

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

Paul Burhans, Dog Control Officer
Bonnie Johnson, Budget Assistant
Mike Park, County Legislator
Newell Willcox, County Legislator
Steve Hughes, reporter, Cortland Standard

TOWN BUDGET FOR 2012

Supervisor Forbes stated that the purpose of the earlier meeting time was to review the budget figures for 2012 and to make any necessary corrections or changes.

Councilman Young reported that he and Councilman Weddle had met with Highway Superintendent Phelps to review the salaries of the Town Highway employees. They had looked at each employee's job record and length of employment and determined wage increases for each. Although less than what the employees had asked for, Young and Weddle felt that their proposed increases were nonetheless substantial, with an average increase of around \$1.18 per hour. After some discussion it was decided to allow an extra \$.10 per hour increase for the Deputy Highway Superintendent.

Supervisor Forbes said that he had already allowed for wage increases within the highway budget and that no budget adjustments need to be made to accommodate the raises.

On motion by Councilman Young, seconded by Supervisor Forbes and carried unanimously: **RESOLVED: that the Town Board hereby accepts the proposed increases in the hourly wages of the Town of Homer Highway employees of around \$1.18 per hour with the Deputy Highway Superintendent getting an extra \$.10 per hour.**

Councilman Warren reported that he and Councilman Williams had met with Village of Homer Recreation Director Jeff Lewis to discuss the Village request for the Town's contribution to their 2012 programs. Lewis has agreed not to charge the extra \$10 per registration for Town of Homer residents that they had charged last year when the Town did not contribute the requested amount. Warren and Williams recommended increasing the amount budgeted for the Village programs from \$28,000 to the requested amount, \$28,232. There was some discussion about a discrepancy in Lewis's figures, and it was decided that the Town would pay less if that budget item is found to be in error.

On motion by Councilman Williams, seconded by Councilman Warren and carried unanimously: **RESOLVED: that the Town Board hereby agrees to budget \$28,232 for the Town's share of the Village of Homer recreation programs.**

Following some discussion, it was moved by Supervisor Forbes, seconded by Councilman Weddle and carried unanimously: **RESOLVED: that Town Clerk Jebbett receive a \$500 increase in salary for 2012.**

Town Clerk Jebbett reported that she is considering changing the office hours of the Town Clerk's Office from 9 a.m. to noon, and 1:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. Mondays through Fridays, to 8:30 a.m. to noon, Mondays through Fridays, and 1:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. Mondays through Thursdays. This matter may be brought up again at the December meeting.

The regular meeting was adjourned at 7:35 p.m. in order to hold a public hearing.

Anita W. Jebbett
Town Clerk

Public Hearing
November 2, 2011

The public hearing on the 2012 Town of Homer Budget held in the board room of the Town Hall Building on Wednesday, November 2nd, 2011, was called to order at 7:36 p.m. by Town Supervisor Frederick J. Forbes.

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

Paul Burhans, Dog Control Officer
Bonnie Johnson, Budget Assistant
Mike Park, Cortland County Legislator
Newell Willcox, Cortland County Legislator
Ed Finkbeiner, reporter, The Homer News
Steve Hughes, reporter, Cortland Standard

Attorney Patrick Snyder read the legal notice regarding the public hearing on the 2012 Town Budget (attached).

Supervisor Forbes explained that the Town would be raising the same amount of taxes as they had in 2011. The tax rate would be lower due to the recent revaluation of assessments in the Town. He said that the Town tax rate for Village residents would be \$1.28 per thousand, and for the Town residents a combined rate of \$1.28 plus the fire tax rate of \$.42 for a total tax rate of \$1.70 per thousand.

As there were no further questions or comments, the public hearing was adjourned at 7:39 p.m.

Anita W. Jebbett
Town Clerk

The regular meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Homer was re-convened by Supervisor Frederick J. Forbes at 7:40 p.m. in the board room of the Town Hall Building.

