

Regular Meeting
August 4, 2021

The regular meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Homer held on Wednesday, August 4, 2021, in the Town Hall Senior Center was called to order by Supervisor Frederick J. Forbes, Sr., at 6:44 p.m.

Social distancing was observed due to the on-going COVID-19 pandemic.

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
Heather M. Hill, Town Clerk
Brooke L. Poli, Town Deputy Clerk

OTHERS PRESENT

George Murphey-Wilkins, Reporter, Cortland Voice
Victor Siegle, Homer Village resident
Larry Jones PhD, -
Patrick Clune, Trustee, Village of Homer
Kevin Conlon, reporter, Cortland Standard
Thomas & Mary Kiernan, Homer Village resident
Duane Reynolds – Homer West Hill Cemetery

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

MINUTES

The minutes of the July 7th Public Hearings for Local Law # 1&2, July 7th regular meeting & the July 7th special meeting were approved as presented, on motion by Councilmember Park, seconded by Councilmember Jones and carried unanimously. Supervisor Frederick J. Forbes, Sr., commended the new Town Clerks for a job well done on their first run.

MONTHLY REPORTS

Presented for audit by the board were:

1. The Town Clerk's report of all receipts and disbursements for July.
2. The Code Enforcement Officer's report of all building permits issued for July.
3. The Dog Control Officer's report of all activities for July.
4. The Supervisor's report of all financial activities through July.

BILLS TO BE PAID

Highway bills were approved as audited by councilmember Warren, motioned by Supervisor Fredrick J. Forbes Sr., seconded by councilmember Williams and carried unanimously:

RESOLVED: that Highway Fund vouchers #107 through #118 totaling \$36,374.09 are approved for payment.

General bills were approved as audited on motion of councilmember Jones, seconded by councilmember Warren and carried unanimously: **RESOLVED: that General Fund vouchers #141 through #154 totaling \$46,188.96 are approved for payment.**

REGULAR BUSINESS

SOLAR ENERGY FACILITIES PROJECT (EDF) 94-C – There was discussion on the monies available through EDF 94-C. Supervisor Frederick J. Forbes, Sr. asked the Town Attorney Patrick Snyder what the Town gains from 94-C and does anything need to be looked over. Town Attorney Patrick Snyder said the main question is do we have availability to use the funds? The local government gets 75%, Snyder said he thinks it is wise to apply to oversee what EDF comes up with. On motion to **apply for EDF 94-C monies** by councilmember Park, seconded by councilmember Jones and carried unanimously.

TOWN HALL ROOF & FURNACE – Councilmember Warren stated that finding a sixty foot lift is difficult. He is hoping to have more information on the completion of the roof by the end of next week. He will contact M.A.B. roofing and follow up. Councilmember Warren stated that he has one bid for the twin boilers. He is still waiting for two additional bids to contact him back.

TOWN HALL CAMERAS – Councilmember Williams informed the Board that he talked with the sheriff of Homer and is hoping to have the cameras installed by December.

SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT SIGNS – Supervisor Frederick J. Forbes, Sr., asked Pat Clune, Trustee, Village of Homer if the village had made a decision on the soil & water signs. Pat Clune suggested it would be wise to talk directly to Mayor Hal McCabe, Village of Homer. Supervisor Frederick J. Forbes, Sr., asked the Board who would like to volunteer to speak with Amanda Barber and Hal McCabe regarding the soil & water signs. Councilmember Park said that he would meet with Hal regarding the village's plans and relay back.

LOCAL LAW #3 –MARIJUANA OPT OUT- Supervisor Frederick J. Forbes, Sr., read the ballot wording on Local Law #3 (**attached**) out loud, for the board to approve. On motion by Supervisor Forbes to approve ballot wording, seconded by councilmember Park.

AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT (ARPA)/STIMULUS 2021 – Supervisor Frederick J. Forbes, Sr., stated that the Town clerks did a wonderful job getting the paperwork in and are researching documents on how and what the Town can spend the stimulus money on. Supervisor Forbes set up a specific money market account at First National Bank of Dryden for the ARPA funds.

ALLOW CAHILL & KNOBEL ACCESS TO BANK ACCOUNTS - Supervisor Frederick J. Forbes, Sr., told the board that if we allow Colin Cahill access to the banks accounts he can receive statements for each month instead of having the clerks email them. Councilmember Williams voiced concerns about another password to the bank accounts being given out to another party. Supervisor Forbes said that the bank can put restrictions on what Colin's access can provide such as "read only". Councilmember Park stated that he does the same on his accounts at Homer Iron Works. Councilmember Warren said that he was in favor of saving the clerks extra steps. On motion by Supervisor Frederick J. Forbes, Sr., seconded by councilmember Park, with three ayes and one nay **RESOLVED**: to give Colin Cahill a password to the bank accounts for reconciliation purposes.

