

The regular meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Homer held in the board room of the Town Hall Building on Wednesday, December 5, 2012, 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  
John R. Phelps, Highway Superintendent  
Anita W. Jebbett, Town Clerk

OTHERS PRESENT

Bill Chamberlain, Employee Benefits Counselor, Finger Lakes Group  
Gordon Wheelock, Cortland County Legislator  
Donald F. Ferris, reporter, The Homer News

Supervisor Forbes led those present in the pledge of allegiance.

MINUTES

**The minutes of the November 7<sup>th</sup> public hearing and regular meeting were approved as presented,** on motion by Councilman Young, seconded by Councilman Weddle and carried unanimously.

MONTHLY REPORTS

Presented for audit by the Board were:

1. The Supervisor's report of all cash receipts and disbursements for November.
2. The Town Clerk's report of all receipts and disbursements for November.
3. The Code Officer's report of all building permits issued for November.
4. The Dog Control Officer's report of all activities for November.

BILLS TO BE PAID

General bills were approved as audited on motion by Councilman Warren, seconded by Councilman Williams and carried unanimously: **RESOLVED: that General vouchers #278 through #304 totaling \$51,384.43 be approved for payment.**

Highway bills were approved as audited on motion by Councilman Young, seconded by Councilman Weddle and carried unanimously: **RESOLVED: that Highway vouchers #187 through #202 totaling \$56,249.41 be approved for payment.**

On motion by Councilman Warren, seconded by Councilman Weddle and carried unanimously: **RESOLVED: that the Town Clerk be authorized to add \$400 to the postage meter.**

## NEW BUSINESS

Health Insurance Options - Bill Chamberlain of the Finger Lakes Group was present to offer alternatives to the current health insurance coverage being offered by the Town to its employees. Chamberlain compared the current MVP Medicare Advantage Plan to one being offered by Excellus at a lower cost. He also suggested an alternative to Health Savings Accounts called a Health Reimbursement Arrangement which could result in some savings for the Town.

Supervisor Forbes and Board members thanked him for his presentation.

County Legislature - Homer Legislator Gordon Wheelock reported on several matters currently under consideration by the County Legislature. One measure designed to lower the cost of operating the County Landfill is "flow control". This measure would require that all trash and recyclables generated in Cortland County would have to be disposed of in the County Landfill and Recycling Center. Wheelock asked Board members to consider this option and contact him with their opinions. He also reported that the County tax rate for 2013 will remain the same as in 2012.

Public Hearing – Supervisor Forbes read a public hearing notice from the Cortland County Industrial Development Agency (IDA) regarding an application by the New York, Susquehanna and Western Railway Corporation for the renewal of its lease and PILOT (payment in lieu of taxes) plan. The hearing will be held at noon on Friday, December 7<sup>th</sup>. Town Board members had no opposition to the application.

Food Sense of Cortland County – The non-profit organization has asked to use the Senior Center one day each month in order for people to register for their food program. On motion by Councilman Warren, seconded by Councilman Young and carried unanimously: **RESOLVED: that Food Sense of Cortland County is authorized to use the Homer Senior Center for registration one Friday each month starting in January, 2013, at no cost to them.**

## OLD BUSINESS

Interoperable Communications System Agreement - On motion by Councilman Young, seconded by Councilman Warren and carried unanimously: **RESOLVED: that Supervisor Forbes is authorized to sign the Interoperable Communications System Agreement with Cortland County for a term of five years beginning on January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2013.**

## HIGHWAY SUPERINTENDENT

Highway Superintendent John Phelps reported that he has upgraded the plow wing on the truck purchased this year from the Town of Batavia, and is having a new clutch put in the mower tractor.

He said that the bridge work being done by the State on Route 281 should be completed by Christmas. Phelps said that the Town is currently plowing the portion of Route 281 from Cold Brook Road to White Bridge Circle for the State for an exchange of materials.

Phelps said that another plow truck currently owned by the Town of Cazenovia should be ready to be purchased by the Town of Homer early in 2013. He is considering the best way to sell two older trucks and unused V-plows. Other old unused parts have been traded to a dealer in exchange for parts that work on the trucks currently being used.

## ATTORNEY FOR THE TOWN

Attorney Patrick Snyder reported that the wind farm company TCI Renewables has sued the County over the draft environmental impact statement. He said that the County had ruled it inadequate over concern about how the wind towers might affect the

County's new radio system and that a decision on the matter should be forthcoming in a couple of weeks.

Snyder also reported that there has been no further progress on the assessment lawsuit concerning the Barber Funeral Home.

#### NEW BUSINESS, CONTINUED

Health Insurance Options – The proposals for changes to the Town's current health insurance program were discussed. It was the consensus of the Town Board that they will make no changes to the current health care coverage for 2013. Due to the Federal Government's Affordable Care Act the Town Board assumed that changes will need to be made when it goes into effect in 2014.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:20 p.m.

Anita W. Jebbett  
Town Clerk