

**TOWN OF HORNBY**  
**REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING**  
**JUNE 9, 2025**

Present at the June 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. Nancy McLaughlin, Historian Eunie Taggart and County Legislator Carol Ferratella 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 May 12, 2025. No 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 90-100 on abstract G-06-25 in the amount of \$4,636.93; the payment of Highway Fund vouchers numbered 76-84 on abstract H-06-25 in the amount of \$11,476.65; and the payment of Trust and Agency voucher numbered 59 in the amount of \$7,086.93. No discussion was held.

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

Supervisor Eberlin stated that he received notification that the health insurance would be going up 16.52% for next year. Discussion was held.

The planning board meeting will be held on Wednesday June 11 at 7pm, instead of Thursday June 12.

Goodsell Cemetery sent a check for \$1,000 to pay the Town for mowing in 2024. Discussion was held on if this amount actually covers the cost of the mowing. Prime Lawn Care said that it takes them 3 hours to mow, and they mow twice a month.

Jack Wheeler sent Supervisor Eberlin an email stating that internet hookups are beginning on Dry Run. Offers will be sent to 92 people. Discussion was held.

Highway Superintendent Divens was not present but had left a note for Supervisor Eberlin requesting money from general fund to use for CHIPS projects because of the issue with the check for the truck. Discussion was held. The town board members are willing to loan money to highway for CHIPS projects, but it would need to be paid back in full from CHIPS reimbursements by the end of 2025.

MOTION by Russell, seconded by Reed,

To loan Highway \$300,000.00 for CHIPS projects, to be repaid by CHIPS reimbursements by December 31, 2025.

Vote: Eberlin – no, Reed – aye, Russell – aye, McLaughlin – aye, Hale – aye.

The note left by the highway superintendent also stated that he had given out permits for pole access.

The Historical Society was invited to talk with the town board regarding their plans for celebrating the Town's bicentennial. There will be a spaghetti/pasta dinner on April 18, 2026 at the fire hall. Discussion was held. The Historian is writing a book about Hornby for the bicentennial. Discussion was held. Supervisor Eberlin will ask the attorney for the town if the Town can help pay for the dinner and the book. Supervisor Eberlin was thinking of doing something on the actual bicentennial date, such as a proclamation. Discussion was held.

Supervisor Eberlin asked about the rumors of the Hornby Congregational Church closing. Discussion was held. The church will eventually dissolve, however there is no set date at this time. The potential future of the building was discussed.

MOTION by Eberlin, seconded by McLaughlin,

To appoint Holley Smalt to the position of assessor, and David Weeks to the position of assistant to the assessor for the Town of Hornby, term for both positions to be 10/01/25 through 9/30/31.

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

Supervisor Eberlin stated that the equalization rate for the Town has decreased to around 89%. He then explained that the lower the equalization rate for your assessment, you pay less in town taxes, but pay more in school taxes. The higher your equalization rate is for your assessment, the more town taxes you pay, but you pay less in school taxes. Discussion was held.

MOTION by McLaughlin, seconded by Russell,  
To accept the resignation of Dominic Eberlin from the planning board, effective immediately. Discussion was held.

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

There is nothing new on the highway union. The Town has not been notified that a vote has occurred. Discussion was held.

The lawyer has not yet gotten back to the Town regarding the proposed law for a moratorium on solar energy systems. Discussion was held.

Discussion was held on holding a fall roadside cleanup. It was decided that the roadside cleanup will be on October 4, 2025, from 9-12 with hot dogs at noon.

The meeting was opened to hear from visitors.

County Legislator Carol Ferratella stated that Heap is open for air conditioners and fans. Monthly income limits are \$3322 for single people and \$4345 for couples. The phone number to call in 607-664-2298. Also, Governor Hochul can close 3 prisons. There will be no cell phones allowed in schools.

Discussion was held on changing the position of highway superintendent to an appointed position. The town board would have to create a local law, and then it would be put on the ballot for voters to decide. The attorney for the town should review the law per Board of Elections.

Discussion was held on changing the July town board meeting, as two town board members cannot attend July's meeting. It was decided to keep the meeting on its normal date of July 14<sup>th</sup>.

Discussion was held on the proposed exemption for volunteer firefighter and ambulance workers. The firefighter would have to choose between this exemption and the income tax exemption. The income tax exemption is more money for most people, and there would not be any forms to fill out, which is required with this proposed exemption. The town board decided to not offer this proposed exemption.

A request for bids for sidewalk repair needs to be published.

MOTION by McLaughlin, seconded by Russell,

To adjourn the meeting at 7:09pm.

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

Pamela A. Smith  
Hornby Town Clerk