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

Paul Burhans, Dog Control Officer
Mahlon Irish, Jr., Homer Fire Chief
Bonnie Johnson, Budget Assistant
Mike Park, Cortland County Legislator
Martin Sweeney, Town Historian
Newell Willcox, Cortland County Legislator
Ed Finkbeiner, reporter, The Homer News
Steve Hughes, reporter, Cortland Standard

Supervisor Forbes led those present in the pledge of allegiance.

2012 TOWN BUDGET

On motion by Supervisor Forbes, seconded by Councilman Warren and carried unanimously: **RESOLVED: that the 2012 Town Budget hereby be adopted as amended – the Town Clerk is to receive a \$500 increase in her salary, the Youth Recreation account is to be increased by \$232 to \$28,232, and that the Highway employees are to receive wage increases of around \$1.18 per hour – and that the Town tax rates remain at \$1.28 per thousand for Village of Homer residents and \$1.70 per thousand for Town residents outside of the Village.**

COUNTY LEGISLATORS

County Legislators Mike Park and Newell Willcox were present to update the Town Board on several important County issues. They explained how the Legislature was deadlocked on the various proposals to improve the viability of the County Landfill and how that inaction is costing the County more money. Both Willcox and Park agreed that having the JM Murray Center take over the County Recycling Center was a move in the right direction. County Legislator Park also explained why they had decided to cut the salary of the County Treasurer after redefining the job duties of that position.

Town Board members thanked them for coming to the meeting and updating them on County matters.

TOWN HISTORIAN

Town Historian Martin Sweeney presented his annual report for 2011, explaining the many activities that he was involved with over the course of the year. Homer's connections to Abraham Lincoln were showcased over the year with the publication of an article written by Sweeney on Carpenter, Stoddard and DeVoe in *The Lincoln Forum Bulletin* and the publication of Sweeney's book on the same topic, *Lincoln's Gift from Homer, New York: A Painter, an Editor and a Detective*, a copy of which was presented

to the Town Board at the meeting. Also, several Lincoln historians have given presentations in Homer over the past year.

Town Historian Sweeney also reported on the recent celebration of the Cardiff Giant hoax and its connection to Homer's David Hannum (on whom the fictional David Harum was based).

He brought with him a couple of items recently added to the Town's archives – a lobster "bib" from Dasher Cox's, a former local restaurant, and a David Harum cigar box, among other items.

Sweeney suggested that a sign directing potential visitors to the historic downtown area of the Village be placed at the Route 41 entrance. Supervisor Forbes suggested that the Cortland County Convention & Visitors Bureau be contacted for help with a sign.

NEW BUSINESS

Installation of dry hydrants – Homer Fire Chief Mahlon Irish, Jr., was present to request that the Highway Department provide the labor and equipment to install two new dry hydrants that the Homer Town Fire District has agreed to pay for. They will be placed in the Town right-of-way at East River Crossing and at East Homer Crossing and will be used for filling tanker trucks to fight fires in that vicinity. Irish said that he would be responsible for obtaining the necessary permits from the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation for the work which would take place in 2012. He was also looking into the possibility of installing a dry hydrant near the intersection of West Scott Road and NYS Route 41 on the other side of the town. He said that the Village Fire Department and the Homer Town Fire District had agreed on a five-year contract. He reminded the Board that they will need to hold a joint public hearing of the Town Board and the Fire District at the December meeting in order to approve the new contract.

The Town Board agreed that the Highway Department would provide the labor and equipment to install the dry hydrants.

County Sheriff's Department – Supervisor Forbes said that he had received a letter from Mark Helms of the Cortland County Sheriff's Department thanking the Board for allowing him to speak at the last meeting. Helms said that the County Legislature had restored some of the funding to the Sheriff's Department 2012 budget.

Town Hall Renovation Grant – Supervisor Forbes reported that the grant documents for the \$100,000 Dormitory Authority grant for the renovations to the Homer Town Hall had been received, signed, and mailed back to the State.

Village Worker's Compensation claim - Forbes reported that there was no word of a decision on the one remaining worker's compensation claim made by a Village employee.

Court Audit – Councilman Williams reported that he and Councilman Young had completed an annual audit of the Homer Town Court and found everything to be in excellent order.

