

Town of Howard  
Town Board Meeting  
Wednesday, October 14, 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: Brad Laverty, TOH Building and Code Officer. Town members present: Michael Adams, Ed O'Brochta, Andrew Burdin, Ethan Hosmer, Chase Weeks, Kevin Grapensteter, Robert Cleeves, Rob Patrick. Barry Dye and Carol Hover were present as representatives of Fremont Fire and Rescue

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

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

**Public Comment:** Barry Dye gave a brief presentation about the Fremont coverage for Howard and surrounding localities. The Board expressed appreciation for the response and skill of the Fremont teams. Call numbers have gone up, as have costs for maintaining an active Fire and EMS crew. See attached data. Discussion was held, and the Board will need to have a new contract for 2021. Further action tabled.

**Old Business:** Discussion regarding sand / gravel purchase.

**Resolution #2020-9:**

Councilman Rice made a motion that we go with 1.25 inch screening and to pay \$2000.00 to break up the Devils' concrete. Services to be provided by Dragget Sand & Gravel. Seconded by Councilman Smith. *Carried: Councilman Stewart aye, Councilman Smith aye, Councilman Rice aye, Councilman Hosmer aye, Superintendent Evia aye.*

Richard Stewart discussed the current Logging Law and stated his concerns and proposed changes. Among his concerns were the previous lack of all signatures as required by the Law (Local Law TOH #2009-2) on some permits. There was also some discussion regarding the lack of TOH Policies / Procedures that could offer an appeals process, etc. The Board affirmed that going forward, the current Law requirements should be met by all parties. Regarding making any changes to the current law, Councilman Smith made the motion that Mr. Stewart present his concerns and proposals to the Planning Board (where the current law originated). Second by Gary Rice. *Carried: Councilman Stewart aye, Councilman Smith aye, Councilman Rice aye, Councilman Hosmer aye, Superintendent Evia aye.*

**New business:** There will be a TOH 2021 Budget Workshop on Monday, October 26, 2020 At the TOH Town Building at 6pm.

**Highway Department Report:** See Old Business.

**Planning Board report:** Minutes under separate cover. No discussion.

**Assessor's Report:** No report.

**Town of Howard Fire Department:** The Fire Department (FD) report was presented jointly by Robert Cleaves and Rob Patrick. Mr. Patrick presented the 2021 FD Budget proposal – under separate cover. The Fire Department expressed an interest in returning to three-year contracts. It was decided by the Board that a meeting will be held including the TOH Town Board in conjunction with representatives from the Fire Department at the Firehouse on Tuesday, October 20, 2020 at 7pm to discuss.

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

**Building Inspector's Report:** Mr. Laverty reported five Building permits were issued in September, and two minor subdivisions were approved. There will be a public hearing at the start of the October 21, 2020 Planning Board Meeting to discuss a major subdivision.

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

**Town Clerk Report:** Town Clerk Rhonda Burdin reported the resignation of Andrea Barry from the TOH Board of Assessment review. There was some discussion about filling her position, but the Board decided at this time to leave the BAR with three active members and two vacancies. Monthly Town Clerk revenue / disbursements 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. 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	(\$ 6,066.66)
Lighting	Abstract #165	(\$ 270.39)
Highway	Abstracts #137 - 157	(\$ 34,547.06)

**Public Comment:** none.

**Board discussion:** none.

At 21:10, 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 21:10**

Rhonda Burdin

Town Clerk

Town of Howard