

The regular meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Homer held on Wednesday, December 2, 2015, in the board room of the Town Hall building was called to order by Supervisor Frederick J. Forbes, Sr., at 7:30 p.m.

PRESENT

Frederick J. Forbes, Sr., Supervisor
Barry E. Warren, Councilman
Dan A. Weddle, Councilman
Kevin M. Williams, Councilman
Brian D. Young, Councilman
Patrick M. Snyder, Attorney for the Town
John R. Phelps, Highway Superintendent
Anita W. Jebbett, Town Clerk

OTHERS PRESENT

Linda Jones, Cortland County legislator
Larry Jones, Councilman-elect
Don Ferris, reporter, The Homer News

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

MINUTES

The minutes of the November 4th public hearing and regular meeting were approved as presented, on motion by Councilman Weddle, seconded by Councilman Young and carried unanimously.

MONTHLY REPORTS

Presented for audit by the Board were:

1. The Town Clerk's report of all receipts & disbursements for November.
2. The Code Enforcement Officer's report of all building permits issued in November.

BILLS TO BE PAID

General bills were approved as audited on motion by Councilman Warren, seconded by Councilman Williams and carried unanimously: **RESOLVED: that General vouchers #273 through #300 totaling \$72,948.99 be approved for payment.**

Highway bills were approved as audited on motion by Councilman Young, seconded by Councilman Williams and carried unanimously: **RESOLVED: that Highway vouchers #182 through #208 totaling \$71,675.74 be approved for payment.**

NEW BUSINESS

Planning & Zoning Board appointments – Supervisor Forbes reminded Board members that they will need to replace Mike Park on the Planning Board and David Deasy on the Zoning Board of Appeals at the January meeting.

Winterfest fireworks - On motion by Councilman Warren, seconded by Councilman Young and carried unanimously, **the fee of \$50 for a fireworks permit was waived on request by the Homer Winterfest Committee for their annual fireworks display to take place on January 29th or 30th, 2016.**

Seasonal roads – On motion by Councilman Warren, seconded by Councilman Young and carried unanimously: **RESOLVED: that Town of Homer Highway Superintendent John R. Phelps has designated certain Town highways and portions of Town highways as seasonal limited use highways and is hereby authorized by the Homer Town Board to temporarily discontinue snow and ice removal and maintenance on those Town highways and portions thereof from December 1st, 2015, to April 1st, 2016 as follows:**

Foster Road	.50 miles
Burhans Road	.50 miles
Wolf Road	.25 miles
Grange Road	.75 mile from Rice Road to Brake Hill Road
Brake Hill Road	.50 miles
Rice Road	.50 miles
Carroway Hill Rd	.25 miles
McDonald Road	.25 miles
Sessions Hill Rd	2.50 miles
Vern King Road	entire length
Maxson Road	1.70 miles from Sessions Hill
Forbes Road	.80 miles
Chapman Road	1.00 miles
Searls Road	.50 miles
Dillon Road	.25 miles

NYS Association of Superintendents of Highways draft resolution – There was discussion about a draft resolution proposed by NYSASOH calling upon the Governor and Legislature of the State of New York to increase CHIPS funding and to restore equal funding for Upstate transportation projects. The Board will address this at the December 30th meeting.

Francis B. Carpenter painting donation – There was discussion about the cost of restoring a painting of Carpenter’s future wife, Augusta, dated 1851, which has been donated to the Town by the widow of a descendant of Carpenter, Nanette Orr. The Board will also address this at the year-end meeting.

Andrew D. White historic marker – Don Ferris thanked Town Board members Williams and Young for participating in the dedication of a historic marker for the Andrew D. White birthplace at 81 South Main Street in the Village. White was the cofounder and first president of Cornell University. The Town of Homer sponsored the application to the W.G. Pomeroy Foundation for funding for the new marker, through the efforts of Town Historian Martin Sweeney.

Annual Fire Inspection of Town Hall – Councilman Warren was asked to look into a few issues that were noted during a recent inspection of the Town Hall by Village Fire Inspector Kim Fairchild.

Proposal for new phone/internet system – Supervisor Forbes expressed his disappointment with Finger Lakes Technologies who had proposed to update the Town’s internet and phone systems back in April, but had not contacted the Town since. He said that after speaking with the salesman, he expects to hear more in the near future.

Postage meter refill – On motion by Councilman Williams, seconded by Councilman Weddle and carried unanimously, **the Town Clerk was authorized to add \$1,000 to the Town postage meter out of the Town Clerk’s account.**

Town Board meeting schedule – There was discussion about changing the meeting time of the regularly-scheduled Town Board meetings in 2016. It was decided to schedule the January 6th meeting at 5:30 p.m. instead of 7:30 p.m.

HIGHWAY SUPERINTENDENT

Highway Superintendent Phelps reported that the old storage building next to the Highway Garage has been torn down and the new building is scheduled to go up within the next couple of weeks. The 2014 Dodge Ram 4500 truck purchased off of State bid will be ready to pick up in about two weeks. Phelps reported that the trucks and equipment are all prepared for winter weather, and that seasonal employee Dan Fox will again working during the winter months. Phelps said that he has corrected almost all of the issues brought up during the recent PESH inspection and that he expects all to be complete prior to any deadlines.

ATTORNEY FOR THE TOWN

Attorney Pat Snyder has reviewed a copy of a mining permit granted by the NYS DEC to Suit-Kote Corporation to continue mining operations off the east side of Route 11, north of the Village. Snyder said that the area has been under permit for decades and that no new areas were involved.

Snyder said that a snowmobile club is looking into the possibility of building a bridge over the Tioughnioga River along their trail north of the Village. The Town would need to issue a flood plain permit and the landowner and the NYS DEC would all need to be involved. He will be meeting next week with Attorney Matt Neuman to discuss the matter.

COUNTY LEGISLATOR

County Legislator Linda Jones gave a report on the County Legislature, including a vote to raise their pay from \$6,000 a year to \$10,000 a year, a compromise on the reimbursement of mileage costs, and the approval of the 2016 County budget. She said that no longer will a flyer be inserted in the taxes under the "Truth in Taxation" legislation. The information will instead be clearly stated on the County's website, and the County tax rate will be clearly stated on the tax bill. She also said that after months of review and discussion the proposal for using ash for cover has been voted down.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

Anita W. Jebbett
Town Clerk