

Town of Howard
Town Board Meeting
Wednesday, July 08, 2020

A regular meeting of the Howard Town Board was called to order by Supervisor Donald Evia at 19:00. Roll was called and Councilmen present were Richard Stewart, Lowell Smith, Gary Rice, and Eric Hosmer. Also in attendance: Lee Pyer, Town of Howard Highway Superintendent and Laura Snow, Town Assessor. Town members present were: Michael Adams, Tom Flansburg, Kevin Grapensteter, as well as visiting presenter Kevin Sheen.

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

Public Comment: There was no public comment.

Previous Meeting Minutes: Reviewed. Motion made by Councilman Smith to accept minutes as presented. Seconded by Councilman Rice. *Carried: Councilman Stewart aye, Councilman Smith aye, Councilman Rice aye, Councilman Hosmer aye, Superintendent Evia aye.*

New business: A program was presented by Kevin Sheen of Terra-Gen, a wind farm corporation, regarding the Prattsburg Wind Project. The company is considering placing windmills in the northern portion of the Town of Howard and in the Town of Fremont. A Scoping Statement was provided to the Howard Town Board and is available. Studies are in the preliminary stages, however the plan is to place two to five turbines within the described area. Mr. Sheen stated there has been some positive interest from local landowners. NYS will be establishing guidelines for the application process. The process is no longer via Article 10 – it is now 94C. It has been determined that a substation for connection will be located on Waterbury Hill in Avoca. Onset of construction is estimated to be 2022. Additional information can be found by accessing the website PrattsburghWindFarm.com. Mr. Sheen will be planning a return visit to the Town of Howard Board meeting in September 2020. The presentation concluded at 19:40 following a short question / answer period.

Highway Superintendent Pyer presented information regarding the past month's activity in his department. There is a written report under separate cover.

Resolution #2020-6

Councilman Rice made a motion that the Highway Department proceed with the Oil / Stone Project on Hungry Hollow Road. Seconded by Councilman Hosmer. *Carried: Councilman Stewart aye, Councilman Smith aye, Councilman Rice aye, Councilman Hosmer aye, Superintendent Evia aye.*

At 19:43 Mr. Pyer requested an audience with Executive Session. A motion was made by Councilman Rice to enter into Executive Session. Second by Councilman Smith. *Carried: Councilman Stewart aye, Councilman Smith aye, Councilman Rice aye, Councilman Hosmer aye, Superintendent Evia aye.*

At 20:07 the Board returned. A motion was made by Councilman Rice to resume Board business. Second by Councilman Smith. *Carried: Councilman Stewart aye, Councilman Smith aye, Councilman Rice aye, Councilman Hosmer aye, Superintendent Evia aye.* **Regular business session resumed at 20:07.**

Councilman Rice made a motion to submit an advertisement for employment of a new Town Highway Dept. MEO. There was no second.

Planning Board report: No report.

Assessor's Report: Assessor Laura Snow spoke to the Board regarding the 2021 Reassessment Project, stating that the Board has the option of postponing for a period of one year without penalty. General discussion ensued.

Resolution #2020-7

Councilman Rice made a motion that we postpone the re-evaluation for a period of one year. Motion seconded by Councilman Smith. *Carried: Councilman Stewart aye, Councilman Smith aye, Councilman Rice aye, Councilman Hosmer aye, Superintendent Evia aye.*

Town of Howard Fire Department: The Fire Department has now provided the Town Board with a proforma copy of their IRS form 990. A motion was made by Councilman Rice that the remaining portion of the Fire Department allotment be paid at this time. Second by Councilman Hosmer. *Carried: Councilman Stewart aye, Councilman Smith aye, Councilman Rice aye, Councilman Hosmer aye, Superintendent Evia aye.*

Supervisor's Report: Supervisor Don Evia presented his report. Full report under separate cover. Councilman Stewart presented Supervisor Evia with a FOIL request.

Building Inspector: No report.

Justice Report: No report.

Town Clerk Report: Town Clerk Rhonda Burdin reported that she and Supervisor Evia continue to work on upgrading the phone system. Clerk Burdin also shared the Summer Recreation Program's preliminary guidelines for hosting their program with special attention being paid to the Health Guidelines for Covid-19. (Document under separate cover provided by Rob Patrick.) Additional information for monthly Town Clerk income filed under separate cover.

Animal Control Report: filed under separate cover. There was no discussion.

Bills were presented for audit. Councilman Smith made a motion that the bills for the evening be paid with these exceptions:

- Will withhold payment of Highway Dept. Medical Insurance pending further investigation regarding information for a terminated employee
- Verizon phone bill pending further investigation about a specific charge

Councilman Rice seconded the motion. *Carried: Councilman Stewart aye, Councilman Smith aye, Councilman Rice aye, Councilman Hosmer aye, Superintendent Evia aye.*

Bills for the evening:

General	Abstracts #116 – 129	(\$3,990.81)
Lighting	Abstract #115	(\$ 249.09)
Highway	Abstracts #95 – 115	(\$45,415.29)

Public Comment: none.

Board discussion: A motion was made by Councilman Stewart that a budget transfer be approved as presented by Town Bookkeeper Wightman (copy under separate cover.) Seconded by Councilman Rice. *Carried: Councilman Stewart aye, Councilman Smith aye, Councilman Rice aye, Councilman Hosmer aye, Superintendent Evia aye.*

At 21:13, a motion was made by Councilman Smith and seconded by Councilman Hosmer to adjourn the meeting. *Carried: Councilman Stewart aye, Councilman Smith aye, Councilman Rice aye, Councilman Hosmer aye, Superintendent Evia aye.*

Adjourned 21:13

Rhonda Burdin
Town Clerk
Town of Howard