

Town of Howard  
Town Board Meeting  
Public Hearing (Budget)  
Wednesday, November 11, 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 attending: Michael Adams, Ed Frey, and Rob Patrick.

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

**Previous minutes:** Reviewed. Motion to accept by Councilman Rice, second by Councilman Hosmer. *Carried: Councilman Stewart aye, Councilman Smith aye, Councilman Rice aye, Councilman Hosmer aye, Superintendent Evia aye.*

**Public Comment:** none.

**Highway Department:** General notice was given that due to positive Covid cases at the Steuben County Maintenance Shop on Mount Washington, the shop has been closed for two weeks for employees to quarantine. Town Highway Supervisor Lee Pyer noted that the new truck has arrived. Winter tires/plows are going on in preparation for the winter weather. Mr. Pyer mentioned that there are multiple trees that need to be taken down on several roads. Will obtain estimates as they require professional services. Additional Highway report under separate cover.

**Public Hearing:**

**At 19:10,** Supervisor Evia opened the **Public Hearing** for discussion on the 2021 TOH Budget. There was general conversation, during which Councilman Rice voiced his opinion that he felt the TOH Highway budget had been underfunded during the Budget Workshop. The consensus following this conversation, was that the Board had examined and discussed the 2021 budget line-by-line and that the budget would stand as presented. During the hearing, there was deliberation that the salary for the TOH Justice had been set at \$11,000.00 annually during the 2018 Budget Appropriations, however the Justice has been receiving salary in the amount of \$13,500.00 since that time, causing a discrepancy. After debate, including the presentation of local Justice salaries of surrounding communities, it was reiterated that going forward, the Justice Salary should be at \$11,000.00 annually as originally decided in 2018. The Board opted for a change in appropriations as follows: line item DA5130.2 (Highway Equipment) in the Town Budget was raised to \$172,500.00 and line item A1110.1 (Justice salary) was returned to \$11,000.00.

At 19:40, Councilman Smith made the motion to close the Public Hearing. Seconded by Councilman Rice. *Carried: Councilman Stewart aye, Councilman Smith aye, Councilman Rice aye, Councilman Hosmer aye, Superintendent Evia aye.*

At 19:41, Councilman Smith made the motion to accept the Proposed 2021 TOH Budget. Seconded by Councilman Stewart. *Carried: Councilman Stewart aye, Councilman Smith aye, Councilman Rice aye, Councilman Hosmer aye, Superintendent Evia aye.*

**Resolution #2020-10:**

Councilman Hosmer made the motion that we sell the 1983 Grader at auction for the final bid of \$6000.00. Seconded by Councilman Rice. *Carried: Councilman Stewart aye, Councilman Smith aye, Councilman Rice aye, Councilman Hosmer aye, Superintendent Evia aye.*

**Resolution #2020-11:**

Councilman Rice made a motion that we publish the “No Parking” on the right-of-way for the TOH Roads during the period of December 1, 2020 to April 1, 2021 for winter maintenance of roads. Included in the motion was to publish the “No Maintenance” of TOH Seasonal Roads for the same time frame. Motion was seconded by Councilman Hosmer. *Carried: Councilman Stewart aye, Councilman Smith aye, Councilman Rice aye, Councilman Hosmer aye, Superintendent Evia aye.* Town Clerk Burdin will see that the ads are placed in both papers. Copies of ads will be placed with notes under separate cover.

**Old Business:** none.

**New business:** There was general discussion about the maintenance of the Town’s thirteen cemeteries. Rob Patrick has been providing this service, however he mentioned that he will need to purchase a new mower in the Spring. In addition, it was discussed whether there were other options for coverage. The Board did not feel that the Steuben County Workforce could handle this, nor could the current TOH Highway Department provide the manpower. Further discussion tabled until December.

**Planning Board report:** Due to meet tomorrow evening. No October minutes were available.

**Assessor’s Report:** No report.

**Town of Howard Fire Department:** Rob Patrick gave a brief verbal report for the Fire Department. They did not meet in October due to the Covid restrictions. The Fire Department has presented a draft for a 2021 contract, found under separate cover. To be discussed next month.

**Supervisor’s Report:** Supervisor Don Evia’s report is filed under separate cover.

**Building Inspector’s Report:** none.

**Justice Report:** Under separate cover, no comments.

**Town Clerk Report:** Town Clerk Rhonda Burdin gave general report of Town Clerk activities for October. Clerk asked for minutes from the Budget Preparation meeting. Monthly Town Clerk report and revenue / disbursements filed under separate cover.

**Animal Control Report:** Filed under separate cover. No cases. There was 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, Councilman Hosmer aye, Superintendent Evia aye.*

Bills for the evening:

General	Abstracts #151 – 164	(\$ 7,775.48)
Lighting	Abstract #165	(\$ 281.36)
Highway	Abstracts #137 - 157	(\$ 50,547.53)

**Public Comment:** none.

**Board discussion:** Mr. Stewart initiated a dialogue about the Logging Law. Proposals for consideration have been presented to the TOH Planning Board. After discussion, Councilman Stewart made the motion to have a Public Hearing at the December Town Board Meeting to discuss the Logging Law and proposals for changes. Seconded by Councilman Smith. *Carried: Councilman Stewart aye, Councilman Smith aye, Councilman Rice nay, Councilman Hosmer aye, Superintendent Evia nay.*

At 20:46 a motion was made by Councilman Hosmer to enter Executive Session to discuss an employee issue. Seconded by Councilman Stewart. *Carried: Councilman Stewart aye, Councilman Smith aye, Councilman Rice aye, Councilman Hosmer aye, Superintendent Evia aye.* The Board retired for Executive session.

At 21:06, the Board returned. Councilman Rice made the motion to return to regular session. Seconded by Councilman Hosmer. *Carried: Councilman Stewart aye, Councilman Smith aye, Councilman Rice aye, Councilman Hosmer aye, Superintendent Evia aye.*

At 21:06, a motion was made by Councilman Smith and seconded by Councilman Rice to adjourn the meeting. *Carried: Councilman Stewart aye, Councilman Smith aye, Councilman Rice aye, Councilman Hosmer aye, Superintendent Evia aye.*

**Adjourned 21:06**

Rhonda Burdin

Town Clerk

Town of Howard