

Regular Meeting
April 6, 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, April 6th, 2011, was called to order by Supervisor Frederick J. Forbes at 7:50 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

OTHERS PRESENT

Ed Finkbeiner, reporter, "The Homer News"

Supervisor Forbes led those present in the pledge of allegiance.

MINUTES

The minutes of the March 2nd regular meeting were approved as presented, on motion by Councilman Williams, 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 March.
2. The Dog Control Officer's monthly report of all activities for March.
3. The Code Enforcement Officer's monthly report of all building permits issued for March.
4. The Supervisor's monthly report of all cash receipts and disbursements for January and February.

ANNUAL REPORTS

Presented for audit by the Board was:

1. The Town Supervisor's Annual Financial Report for the fiscal year 2010 which has been submitted to the NYS Comptroller's Office.

BILLS TO BE PAID

General bills were approved as audited on motion by Councilman Young, seconded by Councilman Williams and carried unanimously: **RESOLVED: that General vouchers #68 through #99 totaling \$32,008.86 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 #46 through #64 totaling \$25,475.34 be approved for payment.**

NEW BUSINESS

Supervisor Forbes read a thank-you note from Mariba Wright, on behalf of the William Wright family, for the certificate sent to her in tribute to former Town Supervisor William H. Wright who passed away back in November.

Amnesty week – Supervisor Forbes read a notice from the County stating that amnesty week this spring will be the week of May 23rd through May 27th.

Town Hall Award - The Homer Town Board was recently awarded a “TLC” or “Tender Loving Care Award” from the Preservation Association of Central New York for maintaining an exceptionally high standard of care for the historic Town Hall built in 1908. The Award will be presented on Thursday, May 12th, at 7:00 p.m. in the CNY Community Foundation’s Philanthropy Center Ballroom located on East Fayette Street. Jon Carnes of Crawford & Stearns, Architects, had submitted the application for the award.

Snowmobile trail complaint - Supervisor Forbes said that he would be contacting Snowmobile Club President Doug Stafford prior to the May meeting.

Court Grant awarded – Forbes reported that the Town Justice Court has received a \$4,300 grant from the State of New York Court Administration towards the purchase of a new copier.

National Grid energy savings proposals - On motion by Councilman Warren, seconded by Councilman Weddle and carried unanimously: **RESOLVED: that the contracts with National Grid’s SmartWatt Energy Program to renovate the lighting in the Town Hall and the Town Highway Garage to newer, energy-saving fixtures, hereby be accepted, with additional recommendations by Electrician Lewis Heath.**

Cortland County snowplowing contract – Supervisor Forbes read a request from the Cortland County Highway Superintendent, Donald Chambers, for a five-year contract for the plowing of certain County highways by the Town. The Town Board agreed that a five-year contract is preferable for budgeting purposes, but suggested the details of the “annual percentage escalator” need to be worked out by Highway Superintendent John Phelps and Town Attorney Snyder to accommodate increases in fuel and product prices. There was discussion about how the various municipalities could cooperate better on snow and ice removal.

New broadband company – Several Board members had attended the meeting held by New Visions, a new fiber-optic cable company hoping to create interest in the Homer area in their offer of Blink, an alternative to Time-Warner for internet/phone/TV service.

H.S.A.’s or Health Savings Accounts – Councilman Williams reported that he has looked into alternatives for the Town’s HSA funds currently deposited in Webster Bank, or HSA Bank, in Sheboygan, Wisconsin. He has found that other banks, especially Adirondack Trust in Saratoga Springs, offer a better interest rate. The Town Board will discuss the issue again at the May meeting.

Village Recreation Program contract – On motion by Councilman Williams, seconded by Councilman Young and carried unanimously: **RESOLVED: that Supervisor Forbes be authorized to sign the contract with the Village of Homer for the support of their 2011 recreation programs, provided that the date for payment by the Town be changed from March 1st to June 1st, and the phrase “Town of Cortlandville” be changed to “Town of Homer”.**

Village complaint re Town Hall air quality - Supervisor Forbes reported that he, Councilman Warren and Town Clerk Jebbett had made a trip to the NYS Office Building in Binghamton to testify in the worker’s compensation case of Village Clerk LouAnne Randall. The judge in the matter ran out of time before they could testify so the hearing was re-scheduled for Wednesday, May 11th, at 1:00 p.m.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

On motion by Supervisor Forbes, seconded by Councilman Warren and carried unanimously, **it was resolved to enter into an executive session at 9:10 p.m. in order to discuss the Henkel assessment lawsuit, a matter involving litigation.**

On motion by Supervisor Forbes, seconded by Councilman Young and carried unanimously, **the executive session was adjourned at 9:30 p.m.**

NEW BUSINESS, CONTINUED

Use of Town Hall Building - There was discussion about the Village's request to continue to utilize storage space at the Town Hall and their suggestion that the flagpole had been originally purchased by the Village. Councilman Warren and Supervisor Forbes (in place of Councilman Williams who will be out of town) agreed to schedule a meeting with new Village Mayor Genevieve Suits to discuss these and other matters of mutual concern.

Resolution supporting new County radio system – On motion by Councilman Young, seconded by Councilman Warren and carried unanimously: **RESOLVED: WHEREAS, the Cortland County Legislature did on February 15, 2011, give conceptual approval to develop and construct an interoperable emergency communications system for voice and data radio communication services constituting a digital trunked land mobile radio system, including all related construction, renovations, site improvements, furnishings, fixtures and equipment required for such purposes, environmental studies, architectural, legal and engineering fees, and all other necessary costs incidental to such work in and for the County of Cortland, New York, NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved that the Town Board of the Town of Homer does fully support and endorse the Cortland County Interoperable Emergency Communications System Project.**

ATTORNEY FOR THE TOWN

Attorney Patrick Snyder reported that he had done some research on the snowmobile trail complaint and found that control of such trail falls completely under the New York State Department of Parks & Recreation and that the Town has no decision-making ability in such matters.

Snyder also reported on two matters being considered by the Town's Zoning Board of Appeals, a use variance for property on Route 90 owned by Lisa Thomas, and a special permit to place a single-wide trailer on property on West Scott Road owned by James and Sherry Foster.

Attorney Snyder also reported that he represented the Town at a dangerous dog hearing involving David Hoermann and Theresa Pilcher Villanova.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:15 p.m.

Anita W. Jebbett
Town Clerk