

The regular meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Homer held on Wednesday, December 2, 2020, in the Town Hall Senior Center was called to order by Supervisor Frederick J. Forbes, Sr., at 6:30 p.m. Social distancing was observed due to the on-going COVID-19 pandemic.

PRESENT

Frederick J. Forbes, Sr., Supervisor  
Larry R. Jones, Councilmember  
Barry E. Warren, Councilmember  
Kevin M. Williams, Councilmember  
Patrick M. Snyder, Attorney for the Town  
Anita W. Jebbett, Town Clerk

ABSENT

Michael R. Park, Councilmember

OTHERS PRESENT

Patrick Clune, Village of Homer Trustee  
Linda Jones, Cortland County Legislator

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

MINUTES

**The minutes of the November 4<sup>th</sup> regular meeting were approved as presented,** on motion by Councilmember Warren, seconded by Councilmember Jones and carried unanimously.

MONTHLY REPORTS

Presented for audit by the Board were:

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

BILLS TO BE PAID

General bills were approved as audited on motion by Councilmember Jones, seconded by Councilmember Williams and carried unanimously: **RESOLVED: that General Fund vouchers #205 through #223 totaling \$63,795.25 are approved for payment.**

Highway bills were approved as audited on motion by Councilmember Warren, seconded by Councilmember Jones and carried unanimously: **RESOLVED: that Highway Fund vouchers #174 through #192 totaling \$55,118.86 are approved for payment.**

## NEW BUSINESS

Postage meter refill – On motion by Supervisor Forbes, seconded by Councilmember Jones and carried unanimously, **the Town Clerk was authorized to add \$1500 to the Town postage meter in preparation for mailing the 2021 tax bills.**

Shared services agreement – On motion by Councilmember Williams, seconded by Councilmember Warren and carried unanimously: RESOLVED: **the Highway Superintendent was authorized to sign a Shared Services Agreement with the New York State Department of Transportation for a period of four (4) years in order to share services, exchange or lend materials or equipment to promote and assist in the maintenance of State and municipal roads (copy attached).**

Highway employee raises – On motion by Supervisor Forbes, seconded by Councilmember Williams and carried unanimously: RESOLVED: **that Highway Department employees who are covered by the Town's health insurance plan will receive a 25-cent per hour raise in 2021, and those without insurance will receive a 50-cent per hour raise.**

Cipriani Energy request for use variance– Supervisor Forbes reported on an upcoming public hearing of the Zoning Board of Appeals. Cipriani Energy Group is asking for a use variance to install a solar energy facility on land that is zoned residential at the intersection of Wolf & Sweeney Roads. Because of the potentially controversial nature of the request and because of COVID, Forbes suggested that the meeting be held completely or partially by remote computer access on zoom. There was much discussion. Attorney Snyder said that he would be updating the ZBA members about use variances and the SEQR process prior to the meeting.

ZBA Member retiring – Supervisor Forbes reported that he has received a letter from Zoning Board of Appeals member Gerald Neuman stating that he would be retiring as of the end of the year. Forbes expressed his appreciation for Neuman's years of service, and asked Board members to let him know if they have any suggestions for a replacement.

Local Waterfront Revitalization Program – Councilmembers Jones and Williams confirmed that they would attend a webinar zoom meeting on behalf of the Town regarding the LWRP on Wednesday, December 9<sup>th</sup>.

Dog Control & Shelter reports – Supervisor Forbes shared the results of an October 2<sup>nd</sup> State inspection of the Town's dog control officer services and dog shelter, operated by Country Acres Pet Services. The State found that all aspects of the operation were satisfactory.

A letter from Dog Control Officer Lindsay Andersen reporting on all their struggles and successes over the past year was read by all Board members. All members expressed their appreciation for Andersen's dedication and hard work, especially in obtaining a grant from the State of over \$100,000 to update the dog shelter building, and in raising the 25% in matching funds of approximately \$34,000 for the project.

Annual year-end meeting – Supervisor Forbes said that the year-end meeting will be held in the Senior Center on Wednesday, December 30<sup>th</sup>, at 11:30 a.m. However, due to COVID, it was the consensus of the Board to forego the traditional holiday party that follows the meeting, to the dismay of all.

## OLD BUSINESS

EDF Renewables solar project – Supervisor Forbes reported that he and Attorney Snyder had attended a meeting earlier in the day of those involved in the proposed project, including representatives from the Towns of Solon and Cortlandville, from Barton & Loguidice Engineers, and from EDF Renewables.

Security cameras – Councilmember Williams reported that he is still talking with the Village to work out the details of installing security cameras at each entrance to the Town Hall building. He said that certain policies involving the cameras will need to be agreed upon.

Town Hall internet service – Councilmember Williams said that he has also been working with the Village to tie into their internet which is through Verizon FIOS. The Village is offering it at no cost to the Town. Currently the Town's internet service is with Spectrum. The services of a computer support company will be needed to get the offices connected.

On motion by Councilmember Williams, seconded by Councilmember Warren and carried unanimously:  
**RESOLVED: that upon the execution of a Memorandum of Understanding with the Village of Homer, the Town will ask Plan First Technologies, Cortland, to move the Town's internet from Spectrum to Verizon FIOS for a cost not to exceed \$750.**

#### ATTORNEY FOR THE TOWN

Attorney Snyder said that if any Board members have questions concerning the Cipriani Energy solar project proposed for property on Wolf Road, he would be happy to try to answer them.

Snyder said that the oral arguments for the Speedway assessment lawsuit will be held online on December 11<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 p.m.

#### COUNTY LEGISLATOR

County Legislator Linda Jones reported on the activities of the Legislature over the past month. She said that it has been fairly quiet, with some talk of raising tipping fees at the landfill, and the finalizing of the County budget. She said that although the Senior Centers will not be re-opening anytime soon, the Office for the Aging has been working very hard to stay in touch with seniors and provide some on-line activities for them. The Town Board thanked her for her report.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

Anita W. Jebbett  
Town Clerk