

Regular Meeting
September 3, 2008

The regular meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Homer held in the board room of the Town Hall Building on Wednesday, September 3, 2008, 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
John R. Phelps, Highway Superintendent
Anita W. Jebbett, Town Clerk

OTHERS PRESENT

Gary Shiffer, Town Justice
Paul Burhans, Dog Control Officer
Mark Suben, candidate for District Attorney
Gary Walter, resident

Supervisor Forbes led those present in the pledge of allegiance.

MINUTES

The minutes of the August 6th regular Board meeting were approved as presented, on motion by Councilman Weddle, seconded by Councilman Young and carried unanimously.

MONTHLY REPORTS

Presented for audit by the Board were:

1. Town Clerk's monthly report of all receipts and disbursements for August.
2. Dog Control Officer's monthly report of all activities for August.
3. Report of all building permits issued for the month of August.

BILLS TO BE PAID

General bills were approved as audited on motion by Councilman Weddle, seconded by Councilman Young and carried unanimously: **RESOLVED: that General vouchers #255 through #281 totaling \$38,813.01 be approved for payment.**

Highway bills were approved as audited on motion by Councilman Young, seconded by Councilman Warren and carried unanimously: **RESOLVED: that Highway vouchers #137 through #153 totaling \$37,107.45 be approved for payment.**

NEW BUSINESS

Attorney Mark Suben introduced himself and explained why he is running for the position of District Attorney for Cortland County. He also introduced Gary Walter who is supporting his candidacy. He thanked the Town Board for their time.

Single polling place for Town - Supervisor Forbes said that the County Board of Elections has received a NYS grant to install lighting in the parking lot of the Community Building which will be used for all the Homer voting districts in the upcoming election. Forbes suggested that the funds budgeted for the use of the Albright Grange, which will

no longer be a polling place, be sent to the Homer Fire Department to help cover heating expenses for the Community Building (\$150).

Planning Board vacancy - There was much discussion about a vacancy on the Planning Board created when Don Richards moved to the Town of Scott. Several names were suggested as a replacement for Richards, and the possibility of interviewing candidates was discussed. Supervisor Forbes is to contact the Planning and Zoning Board alternates to see if any of them would be interested in being full-time members and will report back at the October meeting.

Court audit - Councilman Williams reported that he and Councilman Young had completed an audit of the Homer Town Court on August 14th and found everything to be in good order.

On motion by Councilman Williams, seconded by Councilman Weddle and carried unanimously: **RESOLVED: WHEREAS, Section 2019-a of the uniform Justice Court Act requires that town boards provide an annual audit of the town justice court's records and dockets; and**

WHEREAS, Town Board members Williams and Young performed such an audit of the 2007 Town of Homer court records on August 14th, 2008, using a checklist and documentation provided by the New York State Comptroller's Office; and

WHEREAS, Board members Williams and Young found all records to be clear, concise, and accurate; that all reports and disbursements were made on a timely basis, that the checkbooks were reconciled on a timely basis, and that cooperation by the Town Justice and Court Clerk was found to be excellent;

NOW BE IT RESOLVED that the Court Clerk be authorized to spend extra time to begin researching, reconciling and adjusting the bail accounts left over from previous court administrations, and that the Court Clerk continue to subtotal the court receipt book by cumulative deposit and also begin totaling the deposits made on a monthly basis.

2008 Housing Grant - Supervisor Forbes reported that the Town of Homer was again turned down by the State in its application for a housing grant through the federal Small Cities Community Development Program. This will be the fourth time the Town has been turned down.

Cummings Hill Road – Supervisor Forbes reported that he and Attorney Snyder and Highway Superintendent Phelps had met with Gary Slade regarding his request to have the Town repair the former Cummings Hill Road. Supervisor Forbes said that he felt that they had put to rest any idea of re-opening the road as a Town road.

