

The regular meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Homer held on Wednesday, December 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
Patrick M. Snyder, Attorney for the Town
John R. Phelps, Highway Superintendent
Anita W. Jebbett, Town Clerk

Supervisor Forbes led those present in the pledge of allegiance.

MINUTES

The minutes of the November 4th regular meeting were approved as presented, on motion by Councilman Young, seconded by Councilman Weddle 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 November.
2. The Dog Control Officer's report for the month of November.
3. The Code Enforcement Officer's report of all building permits issued in November.

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 #294 through #326 totaling \$53,109.18 be approved for payment.**

Highway bills were approved as audited on motion by Councilman Warren, seconded by Councilman Weddle and carried unanimously: **RESOLVED: that Highway vouchers #214 through #240 totaling \$36,317.69 be approved for payment.**

OLD BUSINESS

Health Insurance Changes – Supervisor Forbes reported that the health insurance plan covering Medicare-eligible employees will be changing providers from Health Net to MVP and will increase from \$172 (including dental coverage) to \$217 for an individual plan per month.

Forbes said that if the Town had kept its original policy the monthly fees would be \$531 for an individual plan, \$1200 for a two-person plan, and \$1477 for a family plan.

After-Fire Inspector Appointment – Attorney Snyder is to contact the Village who employs Mike Anderson as a part-time employee to do their after-fire inspections and will have information at the next meeting.

NYS Community Development Block Grant – Supervisor Forbes said that Thoma Development Consultants had contacted the Town Office to see if the Town would again be interested in applying for a housing rehabilitation grant. Board members agreed that

they had tried five times for the grant and not received it, and they were not willing to spend money to try again.

Elevator Maintenance – Supervisor Forbes said that after months of effort he had not been successful at getting Accessibility Solutions to give him a quote for the semi-annual inspection of the Town’s lift.

On motion by Councilman Warren, seconded by Councilman Young and carried unanimously: **RESOLVED: that the Town hereby accepts the quote from Victory Lifts for the semi-annual inspection of the Town’s lift at \$248 per inspection, for a period of three years.**

NEW BUSINESS

Councilman Williams reported that he had been looking into a complaint from the Village that their Police Department does not share in the money generated by the Homer Town Court. They are looking to place computers in the patrol cars to generate tickets electronically, and are asking the Town to contribute towards that goal. There was much discussion. Councilman Williams was asked to look into the matter further and report back at the next meeting.

HIGHWAY SUPERINTENDENT

Highway Superintendent John Phelps reported that the Hights Gulf Road Bridge had been “red-tagged” by the State of New York following an inspection, due to scale on some of the beams. An engineering firm contracted by the Cortland County Highway Department prepared a Level 1 Load Rating report for the Hights Gulf Road Bridge at a cost of \$1,800. The result is that Phelps will need to post the Bridge for a maximum weight limit of 18 ton.

The contract with the Cortland County Highway Department for plowing additional roads (Health Camp Road and East Homer-Baltimore Road) has been signed by the Town and sent to the County for their signature. Phelps said that they had done a “test run” to work out the new snow plowing routes. He has purchased more sand to provide for the additional roads.

Superintendent Phelps said that he is working on completing the State’s Highway Inventory form. He is also looking into some new changes in labeling the fuel tanks having to do with the addition of ethanol to some fuel.

Chuck Hopkins, who has been out since March on Worker’s Compensation due to a shoulder injured in a fall, will be returning to work on December 7th.

ATTORNEY FOR THE TOWN

Attorney Pat Snyder reported that he had sent the proposed road protection law to the Association of Towns for them to review.

A public hearing on the proposed Flood Plain Law will be re-scheduled for the January Town Board meeting to be held on Wednesday, January 6th, at 7:15 p.m.

There was some discussion about the controversy involving drilling for gas in the Marcellus shale. Attorney Snyder suggested that the Town should be able to regulate the location of the drilling, but not the operation of the drilling.

On motion by Councilman Young, seconded by Councilman Weddle and carried unanimously: **RESOLVED: that Attorney Snyder be authorized on behalf of the Town Board to write a letter to the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation during the comment period on the Environmental Impact Statement for shale gas well drilling, suggesting that Towns be allowed to regulate the location of shale gas wells.**

BID OPENING

Supervisor Forbes reported on the opening of the bids for the Town's Exterior Rehabilitation Project, which involves the repair of the masonry and the windows. The bids ranged from \$223,000 to \$396,000 for the main part of the bid. Jon Carnes from Crawford & Stearns will be sorting through the bids and the alternates before the Town can award the bid.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

On motion by Supervisor Forbes, seconded by Councilman Warren and carried unanimously, the Town Board went into an executive session at 9:15 p.m. in order to discuss a contractual agreement.

On motion by Councilman Warren, seconded by Councilman Young and carried unanimously, the Board voted to adjourn the executive session and the regular meeting at 9:40 p.m.

Anita W. Jebbett
Town Clerk