

Special Meeting
June 1, 2017

A special meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Homer on municipal workers' compensation insurance held on Thursday, June 1, 2017, in the board room of the Town Hall building was called to order by Supervisor Frederick J. Forbes, Sr., at 6:00 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
Anita W. Jebbett, Town Clerk

OTHERS PRESENT

Mack Cook, Director of Administration & Finance, City of Cortland
John Kaminski, Supervisor, Town of Virgil
Eric Snow, Councilman, Town of Virgil
Ed Finkbeiner, Trustee, Village of Homer
Patrick Clune, Trustee, Village of Homer
William McGovern, Mayor, Village of Marathon
Lloyd Sutton, Supervisor, Town of Truxton
Linda Jones, Cortland County Legislator
Loren Pratt, Vice President, Marketing, Comp Alliance
Shawn Roes, Marketing Representative, Comp Alliance

Loren Pratt of Comp Alliance gave a presentation on workers' compensation insurance for the public sector. He said that Comp Alliance is sponsored by the Association of Towns and the New York State Conference of Mayors. He said that like many other counties in New York State, Cortland County adopted a self-insurance plan for workers' compensation insurance in 1956. It was based 40% on the assessed value of the municipality, and 60% on claims history over a 3-year period. While it may have worked well at the time, costs and claims have increased greatly over the years. The self-insurance plan is currently under-funded and is being subsidized by the municipalities as the County itself has the majority of claims. Pratt said that Comp Alliance works to lower costs by taking an active role in the settlement of claims, providing claims administration and management, and training municipalities in risk management and loss control. He said that they now cover around 280 municipalities in New York State.

Supervisor Forbes provided background on why he and other Supervisors are not happy with the County plan - details on claims and costs are not shared with the municipalities, assets held by the County are much less than the current liabilities, and the administration of the plan varies with each change in County Administrator or Chairman of the Legislature.

Finance Director Mack Cook said that the City of Cortland is looking to make a change from the self-insured plan to Comp Alliance. He realizes that this may be detrimental to the County-wide plan and said that the County is aware that the City is looking to make a change and take their liabilities with them. He said although the City would most likely not save money with the change at first, he said that savings could come in the future, since Comp Alliance is better able to settle and liquidate some claims.

There was much discussion about all aspects of workers' compensation insurance. Supervisor Forbes thanked Pratt for his presentation and said that it gave those present a lot to consider as they decide what the best option for coverage will be for their own municipality.

On motion by Supervisor Forbes, seconded by Councilman Jones and carried unanimously: **RESOLVED: that Codes Enforcement Officer John Daniels is appointed as the Section 3 Coordinator and the Fair Housing Officer for the Town's 2016 Housing Rehabilitation Grant.**

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

Anita W. Jebbett
Town Clerk