

Town of Howard
Town Board Meeting
Wednesday, April 14, 2021

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, and Gary Rice. Excused was Councilman Eric Hosmer. Absent / Excused: Highway Superintendent Lee Pyer. Also attending: Brian Patterson, Sharon Margeson, Phil Margeson, Gordon Lyke, Mike Kidder, Butch Burdin, Brenda Burdin, Jeff Ross, Sam Webb, Bob Wagner, Michael Adams, Ed Frey, Jack Bossard, Rob Patrick, Ron Dyer, Theresa Dyer, Mark Kidder, Bob Cleeves, Wilma Stewart, and Kevin Grapensteter.

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

Previous minutes: Reviewed. Motion to accept March 2021 minutes by Councilman Rice, second by Councilman Smith. *Carried: Councilman Stewart aye, Councilman Smith aye, Councilman Rice aye, Supervisor Evia aye.*

Public Comment: there was general discussion regarding the Windmill Project with comments from multiple community members. Kevin Grapensteter presented a signed petition to the Town Board members of townspeople that do NOT support any further Wind Turbines in the town. Community members questioned whether a referendum may be appropriate. Attorney Mullen stated no.

Old Business: there was some general discussion regarding the finalization and acceptance of the Howard Fire Department Contract.

Resolution #2021 – 10

Councilman Rice made a motion to accept the Howard Fire Department Contract as presented. Motion seconded by Councilman Smith. *Carried: Councilman Stewart aye, Councilman Smith aye, Councilman Rice aye, Supervisor Evia aye.* There is a copy of the Fire Department contract available in the Town Clerk's Office.

New Business: Attorney Aaron Mullen gave a brief update of items from the County Legislature. Mr. Mullen also presented the newly proposed Wind Law prepared by the current Town of Howard Planning Board members. Additional Wind discussion ensued. There was mention of a draft Road Use Agreement.

Highway Report: Gary Rice presented information from the Howard Highway Department. Report under separate cover.

Resolution #2021 – 11

Councilman Rice made a motion that the Town accept the 2021 284 Agreement for the Howard Town Highway Department. Motion seconded by Councilman Smith. *Carried: Councilman Stewart aye, Councilman Smith aye, Councilman Rice aye, Supervisor Evia aye.*

Resolution #2021 – 12

Councilman Rice made a motion to purchase fifty feet of 72-inch diameter culvert pipe from Lane Pipe in the amount of \$5507.50. Second by Councilman Smith. *Carried: Councilman Stewart aye, Councilman Smith aye, Councilman Rice aye, Supervisor Evia aye.*

There was additional discussion regarding securing bids for roof recoating / repair of the Highway Building.

Planning Board Report: March notes under separate cover.

Assessor’s Report: none

Fire Department Report: under separate cover – handled under Old Business.

Supervisor’s Report: under separate cover.

Building Inspector’s Report: No building transactions for February 2021. Two minor subdivisions in March 2021. Report under separate cover.

Justice Report: under separate cover. No discussion.

Town Clerk’s Report: Clerk Burdin presented the monthly report – under separate cover.

Resolution #2021 – 13

Councilman Rice made a motion to adopt the Steuben County Pre-Disaster Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan including all corrections as may be required by FEMA and as revised per schedule. Motion seconded by Councilman Stewart. *Carried: Councilman Stewart aye, Councilman Smith aye, Councilman Rice aye, Supervisor Evia aye.*

Clerk Burdin continues work on Town Policies and they will be presented in draft form at the May meeting.

Animal Control Report: under separate cover. No discussion.

Bills were presented for audit. Councilman Smith made a motion that the bills for the evening be paid. Councilman Rice seconded the motion. *Carried: Councilman Stewart aye, Councilman Smith aye, Councilman Rice aye, Supervisor Evia aye.*

General	Abstracts #62 – 78	(\$ 7,906.10)
Highway	Abstracts #51 - 68	(\$ 20,5432.61)
Lighting	Abstract #60	(\$ 291.09)
Fire District	Abstract #61	(\$ 98,500.00)

Public Comment: Michael Adams stated that he wished to comment that the evening's discourse was respectful – keeping in mind that many have different and opposing views regarding the Wind Project, but we are ultimately neighbors and need to remain respectful of those differences.

Board discussion: nothing further

Adjournment

At 21:37, a motion was made by Councilman Smith and seconded by Councilman Stewart to adjourn the meeting. *Carried: Councilman Stewart aye, Councilman Smith aye, Councilman Rice aye, Supervisor Evia aye.*

Adjourned at 21:37.

Rhonda Burdin

Town Clerk

Town of Howard

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