On motion by Councilman Williams, seconded by Councilman Warren and carried unanimously: **RESOLVED: that in response to a request by Town Historian Martin Sweeney, that the Town Hall be allowed to be part of the Heritage Trail tour to be held on Saturday, October 18th ; and that the Town hereby agrees to pay up to \$600 for the framing of a new portrait of Abraham Lincoln by David Quinlan for the 2009 celebration of Homer's connections to President Lincoln.**

TOWN HALL RENOVATIONS

Supervisor Forbes reported that several unfinished items were holding up the close-out of the Town Hall Additions & Alterations project. He said that he was still waiting to hear from Scott Crysler of Diamond & Thiel who needs to take care of some items on the punch list. The HVAC contractor, Climate Control, had been here to do a walk-through with Town plumber Dale Murphy and Councilman Barry Warren, but had yet to have the system independently balanced. There was discussion about the possibility of having the thermostat moved as the office tended to be too warm with the thermostat in the court room. Also the elevator is not yet operational.

HIGHWAY SUPERINTENDENT

New Parking Lot –Highway Superintendent John Phelps discussed the progress to date on the new parking lot area on the north side of the Town Hall building. He said that all the storm drains are in and they would be tied into the storm sewer under Water Street the next day. The Main Street sidewalk has been poured and a conduit installed for future telecommunications connections.

There was discussion about a quote received for fencing to be placed between the Town property and the Andrews property directly to the north. It was decided that the measurements quoted were incorrect, so Phelps was asked to request a corrected quote and to get one or two more quotes. Attorney Snyder said that there is precast concrete fencing available that he would check into for them.

Two quotes had been received for paving the parking lot, but again Phelps said that there were discrepancies on how they were bid. The board asked Phelps to have them re-bid using the same specifications.

Road specifications – Superintendent Phelps said that he would be getting a more up-to-date version of highway specifications from the Town of Cortlandville which he will present to the Board in the near future.

OLD BUSINESS

On motion by Councilman Young, seconded by Councilman Williams and carried unanimously: **RESOLVED: That the Homer Town Board hereby approves the grant application prepared by Town Justice Gary Shiffer for assistance from the State of New York Justice Court Assistance Program (JCAP), with the understanding that the funding is being sought to enhance the Homer Justice Court's ability to provide suitable and sufficient service to our community through proper court facilities, automated equipment and necessary supplies for operation.**

Attorney Pat Snyder reported that the new zoning law has been filed with the New York State Secretary of State and when the Town receives notice back from the State that it is on file, the new zoning will be in effect.

Supervisor Forbes reminded Board members of a meeting at the Cortlandville Fire Station on September 10th about wind farms in the County. He also noted that there will be a meeting on Farmland Protection on September 11th at the Town Hall.

TOWN HALL RENOVATIONS – CONTINUED

New windows - Supervisor Forbes said that he was hoping to replace the old Town Hall windows with new energy efficient windows before winter sets in. The Board discussed two bids that Supervisor Forbes had gotten and decided that they needed to draw up specifications and be certain of the number of windows that need to be replaced. It was decided to hold a special meeting on Tuesday, September 09, 2008, at 8:30 a.m. to prepare specifications for new windows for the Town Hall.

Lighting for parking lot - Councilman Warren presented a quote he had received from Lew Heath for outdoor lighting for the new parking lot that would be attached to the north-west corner of the Town Hall for around \$1,800. He said that the lights would come on automatically at night. Warren was to look into obtaining more information about lighting.

Warren also said that he is expecting soon to receive a quote from Tom Kile for sidewalks to be placed next to the new addition to the Town Hall building.

DOG CONTROL OFFICER

Dog Control Officer Paul Burhans was present to inform the Board that he was anticipating a 4% increase in his budget proposal for 2009. He urged the Board to think long-term on licensing fees and pickup fees. Supervisor Forbes asked him to bring in information on what other towns are charging for those fees.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:05 p.m.

Anita W. Jebbett
Town Clerk