

**HOWARD TOWN BOARD MEETING**  
**WEDNESDAY**  
**April 10, 2019**

The regular meeting of the Howard Town Board was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Supervisor Donald Evia. Councilmen present were Lowell Smith, Richard Stewart, Robert Palmer, and Gary Rice. Also present were Town Clerk David Price, Bob Cleeves, Scott Pinkham, Joseph Avins, Louis A. Miraglia, Wanda I. Miraglia, Robin Phenes, Bill Holevinski, and Eric Hosmer.

Supervisor Donald Evia led the pledge to the flag.

The minutes of the previous meeting were reviewed by the Board. Councilman Stewart demanded that the Clerk's Supplemental Report be removed from the March and April Minutes. He was concerned that making it part of the official Town Record would expose the Town to liability. Councilman Stewart then suggested a motion be made. Councilman Smith made a motion to remove the Supplemental Report. Supervisor Evia suggested that the matter be discussed before a vote was held. Following said discussion, Councilmen Stewart and Smith agreed to allow reference to the Supplemental Report in the March Town Board Minutes but would preclude the April Board Minutes from including the updated Clerk's Supplemental Report.

A motion was made by Councilman Rice and seconded by Councilman Palmer to approve the minutes of the previous meeting. Carried: Rice, Aye; Palmer Aye; Stewart, Aye; Smith, Aye; Evia, Aye.

Supervisor Evia asked for public comment. Several residents of Stone School Road had come to request that their road be upgraded. It has deteriorated over the last few years, and they wondered about the possibility of having it paved. They also reported an increase in heavy truck traffic.

Supervisor Evia responded that he and Highway Superintendent Pyer would take a ride over there the next day and have a look at the road.

At the end of the conversation regarding Stone School Road, Eric Hosmer addressed the Clerk. He said that he was confused as to whether the Clerk was paid by the hour or salary? The Clerk explained that he received a salary, but the salary was based on the number of hours required to perform the duties as Clerk/Tax Collector times \$15.00/hour. Mr. Hosmer further wondered, if the Clerk knew how much additional compensation he required over and above the 15 hours per week that he was paid. The Clerk responded, \$1,770.00, based on a diary he had kept during tax season (January through April) wherein he had documented 118.5 additional hours required for tax collection.

Councilman Palmer asked if the Clerk was going to continue adding additional hours. The Clerk responded, "No, just tax season. Once that was over 15 hours a week was adequate." Robin Phenes wondered if now that he had gone through one tax season, wouldn't he become more proficient?" The Clerk responded, "Not really, it's one of those jobs that you have to get up to speed quickly, or you get buried."

The Clerk fielded several more questions directed to him by the Board, explaining the various procedures required for each transaction, of which there are 1,200. Robin Phenes asked why so much of the work was on paper. She felt it would make more sense to rely on the computer program. The Clerk responded, "I'm with you, but I have to follow the procedures outlined by County Finance."

Highway Superintendent Pyer, who was not in attendance, requested that a resolution be passed to enable him to put the 2002 Freightliner up on the online auction site. Councilman Rice wondered, if there would be a minimum bid. There was no clear answer to that question.

**Resolution (#9-2019)** was made Councilman Rice and seconded by Councilman Palmer to authorize Superintendent Pyer to put the 2002 Freightliner Truck on the online auction site. Adopted: Rice, Aye; Palmer Aye; Stewart, Aye; Smith, Aye; Evia, Aye.

There ensued a discussion regarding the Truck that the Town just picked up from the Town of Eaton. The overwhelming consensus was that it was a really, nice truck. Its drive wheels were radial recaps. Councilman Palmer opined that these were going to be good trucks going forward.

Councilman Palmer also noted that everybody who had seen the mowing tractor that the Town purchased recently was very happy with it. Councilman Stewart asked, if the flail mower had been run up to speed. Supervisor Evia responded, "Yes it has."

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

There was no Planning Board report.

There was no Assessor's report.

Bob Cleeves presented the Fire Departments Report. Bob mentioned that there were 35 members, half were "old."

Supervisor Evia presented his report.

Building Inspector Robert Riekofski's report was reviewed.

The Justice Report was reviewed. Total deposits this month were \$1,666.00.

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 \$275.00. He further reported that he had dispersed funds via two checks, one made payable to Supervisor Donald F. Evia in the amount of \$264.00 and the other made payable to NYS Animal Population Control Program in the amount of \$11.00.

Gary Hadsell, the Animal Control Officer, had filed a report noting that he had picked up one dog.

Councilman Stewart asked, if we were using Betty Walden’s facility. He offered, he had heard that Gary Hadsell and Betty Walden were estranged. Supervisor Evia responded, that he had heard something about that, but didn’t know the particulars. He would investigate the situation.

Councilman Rice wondered what we were doing about obtaining a new copier. He referred to product and pricing information that as in his packet from last month that we had received from Toshiba. Councilman Stewart had gotten information from the Village of Canisteo pertaining to a copier that they had purchased from Amazon. He did not have the information with him but promised to provide it.

Councilman Stewart volunteered; The Village of Canisteo had raised their taxes 20%. He also asked Supervisor Evia if we had a new PILOT agreement with Howard Wind, LLC.

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

The following bills were presented for audit:

Highway (Abstract #53 - 67)	\$	117,961.34
General (Abstract #74 - 89)	\$	2,808.79
Street Lighting (Abstract #88)	\$	278.42

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

Supervisor Evia solicited public comment. Councilman Palmer initiated a discussion regarding a breakdown of the recently purchased Peterbilt Truck. Councilman Stewart wanted to know why the Abstract did not accurately reflect the bills that were presented. Supervisor Evia said that he would discuss this with Leann Wightman, our bookkeeper.

Councilman Stewart then questioned Supervisor Evia about the PILOT agreement, “Where does the figure come from?” Supervisor Evia explained that we get the information from the IDA.

A motion to adjourn at 8:35 p.m. was made by Councilman Palmer and seconded by Councilman Smith Carried: Palmer, Aye; Smith, Aye; Stewart, Aye; Rice, Aye; Evia, Aye.

David Price  
Town Clerk