

Special Meeting
October 20, 2010

A special meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Homer held on Wednesday, October 20, 2010, in the board room of the Town Hall Building was called to order by Supervisor Frederick J. Forbes at 7:00 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

Scott Crysler, Project Foreman, Diamond & Thiel Construction
Gary Shiffer, Homer Town Justice
Bonnie Johnson, Budget Assistant

Supervisor Forbes led those present in the pledge of allegiance.

Justice Court Grant Application – Justice Gary Shiffer explained that they had the opportunity again this year to apply for a grant from the New York State Court System. In the past they have received funding for podiums, court room seating, and computer equipment. This year they are hoping to receive funding for a new copier.

On motion by Councilman Young, seconded by Councilman Williams and carried unanimously: **RESOLVED: That the Homer Town Board hereby approves the 2010 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.**

Town Hall Exterior Renovation Project – Scott Crysler from Diamond & Thiel Construction, the general contractor, was present to explain the current status of the project. He explained that the project had been delayed by the masonry subcontractor falling behind on his schedule and that this has put Diamond & Thiel and the Town in a situation in which the coming winter weather may interfere with the completion of the project. Crysler said that the masonry subcontractor did start their work this week and have made the first delivery of the blocks, with the second delivery scheduled for next week. He said that their first priority would be to complete the south portico and the entrance ramp to the Town Court and Senior Center.

There was much discussion about whether or not to proceed with the masonry work or wait until spring. It was the consensus of the Town Board that the masonry contractor go ahead and get as much done as possible before the weather gets too cold.

Project Foreman Crysler said that they were waiting on the masonry work before putting on the storm windows. The storm windows will be ordered to match the windows with a white exterior frame and a black interior. The Senior Center will get a new door for the south entrance which will be black on the exterior and wood on the inside.

Crysler said that he is waiting on a decision about the interior window colors. They will be painted during non-working hours and shrink-wrap will be applied to hold in heat until the storm windows are able to be installed. He assured the Board that any additional costs resulting from the delay of the masonry work will be the responsibility of the masonry contractor, Lupini Construction.

Crysler strongly recommended applying a sealant when the work was complete. Because it would not seal properly if applied during cold weather, it was agreed to apply it in the spring.

Board members thanked him for coming to the meeting.

Dormitory Authority Grant - Supervisor Forbes said that the \$100,000 grant from the State of New York has not yet been received. He said that he would recommend that the Town take out a short-term note for that amount if it is not received prior to the completion of the project.

Dog Licensing Local Law – Town Clerk Jebbett described some minor additions to the proposed dog licensing local law. A public hearing on the local law was scheduled for 7:15 p.m. on Wednesday, November 3rd, 2010, prior to the next regular Town Board meeting.

Jebbett proposed that for 2011 the current dog licensing fees remain the same. She explained that the Town will receive a larger share of that dog licensing fee and that after a year of experience having taken over dog licensing for the State, she will have a better idea if and how much to raise the dog license fees.

On motion by Councilman Young, seconded by Councilman Weddle and carried unanimously, RESOLVED: **that as of January 1st, 2011, the Town of Homer dog licensing fees will remain at the current level as follows:**

\$7.50 for spayed/neutered dog licenses, of which \$1.00 is a State mandated fee for population control,
\$15.50 for unspayed/unneutered dogs, of which \$3.00 is a State mandated fee, and
\$25.00 for a purebred license for 1 to 10 dogs, and
\$50.00 for a purebred license for 11 to 20 dogs, in addition to the State mandated fees as previously stated, and
\$5.00 in addition to the license fee for an enumeration.

2011 Town Budget – Supervisor Forbes said that there was virtually no increase in the overall Town Budget from 2010.

Justice Shiffer said that he appreciated the continued support and cooperation of the Homer Town Board. Board members agreed to raise the Court Clerk's salary as per Shiffer's request.

Forbes explained that because of the on-going data collection/assessment update project, he plans to encumber funds budgeted this year for the assessor to apply to next year when that project will be complete.

The Town Board agreed to a small increase for the Deputy Town Clerk as the issuing of dog renewal notices, previously done by the State, will have to be issued by the Town Clerk's Office, increasing the number of hours that the Deputy will have to work.

The Board also agreed to a small increase for the Town Attorney who besides his other duties has been providing the required training for the Town's Planning and Zoning Board members.

The Board agreed that the Highway Superintendent was doing an excellent job for the Town and had saved the Town money. Supervisor Forbes said that there was room in the Highway Fund for a small raise for the Highway employees. No action was taken.

Councilman Williams said that he did not agree to any other pay increases. The Library and the Village Recreation line items were held to their current level.

There was no change in the tax rate from the budget adopted as the preliminary budget.

The special meeting was adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

Anita W. Jebbett
Town Clerk