On motion by Councilman Williams, seconded by Councilman Young and carried unanimously: **RESOLVED: WHEREAS, Section 2019-a of the Uniform Justice Court Act requires that Town Boards provide an annual audit of the Town Justice Court's records and dockets; and**

WHEREAS, Town Board members Williams and Young performed such an audit of the 2010 Town of Homer court records on October 27th, 2011, using a checklist and documentation provided by the New York State Comptroller's Office; and

WHEREAS, Board members Williams and Young found all records to be clear, concise, and accurate; that all reports and disbursements were made on a timely basis, that the checkbooks were reconciled on a timely basis, and that cooperation by the Town Justice and Court Clerk was found to be excellent;

WHEREAS, the following items were noted:

1. The addition of credit card sales has facilitated the need for additional bank information to be provided in the receipt book. Specifically, the weekly revenue

(deposit) total needs to separate the credit card total by settlement amounts. Credit card settlements are not deposited with the weekly bank deposit, but rather they are received electronically in the following 72 hours.

2. The bail account has had an unclaimed and forfeited bail amount in it for several years. This bail has been carried forward from prior Justice Administrations, and all attempts to reconcile and return bail have been unsuccessful.

NOW, BE IT RECOMMENDED THAT the Court Clerk separate the weekly credit card settlement amounts and note this in the receipt book, and remove the unclaimed bail amounts and forward to the Town of Homer to be considered unclaimed amounts.

Elevator repairs – Supervisor Forbes reported that Victory Lifts has made two more service calls to repair the faulty safety mechanism that had caused problems in the past. The Town did not receive bills for those two service calls.

Board of Assessment Review members – On motion by Councilman Williams, seconded by Councilman Young and carried unanimously: **RESOLVED: that Stuart Young be re-appointed to a five-year term on the Town of Homer Board of Assessment Review, and that Hugh Riehlman be re-appointed to a one-year term as a temporary member of that same board.**

Seasonal Roads – On motion by Councilman Young, seconded by Councilman Weddle and carried unanimously: **RESOLVED: that Town of Homer Highway Superintendent John R. Phelps has designated certain Town highways and portions of Town highways as seasonal limited use highways and is hereby authorized by the Homer Town Board to temporarily discontinue snow and ice removal and maintenance on those Town highways and portions thereof from December 1st, 2011, to April 1st, 2012 as follows:**

Foster Road	.50 miles
Burhans Road	.50 miles
Wolf Road	.25 miles
Grange Road	.75 mile from Rice Road to Brake Hill Road
Brake Hill Road	.50 miles
Rice Road	.50 miles
Carroway Hill Rd	.25 miles
McDonald Road	.25 miles
Sessions Hill Rd	2.50 miles
Vern King Road	entire length
Maxson Road	1.70 miles from Sessions Hill
Forbes Road	.80 miles
Chapman Road	1.00 miles
Searls Road	.50 miles
Dillon Road	.25 miles

ATTORNEY FOR THE TOWN

Attorney Patrick Snyder reported on the latest correspondence regarding the assessment lawsuits stemming from the recent revaluation of the Town's assessed values. He said that it appears the Homer School District is also prepared to contest the Donald L. Barber Funeral Home, LLC, filing to have its assessment reduced. A pre-trial conference on the Barry Ryan claim is scheduled for December 15th. Another meeting of representatives from the School District, the Village and the County was discussed.

Snyder said that the Code Enforcement Officer has issued a summons to property owners on West Scott Road who are building without a permit.

MINUTES

The minutes of the October 5th regular meeting were approved as presented, on motion by Councilman Warren, 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 October.
2. The Code Enforcement Officer's monthly report of all building permits for October.
3. The Supervisor's report of all cash receipts and disbursements for September.
4. The Dog Control Officer's report of all activities for October.

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 #262 through #290 totaling \$18,124.36 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 #189 through #206 totaling \$68,162.80 be approved for payment.**

On motion by Supervisor Forbes, seconded by Councilman Young and carried unanimously: **RESOLVED: that payment be made to Bonnie Johnson in the amount of \$350 for her work on the 2012 Town Budget, and that as voucher #291, it be added to the General abstract for November.**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

Anita W. Jebbett
Town Clerk