

TOWN OF HORNBY
REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING
MAY 12, 2025

Present at the May meeting of the Hornby Town Board were: Supervisor Justin Eberlin, Councilmembers Hazel Russell, Ken McLaughlin, and Steve Reed, and Town Clerk Pam Smith. Betty Robinson, Stephanie Watson, Scott Russell, Veronica Martin, Michael Martin, Kerry Elsasser, Paul Webster, Bill Pierce, Rick Kimble, Eunie Taggart, Amy Nelson, Mary Aranda, Bryon Kelly, Edward Rose, Gary & Caroline Anderson, Brian Litz, Nancy McLaughlin, County Legislator Carol Ferratella, and Michelle Caulfield and associates from the Corning-Painted Post School District also attended the meeting.

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

Supervisor Eberlin introduced Michelle Caulfield from the Corning-Painted Post School District and invited her to speak.

Ms. Caulfield distributed handouts, and discussed the proposed 7.89% increase in the school budget for 2025-2026 with the attendees. She stated that there has not been a 7% tax increase since 2010, and that the average increase was approximately 2.56% over the last 15 years. The school district looked at the 25 people retiring and tried to eliminate/combine positions wherever possible. Discussion was held on purchasing new buses, and Ms. Caulfield stated that the mandatory purchases of electric buses are being pushed out a few years by NYS. The school district is aware that the current battery life of an electric bus is not currently sufficient for use in the outlying areas.

The Town Board resumed its regular meeting at 6:48pm.

MOTION by Russell, seconded by McLaughlin,

To approve the minutes of the Town Board meetings dated April 14, 2025. No discussion was held.

Vote: Eberlin – aye, Reed – aye, Russell – aye, McLaughlin – aye, Hale – not present.

MOTION by McLaughlin, seconded by Reed,

To approve the payment of General Fund vouchers, numbered 75-89 on abstract G-05-25 in the amount of \$4,628.67; the payment of Highway Fund vouchers

numbered 59-75 on abstract H-05-25 in the amount of \$27,407.17; and the payment of Trust and Agency voucher numbered 58 in the amount of \$7,086.93. No discussion was held.

Vote: Eberlin – aye, Reed – aye, Russell – aye, McLaughlin – aye, Hale – not present.

Supervisor Eberlin stated that the dog kennels were inspected and passed their inspection.

Also, the Town has been notified that NYSEG will be maintaining the main power lines in Hornby.

Supervisor Eberlin also stated that he is late in filing the ARPA information, and that he found more information to help him fix some ARPA filing issues on YouTube than he did by calling for help.

There is no highway superintendent's report.

Discussion was held on changing the elected highway superintendent position to an appointed position. Many pros and cons were discussed. The topic will be tabled until the June meeting so Councilmember Hale can be part of the discussion. The town clerk was asked to call the Board of Elections to see if the Town could change it to a two year term.

The lawyer is still looking at the commercial solar energy systems moratorium, so that will be tabled until the June meeting.

Discussion was held on the Volunteer Firefighter and Ambulance Worker Exemption. Board members were asked to read the proposed exemption law and be ready to discuss the exemption at the June board meeting.

The summer program was discussed. No one has come forward to run the program, and the number of kids that attend the program is very few compared to years ago. The summer program will not be held this year.

The Town has received a resignation from Ed Buchanan resigning from the planning board effective May 12, 2025.

MOTION by Russell, seconded by Reed,

To accept the resignation of Ed Buchanan from the planning board, effective May 12, 2025.

Vote: Eberlin – aye, Reed – aye, Russell – aye, McLaughlin – aye, Hale – not present.

Roadside clean-up day was supposed to be this coming Saturday, May 17. It was discussed and decided to move the date to the fall, possible September or October. A date will be picked at the next meeting.

The rabies clinic is scheduled for Friday May 23, at the fire hall, from 5:00pm – 7:00pm.

Brian Litz has submitted his resume for a planning board member position.

A dog control officer is needed for Hornby. The current dog control officer is leaving the end of June, but the Town does not have a firm date or resignation yet. Discussion was held.

The meeting was opened to hear from visitors.

County Legislator Carol Ferratella stated that Empire Access is currently working on lines in Hornby. Also, she stated that the Town elections are going to be switching to even years. Discussion was held. AIM is going to stay, but some CHIPS money may be lost. Discussion was held. Supervisor Eberlin was informed that CHIPS was being increased. Also, people who pay NYS income taxes will get a small check from NYS, and the Governor will be allowed to close three more prisons. Cell phones for students will be banned in NYS. More discussion was held.

Historian Eunie Taggart talked about celebrating the Town's bi-centennial next year. Discussion was held. Councilmember Russell stated that the historical society was planning a spaghetti dinner at the fire hall on April 18, 2026.

Councilmember McLaughlin stated that he has decided to not run for re-election at this time. He will reconsider running for councilmember once his children have grown up.

MOTION by Eberlin, seconded by Russell,

To go into executive session at 7:41pm to discuss matters leading to the appointment of a particular person.

Vote: Eberlin – aye, Reed – aye, Russell – aye, McLaughlin – aye, Hale – not present.

The regular meeting resumed at 8:00pm.

MOTION by Eberlin, seconded by Reed,

To appoint Brian Litz as a planning board member, term of 5/12/2025 – 12/31/2029.

Vote: Eberlin – aye, Reed – aye, Russell – aye, McLaughlin – aye, Hale – not present.

MOTION by McLaughlin, seconded by Russell,

To adjourn the meeting at 8:01pm.

Vote: Eberlin – aye, Reed – aye, Russell – aye, McLaughlin – aye, Hale – not present.

Pamela A. Smith
Hornby Town Clerk