

The regular meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Homer held on Wednesday, May 3, 2017, in the board room of the Town Hall building was called to order by Supervisor Frederick J. Forbes, Sr., at 6:45 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

Gordon Wheelock, Cortland County Legislator
Nick Graziano, reporter, Cortland Standard
Nancy Ruscio, Homer Central School Superintendent, arriving at 7 p.m.
Bernie Zolla, AV assistant, Homer Schools
Luke Morenus, Joaquin Lira, Martin Sweeney & Keith Fagerheim, members of the Homer Board of Education

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

MINUTES

The minutes of the April 5th public hearing and regular meeting were approved as presented, on motion by Councilman Park, seconded by Councilman Williams 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 April.
2. The Supervisor's report of all cash receipts and disbursements for April
3. The Code Enforcement Officer's report of all building permits issued for April.

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 Fund vouchers #75 through #97 totaling \$24,247.44 be approved for payment.**

Highway bills were approved as audited on motion by Councilman Jones, seconded by Councilman Warren and carried unanimously: **RESOLVED: that Highway Fund vouchers #61 through #78 totaling \$91,110.08 be approved for payment.**

OLD BUSINESS

Solar law – Attorney Snyder reported that the County Planning Board recommendations concerning the proposed local law had been received, and they were discussed at the Town Planning Board meeting on April 26th. The Town Planning Board agreed that consideration of aesthetic resources should be added to the local law. They reconsidered other potential changes to the law, as requested, but recommended that no further changes be made. The County Planning Department has stated that no further review of the proposed local law is necessary under the General Municipal Law.

Snyder said that the proposed solar law is now in “final form” and can be adopted at the next meeting of the Town Board unless further substantive changes are made to it. He will be sending Town Board members a copy of the draft environmental assessment form for them to review prior to the June 7th meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

Dog census – On motion by Councilman Williams, seconded by Councilman Jones and carried unanimously: **RESOLVED: that the Town Clerk is authorized to conduct a dog census by mail for residents of the Village of Homer this summer, with the cost of the census not to exceed \$1,000.**

Postage meter refill – On motion by Councilman Williams, seconded by Councilman Jones and carried unanimously: **RESOLVED: that the Town Clerk is authorized to add \$1,200 in postage to the Town’s postage meter.**

Records disposition – On motion by Councilman Park, seconded by Councilman Jones and carried unanimously: **RESOLVED: that the Town Clerk as Records Management Officer is authorized to properly dispose of Town records in accordance with the *Records Retention and Disposition Schedule MU-1*, issued by the New York State Archives pursuant to Article 57-A of the Arts & Cultural Affairs Law of the State of New York (see attached listing).**

Memorial Day parade – Supervisor Forbes reminded Town Board members about participating in the upcoming parade at 8:30 a.m. on Monday, May 29th.

Time-Warner cable – Forbes said that Time-Warner has requested a permit to install cable television/internet underground along Searls Road. The Time-Warner representative will be providing more information and the proper insurance certificates.

Zoning Board of Appeals – There was discussion about the need to appoint a new member of the Town Zoning Board. Supervisor Forbes will be reporting back to the Board at the June meeting.

Homer District School budget presentation – District Superintendent Nancy Ruscio gave a PowerPoint presentation on the proposed District budget for 2017-2018. Board of Education members Fagerheim, Lira, Morenus and Sweeney were present to answer any questions. The budget is scheduled for a vote on Tuesday, May 16th. The Town Board thanked Ruscio and the Board of Education members for the presentation.

Countywide shared services – Supervisor Forbes reported on a new push by the Governor and State Legislature to mandate that local governments cooperate on some shared services. The Town Supervisor is designated by the new law to be the Town’s representative on a mandatory shared services panel. There was much discussion about the ways in which all countywide municipalities already cooperate to save tax money. Forbes may be attending an Association of Towns meeting on the subject in East Syracuse on May 19th.

Street light request – On motion by Councilman Warren, seconded by Councilman Jones and carried unanimously: **RESOLVED: in response to residents’ request for a street light on the corner of Wolf Road and Cosmos Hill Road, that National Grid be authorized to add a 25w LED fixture on the south-east corner of that intersection, at an estimated annual cost of \$95.07.**

Worker’s Compensation – In response to interest by the Board, Supervisor Forbes agreed to schedule a presentation by a company offering worker’s compensation policies to local governments at a future meeting.

Pine Street Bridge – The Town Board is still waiting for official agreement by the Village that the Pine Street Bridge be replaced rather than the Wall Street Bridge, as previously agreed.

HIGHWAY SUPERINTENDENT

There was much discussion about cooperation between the various municipalities within Cortland County for the maintenance of town and county highways. Highway Superintendent Phelps said that Homer already cooperates in a snow-plowing agreement with the County for Health Camp Road and East Homer-Baltimore Road for which the County pays the Town. Only four towns in the County do not cooperate in this way and of those, two exchange work with the County. Phelps said that although some Towns think that the reimbursement by the County is too low, he feels that it is fair.

Phelps said that they have expanded the shoulders of Cosmos Hill Road to make them as wide as the Cortlandville portion of the road. He also said that he will be re-surfacing Houghton Hill Road, Foster Road, a portion of Brake Hill Road, and Rice Road this summer.

Phelps explained that he has already had sand delivered for the 2017-2018 winter season, and is in process of obtaining recycled surfacing materials from a couple of area road projects to re-use on the summer projects.

ATTORNEY FOR THE TOWN

Attorney Snyder reported that the one remaining junk zoning matter has been adjourned until May 15th. Slow but steady progress is being made to clean up the property.

COUNTY LEGISLATOR

County Legislator Gordon Wheelock reviewed the activities of the Cortland County Legislature over the past month. The issues of a new jail, and ways to improve the finances of the landfill and recycling center were again discussed.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Anita W. Jebbett
Town Clerk