

The regular meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Homer held on Wednesday, June 4<sup>th</sup>, 2008, in the board room of the Town Hall Building was called to order by Supervisor Frederick J. Forbes at 7:30 p.m.

PRESENT

Frederick J. Forbes, Supervisor  
Barry E. Warren, Councilman  
Dan A. Weddle, Councilman  
Kevin M. Williams, Councilman  
Brian D. Young, Councilman  
Patrick M. Snyder, Attorney for the Town  
Anita W. Jebbett, Town Clerk

OTHERS PRESENT

Gary Shiffer, Town Justice  
Steve McMahan, Supervisor, Town of Scott  
Chantelle McMahan

Supervisor Forbes led those present in the pledge of allegiance.

MINUTES

**The minutes of the regular meeting held on May 7<sup>th</sup>, 2008, were approved as presented,** on motion by Councilman Warren, seconded by Councilman Weddle and carried unanimously.

MONTHLY REPORTS

Presented for audit by the Board were:

1. Town Clerk's monthly report of all receipts and disbursements for May.
2. Supervisor's report of all cash receipts and disbursements in the General and Highway funds through May.
3. Dog Control Officer's report of all activities for the month of May.
4. Report of all building permits issued for the month of May.

BILLS TO BE PAID

General bills were approved as audited on motion by Councilman Young, seconded by Councilman Williams and carried unanimously: **RESOLVED: that General vouchers #155 through #190 totaling \$70,309.31 be approved for payment.**

Highway bills were approved as audited on motion by Councilman Weddle, seconded by Councilman Warren and carried unanimously: **RESOLVED: that Highway vouchers #81 through #105 totaling \$33,263.30 be approved for payment.**

Supervisor Forbes extended a thank you to Randy Cooper of Health Camp Road for offering the Town Board members a ride on his horse-drawn covered wagon in the Memorial Day parade. He passed around a thank-you note for all board members to sign.

The Supervisor also noted the absence of Deputy Town Clerk Barbara Crandall due to a fall in which she seriously injured her elbow. He told the Board that he had reassured her that the position would be held for her until such time as she is able to return to work, and remarked on her excellent service over the past almost twenty years. Forbes suggested that Stacy Hall, Court Clerk, could help out in the meantime.

Supervisor Forbes introduced Steve McMahon, the new Supervisor of the Town of Scott, who was present to listen in on the Town Board meeting. There was some discussion about the possibility of consolidating some services with the Town of Scott in the future.

#### TOWN HALL RENOVATIONS

Councilman Warren reported that he and Attorney for the Town Pat Snyder, also an engineer, had met prior to the meeting to review plans for parking on the north side of the building. Snyder has agreed to engineer the project to allow for proper water drainage, green space, etc.

There was discussion about installing new carpet in the Town Hall Senior Center because a section of the carpet must be removed where the new entrance will be located. Councilman Warren suggested having linoleum installed at the entrance for the present time and to postpone installing any new carpet. The other Board members agreed with his suggestion.

#### CUMMINGS HILL ROAD

Councilman Williams reported on his review of the request to re-open Cummings Hill Road which has been abandoned as a Town road since the 1960's. He said that in some spots the road is little more than a trail and that he thought that an enormous amount of work would be required to have it open to the general public again.

Councilman Weddle agreed and said that in spots it is very steep and in others would require the Town crew to remove some large trees in order to make it wide enough.

Attorney Snyder said that if in the future someone wants to develop housing on that hill, they would have to fund the re-construction of the roadway themselves, as long as the Town has abandoned it.

There was much discussion. It was the general consensus of the Town Board that they should not take on the work required to re-open Cummings Hill Road to the public at this time.

#### COURT ROOM AUDIT

Councilmen Brian Young and Kevin Williams reported that they intend to audit the Justice Court financial records at the end of the month.

It was decided that the Justice Court would not be able to share a copier with the Town Clerk's Office as it is needed often during court sessions. Justice Shiffer said that he would get more quotes on a new copier or maybe two, a small one for the office and a larger one in the court room. He said that he was looking forward to moving back into the Town Hall Building at the end of the month when the court room renovation is expected to be complete, and he thanked the Town Board for their support.

#### NEW BUSINESS

There was discussion about scheduling time for a presentation by a representative from a wind power company at the July 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting. Supervisor Forbes is to get in touch with the representative, Garth McDonald, to discuss when he may be placed on the agenda. It was suggested that the July meeting begin at 7:00 p.m.

There was also discussion about the renewal of the Town's liability insurance policy for 2008-2009 with Reagan Insurance Agency of Marcellus. The cost is up by around \$2,000 over last year's bill. Councilman Brian Young is to review the Inland Marine policy with Highway Superintendent John Phelps in order to find out why that went up so much compared to the rest of the policy items.

Supervisor Forbes reported that he has received the most recent state equalization rate for the Town and it is 88%. That means that the Town is due for a re-valuation of assessments. He had spoken with Assessor Nedra Griswold who said that she will need to hire outside help to collect data in order for her to do a re-valuation for the Town.

Forbes also said that Steve Douglass of The Glass Smith will be stopping by to look over the Town Hall windows in order to submit an estimate for interior storm windows.

Councilman Brian Young gave a summary of the research he had done regarding the purchase of furniture for the new Court Room. He presented information and estimates on two tables and four chairs to be placed in the front of the room for the defendants and their attorneys, and 40 to 50 chairs for those waiting in the Court Room or observing a trial. Town Clerk Jebbett offered to look over any information and to check into colors and styles offered.

On motion by Supervisor Forbes, seconded by Councilman Williams and carried unanimously: **RESOLVED: that a committee made up of Councilmen Young and Warren and Town Clerk Jebbett be authorized to purchase furniture for the new Court Room for a cost up to \$4,000.**

#### ATTORNEY FOR THE TOWN

Attorney Pat Snyder informed the Town of a discussion held at the last Planning Board meeting regarding an aquifer application by William Head of New Hope View Farm. Councilman Young emphasized his conviction that the water testing, as outlined by the Town Planning Board when approval for a large farm was granted to Dairy Development International (DDI), continue to be enforced. He suggested that New Hope View Farm turn to the Cortland County Health Department for their guidance in the matter. Snyder said that with the new heifer barn they wish to build, New Hope View Farm may exceed the 850 cow limit placed by the Planning Board over DDI.

Snyder also reported that a letter had been received from a Kinney Gulf Road resident who was concerned about the amount of work required by the Cortland County Highway Department to alleviate water problems created by the Partis Subdivision. He said that the Planning Board was indeed concerned about this, but that the drainage problems at the Partis Subdivision have now been corrected. A letter has been drafted to respond to the complaint.

He also informed the Board that the Verizon property assessment controversy will soon be resolved.

#### PROPOSED ZONING LAW

Councilman Kevin Williams read through several items in the proposed zoning law that he found either unnecessary or too restrictive. All of his suggestions were discussed at length and Attorney Snyder was charged with making those changes to the proposed law that a consensus of the Board agreed needed revising or deleting. He is to revise the current draft accordingly in time for a public hearing to be held on Wednesday, July 2<sup>nd</sup>.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:40 p.m.

Anita W. Jebbett  
Town Clerk