

**TOWN OF HORNBY
REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING
MARCH 10, 2025**

Present at the March meeting of the Hornby Town Board were: Supervisor Justin Eberlin, Councilmembers Hazel Russell, Ken McLaughlin, John Hale and Steve Reed, and Town Clerk Pam Smith. County Legislator Carol Ferratella, Rebecca Litz and Brian Litz also attended the meeting.

The Town Board meeting was opened at 6:00 pm by Supervisor Eberlin.

MOTION by Russell, seconded by McLaughlin,
To approve the minutes of the Town Board meetings dated February 10, 2025,
with the word February correctly spelled. Discussion was held.
Vote: Eberlin – aye, Reed – aye, Russell – aye, McLaughlin – aye, Hale – aye.

MOTION by Hale, seconded by Reed,
To approve the payment of General Fund vouchers, numbered 29-48 on abstract G-03-25 in the amount of \$10,654.75; the payment of Highway Fund vouchers numbered 26-33 & 35-39 on abstract H-03-25 in the amount of \$363,911.57; and the payment of Trust and Agency voucher numbered 56 in the amount of \$7,086.93. Discussion was held. Voucher #34, for Clark's Back Roads Enterprises, in the amount of \$7578.82 was not signed by the town board, and was not approved for payment. The bill needs to be discussed with the highway superintendent.
Vote: Eberlin – aye, Reed – aye, Russell – aye, McLaughlin – aye, Hale – aye.

Councilmember McLaughlin stated that the generator needs to be hooked up to the propane and that project will be completed.

The condition of the roads needs to be discussed with the highway superintendent. It is understood that the roads are bad after a thaw, but the concerns that have been brought to Supervisor Eberlin's attention are about specific spots on the roads. Discussion was held. Weight limits on the roads in the spring was discussed. Oil and stone areas have been plowed off the road and was not fixed, so moisture got in.

New truck has been delivered, and there is now insurance on it at a cost of \$3259.00. Discussion was held.

The total amount of money that Highway owes General is \$149, 142.34, and will be reimbursed by CHIPS reimbursements in March.

The furnace had issues once again and there was no heat. Ambient came and fixed it for \$95.00. Discussion was held on a year long contract with Ambient.

MOTION by Hale, seconded by Russell,

To accept the Ambient contract, at a cost of \$299.88.

Vote: Eberlin – aye, Reed – aye, Russell – aye, McLaughlin – aye, Hale – aye.

The Town has a lawn care quote from Prime Lawn Care of \$600.00 per service, which is \$1200 per month. This is being tabled because other quotes are needed.

The planning board put a legal notice in The Leader for a public hearing on a local law being changed regarding campers for this Thursday. This legal notice should not have been worded like it was. The planning board cannot hold public hearings on proposed laws – the town board does that function. The planning board can have a public meeting to discuss proposed changes to an existing zoning law, to give them feedback on changes that they make. Councilmember Russell stated that the planning board writes a law, gives it to the town clerk, then the town clerk adds necessary verbage and gives the law to the town board.

Discussion was held on the proposed local law #1 of 2025, that establishes a moratorium on commercial solar energy systems for a certain period of time. The end of the moratorium was set at January 1, 2026 by the town board. There is no intent to stop solar installations, just the need to protect both the town and the residents.

MOTION by McLaughlin, seconded by Hale,

To hold a public hearing on April 14, 2025 at 6pm on Local Law #1 of 2025, a local law establishing a moratorium on commercial solar energy systems.

Vote: Eberlin – aye, Reed – aye, Russell – aye, McLaughlin – aye, Hale – aye.

Discussion was held on the annual regional leadership conference held at the college.

Treu Office is closing. The Town gets most of their office supplies from them. Discussion was held. The County is an option, however, the copy paper from the County used to jam up the office printers, so the Town stopped using it. Also, someone has to go and pick up whatever is ordered.

Discussion was held on requesting a quote from Boss Security to take over the fire alarm system. Every time the fire alarm is tripped, the door system is disabled, so people can exit the building. However, turning the door system back on has become an issue. The two systems do not work well together.

Councilmember McLaughlin has requested that Jason Rial give the Town a quote on parking lot lighting. Discussion was held.

There is approximately \$56,000 left in ARPA. Using some of the money for sidewalk replacement was discussed. The painting supplies are being charged to ARPA, as well as the current computer support charges.

The bookkeeper will be working with Carol Golden on Friday to start closing the books for 2024.

Audits were discussed. Councilmember Hale will audit the town clerk books, as well as the tax collection books.

The meeting was opened to hear from visitors.

Brian and Rebecca Litz have a concern with solar construction. They would like residential properties and wildlife protected. Discussion was held on appropriate setbacks from property boundaries, batteries for commercial solar, firefighting issues with those batteries, and wildlife. Neighbors of proposed sites should also be notified by mail, but not just with a postcard.

County Legislator Carol Ferratella asked residents to sign up for deed/record fraud alert through a link on the County Website. Earth Day is coming up. Towns can do a cleanup day. Discussion was held.

Supervisor Eberlin will be going to Washington DC to meet with Congressman Langworthy to discuss Medicaid cuts March 25-27.

MOTION by McLaughlin, seconded by Russell,

To adjourn the meeting at 6:49pm.

Vote: Eberlin – aye, Reed – aye, Russell – aye, McLaughlin – aye, Hale – aye.

Pamela A. Smith
Hornby Town Clerk