

The regular meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Homer held on Wednesday, February 3, 2016, in the board room of the Town Hall building was called to order by Supervisor Frederick J. Forbes, Sr., at 5:30 p.m.

PRESENT

Frederick J. Forbes, Sr., Supervisor  
Larry R. Jones, Councilman  
Michael R. Park, Councilman  
Barry E. Warren, Councilman  
Kevin M. Williams, Councilman  
Patrick M. Snyder, Attorney for the Town  
John R. Phelps, Highway Superintendent  
Anita W. Jebbett, Town Clerk

OTHERS PRESENT

Tim Maxson, Homer Fire Department President  
Donald Ferris, reporter, The Homer News

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

MINUTES

**The minutes of the January 6<sup>th</sup> organizational meeting were approved as presented,** on motion by Councilman Warren, seconded by Councilman Williams and carried unanimously.

MONTHLY REPORTS

Presented for audit by the Board were:

1. The Town Clerk's monthly report of all receipts & disbursements for January.
2. The Tax Collector's report of all taxes received in January.
3. The Deputy Code Enforcement Officer's report of all building permits issued in January.

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 #6 through #26 totaling \$21,352.20 be approved for payment.**

Highway bills were approved as audited on motion by Councilman Jones, seconded by Councilman Park and carried unanimously: **RESOLVED: that Highway vouchers #2 through #22 totaling \$33,425.61 be approved for payment.**

NEW BUSINESS

Housing grant – Supervisor Forbes has received official notification that the housing rehabilitation grant application applied for at the end of 2015 was not approved. A meeting will be scheduled with the State and with Thoma Development Consultants in the near future to review why the Town was not awarded the grant.

Extension of tax collection period – On motion by Councilman Park, seconded by Councilman Williams and approved unanimously: **RESOLVED: that the Town Board requests that the County Treasurer's Office grant an extension of time until June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2016, for the collection of the Town/County taxes by the Homer Town Tax Collector.**

Proposal for Town Hall smoke alarms – On motion by Councilman Warren, seconded by Councilman Jones and carried unanimously: **RESOLVED: that the proposal by Beard Electric, LLC, Cortland, for the installation of five smoke detectors on the main floor of the Town Hall building to be connected to the existing fire alarm system control box located near the Justice Court Office, for the amount of \$1,720, is hereby accepted.**

Warren explained that the wired-in smoke detectors were recommended during the recent inspection by Village Fire Code Inspector Kim Fairchild.

On motion by Supervisor Forbes, seconded by Councilman Park and carried unanimously, **RESOLVED: that one-half the amount of the Beard Electric proposal, or \$860, to be paid upon acceptance of the proposal, will be added to this month's General bills as voucher #27.**

West Scott Road mining permit – Supervisor Forbes reported that an extension of a mining permit for a gravel mine owned by the Burhans family on West Scott Road has been granted by the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation.

Building permit fees – On motion by Councilman Warren, seconded by Councilman Park and carried unanimously: **RESOLVED: that building permit fees will remain the same as the previous year for 2016.**

Soil & Water Conservation class – Forbes reported that a training session on erosion and sediment control is being offered by the Cortland County Soil & Water Conservation District on March 9<sup>th</sup> from 8 a.m. until noon. Any Highway employee or Town Board member interested should contact him to sign up by February 29<sup>th</sup>.

Budget modifications – Supervisor Forbes said that he would be scheduling a brief meeting later in the month to adopt budget modifications for the 2015 Town financial records.

Water drainage problem – Councilman Warren said that he has received a complaint about standing water behind houses on the east side of Route 11, south of the former Dave's Archery. There was much discussion. It was the consensus of the Board that the Town has no jurisdiction in this matter.

Noise nuisance law – Attorney Snyder is looking into a new law which would allow the Town to regulate loud and/or nuisance noise.

## HIGHWAY SUPERINTENDENT

Highway Superintendent Phelps reported on the progress made on the new cold storage building which is nearing completion by Complete Construction Concepts, LLC. He has ordered one new overhead door and will be re-using three previously-used doors on the new building.

Phelps said that an engineering firm has been recommended to him for engineering the concrete abutment for a new bridge on Wall Street in the Village. The Town intends to replace the 19<sup>th</sup> century bridge over the Tioughnioga River on Wall Street for use by vehicular traffic, and to adapt the Pine Street Bridge for use as a walk bridge. He will be contacting Councilmembers Park and Williams to further discuss the project, as well as the County Soil & Water Conservation District.

Highway Superintendent Phelps also reported on the progress he has made in correcting safety issues at the Highway Garage that were noted during a NYS Public Employees Safety & Health (PESH) inspection last fall. PESH will be re-inspecting the Highway Garage around February 18<sup>th</sup> or 19<sup>th</sup>.

Phelps reported that, according to Hogan Drug & Alcohol Testing, the company the Town contracts with to provide the random testing of all Town Highway Department drivers, the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration is suggesting that a reduction in the percentage of random DOT drug testing would now be allowed. Phelps recommended that the Town keep the drug/alcohol testing program as is and not reduce the percentage of testing done.

## TOWN HALL OFFICE SPACE

Tim Maxson, President of the Homer Fire Department, was present to question the Town Board regarding available space in the Town Hall for the possible return of the Village Offices. He had been concerned that the Village would utilize the space now occupied by the Fire Department Community Building for their offices.

Supervisor Forbes explained that after a period of about five years of the former Village Office space being left vacant, the Town has now renovated the space for use as a joint municipal assessor's office. Forbes and Councilman Warren both stated that there is still a large area that has not yet been developed into office space on the former stage.

## EXECUTIVE SESSION

On motion by Supervisor Forbes, seconded by Councilman Park and carried unanimously, it was resolved to enter into an executive session to discuss the employment history of a particular person at 6:30 p.m.

On motion by Supervisor Forbes, seconded by Councilman Warren and carried unanimously, the executive session was adjourned at 6:50 p.m.

On motion by Councilman Williams, seconded by Councilman Jones and carried unanimously:  
**RESOLVED: that the one-year probationary period for the joint municipal assessor, Randy H. Deal, be extended until April 5<sup>th</sup>.**

The regular meeting was adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

Anita W. Jebbett  
Town Clerk