

The regular meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Homer held in the board room of the Town Hall Building on March 4, 2009, was called to order by Supervisor Frederick J. Forbes at 7:45 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 (arrived at 9:15 p.m.)
Anita W. Jebbett, Town Clerk

On motion by Councilman Warren, seconded by Councilman Young and carried unanimously: RESOLVED:

WHEREAS, the Town of Homer desires to meet the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program objective of conservation and expansion of housing stock in order to provide a decent home and a suitable living environment for all persons, but principally those of low-to-moderate income; and

WHEREAS, Frederick J. Forbes is the Supervisor of the Town of Homer; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED that the Town Board of the Town of Homer directs the Supervisor to sign and file a single purpose application for funds with the New York State Governor's Office for Small Cities under the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's Community Development Block Grant Program for Fiscal Year 2009, in an amount of \$400,000; and, let it further be

RESOLVED that upon approval of said request to enter into and execute a project agreement with the New York State Governor's Office for Small Cities for such financial assistance to this Town.

MINUTES

The minutes of the February 4th, 2009, regular meeting were approved as amended on motion by Councilman Young, seconded by Councilman Weddle and carried unanimously.

ANNUAL REPORTS

Presented for audit by the Board were:

1. The Annual Financial Report of the Town of Homer for 2008.
2. The accounting records of the Town for the year 2008.

MONTHLY REPORTS

Presented for audit by the Board were:

1. The Town Clerk's monthly report of all receipts and disbursements for the month of February.
2. Dog Control Officer's monthly report of activities for February.
3. Code Enforcement Officer's report of building permits issued in February.

BILLS TO BE PAID

General bills were approved as audited on motion by Councilman Williams, seconded by Councilman Young and carried unanimously: **RESOLVED: that General vouchers #39 through #69 totaling \$21,984.70 be approved for payment.**

Highway bills were approved as audited on motion by Councilman Williams, seconded by Councilman Warren and carried unanimously: **RESOLVED: that Highway vouchers #25 through #47 totaling \$15,889.20 be approved for payment.**

OLD BUSINESS

Town Hall Renovations – Supervisor Forbes updated the Town Board on the status of the concrete restoration and window replacement projects for 2009. He said that architect Randy Crawford would be photographing the windows to send to the NYS Office of Historic Preservation (SHPO) for their review. Forbes had also spoken with a masonry contractor from Ithaca who was interested in the concrete restoration job. He also plans to look over the Town Hall Building to see what needs to be done.

Attorney Snyder suggested that the Board proceed as quickly as possible to make certain that New York State pays the Town its promised grant of \$100,000.

Windmill Energy Project – Attorney Snyder reported that the County-wide group discussing zoning regulations for windmill projects is still questioning setbacks and noise regulations. He reported that he has expressed the Board's opinion outlined at the February meeting, but has let them know that the Town is amenable to considering other proposals.

Computel Consultants – Supervisor Forbes reported that according to Computel, the Town is on board for the next set of reimbursements for underpayments by Time Warner Cable Television. He said that the amount to be reimbursed, including interest, is \$12,586.33 of which Computel gets one-half. Forbes said that he was disappointed to learn that cable subscribers would be charged for this payment.

NEW BUSINESS

On motion by Councilman Weddle, seconded by Councilman Warren and carried unanimously: **RESOLVED: that Supervisor Forbes be authorized to sign a lease agreement (see attached) with Country Acres Pet Services for use of their dog kennel.**

Cortland Picture Frame had given an estimate of \$600 to frame the Lincoln portrait by David Quinlan, but the frame ended up costing \$800, according to Vicky Delaney, owner. On motion by Councilman Warren, seconded by Councilman Young and carried unanimously: **RESOLVED: that the Town hereby agrees to pay \$600 to Cortland Picture Frame for the Lincoln Portrait frame and to accept the donation of \$200 for the remainder of the cost.**

The Board members discussed the values of Town-owned equipment that were listed on the liability insurance renewal form and agreed with the values suggested by Highway Superintendent Phelps.

There was some discussion about a request to widen Chapman Road. Attorney Snyder said that the Town may need to obtain property rights from the adjacent landowners in order to widen the road.

Supervisor Forbes said that he has learned that certain roads may be designated as "low volume" roads which the Town then is not obligated to improve.

Supervisor Forbes presented a quote from Tracey Road Equipment for a new loader that Highway Superintendent Phelps had obtained. The quote was for a New Holland loader with a trade-in value for the Town's Daewoo of \$20,000.

Councilman Young asked several questions regarding the quote. Highway Superintendent Phelps arrived at the meeting and said that the New Holland was on State bid. He agreed to get estimates on repairing the Daewoo for the next Town Board meeting.

Phelps said that the Highway Superintendents' Association had suggested that Town Boards make a resolution regarding the number of hours worked by their Highway Superintendents in order to prove for NYS Retirement purposes that they were full-time employees.

On motion by Supervisor Forbes, seconded by Councilman Weddle and carried unanimously: **RESOLVED: that the Town of Homer Highway Superintendent is required to work a minimum of 40 hours per week, or more if conditions warrant.**

There was some discussion about what would be involved if the Town were to consolidate with the Towns of Scott and/or Preble, and if there would be savings for the taxpayer. Board members agreed to keep an open mind on the issue and to see if there is any public interest in consolidation.

Councilman Warren reported that he had spoken with former Village Mayor Mary Alice Bellardini who had wondered when the Town would be repairing the Pine Street Bridge. Supervisor Forbes said that there is nothing in the 2009 budget for repairing the bridge.

Councilmen Williams and Young reported on a meeting they had with Village Trustees Mike Berry and Genevieve Suits to discuss issues of mutual interest to both municipalities.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

On motion by Supervisor Forbes, seconded by Councilman Williams and carried unanimously, the Town Board went into an executive session at 9:35 p.m. for the purpose of discussing a matter concerning the employment history of a particular person.

On motion by Councilman Weddle, seconded by Councilman Williams and carried unanimously, the executive session was adjourned at 10:00 p.m.

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

Anita W. Jebbett
Town Clerk