

The regular meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Homer held on Wednesday, April 6, 2016, in the board room of the Town Hall building was called to order by Supervisor Frederick J. Forbes, Sr., at 6:30 p.m.

PRESENT

Frederick J. Forbes, Sr., Supervisor
Larry R. Jones, Councilman
Michael R. Park, Councilman
Barry E. Warren, Councilman
Kevin M. Williams, Councilman
Patrick M. Snyder, Attorney for the Town
John R. Phelps, Highway Superintendent
Anita W. Jebbett, Town Clerk

OTHERS PRESENT

Ed Finkbeiner, Trustee, Village of Homer
Mark Helms, Cortland County Sheriff (arriving at 7:00 p.m.)
Linda Jones, Cortland County Legislator
Gordon Wheelock, Cortland County Legislator
Donald Ferris, reporter, The Homer News
Brad Smith, reporter, WXHC

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

MINUTES

The minutes of the March 2nd regular meeting were approved as presented, on motion by Councilman Warren, seconded by Councilman Williams and carried unanimously.

MONTHLY REPORTS

Presented for audit by the Board were:

1. The Town Clerk's report of all receipts and disbursements for March.
2. The Supervisor's report of all receipts and disbursements for February.
3. The Deputy Code Enforcement Officer's report of building permits issued in March.
4. The Dog Control Officer's report of all activities for February and March.

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 #49 through #79 totaling \$36,740.43 be approved for payment.**

Highway bills were approved as audited on motion by Councilman Park, seconded by Councilman Jones and carried unanimously: **RESOLVED: that Highway vouchers #44 through #62 totaling \$25,988.28 be approved for payment.**

NEW BUSINESS

Red Cross request – Supervisor Forbes said that the Red Cross is currently looking for office space and had approached the Town. The Board agreed that at this time they did not have the extra space and would refer them to others.

Burgett Drive water issues – A letter of complaint had been received regarding water draining off a farm field behind Burgett Drive onto those properties. Supervisor Forbes visited the couple that had written the letter and determined that there was nothing the Town could do to resolve the issue.

Shared Services Agreement – On motion by Supervisor Forbes, seconded by Councilman Williams and carried unanimously: **RESOLVED: that the Supervisor be authorized to sign a Shared Services Agreement between the NYSDOT and the Town of Homer to share services, exchange or lend materials or equipment for highway purposes.**

Homer Business Association - Board members were encouraged to attend the upcoming Business Association Dinner at the Homer Elks Club on April 20th.

Worker's Compensation – There was discussion about the County self-insurance for worker's compensation and the possibility of opting-out. Board members suggested that Supervisor Forbes obtain some quotes for worker's compensation from other companies. There will be more discussion at the next meeting of the CCTVS (Cortland County Towns, Villages & Schools) committee.

Health insurance consortium – Board members were encouraged to attend a meeting on May 9th at 6:00 p.m. at the Preble Town Hall to learn about the Greater Tompkins County Municipal Health Insurance Consortium.

Internet access – There was discussion about problems with the internet at the Town Hall. The contract for fiber optic cable with Fingerlakes Technologies has expired and by all appearances will not be available. The current Verizon DSL is not providing the speed needed by both the Assessor's Office and the Justice Court Office. Quotes for improved access were received from both Verizon and Time Warner.

On motion by Councilman Williams, seconded by Councilman Park and carried unanimously: **RESOLVED: that the Town contract with Time Warner to provide internet services to the Town Hall, with a speed of 10 mbps x 1 mbps to be billed month-to-month at \$114.99 per month, with a one-time installation fee of \$75.00.**

Alice Appreciation Night – Board members were invited to attend a special dinner at the Homer Senior Center to honor Alice Barned who is a long-time, dedicated volunteer.

Budget adjustment - On motion by Councilman Williams, seconded by Councilman Warren and carried unanimously, **RESOLVED: that the Town budget be amended for the receipt of the 2016 Court grant as follows: increase to Estimated Revenues- State Aid, Court Facilities of \$679.92, and increase to Appropriations – Justice Court, Capital Expense of \$679.92.**

Dog & Shelter Agreement Contract – On motion by Councilman Park, seconded by Councilman Jones and carried unanimously: **RESOLVED: that Supervisor Forbes be authorized to sign an amendment of the 2016 Dog & Shelter Agreement with Country Acres Pet Services, LLC, as follows: Section 6(f) All of the adoption fees collected by Country Acres will be retained by Country Acres and will not be submitted to the Town. These fees collected will be used to aid the adoptability of the dog seized from the said Town including but not limited to spay/neuter, micro-chipping and vaccinating.**

Annual Homer Firemen's Dinner – Supervisor Forbes told Board members that he would let them know when the dinner is scheduled and asked that anyone interested in attending contact him.

COUNTY PROPOSAL FOR NEW JAIL/PUBLIC SAFETY COMPLEX

County Sheriff Mark Helms was present to outline the proposal for a new jail. He addressed various rumors that were going around about the proposal and described the options that the County is considering. Board members asked questions about the proposal and thanked him for the information.

OLD BUSINESS

Town Hall renovations - There was discussion about the proposed renovation of the Town Clerk's Office and possible future renovation of the stage area. Councilman Warren thought the Town Clerk's renovations should go ahead as planned but Supervisor Forbes said that changes on the Village board have resulted in new interest in their re-locating to the Town Hall and that may alter the Town's plans.

On motion by Councilman Williams, seconded by Councilman Jones and carried unanimously: **RESOLVED: that Councilmen Warren and Park are appointed as the Town's representatives to meet with the Village Building Committee to explore options as to whether to bring the Village offices back to the Town Hall building and how to go about doing so.**

HIGHWAY SUPERINTENDENT

There was discussion about the proposed replacement of the Wall Street Bridge located in the Village. Superintendent Phelps said that he and Councilman Park have surveyed the area and there are electrical poles, sewer lines, and a sewage pump station to work around. There was also concern about the historic nature of the bridge. Attorney Snyder said that an application to the NYS DEC for a permit to work on the bridge would result in a review by the NYS Office of Parks, Recreation & Historic Preservation.

Superintendent Phelps said that the Town would be able to make the minor repairs to the Pine Street Bridge in order to make it into a walk bridge.

Phelps reported on his department's activities over the last month which included having the garage doors put on the new cold storage building, having two trees cut down and sweeping the roads. He reported that employee Robin Schmidt will be leaving to work for the County Highway Department and that he would not be replacing him at the present time.

Superintendent Phelps outlined three major road projects that he is considering for the summer: Carroway Hill Road, Creal Road flats, and Brake Hill Road to Rice Hill Road.

Phelps said that a section of eaves trough on the Town Hall had been damaged by ice the previous winter and needs to be replaced or repaired. On motion by Councilman Warren, seconded by Councilman Park and carried unanimously: **RESOLVED: that the Town accepts the quote from Complete Construction Concepts, LLC, of \$885 for the replacement of a section of eaves trough on the south side of the Town Hall.**

EXECUTIVE SESSION

On motion by Supervisor Forbes, seconded by Councilman Williams and carried unanimously, it was resolved to enter into an executive session at 8:20 p.m. to discuss the employment history of a particular person.

On motion by Supervisor Forbes, seconded by Councilman Park and carried unanimously, the executive session was adjourned at 8:58 p.m.

The regular meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Anita W. Jebbett
Town Clerk