

The regular meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Homer held on Wednesday, July 5, 2017, in the board room of the Town Hall building was called to order by Frederick J. Forbes, Sr., Supervisor, at 6:30 p.m.

PRESENT

Frederick J. Forbes, 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

Patrick Clune, Trustee, Village of Homer  
Keith Dayton, Public Defender and candidate for County Judge  
Don Ferris, reporter, The Homer News

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

MINUTES

**The minutes of the June 1<sup>st</sup> special meeting and the June 7<sup>th</sup> 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:

1. The Town Clerk's monthly report of all receipts & disbursements for June.
2. The Code Enforcement Officer's report of all building permits issued for June.

ANNUAL REPORTS

Presented for audit by the Board:

1. Tax Collector's report of all uncollected taxes for 2017, as returned to the County Treasurer's Office.

BILLS TO BE PAID

General bills were approved as audited on motion by Councilman Jones, seconded by Councilman Williams and carried unanimously: **RESOLVED: that General Fund vouchers #126 through #144 totaling \$21,004.28 be approved for payment.**

Highway bills were approved as audited on motion by Councilman Warren, seconded by Councilman Jones and carried unanimously: **RESOLVED: that Highway Fund vouchers #102 through #123 totaling \$100,033.75 be approved for payment.**

NEW BUSINESS

Candidate for County Judge – Public Defender Keith Dayton introduced himself and said that he was a candidate for County Judge. Current Judge William Ames will be leaving the position due to a mandatory retirement age of 70. Dayton handed out a portfolio on his experience and ideas, and presented reasons why he is running and why he should be elected. He thanked the Town Board for their time.

Thoma Development – Supervisor Forbes read a note from Annette Huskins updating the Town Board on the status of the CDBG grant. She stated that to date they have 11 applications for housing rehabilitation grants and hope to have the first few applicants ready for approval at the September meeting.

Workers' Compensation – There was much discussion about whether to stay with the Cortland County Self-Insurance Fund or to change to Comp Alliance for the Town's workers' compensation coverage. The quote received from Comp Alliance was approximately \$10,000 more than the Town has been paying the County for coverage. Supervisor Forbes said that the Town has until July 31<sup>st</sup> to make a decision. Attorney Snyder agreed to review the County's policy. Supervisor Forbes said that he would schedule a special meeting later in the month to make a decision.

Health insurance – Councilman Williams reported on the Greater Tompkins County Health Alliance after attending a meeting on the health insurance coalition. He said that it seems to be a promising option, but would have more information at the August meeting.

Liability insurance – Forbes said that he is working with Bailey-Place Agency to obtain a new quote for the Town's liability insurance. He said that he expects to have it in time for the August meeting.

Key Bank – Supervisor Forbes and Councilman Park reported on a meeting they had with Key Bank officials. They are looking into ways in which they will be able to lower the Town's banking fees.

## OLD BUSINESS

Town Hall renovations – Town Board members were given an architectural drawing of the layout of the main floor of the Town Hall as proposed by architect Randy Crawford. Councilman Warren reviewed the plans in which the Village offices would be located on the north side of the building as they were in the past, the Town offices on the south side, and the Assessor offices on the stage. The meeting room would remain in the same location but would be expanded and accessed off a main hallway.

Forbes said that the Town would be open to the Village moving their offices back to the Town Hall prior to the renovation, if they so desire, and offered the two front offices for their use. Village Trustee Clune was present and stated that he would inform the Mayor as to the offer. He said that they would be meeting in the Town Hall on July 12<sup>th</sup> for their regular monthly meeting and would discuss it at that time. Supervisor Forbes and Councilman Warren agreed to meet with the Village's two committee members and the Clerks to further discuss the plans.

Attorney Snyder agreed to work with the Village Attorney to draw up two separate lease agreements for the Village to move their offices back into the Town Hall, one short-term and another one for a long-term period of time.

On motion by Councilman Jones, seconded by Councilman Warren and carried unanimously: **RESOLVED: that the firm of Crawford & Stearns, Architects, is authorized to prepare detailed plans for the renovation of the main floor of the Town Hall based on the final draft proposed by Architect Randy Crawford, to be reviewed by the Town Board prior to an authorization to prepare for bids.**

County Department of Motor Vehicles drop box – Supervisor Forbes reported that County Clerk Betsy Larkin has complained to him about a bush on the side of the building getting in the way of the DMV drop box. Instead of removing the bush, Forbes offered to have the box relocated. Various options were discussed. It was agreed that Councilmen Park and Warren will make the decision on the relocation of the box, and that Park would do the installation.

Bridge update – Attorney Pat Snyder said that he has researched the Bridge NY grant program and that once the applications become available, he would complete the application for the Wall Street Bridge. Supervisor Forbes said that State Senator James Seward has agreed to send a letter of support to go along with the application.

ATTORNEY FOR THE TOWN

Attorney Pat Snyder said that he had reviewed the agreement with Thoma Development for the grant administration and had suggested some small changes. A revised contract recently received now meets with his approval.

On motion by Councilman Park, seconded by Councilman Warren and carried unanimously:  
**RESOLVED: that Supervisor Forbes is authorized to sign the contract with Thoma Development Consultants for the administration of the Town's Fiscal Year 2016 Housing Community Development Block Grant and for the program delivery services that are necessary for its implementation.**

In response to a question from Village Trustee Clune, Supervisor Forbes explained that the Town's grant is open to both Town and Village residents.

Snyder also reported on a dangerous dog case that was recently before the Town Justice. He said that the dog was declared dangerous, requiring it to always be on a leash or locked up, and that it was as reasonable a resolution as possible in the case.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Anita W. Jebbett  
Town Clerk