

The regular meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Homer held on Wednesday, June 7, 2017, 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

Matthew Schooley, P.E., Barton & Loguidice  
Ed Finkbeiner, Trustee, Village of Homer  
Patrick Clune, Trustee, Village of Homer  
Nick Graziano, reporter, Cortland Standard  
Donald Ferris, reporter, The Homer News

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

MINUTES

**The minutes of the May 3<sup>rd</sup> regular meeting and the May 12<sup>th</sup> special 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 & disbursements for May.
2. The Supervisor's monthly report of all cash receipts & disbursements for May.
3. The Dog Control Officer's monthly report of all activities for May.
4. The Code Enforcement Officer's monthly report of all building permits issued for May.

BILLS TO BE PAID

General bills were approved as audited on motion by Councilman Warren, seconded by Councilman Jones and carried unanimously: **RESOLVED: that General Fund vouchers #98 through #125 totaling \$70,087.74 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 Fund vouchers #79 through #101 totaling \$40,958.96 be approved for payment.**

Community Development Block Grant bill was approved as audited on motion by Councilman Warren, seconded by Councilman Jones and carried unanimously: **RESOLVED: that CDBG voucher #1 totaling \$2000.00 for Thoma Development Consultants be approved for payment.**

SOLAR LAW

On motion by Councilman Park, seconded by Councilman Warren and carried unanimously: **RESOLVED: WHEREAS the Town's current zoning law does not address solar energy projects, and**

**WHEREAS solar energy projects are likely to become more common in the Town, and**

WHEREAS the Town Comprehensive Plan has been duly amended to encourage solar energy projects under appropriate conditions, and

WHEREAS the proposed Local Law #1 of 2017 has been reviewed by the County Planning Board and it approves the language, contingent on certain recommendations, and

WHEREAS the Town Board has considered those recommendations and incorporated them into the zoning amendment as deemed appropriate, and

WHEREAS a public hearing was held on the proposed local law on April 5, 2017, and

WHEREAS the Town Planning Board has recommended approval of this local law, and

WHEREAS the Town Board is the lead agency under the State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQR) for the adoption of this local law, and

WHEREAS a Full Environmental Assessment Form has been completed and reviewed by the Town Board, and

WHEREAS the Town Board deems that a negative declaration is appropriate for this action, and

WHEREAS the Town Board deems this zoning amendment to be in the public interest, now

IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED:

1. The Town Board adopts a negative declaration under SEQR, and
2. The Town of Homer Zoning Law is hereby amended by the adoption of Local Law #1 of 2017, and
3. This local law shall be filed with the Secretary of State to become effective upon filing.

NEW BUSINESS

Court audit – Supervisor Forbes reminded Councilmen Jones and Williams that they will need to schedule a time to audit the 2016 Court records.

Time Warner/Spectrum – Supervisor Forbes explained that the cable expansion on Searls Road is now complete. The Town has received a check for the unpaid balance of the 2017 Town/County taxes of Time Warner/Spectrum and anticipates receiving a reimbursement of the 2016 unpaid balance (\$222.73) in the near future.

Thoma Development – As the administrator of the Town’s Community Development Block Grant, Forbes said that beginning in July Thoma would be providing the Town Board with a monthly report.

Shared Services Program – There was discussion about the Governor’s push for new proposals for sharing services within each County which are due by August 1<sup>st</sup>. Supervisor Forbes said that the County may decide to wait until next year to present their plan.

Workers’ Compensation Insurance – On motion by Councilman Jones, seconded by Councilman Williams and carried unanimously, **the Supervisor was authorized to request a quote for workers’ compensation insurance for 2018 from Comp Alliance.**

Village recreation contract – On motion by Councilman Warren, seconded by Councilman Park and carried unanimously: **RESOLVED: that the Town Supervisor is authorized to sign the 2017 contract with the Village for recreation programs, contingent on review of the contract by the Town Attorney.**

2017 Town/County tax collection – Town Clerk/Tax Collector Jebbett said that they have collected 92.35% of the total taxes levied and are returning to the County Treasurer’s Office only 115 bills, the fewest in 10 years.

Memorial Day Parade – Supervisor Forbes thanked Highway Superintendent Phelps for the use of his wagon and horses in the parade. He also noted the outstanding job done by the Town Historian in giving the keynote speech at the Glenwood Cemetery ceremony. Councilman Williams, who also rode in the parade, agreed.

Wall Street/Pine Street bridges – Engineer Matthew Schooley from Barton & Loguidice engineering firm was present to discuss the condition of two of the three historic bridges in the Village and how to decide which bridge to repair or replace. The third bridge at Water Street was renovated as a walking bridge in the 1990's. He presented display boards with aerial views of each bridge and photos of the various obstacles at each site. Schooley estimated the cost of replacing the Wall Street Bridge at around \$1.2 million since the location of the Village sewage pump station, a large storm drain, and a power substation add complexity to the project. Pine Street Bridge would be less costly because it does not have as many complications and may be in better shape, possibly around \$900,000.

Schooley recommended that the Town apply for funds under the Bridge NY program administered by the NYS Dept. of Transportation, which awards grants for bridges and culverts. In response to a question, Schooley said that he had never seen the State approve funds for a single-lane bridge. He said that approvals are given based on economic and safety issues.

There was much discussion about the grant program, which bridge to repair or replace, the safety concerns involved with the current bridges, the time frame necessary, concerns about the floodway, and saving or moving the historic bridge.

The Town Board thanked Schooley for his very informative presentation.

#### HIGHWAY SUPERINTENDENT

Highway Superintendent Phelps reported on his department's activities over the past month. This included cleaning up after a sudden thunderstorm on June 5<sup>th</sup>, and trying to get caught up on projects after a very rainy May. He said that they would be widening the shoulders of the road on Houghton Hill Road and surfacing with a cold mix both Houghton Hill and Foster Road. They will also be busy helping the City of Cortland and other Towns on their paving projects.

#### ATTORNEY FOR THE TOWN

Attorney Snyder said that he would be contacting Thoma Development Consultants again regarding a change he had requested in their consulting agreement, since he had not yet heard back from them. Snyder also said that there had been an issue with a map submitted by Diana McClure for a Cosmos Hill Road subdivision. The maps submitted by McClure to be signed by the Planning Board Chairman were not the same as had been approved by the Planning Board. He also discussed a potential sale of property at the corner of Kinney Gulf Road and Route 90 for use as a truck repair business. Snyder said that it would comply with the use variance that had previously been granted by the Town's Zoning Board of Appeals.

#### TOWN HALL BUILDING

There was much discussion about the preliminary plans to renovate the Town Hall to accommodate the Village's move of its offices back to the Town Hall. Councilmen Jones, Park and Warren each said that the Town Office should remain where it is and that the Village should go back into the space which it occupied seven years ago. The Assessor's Office would then need to be relocated. The members of the Village Board that were present did not have any objections to the proposed changes to the plan. Supervisor Forbes and Councilman Warren were designated to work with the architect, Randy Crawford, to finalize the proposed layout of the space and move on to the next step.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

Anita W. Jebbett  
Town Clerk