

Special Meeting  
April 6, 2011

A special meeting of the Homer Fire District Commissioners and the Village of Homer Fire Department Chiefs to discuss a policy whereby the Town would issue fireworks permits, held by the Town Board of the Town of Homer on Wednesday, April 6<sup>th</sup>, 2011, in the board room of the Town Hall Building, was called to order by Supervisor Frederick J. Forbes at 7:10 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

Mason Angell, Homer Fire District Commissioner  
Stephen Butts, Homer Fire District Commissioner  
Joseph Gilbert, Homer Fire District Commissioner  
Matthew Riter, Homer Fire District Commissioner  
Mahlon Irish, Jr. – Homer Fire Chief  
Robert Johnson – Assistant Homer Fire Chief

Permits for Display of Fireworks - Supervisor Forbes said that the main purpose of the special meeting was to bring together the Homer Fire Chiefs with the Homer Fire District Commissioners to discuss the issue of establishing a policy whereby the Town of Homer can issue permits for fireworks displays.

Attorney Snyder explained that the meeting was scheduled after a visit to the Town Clerk's Office by a representative from the New York State Labor Department which is charged with administering and enforcing a recent change in State law requiring Towns to issue fireworks permits. Permits must be issued for private displays, as well as for public displays, and the person in charge of the fireworks display must now have state certification. Snyder had drafted a resolution authorizing the Fire Department to issue the fireworks permits.

After much discussion, Fire Chief Mahlon Irish said that because the Fire Department is owned by the Village of Homer and not the Town, they would have no legal authority to issue the permits or to collect any fees. He would prefer that the Town's Code Enforcement Officer issue the permit and collect any fees, and that the Fire Department could review the technical aspects of the permit application. Irish and Assistant Chief Johnson said that they were unaware of any fireworks displays within the Village limits. All displays, such as that for Winter Fest, are held on property outside the Village in the Town of Homer.

Fire District Commissioner Butts suggested that having the Village Fire Department review the technical aspects of any fireworks permits be included in a new Fire District contract which is currently in the works. Butts said that the new regulations are a good thing and should improve safety at such events.

Attorney Snyder agreed to re-work the proposed resolution in order to have the Code Enforcement Officer issue the fireworks permits and collect any fees. He will send a copy to the Homer Fire Chiefs for their approval prior to the Town Board's approval of the policy at the May meeting.

Resolution supporting new County radio system – Fire Chief Irish presented a resolution in support of the Cortland County Interoperable Emergency Communications System Project, which he would like the Town to adopt. He said that they are hoping to obtain a grant to help offset the cost of the radio system.

Dry hydrants – Chief Irish also discussed the matter of installing dry hydrants at access points to the East branch of the Tioughnioga River to aid with fire-fighting on that side of the Town. He said that the Truxton Fire Department has placed a dry hydrant at Youngs Crossing on the north edge of the Town of Homer, and Suit-Kote Corp has agreed to place hydrants at Lorings Crossing in Cortlandville. The Homer Fire Department would like to have one placed at East Homer Crossing and one at East River Crossing. Irish asked if the Town Highway Department would be willing to install them if he completes the necessary paperwork and obtains permission from the DEC. Irish said that there is also a dry hydrant at the Little York dam, and one on Factory Brook off Creal Road.

Knox box – Councilman Williams and Fire Chief Irish discussed placing a Knox box on the Town Hall in case of an emergency.

The Town Board thanked all the officials for attending the meeting and for their cooperation and input. The special meeting was adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

Anita W. Jebbett  
Town Clerk