

Regular Meeting
September 2, 2009

The regular meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Homer held on Wednesday, September 2nd, 2009, 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
Anita W. Jebbett, Town Clerk

ABSENT

Patrick M. Snyder, Attorney for the Town
John R. Phelps, Highway Superintendent

OTHERS PRESENT

Jon Carnes, Crawford & Stearns, Architects

Supervisor Forbes led those present in the pledge of allegiance.

MINUTES

The minutes of the August 5th, 2009, regular meeting were approved as presented, on motion by Councilman Warren, seconded by Councilman Young and carried unanimously.

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 August.
2. The Dog Control Officer's report of all activities for the month of August.
3. The Code Enforcement Officer's report of all building permits for the month of August.

BILLS TO BE PAID

General bills were approved as audited on motion by Councilman Warren, seconded by Councilman Young and carried unanimously: **RESOLVED: that General vouchers #220 through #240 totaling \$32,250.14 be approved for payment.**

Highway bills were approved as audited on motion by Councilman Weddle, seconded by Councilman Williams and carried unanimously: **RESOLVED: that Highway vouchers #154 through #171 totaling \$49,592.21 be approved for payment.**

TOWN HALL RENOVATIONS

Jon Carnes of Crawford & Stearns said that he had been in contact with the NYS Historic Preservation Office regarding the Town's plans to renovate the Town Hall windows and replace broken masonry. He said that he decided to send them the complete bid package rather than just the scope of the project and that it had been sent to them that day. He did not foresee them finding any problems with the proposed project.

Board members agreed with Supervisor Forbes that they will plan to go out to bid in October with the bids to be due before Thanksgiving and the work to start in April of 2010.

Carnes reviewed the bid drawings and specifications with the Board. He said that the proposal for the new south portico will require minimal excavation that the Town Highway Department should be able to provide. He said that if the Town decides to reconsider that, it can be included in the bid.

Supervisor Forbes suggested a change to the proposal for revised parking along the south side of the Town Hall Building. He suggested a larger green area at the front corner of the Town Hall and parallel parking further back along the court and senior center to allow for people to be dropped off there. The majority of parking spaces will be in the parking lot either behind the Town Hall or the new lot alongside the north side of the building.

Carnes left a copy of the bid documents with the Town Board. Forbes suggested that they ask Attorney Snyder to review them.

VICTORY LIFTS

Supervisor Forbes said that Otis Elevator has finally agreed to send Victory Lifts a check for the repair Victory had to make after some salesmen from Otis Elevator tampered with it and caused it to not work. The check was sent only after Attorney Pat Snyder had sent them a letter. According to Jon Carnes's conversation with Victory Lifts, the other invoice from them covered items that normally would have been covered under a maintenance contract if the Town had signed one with them.

TOWN HISTORIAN

Town Historian Martin Sweeney presented to the Town Board one of four sconces that were donated to the Town by a man from Syracuse who said they came from the Capitol Theater which was operated out of the Town Hall from the 1930's into the 1950's. He pointed out their "art deco" style, similar to other light fixtures in the upper part of the building.

Sweeney also presented a historic marker designating the birthplace of William O. Stoddard, assistant personal secretary to Abraham Lincoln, who was born at 5 Albany Street in the Village. The Village and Town had previously agreed to split the cost of the marker. Sweeney reported that he had been turned down for a grant to pay that cost. Mike Galeotti, of the Village Street Department, has agreed to install the sign prior to September 24th. On that day, the anniversary of Stoddard's birth, Sweeney suggested that the Village Mayor, Mike McDermott, and the Town Supervisor, Fred Forbes, pose with the new sign for a photo op for the "Cortland Standard" in order to unveil the new historic marker. It was proposed that they do so on Thursday, September 24th, at 11:00 a.m.

There was some discussion about the Village Historian's group which is leasing the vacant office space next to the newly renovated Key Bank in order to display Homer objects and photos that have been donated to them. Town Board members had no objections to Sweeney's participation in that group.

The Town Board thanked Town Historian Sweeney for all his hard work.

NEW BUSINESS

Elevator maintenance contract – Supervisor Forbes said that he is waiting to receive a quote from another company for the annual maintenance on the Town's lift. Victory Lift's quote is for \$245 per inspection which is twice a year. On motion by Supervisor Forbes, seconded by Councilman Weddle and carried unanimously: **RESOLVED: that Supervisor Forbes be authorized to sign a contract for the annual maintenance of the Town Hall elevator with whichever company is less expensive .**

After-fire inspections – Supervisor Forbes has a couple of names of individuals who may be interested in doing the after-fire inspections which were formerly done by the late Douglas Staley. He said that he hoped to have a definite appointment for the next meeting.

2010 Town Budget – Forbes said that he would be working on a budget proposal for the next Town Board meeting scheduled for Wednesday, October 7th. He said that he would schedule a budget workshop in October.

Use of Senior Center – There was some discussion about what groups to allow to use the Senior Center after the CNY Horse Club asked to use it for their meetings. The Board members delayed any decision on the request until they were able to discuss it with Attorney Pat Snyder.

County-wide wind energy committee – Supervisor Forbes said that he has asked Larry Jones to serve on the committee on behalf of the Town of Homer.

Audit of the Town Court books – Councilman Kevin Williams said that he and Councilman Young would be auditing the records of the Town Court after the Labor Day holiday.

Board of Review Appointments – On motion by Councilman Warren, seconded by Councilman Williams and carried unanimously: **RESOLVED: that Leclar Dennis be re-appointed to a five year term on the Town of Homer Board of Assessment Review, and that Steven Triolo be appointed to a five year term, replacing Hugh Riehlman, on the Board of Assessment Review.**

There was some discussion about having an alternate member trained to serve if someone else was unable to do so. Councilman Young offered to check with another Town resident to see if he would be interested.

Just Dandy assessment review case – Supervisor Forbes said that he has learned that the majority of assessment review cases get settled out of court. However, in the event this case does not get settled, the Town is responsible for hiring an appraiser to do a formal appraisal of the property. After much discussion it was decided to ask for some quotes from appraisers as to how much it might cost if the need arises for a formal appraisal.

Assessment Re-valuation for 2011 – Forbes said that the County Real Property Tax Services Office has agreed to hire data collectors to update the Town's assessment records in 2010. He reminded the Board that they had authorized a one-year moratorium on doing a re-valuation in order to allow time for the data to be collected.

FARMLAND PROTECTION COMMITTEE

Councilman Young reported that the committee is just getting off the ground and will be holding a public hearing in the Town Hall Senior Center on Monday, November 16th.

HOMER-SCOTT CONSOLIDATION COMMITTEE

Supervisor Forbes reported on the meetings held to date including one held in August at which many Scott residents voiced their concerns and fears about a possible consolidation. The committee has decided to have Accountant Colin Cahill randomly select 200 voters from the 700 voters in the Town of Scott to survey as to whether or not they want the committee to continue to investigate whether or not to combine the two towns.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:00 p.m.

Anita W. Jebbett
Town Clerk