the Town Justice of \$143.00. He also comments on the concern from last month regarding volunteers working in the park and be covered by insurance. He discussed this matter with the town's insurance carrier and found out that yes volunteers are covered while doing work projects for the town. He further explains that all he would need to do is notify the insurance company when these instances arise.

Old Business: Councilman OBrochta gives updates on the library repairs. He reports that Bullfrog Construction will be back as soon as they finish up on another job they are on to continue work on the library. The Board commented on the speed and how nice the library roof looks. Councilman OBrochta also informs the Board that he has been working on getting quotes from Companies that do basketball/pickleball courts as well as blacktopping services to do the walking path in preparation of Hunt Engineering preparing for the grant writing process for the park. He explains further that the walking path will be approximately 1500 feet and that the town would probably have to do the ground work and then have it paved. He talks about contacting Dansville Water system for a water supply and he mentioned a standalone restroom. He also mentions that with a 50% matched grant, any upfront money the town invests in the park project they will get half back.

Councilman Dyer gives an update on the Salt Barn grant process. He reports that he has been in contact with Christine at the DEC and she requested a couple more documents which was provided. He reports that now he needs to go into the SFS (State Financial System) and start approving things. He believes this will be the final steps to the process. He also reports that back in November 2023 they did get a CFC for the building making it complete. He brings up the topic of the trees being planted as a screening. He points out that he did reach out to the neighboring properties to the Salt Barn and other members of the community and he has found that the trees are not that prominent and the couple of people that did speak about wanting the trees now decided they do not want them. He also states that Councilman Rice had been in touch with the DEC as far as the buildings' location and they had no issue with it. In conclusion Councilman Dyer states that as far as he is concerned the Salt Barn is complete and he makes a request to make a motion that they do not plant any trees around the Salt Barn.

A Motion was made by Councilman Dyer and seconded by Councilman OBrochta that there will be no planting of trees around the Salt Barn.

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

The Board thanks Councilman Dyer for all his hard work on this grant.

Richard Stewart speaks about a display case that the Historical Society purchased and that the treasurer spoke with Supervisor Evia regarding reimbursement of \$600.00. Supervisor Evia

responded that she did give him a bill and that they paid it to the company that the display case came from. Mr. Stewart informed him that he had paid for the display case with his credit card. Supervisor Evia said he was not informed of this fact. Mr. Stewart said he would have the treasure get ahold of the accounting department where the case was purchased to resolve the matter. Supervisor Evia offered his help in the matter if needed.

New Business: The Board Members discuss a date and time for the 2025 Budget Workshop.
A Motion was made by Councilman OBrochta and seconded by Councilman Dyer to set the date and time for the 2025 Budget Workshop on Wednesday, October 30, 2024 @ 6:00pm.

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

The Board Members also discuss a date and time for the Public Hearing on the 2025 Preliminary Budget.

A Motion was made by Councilman Rice and seconded by Councilman Dyer to set the date and time for the Public Hearing on the 2025 Preliminary Budget on Wednesday, November 13, 2024 @ 7:10pm.

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

Regular Business: The regular bills were presented to the Board for Audit.

Highway Fund	(Abstract #113 – 129)	\$71,240.02
General Fund	(Abstract #446 – 469)	\$10,569.39
Street Lighting	(Abstract #448)	\$18.98

A Motion was made by Councilman OBrochta and seconded by Councilman Dyer to approve and pay these bills.

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

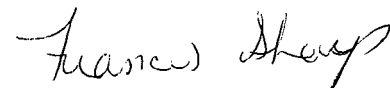
Executive Session: None

Town Board Discussion: None

Adjournment:

A Motion was made by Councilman Dyer and seconded by Councilman OBrochta to adjourn the meeting at 7:47pm.

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



Frances Sharp
Howard Town Clerk