

**HOWARD TOWN BOARD MEETING
WEDNESDAY
MARCH 14, 2018**

The regular meeting of the Howard Town Board was called to order by Supervisor Donald Evia at 7:00 p.m. Councilmen present were Lowell Smith, Andrew Dgien, Robert Palmer and Richard Stewart. Also present were Deputy Highway Superintendent Kevin Learn, Planning Board Chairman Gary Rice, Fire Department President Jay Cleeves, Fire Department Chief Rob Patrick, Eric Hosmer, Roger Robords, Lynn Karr, Andrew Burdin, William Holevinski and Jason Holevinski

The pledge to the flag was led by Supervisor Donald Evia.

The minutes of the last meeting were reviewed by the Board. Councilman Richard Stewart addressed additions and corrections to the minutes. A motion was made by Councilman Robert Palmer and seconded by Councilman Andrew Dgien to approve the minutes of the last board meeting with additions and corrections made pending review of the recording of the meeting. Carried: Councilman Palmer, aye; Councilman Dgien, aye; Councilman Smith, aye; Councilman Stewart, aye; Supervisor Evia, aye.

Roger Robords asked the Town Board why the health insurance benefits were being taken away from the Town Clerk. Lynn Karr also asked about this and also why the voters would not have to vote again on Town Clerk's salary, hours and benefits if they were changed, as this is an elected position. Discussion followed with Councilman Stewart advising that the Town Clerk would be contributing toward her health insurance benefits starting in April at the 12 ½ % rate, which is the same rate as the highway crew's contribution. He advised that all health insurance benefits to the Town Clerk would be terminated at the end of the 2018 year. Councilman Lowell Smith said that the Town of Howard pays more than other towns for the same service from the Town Clerk and other town clerks can get their work done in 6 hours a week. Eric Hosmer said the taxes always go up and that Councilman Stewart's platform when he ran was that he would reduce taxes, have more transparency and accountability. Councilman Robert Palmer agreed that this decision was about economics.

Kevin McEnerney arrived at 7:10 p.m.

Planning Board Chairman Gary Rice reported that Ronald Dyer has submitted his resignation as Planning Board member due to work time restraints. The Planning Board has recommended that Jason Holevinski, who is currently an Alternate member, be appointed to fill the unexpired term of Ronald Dyer as Planning Board member. A **RESOLUTION** (#9-2018) was made upon motion of Councilman Lowell Smith and seconded by Councilman Andrew Dgien to appoint Jason Holevinski for the unexpired term of Planning Board member Ronald Dyer ending December 31, 2019. Adopted: Councilman Smith, aye; Councilman Dgien, aye; Councilman Stewart, aye; Councilman Palmer, aye; Supervisor Evia, aye.

Howard Fire Department President Jay Cleaves gave the verbal monthly report for February with \$24,243.70 in expenses paid. There were 4 MVAs, one MBA and one drill. Fire Chief Rob Patrick and Supervisor Donald Evia have talked with Barry Dye with regard to dispatching both Avoca and Fremont ambulances on calls which geographically overlap after the accident on I-86 today. Chief Patrick advised that any boundary changes for ambulance coverage would have to be made by 911.

Attorney Chauncey Watches arrived at 7:33 p.m.

Fire Chief Rob Patrick reported that there was good response to the 17 calls totaling 187 hours of fire department manpower called out by 911 during the recent storm. He would like to see the County provide a full time person on the road crew during these storm emergencies. The Howard Fire Department was designated as an emergency shelter during this storm. Councilman Lowell Smith asked about FEMA assistance. This assistance has to be requested by County Emergency management. Chief Patrick will talk to the Avoca Ambulance personnel and 911 with regard to the dual callout for both Fremont and Avoca ambulances. Supervisor Evia will contact Barry Dye of the Fremont ambulance service. Chief Patrick also reported that the water line has been fixed to the Fire Department.

A motion was made by Councilman Robert Palmer and seconded by Councilman Andrew Dgien to go into executive session at 7:40 p.m. under Section 105.1 (f) to discuss the medical, financial, credit or employment history of a particular person or corporation, or matters leading to the appointment, employment, promotion, demotion, discipline, suspension, dismissal or removal of a particular person or corporation and under Section 105.1(d) to discuss proposed, pending or current litigation. Carried: Councilman Palmer, aye; Councilman Dgien, aye; Councilman Stewart, aye; Councilman Smith, aye; Supervisor Evia, aye.

A motion was made upon motion of Councilman Lowell Smith and seconded by Councilman Robert Palmer to come out of executive session at 8:19 p.m. Carried: Councilman Smith, aye; Councilman Palmer, aye; Councilman Stewart, aye; Councilman Dgien, aye; Supervisor Evia, aye.

Supervisor Donald Evia advised that the Town Board has interviewed both Attorney James Byrd and Attorney Chauncey Watches. A **RESOLUTION** (#10-2018) was made upon motion of Councilman Richard Stewart and seconded by Councilman Andrew Dgien to designate Attorney Chauncey Watches of Canisteo as attorney for the Town of Howard. He would be paid on a \$3,000 per year retainer, to be prorated for the balance on this year. He will receive a 1099 for his services and will voucher his retainer, to be paid up front. Adopted: Councilman Stewart, aye; Councilman Dgien, aye; Councilman Palmer, aye; Councilman Smith, aye; Supervisor Evia, aye. Supervisor Donald Evia will contact him with the Board's decision.

Supervisor Donald Evia reported that the Town Clerk's monthly report for February has been submitted in the amount of \$230 (Town's share \$209). The PILOT

check from the IDA for 2018 has been received in the amount of \$258,606.74.. The 2017 Annual Report was completed and submitted on February 20, 2018.

The Town Justice's monthly report was reviewed by the Board. A Town Justice check was received in the amount of \$2570 (town's share for January \$682.50). Councilman Lowell Smith advised that the Town of Hornellsville is bringing in a lot more income from town justice fees.

A letter was reviewed by the Town Board with regard to change of ownership of Everpower Wind Holdings, Inc (project Howard Wind LLC) to Rock Investco, LLC, owned by BlackRock Financial Management, Inc.

Town Clerk Loreen Karr distributed copies of the Workplace Violence Prevention Policy for the Town Board's review per the Association of Towns legal department.

Information with regard to NYSERDA's adoption of a Clean Energy standard requiring 50 percent of all electricity in New York State to come from renewable energy sources, such as wind and solar, by 2030, was shared with the Board.

The following bills were presented for audit:

Highway (Abstract #13 - #26)	\$19,667.68
Town (Abstract #35 - #53)	25,246.95
Street Lighting (Abstract #46)	265.05

A motion was made by Councilman Lowell Smith and seconded by Councilman Andrew Dgien to pay these bills. Carried: Councilman Smith, aye; Councilman Dgien, aye; Councilman Palmer, aye; Councilman Stewart, aye; Supervisor Evia, aye.

Kevin McEnerney asked why the Town Highway Department was hauling wood pellets on one of the town trucks. He also asked why the town trucks do not have Town of Howard identification on them. Supervisor Donald Evia will talk to Highway Superintendent Anthony Clark with regard to these matters.

A motion was made by Councilman Lowell Smith and seconded by Councilman Andrew Dgien to adjourn the meeting. Carried: Councilman Smith, aye; Councilman Dgien, aye; Councilman Palmer, aye; Councilman Stewart, aye; Supervisor Evia, aye. The meeting was adjourned at 8:57 p.m.

Loreen A. Karr
Howard Town Clerk

