

The regular meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Homer held on Wednesday, November 4, 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

Martin Sweeney, Town Historian
Mike Park, Councilman-elect
Donald Ferris, reporter, The Homer News

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

MINUTES

The minutes of the October 7th regular meeting, and the October 16th and 23rd special meetings 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 & disbursements for October.
2. The Supervisor's monthly report of all cash receipts & disbursements for September.
3. The Code Enforcement Officer's report of all building permits issued in October.
4. The Dog Control Officer's report of all activities for the month of September.

ANNUAL REPORTS

Presented for audit by the Board was:

1. The Town Historian's annual report of all activities from November 1st, 2014, to November 1st, 2015.

BILLS TO BE PAID

General bills were approved as audited on motion by Councilman Williams, seconded by Councilman Young and carried unanimously: **RESOLVED: that General vouchers #248 through #272 totaling \$24,479.13 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 #166 through #181 totaling \$62,675.75 be approved for payment.**

2016 TOWN BUDGET

On motion by Supervisor Forbes, seconded by Councilman Young and carried unanimously: **RESOLVED: that the revised preliminary budget is hereby adopted as the 2016 Town budget, with the tax rate for Village residents to be \$1.31 per thousand, and for Town residents, \$1.73 per thousand, which includes a fire tax of \$.42 per thousand.**

Supervisor Forbes noted that the increase in the tax rate is \$.01 per thousand over the 2015 rate.

TOWN HALL RENOVATIONS

Councilman Warren reported on the progress of the renovation of the former Village office space into offices for the Assessor. He said that all was going smoothly and that he was pleased with the results so far.

HEALTH INSURANCE CONSORTIUM

Supervisor Forbes reported that he and Councilman Williams will be looking into the possible benefits of joining a regional health insurance consortium. They plan to have more information for a possible special meeting later this month.

AUDIT OF JUSTICE COURT

On motion by Councilman Williams, seconded by Councilman Warren 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 2014 Town of Homer court records on September 28th, 2015, 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 Clerks was found to be excellent; and

That during the audit the following was noted:

- 1) The court has changed the way it handles cash receipts. It has been added to the Court Justice program and is done exclusively on that computer program.**
- 2) Open caseloads were within normal range.**
- 3) The bail account is balanced and the reconciliation is being done by manual entries. The beginning and ending amounts differ from the NYS computer program used to administer the bail, and the difference goes back through several Justice tenures (and has been noted prior).**

NOW BE IT RESOLVED, that Justice Foley contact Court Administration and find out if bail must be reconciled and kept on the NYS court program, and if so, request computer software technical instruction to reset the forwarding balances from prior years. If the Justice Court Administration deems this change unnecessary, then no change is recommended.

TOWN HISTORIAN'S REPORT

Town Historian Martin Sweeney presented the annual report on his activities over the past year. He said that it is still an uphill battle to obtain funding for the proposed Lincoln Statuary Project. He had applied for a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) but was unsuccessful. Sweeney said that he is still considering other options and has not completely given up yet.

Sweeney noted that he will be having published in the *New York History Review* an article that he wrote entitled, "Historic Homer: Gateway to Heritage Tourism in Central New York". He reported that he had met with 4th-grader Aaron Lener who was writing a paper on Francis B. Carpenter that ended up earning first place in his age group in a state-wide contest. He plans to give Aaron a certificate of recognition from the Town Board for his accomplishment.

Sweeney thanked the Town Board for offering him space to continue to have his office in the Town Hall following the renovation of the former Village office. He also thanked out-going Town Board members Brian Young and Dan Weddle for all their support over the years.

NEW BUSINESS

Board of Assessment Review appointment - On motion by Supervisor Forbes, seconded by Councilman Williams and carried unanimously: **RESOLVED: that Hugh Riehlman is hereby appointed to replace Steven Triolo on the Town's Board of Assessment Review for a term of office through September 30th, 2018.**

Dog control contract - Supervisor Forbes said that Attorney Snyder has reviewed the proposed 2016 contract with Lindsay Andersen for dog control services, and that except for a few minor corrections, it met with his approval.

On motion by Supervisor Forbes, seconded by Councilman Young and carried unanimously: **RESOLVED: that the 2016 contract with Country Acres Pet Services for dog control and shelter services, with minor changes, is approved.**

Proposed changes to building permit fee schedule – Supervisor Forbes gave each Board member a copy of changes to the building permit fee schedule suggested by Code Enforcement Officer John Daniels to be effective as of January 1st, 2016. The proposed changes will be discussed at the December meeting.

Jury duty for Town employees – On motion by Councilman Young, seconded by Councilman Warren and carried unanimously: **RESOLVED: that Town employees called for jury duty be paid in full by the Town for up to three days of jury duty service.**

HIGHWAY SUPERINTENDENT

Highway Superintendent John Phelps reported on his department's activities over the past month, including having the Town's winter supply of salt and sand mixed, and tearing down an old section of the Town Highway Garage used for cold storage. Phelps said that metal from the old building will be scrapped and the new building will be shipped and constructed within the next couple of weeks. The final application for 2015 CHIPS funding has been submitted to the State and should be received in December. Phelps said that he has received an estimate of \$130,000 to replace the Wall Street Bridge. Also, he is looking into purchasing extra gravel for the upcoming year.

In response to a question from Councilman Warren, Phelps said that he has completed most of the corrections that were listed on a Notice of Violations following an inspection of the Highway Garage by the State Department of Labor's PESH division. He said he would be getting a copy of the Village of Homer's "violence in the workplace policy" to review for adoption by the Town.

ATTORNEY FOR THE TOWN

Attorney Pat Snyder reported that he had received an inquiry from Don Fisher of Pomeroy Appraisal Associates regarding their appraisal of the Donald L. Barber Funeral Home which had sued to have its assessment lowered. As there has been no activity in the case, Attorney Snyder suggested that Pomeroy Appraisal Associates submit a bill for the balance of the work they did for the case, in the amount of \$750. The Town Board had no objections to paying that amount. Snyder said that he is hopeful that this is the end of that assessment lawsuit.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

Anita W. Jebbett
Town Clerk