

The annual organizational meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Homer held in the board room of the Town Hall building on Wednesday, January 4, 2017, 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

Linda Jones, Cortland County Legislator  
Victor Siegle, resident, Village of Homer  
Donald Ferris, reporter, The Homer News

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

MINUTES

**The minutes of the December 30, 2016, year-end meeting were approved as presented,** on motion by Councilman Williams, seconded by Councilman Jones and carried unanimously.

MONTHLY REPORTS

Presented for audit by the Board was:

1. The Town Clerk's monthly report of all receipts and disbursements for December.

ANNUAL REPORTS

Presented for audit by the Board was:

1. The Town Clerk's annual report of all receipts and disbursements for 2016.

BILLS TO BE PAID

General bills were approved as audited on motion by Councilman Warren, seconded by Councilman Williams and carried unanimously: **RESOLVED: that vouchers #322 through #327 for 2016 totaling \$1,645.15, and vouchers #1 through #5 for 2017 totaling \$2,358.00 be approved for payment.**

Highway bills were approved as audited on motion by Councilman Park, seconded by Councilman Jones and carried unanimously: **RESOLVED: that vouchers #243 through #245 for 2016 totaling \$3,561.07, and voucher #1 for 2017 totaling \$150.00 be approved for payment.**

NEW BUSINESS

Annual appointments and resolutions – On motion by Councilman Warren, seconded by Councilman Park and carried unanimously: **RESOLVED: that the following appointments and resolutions for the year 2017 are hereby approved:**

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1. Deputy Supervisor  | Michael Park  |
| 2. Town Meeting Dates                                       | Monthly; 1 <sup>st</sup> Wednesday after the 1 <sup>st</sup> Tuesday at 6:30 p.m. |
| 3. Official Newspaper                                       | Cortland Standard   |
| 4. Official Depository for Town Funds                       | Key Bank  |
| 5. Attorney for the Town                                    | Patrick M. Snyder   |
| 6. Budget Officer   | Frederick J. Forbes, Sr.  |
| 7. Deputy Highway Superintendent                            | Dale K. Everts  |
| 8. Registrar of Vital Statistics                            | Anita W. Jebbett  |
| 9. Deputy Registrar   | Karen J. Livingston   |
| 10. Dog Control Officer                                     | Lindsay Andersen  |
| 11. Code Enforcement Officer                                | John R. Daniels   |
| 12. Deputy Code Enforcement Officer                         | Kevin J. McMahon  |
| 13. Fire Inspector  | John R. Daniels   |
| 14. Deputy Fire Inspector                                   | Kevin J. McMahon  |
| 15. Board of Appeals member                                 | David Deasy   |
| <b>Appointments</b>   |   |
| 16. Planning Board member Appointments                      | none  |
| 17. PB/AB/ZRB chairman rate per meeting                     | \$50/meeting  |
| 18. PB/AB/ZRB member rate per meeting                       | \$30/meeting  |
| 19. Mileage allowance for Town Officials                    | per Fed govt. allowance   |
| 20. Approval to invest surplus funds                        | Frederick J. Forbes, Sr.  |
| 21. Hourly rate for Highway employees                       | as per budget adopted   |
| 22. Bid price for abrasive/salt                             | NYS bid price   |
| 23. Bid price for fuel                                      | Cortland County   |
| 24. Board of Assessment Review rate                         | \$100/day   |
| 25. Appointment of delegate to Association of Towns meeting | none  |
| 26. Town Historian appointment                              | Martin Sweeney  |
| 27. Resolution-salaries as stated in budget                 | yes   |
| 28. Town Board members' salaries paid monthly               | yes   |
| 29. Resolution-utility bills to be paid upon receipt        | yes   |

Housing grant awarded – Supervisor Forbes reported that he has been notified that the Town of Homer has been awarded a \$400,000 New York State Community Development Block Grant (NYS CDBG) as part of the 2016 NYS CDBG Competitive Housing Round. The contract for the grant has been reviewed by the Town Attorney. Thoma Development Consultants will be attending the February 8<sup>th</sup> Town Board meeting to review the contract with board members.

Solar Law review – Supervisor Forbes asked board members to review the proposed local law on Solar Energy Systems for the February 8<sup>th</sup> meeting. He will ask Planning Board member Michael McMahon to attend to answer any questions. The Planning Board and Attorney Snyder worked together to write the proposed law.

Dog Control contract – On motion by Supervisor Forbes, seconded by Councilman Park and carried unanimously: **RESOLVED: that the Dog Control & Shelter Agreement with Country Acres Pet Services and Lindsay M. Andersen for 2017 is approved.**

Postage meter refill – On motion by Councilman Williams, seconded by Councilman Jones, **the Town Clerk was authorized to add \$1500 to the Town's postage meter.**

Highway employee wage increase – On motion by Councilman Warren, seconded by Councilman Jones and carried unanimously: **RESOLVED: that each Highway Department employee receive a \$.50 increase in their hourly wages for 2017, with the exception that employee Charles Ford be increased to \$15.00/hour.**

## OLD BUSINESS

Village Office space – Village resident Victor Siegle was present to report to the Town Board on a meeting held on January 3<sup>rd</sup> by the Village Board of Trustees during which they voted not to purchase the former railroad freight station at 44 James Street and to discuss a possible move back to the Town Hall. Siegle gave each Board member a copy of a cost comparison he had compiled on 44 James Street vs. the Town Hall. He outlined concerns about a move back to the Town Hall that had been expressed by citizens attending the Village meeting, including a lack of contiguous office space, a desire to own rather than rent space, a fear of liability from future health issues, accessibility to bathrooms for those with disabilities, and the possible loss of a \$150,000 grant that was awarded to the Village for the purchase of 44 James Street for renovation as a Village office.

There was much discussion about each of these concerns. Councilman Park said that he is still unclear about how much office space the Village would require. He believes that the Town's offer of \$600 per month rent and \$15,000 towards office renovations is more than fair. Supervisor Forbes said that the Town has always remained open to the possibility of the Village moving back, and agreed that the current offer is generous. He explained that Village residents may pay around 43% of the Town's taxes, but that the taxes are less than 25% of the Town's total budget.

Board members agreed that if the Village were to decide to move back, they would be flexible about the use of space in the Town Hall. Councilman Warren suggested that the Town Board meetings could be held elsewhere in the building and that the stage could be renovated for storage space.

Town Board members thanked Victor Siegle for his presentation and all the work he has done on the issue.

## HIGHWAY SUPERINTENDENT

Highway Superintendent Phelps reported that he would be purchasing more road salt for winter use as the Department had already used more than they had anticipated.

## COUNTY LEGISLATOR

County Legislator Linda Jones reported on the activities of the County Legislature over the past month. This included a vote for improvements to the County's airport, 90% of which will be funded by the Federal government. A special meeting will be held on February 10<sup>th</sup> to discuss the County's recycling center, a subject of much recent controversy.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Anita W. Jebbett  
Town Clerk