

TOWN OF HORNBY
PUBLIC HEARING ON ROAD CLOSURES FOR 5K &
REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING
APRIL 13, 2026

A public hearing on the proposed road closures for a 5K and the regular meeting of the Hornby Town Board was held on Monday April 13, 2026, at the Hornby Town Hall. Present were Supervisor Justin Eberlin, Councilmembers Steve Reed, Hazel Russell, and Rebecca Litz, and Town Clerk Pam Smith. Bill Clark, Amber McChesney, Jen Cushing, Mike Martin and Nancy McLaughlin also attended the meeting.

The public hearing on proposed road closures for a 5K was opened at 6:01pm and the legal notice as published in The Leader was read by Supervisor Eberlin.

The visitors did not comment on the proposed local law.

MOTION by Eberlin, seconded by Reed,

To close the public hearing at 6:05pm.

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

The Town Board meeting was opened at 6:05 pm by Supervisor Eberlin.

MOTION by Russell, seconded by Litz,

To approve the minutes of the Town Board meeting dated March 9, 2026 as presented. No discussion was held.

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

MOTION by Reed, seconded by Russell,

To approve the payment of General Fund vouchers numbered 45-61 on abstract G-04-26 in the amount of \$56,254.15; the payment of Highway Fund vouchers numbered 44-58 on abstract H-04-26 in the amount of \$33,199.27; and the payment of Trust and Agency voucher numbered 71 in the amount of \$7,937.63. Discussion was held on CPE IT bill.

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

Assessor Holley Smalt and her Clerk Dave Weeks were invited to present a potential 2027 re-valuation project to the Town Board. Ms. Smalt stated that

the longer the re-valuation is pushed out, the bigger the sticker shock. She also stated the decision has to be made before the next meeting. The purpose is not to boost equalization but to equalize the tax roll, and have everyone pay their full share. The equalization is a by-product of equalizing the tax roll. The current equalization rate is 81%, but the assessor can manipulate the equalization rate a little, and the real equalization rate is in the 70's. Discussion was held. It was stated that this re-valuation will not increase the amount of tax money that the Town collects. The impact on exemptions and school taxes was also discussed. Towns which do not have an equalization rate of 100% pay more in school taxes. Ms. Smalt & Mr. Weeks want a unanimous agreement to do the re-valuation. Concern was raised because one town board member was absent from the meeting. It was suggested to hold a special meeting for a vote.

Supervisor Eberlin stated that the bookkeeper was finishing the 2025 financials. Carol Golden is not as responsive as in the past, and we may need to find someone else. He also stated that the Dog Control Officer failed his inspection and will be re-inspected. Supervisor Eberlin stated that NYS wants to put solar farms on NYS woodlands.

There was no highway report since Highway Superintendent Divens was not present.

The dog shelter is currently still legal.

Highway Superintendent Divens sent a link to Prime Lawn Care for them to register with the State so the Town can sign a contract with them.

The phone vendor, CPE, stated that when the current phone system fails, the Town can go back to cordless phones.

The proposed law for Games of Chance was sent to the lawyer.

MOTION by Eberlin, seconded by Reed,
To have a public hearing on the proposed local law for Games of Chance on Monday May 11, 2026 at 6pm. Discussion was held.
Vote: Eberlin – aye, Russell – aye, Litz – aye, Reed – aye, Hale – not present.

Discussion was held on the annual summer program. It was decided to not do it this year.

Discussion was held on the new Staples Advantage (Business) account that the Town Clerk was asked to set up.

RESOLUTION by Eberlin, seconded by Reed,

To approve Supervisor Eberlin to prepay the Staples Advantage bill if necessary.

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

Rabies Clinic was discussed and tabled to next month.

The proposed local law to change the elected highway superintendent position to an appointed position was discussed. It has to be a proposed local law and also pass a vote on the ballot this November. The same proposed law was defeated several years ago.

MOTION by Eberlin, seconded by Reed,

To have a public hearing on the proposed local law Change of Highway Superintendent Office from Elective to Appointed on Monday May 11, 2026 at 6pm. Discussion was held.

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

Supervisor Eberlin completed the Justice Court Audit. Discussion was held.

RESOLUTION by Litz, seconded by Reed,

To approve the audit of the 2025 Justice Court financial records, completed by Supervisor Eberlin in December 2025.

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

RESOLUTION by Eberlin, seconded by Litz,

To allow Highway Superintendent Divens to issue a permit to William and Amber Clark for a 5K race to be held on June 28, 2026, from 8:00am to 12noon. The Highway Superintendent will close Haradon Road to Roloson Road, and Roloson Road from Haradon Road to Rogers Road for this event. The Highway Superintendent will also provide detour signs for vehicular traffic.

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

The Town received a bid from Christy Paving & Excavating LLC, to crack fill and seal the basketball court. The repair of the basketball court was

requested by residents. Cost is \$3740.00. Discussion was held. This will not get done this year.

Discussion was held on renewing the contract (called Comfort Club) with Ambient for maintenance of the furnace. Cost is \$443.54 for the year.

MOTION by Russell, seconded by Eberlin,

To renew the Comfort Club and to add the payment for Ambient to this month's abstract.

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

Councilmember Reed stated that he heard a rumor that NYS will be doing a controlled burn on NYS land on West Hill, and he has a concern with the burn. Supervisor Eberlin will look into this rumor.

Supervisor Eberlin stated that the current dog law needs to be revised.

The Justice would like a bailiff. The County has a contract for this service, but charges a minimum of 4 hours. Discussion was held.

Councilmember Russell asked if the Town would purchase the cake for the bicentennial celebration. Discussion was held. Councilmember Litz will get prices.

Supervisor Eberlin asked about the plaque for the Town's bicentennial and discussion was held.

There will be a small ceremony on July 19th from 12-1 at Asa Nash's grave. Councilmember Russell stated that the cemetery needs to be maintained because trees are down. She will call Highway Superintendent Divens and request the cleanup.

Councilmember Litz went to a public forum in Watkins Glen regarding Camp Monterey being converted into a small nuclear plant. The people at the public forum were opposing the plan. Discussion was held.

MOTION by Eberlin, seconded by Reed,

To hold a special meeting on Sunday May 3, 2026 at 1:30pm to discuss a revaluation project and to vote on the revaluation project.

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

The meeting was opened to visitors.

Bill Clark brought a new sign for the bicentennial. Discussion was held. He would like it out in front of the Town Hall. The sign will belong to the Town after the bicentennial celebration. More discussion was held.

MOTION by Eberlin, seconded by Litz,

To accept the \$500 bicentennial sign from Bill & Amber Clark.

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

MOTION by Russell, seconded by Reed,

To adjourn the meeting at 8:29 pm. No discussion was held.

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

Pamela A. Smith
Hornby Town Clerk