

Town of Howard
Town Board Meeting
Wednesday, February 13, 2020

A regular meeting of the Howard Town Board was called to order by Supervisor Donald Evia at 7:00 pm. Roll was called and Councilmen present were Lowell Smith, Richard Stewart, Gary Rice, and Eric Hosmer. Also present for this meeting was Lee Pyer, Town of Howard Highway Superintendent. Code Officer Bradley Laverty was present. In addition, present were the following townspeople: Bob Cleeves, Michael Adams, Ed Frey, Ed O'Brochta, Sam Webb, David Hogan, Luke Reinbold.

The Pledge to the American Flag was led by Supervisor Donald Evia.

During the agenda's time for public comment, there was none offered.

The minutes of the prior meeting were reviewed by board members. A motion to accept those minutes as presented was made by Councilman Rice and seconded by Councilman Stewart. Carried: Councilman Smith, aye; Councilman Rice, aye; Supervisor Evia, aye.

Next on the agenda under new business, Highway Superintendent Pyer presented information regarding the past month's activity in his department. In general discussion, options were reviewed for the purchase of new Town of Howard Highway trucks. Multiple alternatives were explored during this dialogue including the option of the purchase of new versus used trucks. Conversation also included the discussion of the formation of a five-year plan for Highway equipment. Councilman Smith moved that the Town Board proceed with investigation into the Reserve funding program for capital purchases and building repairs, with amounts to be determined at the time of the budget planning encounter. Councilman Rice seconded that motion. Carried: Councilman Stewart, aye; Councilman Hosmer aye; Supervisor Evia, aye. Further discussion was tabled, and additional information and figures as well as the implication for the budget plan will be obtained during the next few weeks and presented at the March meeting.

Also discussed was the state of the Highway Department's buildings, and the need for attention to the roof of building #01. The cold storage building is also in need of eaves and some new exterior sheathing. It was agreed that quotes would be obtained and presented for discussion at the March meeting.

The current condition of the new loader, which is back in Batavia at Milton CAT for repair, was discussed. There is currently a new replacement loader being used provided by the company. Bill payment for the loader, which is to be presented tonight during bill session, will be held until the resolution of this issue.

Regarding purchases for the Highway Department, Gary Rice made the motion that pipe will be purchased through the Lane Pipe Company. Richard Stewart seconded the motion. Carried: Councilman Smith, aye; Councilman Hosmer, aye; Supervisor Evia, aye. A motion was made by Gary Rice to purchase cutting edges and shoes for the Highway Department through Seneca Supply and

seconded by Councilman Hosmer. Carried: Councilman Smith, aye; Councilman Stewart, aye; Supervisor Evia, aye. This concluded the agenda's new business.

Supervisor Evia presented his report. He confirmed the receipt of a sales tax check in the amount of \$66,166.25 and a PILOT payment in the amount of \$274,615.42. His full report is included under separate cover.

Assessor

Robert Cleaves then provided updates and the monthly report for the Howard Fire Department. There was no discussion. A copy of that record is included under separate cover.

Code officer Bradley Laverty presented the Building Inspector's report. There was no discussion and a copy of that record is under separate cover.

The Justice report is under separate cover. There was no discussion regarding that record.

Acting Town Clerk Rhonda Burdin reported that a check in the amount of \$40,142.35 as fire tax for the Wind Farm was received and deposited. Collection of town and county taxes is now current. There was some general discussion of renovation of the current phone line system to ensure that all departments have their own extension. Supervisor Evia will investigate possible options.

The Animal Control Report was reviewed, with a copy under separate cover.

During regular business, bills were presented for audit. Councilman Stewart moved that the bills for the evening be paid, and Councilman Rice seconded the motion. Carried: Councilman Smith, aye; Councilman Hosmer, aye; Superintendent Evia, aye.

During the time allotted as the second opportunity for public comment, there was none.

During Board discussion, Town Clerk Burdin asked for a policy agreeable with all regarding refunding amounts of overpayment of Town and County Taxes. It was unanimously agreed upon by all Board members, that a local policy be enacted that for any overpayments of taxes under \$3.00 (three dollars) the Town Clerk need not send a refund check. Those overpayment monies will be transferred to the General Fund at the time of reconciliation of taxes in April.

At 9:30 pm, a motion was made by Councilman Smith and seconded by Councilman Hosmer to adjourn the meeting. Carried: Councilman Stewart, aye; Councilman Rice, aye; Supervisor Evia, aye.

Adjourned 9:30 pm.