

The regular meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Homer held on Wednesday, October 7, 2015, in the board room of the Town Hall building was called to order by Supervisor Frederick J. Forbes, Sr., at 7:30 p.m.

PRESENT

Frederick J. Forbes, Sr., 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

Gordon Wheelock, County Legislator
Donald Ferris, reporter, The Homer News
Tyron Heppard, reporter, Cortland Standard

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

MINUTES

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

BILLS TO BE PAID

General bills were approved as audited on motion by Councilman Warren, seconded by Councilman Weddle and carried unanimously: **RESOLVED: that General vouchers #223 through #247 totaling \$49,404.17 be approved for payment.**

Highway bills were approved as audited on motion by Councilman Williams, seconded by Councilman Young and carried unanimously: **RESOLVED: that Highway vouchers #151 through #165 totaling \$96,279.01 be approved for payment.**

NEW BUSINESS

Fiscal stress report – Supervisor Forbes reported receiving the State's report on the Town's 2014 Annual Update Document which shows that the Town is in excellent financial shape.

Justice Court grant application – On motion by Councilman Warren, seconded by Councilman Young and carried unanimously: **RESOLVED:**

That the Homer Town Board hereby approves the 2015 grant application prepared by Town Justice William Foley for assistance from the State of New York Justice Court Assistance Program (JCAP), with the understanding that the funding is being sought to enhance the Homer Justice Court's ability to provide suitable and sufficient service to our community through proper court facilities, automated equipment and necessary supplies for operation.

Mercy Flight request for funding – Supervisor Forbes distributed information from Mercy Flight which provides air medical services for the Central New York area. They will be requesting support from local Towns in the near future.

Tentative budget for 2016 – Supervisor Forbes presented the tentative budget for 2016. He said that he had budgeted \$250,000 for repair/replacement of the Wall Street Bridge. He suggested that the Pine Street Bridge be turned into a walking bridge. Forbes said that he has also added a \$50,000 line item for the remodeling of the Town Hall office space. There was some discussion.

On motion by Councilman Young, seconded by Councilman Warren and carried unanimously:
RESOLVED: that the tentative budget as presented is adopted as the preliminary budget for 2016, with a proposed tax rate of \$1.31 for Village residents and \$1.31 plus a fire tax rate of .42 equaling \$1.73 for Town residents.

A budget workshop was not scheduled. The public hearing on the proposed budget will be held on November 4th.

HIGHWAY SUPERINTENDENT

Highway Superintendent John Phelps reported on his department's activities over the past month, which included flushing out culvert pipes, finishing up the shoulders of roads repaved over the summer, emptying out the cold storage building which will be replaced next month, and mowing roadsides.

Phelps reported that they assisted the State DOT with the Route 90 project by hauling away around 3000 tons of grindings which he will re-use for future road projects. He also reported that they are scheduled to mix the salt and sand for winter use next week.

Phelps is looking into selling two older pickup trucks at auction and purchasing a new, heavier pickup truck off of State bid. Supervisor Forbes asked Councilmen Weddle and Young to look into what is needed along with Superintendent Phelps.

Supervisor Forbes reported that Vicki Van Patten, wife of former employee John Van Patten, thanked the Town Board for their support during her husband's illness.

ATTORNEY FOR THE TOWN

Attorney Patrick Snyder said that he had been contacted by Attorney Matt Neuman regarding the placement of a utility pole in the Little York Cemetery in coordination with a project being undertaken by New Hope View Farm, who he represents. Snyder said that although the Town maintains the cemetery, it does not own it. He suggested that if requested by Attorney Neuman, and with the approval of the Town Board, he could provide a letter stating that the Town Board has no objection to the placement of the utility pole on the cemetery property.

COUNTY LEGISLATOR

County Legislator Gordon Wheelock invited Town Board members to the annual Open House at the Homer Fire Department which was taking place the following evening.

Wheelock reported on activities at the County over the past month. The Little York Dam project is scheduled to be completed this month, and the paving of the County parking lot is now 99% complete. He is on the Budget & Finance Committee which is working on the 2016 budget.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

On motion by Councilman Williams, seconded by Councilman Warren, it was resolved to enter into an executive session to discuss the employment history of a particular employee at 8:40 p.m.

On motion by Councilman Young, seconded by Councilman Warren, the executive session was adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

TOWN HALL RENOVATIONS

Councilman Warren explained that the Town has received two bids for the renovation of the former Village Office space, which includes removal and replacement of walls, painting, and replacement of ceiling tiles- one from contractor Martin Heath, Truxton, for \$15,400, and the other from construction company, Crown Construction, Dryden, for \$50,987.68.

Warren said that one of the reasons for the discrepancy in cost is that Heath owns his own business and has no employees, therefore is not subject to prevailing wage regulations. The Town's procurement policy was discussed and all was found to be in compliance with the policy.

On motion by Supervisor Forbes, seconded by Councilman Warren and carried unanimously:
RESOLVED: that the bid to renovate the former Village Office space be awarded to Martin Heath for \$15,400.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

Anita W. Jebbett
Town Clerk