

**TOWN OF HOWARD
TOWN BOARD MEETING
FEBRUARY 12, 2025**

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

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

Absent: Councilman Ed OBrochta

Also Present: Richard Stewart

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

Previous Minutes: The minutes of the previous meeting were reviewed by the Board.

A Motion was made by Councilman Dyer and seconded by Councilman Rice to accept the 2025 January Minutes.

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

Public Comment: None

Department Reports:

A. Monthly Highway Report- Highway Superintendent Lee Pyer reports that they have been plowing and sanding roads. Also, thawing out frozen covert pipes. He also reports that they have done some repairs on equipment. Lee reports that there is an \$11,000.00 fuel bill from last month. He informs the Board that the 284 Road Agreement is not complete. And he has not heard from CHIPS yet. Councilman Dyer asked him if he had gotten the tires for his truck and Lee responded that he did.

B. Monthly Planning Board Report- They held a special meeting on December 30, 2024 for 3 sub-divisions.

C. Monthly Fire Department Report- Meeting minutes for Oct., Nov. and Dec. Councilman Rice reports on the Ambulance calls.

D. Monthly Assessor's Report- No report. Town Supervisor Evia reports that Laura Snow has been busy with Exemptions.

E. Monthly Building Inspector's Report- No report

F. Monthly Town Justice Report- Written report consisting of cases and fines for the month of January 2025. A check written to the town in the amount of \$661.00.

G. Monthly Animal Control Report- Nothing to report for January 2025

H. Monthly Library Report- Written report consisting of a letter addressed to the Town Board members, Expense sheet, Miscellaneous attendance sheet. In their letter they state that with the fluctuating weather that parking lot which they share with the church is getting very hazardous due to the ice accumulation.

I. Monthly Town Clerk's Report- Written report for January 2025 consisting of revenue brought in from 22 dog licenses (\$207.00).

Disbursements: Paid out to Town Supervisor (\$207.00) and to the NYS Animal Population Control Program (\$28.00) totally \$235.00.

Town Clerk Fran Sharp reports that all the property taxes have been collected for the town. She also addressed the Board with being able to purchase more stamps through Amazon using the town credit card instead of purchasing through the post office. She explains that through Amazon there would be a savings compared to purchasing from the post office. The Board agrees that if there is a savings, they are in approval.

J. Monthly Supervisor's Report- Supervisor Evia reports on the revenue from the property taxes, clerk's check, Justice's check and sales tax check.

Supervisor Evia reports that they received an email from the state regarding FEMA and he says at myself and Highway Superintendent Pyer have been having zoom meetings with FEMA regarding the flood damage right along however, this email sounds like things may be on hold until the Federal government sorts things out.

He also reports to the Board that Andy Dgien is buying Floyd Helms pit and that Superintendent Pyer will work with the DEC and Andy to transfer the permit and the town will not have to re-claim it.

Old Business: The Board discusses the "Reserve Fund Policy". They decide to put in place the following Reserve Funds Categories: Building Reserve, Retirement Reserve, Machinery Reserve, Bridge Reserve and Park Reserve. The Board further discuss other important information that should be included in this policy. They also discussed how to manage this fund reserve and review it annually. Supervisor Evia also advises that there are many benefits for this Reserve Fund Policy and as well as in the case of an audit.

A Motion was made by Councilman Rice and seconded by Councilman Dyer to revise the old "Reserve Fund Policy".

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

They also discuss the furnace in the library. The furnace has been having a lot of maintenance done and they have a quote from Phoenix Heating and Air Conditioning, Inc... Supervisor Evia comments that it looks like it should be replaced. The Board requests another quote from the library for the new furnace. Supervisor Evia comments that he will call Bridgett, Librarian and ask them for another quote for the furnace.

Councilman Dyer gives an update on the Salt Barn Grant, he reports that he had received an email from Christine Garrity, DEC that she was going to start working on the salt barn contract.

New Business: None

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

Highway Fund	(Abstract #514 – 534)	\$36,738. 81
General Fund	(Abstract #0 – 555)	\$84,938.51
Street Lighting	(Abstract #518)	\$334.55
Fire District	(Abstract #554)	\$105,000.00

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

Carried: Councilman Frey, 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 Rice and seconded by Councilman Frey to adjourn the meeting at 7:50pm.

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



Frances Sharp
Howard Town Clerk