

Regular Meeting
February 2, 2011

The regular meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Homer held in the board room of the Town Hall Building on Wednesday, February 2, 2011, 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

Supervisor Forbes led those present in the pledge of allegiance.

MINUTES

The minutes of the January 5th organizational meeting were approved as presented, on motion by Councilman Weddle, 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 January.
2. The Dog Control Officer's monthly report of all activities for January.
3. The Code Enforcement Officer's monthly report of all building permits issued for January.

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 #6 through #38 totaling \$19,639.34 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 #2 through #24 totaling \$15,562.03 be approved for payment.**

NEW BUSINESS

Town assessment reval project - Board members received copies of a status report on the progress of the 2011 Annual Reappraisal Project for the Town of Homer from the New York State Office of Real Property Tax Services. Town Assessor David Briggs has been working on the revaluation and has filed an application to qualify for the Cyclical Reassessment Plan Aid available from the State.

Farmland Protection Plan – Supervisor Forbes reported on the receipt of a letter from the American Farmland Trust asking the Town to pass a resolution requesting that the State restore funding cut from the Farmland Protection budget. Board members were hopeful that the funding budgeted for the Town's joint Farmland Protection Plan would be received.

Notice of Open House – Supervisor Forbes reported receiving notice of an Open House given by newly-elected Congressional Representative Richard Hanna at his new Cortland Office on Tompkins Street. All interested Town Board members were invited to attend.

Problems with Village Office – Town Board members agreed with Supervisor Forbes that the Village should not be charged for cleaning services at this time, although they should continue to pay rent until they have completely moved out of the building.

Attorney Snyder reminded the Board that the written lease agreement between the Town and the Village for use of the building is still in effect.

Forbes appointed Councilman Warren and Councilman Williams as a committee to work with the Village Board to facilitate the Village's plans to vacate the Town Hall.

All four Village Office employees and the Village Mayor will be deposed on March 3rd by the attorneys for the Town's insurance company due to the Notice of Claim that they have filed against the Town. It was suggested that the committee wait until after that date to consult with the Village Board.

Extension of time to collect taxes – On motion by Supervisor Forbes, seconded by Councilman Young and carried unanimously: **RESOLVED: that the Town hereby requests that the Cortland County Treasurer grant them an extension of time until June 1st, 2011, for the collection of taxes.**

Health Savings Account – Board members asked Supervisor Forbes to check further into Key Bank's offer to provide health savings accounts to the Town without charging the fees that are currently being charged by HSA Bank in Sheboygan, Wisconsin.

ATTORNEY FOR THE TOWN

Attorney Pat Snyder reported on the current status of the assessment lawsuit against the Town of Homer brought by the Henkel Corporation concerning its properties on James Street in the Village. There was much discussion of the matter.

On motion by Councilman Warren, seconded by Supervisor Forbes and carried unanimously: **RESOLVED: that the Town Board hereby requests proposals for conducting an informal appraisal of the Henkel properties in the Village.**

Attorney Snyder said that the appraisal would have to be completed by March 4th.

The regular meeting was adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

Anita W. Jebbett
Town Clerk