

**HOWARD TOWN BOARD MEETING
WEDNESDAY
May 8, 2019**

The regular meeting of the Howard Town Board was called to order at 7:02 p.m. by Supervisor Donald Evia. Councilmen present were Lowell Smith, Richard Stewart, and Gary Rice. Councilman Robert Palmer was absent. Also present were Town Clerk David Price, Highway Superintendent Lee Pyer, Robin Phenes, Bill Holevinski, Eric Hosmer, Sean Turner, and Sonya Ellison.

Supervisor Donald Evia led the pledge to the flag.

The minutes of the previous meeting were reviewed by the Board. A motion was made by Councilman Rice and seconded by Councilman Smith to approve the minutes of the previous meeting as presented. Carried: Rice, Aye; Smith Aye; Stewart, Aye; Evia, Aye.

Supervisor Evia asked for public comment. Councilman Stewart prompted Eric Hosmer to relate information that he had received concerning Betty Walden. Mr. Hosmer stated that he understood that Betty had another fall and had not returned home. Supervisor Evia replied, he had heard that also, but believed that she was home. Councilman Rice offered that this latest fall had taken place on April 24th and Betty was taken to the hospital when she was unable to get out of bed on April 27th. Councilman Rice was sure of these dates as the Fire Department had responded to both calls.

Mr. Hosmer continued that he believed Councilman Rice's information to be accurate as it confirmed what his informant had told him today. He also mentioned that he had communicated via Facebook with a Ms. Jankowski, who said she would be willing to use her property as an animal shelter. Supervisor Evia thought that she probably did not know what was involved. Councilman Stewart thought we should probably let our Animal Control Officer Gary Hadsell keep them on a per dog basis in the facility in Canisteo.

Highway Superintendent Pyer reported that MEO Gary Mullen was doing well after his recent surgery. Mr. Pyer thought he would be out of work for 6 – 10 weeks.

Supervisor Evia presented the Annual Williamson Law Book Service Contract. After a brief discussion, Councilman Rice made a motion to accept the contract and pay the fee. The motion was seconded by Councilman Smith. Carried: Rice, Aye; Smith, Aye; Stewart, Aye; Evia, Aye.

Supervisor Evia brought up the topic of internet service. There has been a long running discussion regarding the poor quality of our internet service. Supervisor Evia has been in discussion with Spectrum and Ed Flaitz. Ed recommended that we go with Spectrum as Verizon was incapable of providing the service that we require. He also mentioned that we need a wireless router that would run around \$450.00.

Councilman Stewart made a motion seconded by Councilman Smith to have Spectrum provide internet service and Ed Flaitz install any specialized equipment that was needed. Carried: Stewart, Aye; Smith, Aye; Rice, Aye; Evia, Aye.

Highway Superintendent Pyer explained the problems *vis-à-vis* breakdowns and repairs that he has been having with the Town trucks. He also mentioned that we were going to receive less money from CHIPS this year and that this was the last year that we would be receiving funds from Pave New York, although as was pointed out by Supervisor Evia, that program might be renewed.

Superintendent Pyer reported that the truck we purchased from the Town of Eaton was great. He also reviewed his report and explained that a lot of projects couldn't be started until the rain stopped and things dry up. Mr. Peyer also mentioned that Derick Bulkley, our summer employee, would be starting on May 20th.

Councilman Stewart enquired about the new mowing tractor. Mr. Pyer informed him that he had already started mowing with it.

Supervisor Evia asked the Board where they stood on moving forward with the Town of Eaton. He and Councilman Rice had stopped by the Eaton Town Garage and spoken with their Highway Superintendent. They were very impressed with the care that they gave their vehicles. The Superintendent had explained to them, before they took delivery on any of their trucks, they had them sandblasted and painted with epoxy primer.

Councilman Stewart asked if the truck we just purchased from Eaton was the first truck we had that was equipped with a catalytic converter. Councilman Rice noted that all the filters had been replaced by the Town of Eaton before we took delivery. Councilman Stewart wondered how often you had to check the filters. Superintendent Pyer informed the Board that there were sensors that indicated, when they needed to be changed.

Supervisor Evia reported that the Town of Eaton wanted to enter into an agreement with the Howard regarding purchasing their trucks. Their next truck would cost the Town of Howard \$163,000.00, after that they would be less. We might have the new truck for next snow season, January or February, he added.

Superintendent Pyer discussed his maintenance expenditures for the last several months on a per truck basis.