FUTURE OF SENIOR CENTER - Supervisor Frederick J. Forbes, Sr., stated that the Homer Senior club is applying for a county grant to pursue Homer Senior Center until the plans for the center change. Supervisor Forbes said that the Homer Police Department is interested in coming back to the Homer Town Hall which will provide the Town and Village employees with protection. Supervisor Forbes would love to see this happen if the senior club was reduced. Councilmember Williams informed the board that at the senior club meeting, Joyce Kamp was present and talked to the seniors about how the club was established back in 1974. There was further discussion about other viable options on how the senior center can be utilized. On August 17th there is another meeting with an interested party.

ATTORNEY FOR THE TOWN – Attorney Pat Snyder reported that he has filed Local Law #1 to establish the residency requirements for the appointed offices of Town Clerk and Deputy Clerk for the Town of Homer officially on the books. He filed Local Law #2 to amend the zoning law to allow the raising of chickens in the Residence District without any town permits provided that certain conditions are met, just waiting for this to be returned to him. Attorney Pat Snyder asked if he could comment on the solar presentation and ask Victor Siegle a few follow up questions. After a small discussion on proposed questions Snyder thanked Víctor for all the information given.

BAILEY PLACE INSURANCE QUOTE - Supervisor Frederick J. Forbes, Sr., presented the annual Bailey Place insurance quote to the board. He stated that he would like to raise the

insurance \$500 which is between 2.3 – 2.9 % due to the Highway Superintendent renting equipment. Councilmember Williams stated to adjust the budget to allow the leeway and except the quote as is. On motion by councilmember Williams **to accept the Bailey Place Insurance quote as is of 35,365.00**, seconded by councilmember Warren and carried unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

TOWN HALL BALCONY PLAN -

Supervisor Frederick J. Forbes, Sr., opened the discussion about remodeling the balcony of the Town Hall. Supervisor Forbes explained how this would be a great opportunity to keep the building warmer and create more storage space needed for the offices. Supervisor Forbes said he will quote out and obtain 3 bids for the work. On motion by councilmember Park to get three bids to finish to Town Hall balcony, seconded by councilmember Jones and carried unanimously.

CHANGES TO SOLAR POLICY-

Supervisor Frederick J. Forbes, Sr., inquired about any changes that needed to be made to the solar policy. Attorney Patrick Snyder recommended to draft a resolution for a local law to opt out. There was discussion about Car Hill Road being part of EDF with a large battery storage and Shippey Road with battery storage proposed. On motion by councilmember Park to start the process to opt out, seconded by councilmember Warren to take advantage of tax situations. Attorney Patrick Snyder suggested that it was a good idea to opt out and to get a legal draft written for local law. There was much discussion about preparing the local law and having the proposed law ready to discuss next meeting on September 8th, 2021. Followed by a public hearing in October 2021. Councilmember Williams suggested to bring in the assessor Brain Fitts to the Town Board meeting, to further discuss details. On motion by councilmember Park to revisit and finalize details once proposed local law is prepared at next Town Board meeting on September 8th, 2021, seconded by councilmember Warren and carried unanimously.

Councilmember Williams suggested to the Board that they schedule informational meetings. For example, inviting the Homer Chief of Police to discuss the marijuana law.

HOMER WEST HILL CEMETERY ASSOCIATION- Duane Reynolds, V.P, Treasurer and grounds keeper of Homer West Hill Cemetery Association attended the Town Board meeting for the soul purpose to say hello and introduce himself. Homer West Hill Cemetery is located off of Route 41 on Harrison Road in the Town of Homer. Duane Reynolds stated that he was not asking anything from the Town Board, but he would like to see a working relationship in the future. Duane Reynolds stated that he drops off burial permits and is familiar with the Clerk's office located in the Town Hall. Councilmember Park asked if Duane Reynolds could give the Town a copy of the Cemetery's annual report to become more involved with what's going on within the Homer West Hill Cemetery. The Town Board thanked Duane Reynolds for coming in which Duane Reynolds replied thank you for having him.

Supervisor Frederick J. Forbes, Sr., asked if there was any other business. The meeting was adjourned at 7:56 PM.

Heather M. Hill

Town Clerk

