

Special Meeting  
June 2, 2021

A special meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Homer to hear options for the possible re-opening of the Senior Center held on Wednesday, June 2, 2021, in the Town Hall Senior Center was called to order by Supervisor Frederick J. Forbes, Sr., at 6:00 p.m.  
Social distancing was observed due to the on-going COVID-19 pandemic.

PRESENT

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

OTHERS PRESENT

Hal McCabe, Mayor, Village of Homer  
Patrick Clune, Trustee, Village of Homer  
Ed Finkbeiner, Trustee, Village of Homer  
Tanya Digennaro, Treasurer, Village of Homer  
Gary & Suzanne Michales, Town residents  
Liz Haskins, Director, Cortland Area Agency on Aging  
Ann Homer, County Legislator  
Cathy Bischoff, County Legislator  
Brooke Poli  
Heather Hill  
Don Ferris, reporter, The Homer News  
Kevin Conlon, reporter, Cortland Standard

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Area Agency on Aging Director Liz Haskins presented the findings of an ad hoc committee that was formed when the County-run Senior Centers were shut down due to the COVID-19 outbreak on March 16<sup>th</sup>, 2020. The committee studied how best to serve the aging population in the community. They found that Cortland County had been spending much more than other similarly sized counties to operate the Senior Centers.

Director Haskins presented a draft proposal in which the County would offer a grant to a Town and/or Village to operate their own programs, consisting of \$8,500 grant for a two day program (Tier I) or \$11,500 for a three-day program (Tier II). Seniors would be involved in setting up their own programs, with guidance from the Agency on Aging who would also provide occasional health and wellness programming. Since lack of socialization, not food insecurity, seemed to be the greatest concern of area seniors, Haskins said that this model for Senior Centers could serve an important role. Since any Federal monies would be applied to the downtown Senior Center serving as the main hub, the "satellite" centers would not be subject to Federal regulations pertaining to food served. They would therefore have much more flexibility regarding providing meals and/or snacks.

County Legislators Ann Homer and Cathy Bischoff said that the Homer Senior Center has a longstanding tradition with a strong group of volunteers. They are hoping that the satellite centers could be starting up in September and said that the grants would be good for a two-year period. Municipalities could supplement the programs if they so choose. They answered several questions from those in attendance and said that if the Town/Village are interested, a non-binding letter of intent would need to be sent to Director Haskins.

Supervisor Forbes thanked them on behalf of both boards for informing them on the proposal. The special meeting was adjourned at 6:45 p.m.

Anita W. Jebbett, Town Clerk