Councilman Stewart asked, how does Eaton come up with the price that they are selling their trucks for?" Superintendent Pyer explained the reason that the next truck will be more expensive than the one we just purchased is that Eaton went from a 7-year replacement plan to a 5-year plan.

There followed a brief discussion regarding how much we might get for our old trucks as they were replaced. Councilman Rice opined that he doubted we'd get more than \$10,000.00 per truck if that.

Councilman Stewart stated, if we get these trucks from Eaton, they need to be usable. Councilman Smith said, "the way they have them set up, they should be good."

Superintendent Pyer asked the Board, if they would commit to 5-years or go year-to-year. Councilman Stewart asked, if we would have the right of first refusal. He then stated

that if we have the right of first refusal we should go forward with a letter of intent to the Town of Eaton.

Resolution (#10-2019) was made by Councilman Rice and seconded by Councilman Smith to authorize the Town to engage with the Town of Eaton via a letter of intent for the purchase of the Town of Eaton's trucks on a yearly basis. Adopted: Rice, Aye; Smith Aye; Stewart, Aye; Evia, Aye.

At this time, Supervisor Evia commenced to present reports for review.

There was no Planning Board report. It was however reported that Andrea Barry had resigned. Although as far as anybody knew, she would stay on as a member of the Board of Assessment Review.

There was no Assessor's report. There followed a discussion regarding the County's shared Assessor Plan. Supervisor Evia reported that he had gotten no good answers from the County.

There was no Fire Department report.

Supervisor Evia presented the Supervisor's report, to which he added that he had received a check in the amount of \$106,000.00 for sales tax.

Building Inspector Robert Riekofski's report was reviewed.

There was no Justice Report.

Town Clerk David Price, reported that the Clerk's office received payments from sales of dog licenses, building permits, and certified copies in the amount of \$265.00. He further reported that he had dispersed funds via two checks, one made payable to Supervisor Donald F. Evia in the amount of \$251.00 and the other made payable to NYS Animal Population Control Program in the amount of \$14.00.

The Town Clerk/Tax Collector reported that the original Tax Warrant was \$1,373,013.74. There were -\$802.35 in adjustments bringing the total Adjusted Warrant to \$1,372,211.39. He had received \$1,224,039.71 in full payments with \$3,105.48 in Penalties. The total Collections were \$1,227,145.19. Outstanding taxes turned over to the County for collection was \$148,171.68.

Councilman Smith enquired if the Tax Collector's accounts agreed with County Finance's books. Mr. Price admitted that he was off by \$0.02. He would be presenting Supervisor Evia with a check in the amount of \$3,105.46 for the penalties collected.

Gary Hadsell, the Animal Control Officer, had filed a report which was reviewed and discussed. Mr. Hadsell had mistakenly charged \$0.46 per mile rather than \$0.45 that was authorized by the Town Board. It was also decided that we would use the Canisteo Facilities on a per dog basis.

At this time, the review of the Highway, General, and Lighting District vouchers commenced.

The following bills were presented for audit:

Highway (Abstract #69-86)	\$	29,894.17
General (Abstract #92- 104)	\$	3,585.16
Street Lighting (Abstract #91)	\$	265.90

A motion was made by Councilman Smith and seconded by Councilman Rice to pay these bills. Carried, Smith, Aye; Rice, Aye; Stewart, Aye; Evia, Aye.

Councilman Stewart asked Supervisor Evia if he had spoken with our bookkeeper regarding, why last month's Abstract did not accurately reflect the bills that were presented. Supervisor Evia said that he had discussed this issue with Leann Wightman, who had explained that the Abstract included payments that had already been made by authority of the Board.

Supervisor Evia solicited public comment.

Eric Hosmer had some questions on maintenance procedures with regard to EPA regulations. There commenced a discussion regarding computer diagnostics of town trucks. Superintendent Pyer reported that our shop was not set up to perform computer diagnostics. Councilman Rice said all of the programs were proprietary and could be purchased for limited time use.

Councilman Stewart wondered if Sonny's Truck Repair was up to speed on the computer technology. Mr. Pyer thought it might be cheaper to send one of the younger MEO's to classes so we could do it in house.

A motion to adjourn at 8:58 p.m. was made by Councilman Smith and seconded by Councilman Rice Carried: Smith, Aye; Rice, Aye; Stewart, Aye; Evia, Aye.

David Price
Town Clerk