

The regular meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Homer held in the board room of the Town Hall Building on Wednesday, November 5, 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  
Anita W. Jebbett, Town Clerk

#### OTHERS PRESENT

Martin Sweeney, Town Historian  
Holden Slattery, reporter, Cortland Standard (arrived 8:30 p.m.)  
Eric Mulvihill, reporter, WXHC (arrived 8:30 p.m.)

Supervisor Forbes led those present in the pledge of allegiance.

#### TOWN HISTORIAN

Martin Sweeney presented his four-page 2008 Town Historian's Report (attached) in which he outlined his various activities over the past year including participation in the County's Bicentennial Celebration. He passed around a photo of the Town of Homer's float for which Councilman Weddle donated a wagon and Junior High School students painted scenes from Homer's past which led the Bicentennial parade (as the "mother township").

Sweeney reported on the open house held at the Town Hall on October 18<sup>th</sup> whereby 72 visitors were treated to refreshments and a tour of the Town Hall including the new addition and renovated courtroom as well as the old Town stage.

He also discussed the on-going preparations for the Lincoln Celebration planned for May of 2009. He suggested that the Board plan a formal presentation of a new portrait of Abraham Lincoln painted by David Quinlan to the Town at their February 2009 meeting.

The Town Board members thanked him for all his hard work over the past year.

#### MINUTES

**The minutes of the October 8<sup>th</sup> regular meeting and the October 23<sup>rd</sup> special meeting were approved as presented, on motion by Councilman Warren, seconded by Councilman Williams and carried unanimously.**

#### MONTHLY REPORTS

Presented for audit by the Board were:

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

## BILLS TO BE PAID

General bills were approved as audited on motion by Councilman Young, seconded by Councilman Weddle and carried unanimously: **RESOLVED: that General vouchers #323 through #356 totaling \$23,027.01 be approved for payment.**

Highway bills were approved as audited on motion by Councilman Warren, seconded by Councilman Young and carried unanimously: **RESOLVED: that Highway vouchers #177 through #194 totaling \$64,385.27 be approved for payment.**

## OLD BUSINESS

Town Hall Renovations – Board members discussed an agreement with Victory Lifts which calls for two maintenance checks of the new elevator each year for \$275 each visit. Supervisor Forbes had asked Victory Lifts if they would agree to one visit per year but they had said that their agreements are either for two or for four visits a year. Forbes said that he would check to see if the Town is covered under a warranty and for how long.

New Zoning Law – Attorney Snyder said that the Cortland County Planning Board had agreed to reproduce the newly-adopted zoning law including a map for approximately \$7 per copy.

On motion by Councilman Young, seconded by Councilman Weddle and carried unanimously: **RESOLVED: that the Cortland County Planning Department be asked to duplicate 35 copies the Town's zoning law including a map for @\$7 per copy.**

Window replacement – There was discussion about the \$100,000 grant that the Town was awarded for Town Hall renovations and the telephone conference in which Supervisor Forbes, Attorney Snyder and Councilman Williams participated. Forbes said that the money could not be used to reimburse any work already completed. It could be used for replacing the Town Hall windows, but would be subject to the State Office for Historic Preservation review.

## NEW BUSINESS

Supervisor Forbes reported on a meeting on Local Government Efficiency that he, Attorney Snyder, Councilman Young and Councilman Williams attended in Binghamton on October 22<sup>nd</sup>.

There was some discussion about the Kniffen property on Route 11 just north of the Village that is now in a floodway, according to the newly updated Federal flood maps. Attorney Snyder said that the City of Cortland is disputing the updated maps and they have not yet been adopted.

Windmill Zoning Regulations – The Board discussed having a Town representative at some County-led meetings regarding windmills. Councilman Warren said that he had a potential conflict of interest, and other Board members were not interested. Supervisor Forbes suggested and Town Board members agreed that local Attorney Matt Neuman be asked to act as the Town's representative for the development of county-wide zoning regulations for the construction of electricity-generating windmills.

2009 Town Budget - On motion by Councilman Young, seconded by Councilman Williams and carried unanimously: **RESOLVED: that the preliminary Town Budget as modified after the special budget workshop meeting hereby be adopted as the Town Budget for 2009, with the tax rate to be \$1.58 per thousand for Village residents and \$2.09 per thousand for Town residents.**

Supervisor Forbes said that although the contract for Fire Protection increased from \$78,500 to \$81,500, the fire tax rate remains at \$.51 per thousand due to the growth

in the Town's assessment. He also stated that the Highway Superintendent opted to take no increase in pay, that the Highway Department employees will receive a 3% increase in pay, and the Town Justice a 4% increase in pay as it will be the first time he has received an increase. The \$100,000 grant from the State obtained through Senator Jim Seward's efforts will be used towards replacing the windows on the Town Hall. Forbes said that it may cost more than the \$100,000 to do so since so many need repairs as well.

Aged Exemption - On motion by Councilman Warren, seconded by Councilman Young and carried unanimously: **RESOLVED: that the Town of Homer hereby increases the income eligibility level of exemption from taxation for real property owned by persons sixty-five (65) years of age or over in the form of a sliding scale starting at \$16,500 or less, to a maximum of \$22,200.**

#### EXECUTIVE SESSION

On motion by Supervisor Forbes, seconded by Councilman Young and carried unanimously, **an executive session was convened to discuss a contractual matter at 8:40 p.m.**

On motion by Councilman Young, seconded by Councilman Williams and carried unanimously, **the executive session was adjourned at 9:10 p.m. and the regular meeting then reconvened.**

No action was taken.

The regular meeting was adjourned at 9:11 p.m.

Anita W. Jebbett  
Town Clerk