

The regular meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Homer held on Wednesday, November 2nd, 2016, in the board room of the Town Hall building was called to order by Frederick J. Forbes, Sr., Supervisor, at 6:30 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
Anita W. Jebbett, Town Clerk

OTHERS PRESENT

Martin Sweeney, Town Historian
Linda Jones, County Legislator
Donald Ferris, reporter, The Homer News
Nick Graziano, reporter, Cortland Standard
Patrick Clune, Village of Homer Trustee, arriving at 7:30 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

MINUTES

The minutes of the October 5th regular meeting were approved as presented, on motion by Councilman Park, seconded by Councilman Williams and carried unanimously.

MONTHLY REPORTS

Presented for audit by the Board were:

1. The Town Clerk's report of all receipts & disbursements for October.
2. The Code Enforcement Officer's report of all building permits issued for October.
3. The Dog Control Officer's report of all activities for the month of September.

BILLS TO BE PAID

General bills were approved as audited on motion by Councilman Park, seconded by Councilman Jones and carried unanimously: **RESOLVED: that General vouchers #238 through #262 totaling \$19,773.96 be approved for payment.**

Highway bills were approved as audited on motion by Councilman Warren, seconded by Councilman Williams and carried unanimously: **RESOLVED: that Highway vouchers #174 through #192 totaling \$83,221.52 be approved for payment, provided that Highway Superintendent Phelps has followed the Town's procurement policy for the purchase of an Ingersoll Rand roller for \$14,500.**

2016 TOWN BUDGET

On motion by Supervisor Forbes, seconded by Councilman Park and carried unanimously: **RESOLVED: that the revised preliminary budget is hereby adopted as the 2017 Town budget, with the tax rate for Village residents to be \$1.30 per thousand, and for Town residents, \$1.73 per thousand, which includes a fire tax of \$.43 per thousand.**

Supervisor Forbes explained that he had lowered the estimated revenue to be received should the Town be awarded a housing rehabilitation grant from \$500,000 to \$400,000 to correspond with the actual application.

HISTORIAN'S ANNUAL REPORT

Town Historian Martin Sweeney presented the annual report of his activities over the past year. He detailed his work on the Lincoln Monument Project, including the creation of a DVD promoting the project, and the funds received to date. He said that he is still hoping to receive donations from renowned historian Harold Holzer relating to Stoddard and Carpenter with no strings attached.

Sweeney also described several items obtained over the past year to be added to the Town's archives. He has made numerous presentations on Homer's history including as the first community member to be invited to a Q & A about early culture and history for a class of students at the new Seven Valleys New Tech Academy in Cortland. He noted that the recently acquired Francis B. Carpenter painting of the woman who would become his wife is on display in his office at the Town Hall. Historian Sweeney thanked the Town Board for all their support over the past year.

On motion by Councilman Williams, seconded by Councilman Warren and carried unanimously: **RESOLVED: that the annual report of the Town Historian for 2016 is hereby accepted, and the Town Board expresses its appreciation of Martin Sweeney's outstanding efforts to bring Homer's history into the lives of the community.**

NEW BUSINESS

Mega Energy information – Supervisor Forbes agreed to ask a representative from Mega Energy to meet with the Town Board prior to the next Town Board meeting on December 7th. He asked Attorney Snyder to be present for the discussion.

Smart-Watt Energy – Forbes said that applying for an energy savings for the Town's streetlights through the Smart Watt program would only be feasible if the Town and Village could cooperate so that the number of lights would be over 250. With only around 88 streetlights, it would not be worthwhile for the Town do apply on their own.

Blue Cross/Blue Shield health insurance – Supervisor Forbes reported that he had recently been notified of a 14% increase in the cost of the basic high-deductible health insurance plan for 2017.

Assessor appointment – On motion by Councilman Jones, seconded by Councilman Williams and carried unanimously: **RESOLVED: that Brian M. Fitts is hereby appointed as Assessor for the Town of Homer, for a term of office through September 30th, 2019.**

Little York Garden Club – Supervisor Forbes reported that sadly the Little York Garden Club had disbanded after first forming in 1936. He said however that he was pleased that they have entrusted the Town of Homer with the balance of their funds to be used for the purchase of flowers for the urns at the Town Hall and for the window boxes at the Dwyer Park pavilion.

On motion by Councilman Williams, seconded by Councilman Warren and carried unanimously: **RESOLVED: that the Homer Town Board graciously accepts the gift of \$1,882.12 from the Little York Garden Club and agrees to honor their request to use the funds for the flowers and plantings at the Homer Town Hall and at Little York (Dwyer) Park.**

Wall Street Bridge – Supervisor Forbes acknowledged the receipt of a resolution from the Homer Village Board requesting that the Town of Homer replace the Wall Street Bridge with a new bridge which is as wide as the existing road.

Councilman Park suggested that the Bridge Committee meet again in the near future so that they can be on track to replace the bridge next year.

There was some discussion about Carroway Hill Road and what portion is in the Village.

Seasonal roads – On motion by Supervisor Forbes, seconded by Councilman Williams 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, 2016, to April 1st, 2017 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	.87 miles
Chapman Road	.75 miles
Searls Road	.50 miles
Dillon Road	.25 miles

ATTORNEY FOR THE TOWN

Attorney Pat Snyder reported on the proposal from Dorina Johnson to construct storage units at the site of the former Pine Grove Inn on Route 11. After appearing before two Planning Board meetings and two Zoning Board of Appeals hearings she was given a variance to construct the storage units on the 100-year floodplain. Most of the site will receive up to 3 feet of fill, which will bring the site up to the 100 year flood elevation. The current regulations in effect in Homer and across the state require that the fill be brought up to 2 feet above the 100 year flood elevation, unless a variance from that requirement is obtained. In this case, the ZBA determined that a variance was warranted.

Councilman Park stated that his property is in the area mapped as 100 year floodplain, not far from the Dorina Johnson property. He would like to investigate the issues concerning floodplain mapping and report back to the board. The other board members indicated that they will look forward to his report.

Attorney Snyder also reported that he had made two court appearances on cases involving zoning violations. In each case the defendant agreed to clean up their yard. One dog case that was taken to court has been resolved and another is scheduled for the middle of the month.

COUNTY LEGISLATOR

County Legislator Linda Jones updated the Town Board on activities at the County, including an upcoming budget hearing. She also had information to share on the possibility of getting help on the construction of a new Wall Street Bridge from the military IRT program.

VILLAGE TRUSTEE

Village Trustee Patrick Clune reported that the Village Board is planning a town-hall type meeting for December 1st to be held by the Building Committee during which they will discuss the options for additional office space that they are considering and allow for public input. Supervisor Forbes suggested that the Town hold a special meeting prior to December 1st to hash out ideas on a Town Hall option.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Anita W. Jebbett
Town Clerk