

**HOWARD TOWN BOARD MEETING  
WEDNESDAY  
FEBRUARY 14, 2018**

The regular meeting of the Howard Town Board was called to order by Supervisor Donald Evia at 7:00 p.m. Councilmen present were Lowell Smith, Richard Stewart, Robert Palmer and Andrew Dgien.

Also present were Highway Superintendent Anthony Clark, Fire Department President Jay Cleeves, Planning Board Chairman Gary Rice, Bill Holevinski, Jason Holevinski, Darryl Burdin, Andrew Burdin, Jonathan Burns, Jerry Miller, Jack Bossard and Lynn Karr

The pledge to the flag was led by Supervisor Donald Evia.

The minutes of the last meeting were reviewed by the Board. Councilman Richard Stewart asked that the minutes be corrected to read the Town Clerk's position rather than Town Clerk Loreen Karr's position as it is not personal, monies be changed to money and pipes be changed to sluice pipes. A motion was made by Councilman Richard Stewart and seconded by Councilman Lowell Smith to approve the minutes of the last board meeting with these corrections. Carried: Councilman Stewart, aye; Councilman Smith, aye; Councilman Palmer, aye; Councilman Dgien, no; Supervisor Evia, no.

Supervisor Donald Evia advised that there are interviews set up for 7:30 and 8:00 for potential attorneys to represent the Town.

Darryl Burdin inquired as to whether he would be reimbursed for the top soil and trees removed from the upper part of Lyke Road and if the Town would be putting in a culvert pipe for access to his property or whether the ditch could be filled back in. Highway Superintendent Anthony Clark advised that the land owner pays for the culvert pipe and the town installs same. Town Supervisor Evia will look at the upper part of Lyke Road and the ditching work in question.

Planning Board Chairman Gary Rice reported that the Planning Board is reviewing the current Land Use local law.

Fire President Jay Cleeves gave the written report for January for the Fire Department with expenses of \$4,983.70. There were 5 fire calls during January. He also submitted the fire department's annual report for 2017 with the new officers for 2018. A DEC grant was received by the Town for the Fire Department in the amount of \$1500. The fire contract for 2018 has been signed by both the Town and the Fire Department and they have received their budget check. Councilman Richard Stewart provided information to Jay Cleeves with regard to the new requirements for insuring fire department volunteers with cancer. Discussion followed.

Eric Hosmer arrived at 7:07.

Supervisor Evia reported that the Town Clerk's monthly report for January was \$850 (Town's share \$762.56). A check has been received to reimburse the 2017 summer recreation program in the amount of \$300 through ProAction, the Host Agreement check has also been received from Everpower in the amount of \$13,843.76 and the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter sales tax revenue check has been received in the amount of \$78,728.23 (last year \$75,403.20). Tax Collector Loreen Karr reported that all 2018 Town taxes have been received and deposited on 2/2/18.

Supervisor Evia gave the building inspector's report for January with 2 building permits issued and 3 logging permits approved.

The Town Justice's monthly report for January was reviewed by the Board. A Town Justice check was received in the amount of \$2896 (Town's share \$682.50). A Town Justice Court grant was also received for 2017-2018 in the amount of \$920.

Highway Superintendent Anthony Clark advised that the highway department will be working on Barn #2 when the weather permits. The Highway bills were reviewed and vouchers signed.

Attorney James Byrd arrived at 7:20 p.m.

The Town Board reviewed the 2017 Final Budget Modifications per Bookkeeper Debi Castle. A **RESOLUTION** (#8-2018) was made upon motion of Councilman Andrew Dgien and seconded by Councilman Lowell Smith to approve these modifications. Adopted: Councilman Dgien, aye; Councilman Smith, aye; Councilman Palmer, aye; Councilman Stewart, aye; Supervisor Evia, aye.

A motion was made by Councilman Lowell Smith and seconded by Councilman Robert Palmer to go into executive session at 7:29 p.m. under Section 105.1(f) to discuss the medical, financial, credit or employment history of a particular person or corporation, or matters leading to the appointment, employment, promotion, demotion, discipline, suspension, dismissal or removal of a particular person or corporation. Carried: Councilman Smith, aye; Councilman Palmer, aye; Councilman Stewart, aye; Councilman Dgien, aye; Supervisor Evia, aye.

A motion was made by Councilman Robert Palmer and seconded by Councilman Andrew Dgien to come out of executive session at 8:05 p.m. Carried: Councilman Palmer, aye; Councilman Dgien, aye; Councilman Stewart, aye; Councilman Smith, aye; Supervisor Evia, aye.

The following bills were presented for audit:

Highway (Abstract #2 - #12)	\$ 28,969.17
Town (Abstract #10 - #34)	57,850.82
Fire District (Abstract #15)	97,500.00
Street Lighting (Abstract #33)	278.02

A motion was made by Councilman Andrew Dgien and seconded by Councilman Lowell Smith to pay these bills. Carried: Councilman Dgien, aye; Councilman Smith, aye; Councilman Palmer, aye; Councilman Stewart, aye; Supervisor Evia, aye.

A letter was received by the Town Board from Attorney Elizabeth Oklevitch withdrawing the firm of Snavely, Plaskov & Mullen, PLLC's offer to represent the Town of Howard as general counsel in 2018. They will also need to know who the new counsel is for the Town as a consent to change counsel will need to be filed in the court regarding the Town's tax certiorari proceeding.

The Town Board has interviewed Attorney Jim Byrd. Attorney Chauncey Watches did not appear for his interview. Attorney Peter Degnan had a conflict with his interview. The Board agreed that they should interview the others before making an appointment.

Councilman Richard Stewart advised that the Town Clerk's salary can be cut with a local law and public referendum. He attended the newly elected officials conference in Rochester sponsored by the State Comptroller's office. He would like to change the voucher system to a voucher abstract rather than reviewing and signing each bill. He also would like to have correspondence through the Town Clerk's office date stamped. He advised that the new 2018 County Officials book will include the dates and times of town board meetings.

The Town Board discussed the Town Clerk's health insurance benefits. Councilman Richard Stewart proposed the discontinuance of health insurance benefits to the Town Clerk commencing 4/1/2018. Discussion followed. A motion was made by Councilman Lowell Smith and seconded by Councilman Richard Stewart to change the Town Clerk's medical benefits as of 4/1/2018 through 12/31/2018. The Town Clerk will contribute 12 ½ percent toward medical benefits during this time and benefits will be discontinued as of 12/31/2018. Carried: Councilman Smith, aye; Councilman Stewart, aye; Councilman Palmer, aye; Councilman Dgien, no; Supervisor Evia, no.

A motion was made by Councilman Andrew Dgien and seconded by Councilman Robert Palmer to adjourn the meeting. Carried: Councilman Dgien, aye; Councilman Palmer, aye; Councilman Smith, aye; Councilman Stewart, aye; Supervisor Evia, aye. The meeting was adjourned at 8:53 p.m.

Loreen A. Karr  
Howard Town Clerk

