

The regular meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Homer held on Wednesday, September 6, 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

Linda Jones, Cortland County Legislator
Patrick Clune, Trustee, Village of Homer
Donald Ferris, reporter, The Homer News
Nick Graziano, reporter, Cortland Standard

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

MINUTES

The minutes of the August 2nd regular meeting and the August 18th 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 and disbursements for August.
2. The Supervisor's monthly report of all receipts and disbursement for July.
3. The Code Enforcement Officer's report of all building permits issued for August.
4. The Dog Control Officer's report of all activities for the month of July.

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 vouchers #169 through #193 totaling \$52,483.63 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 vouchers #145 through #160 totaling \$82,897.45 be approved for payment.**

OLD BUSINESS

Village move to Town Hall – Supervisor Forbes said that he and Code Officer John Daniels have now moved out of the south front corner office and into some extra office space in the Assessor offices. The Historian has moved some items into the Town storage room and the Highway Department crew will be moving his files into the Town Clerk's office. He will continue to work out of the Town Hall. Forbes said that Advantage Cleaners will be cleaning the offices prior to the Village move, now scheduled for the weekend of September 30th. There was discussion about the lack of electrical outlets in the Supervisor's office.

On motion by Councilman Warren, seconded by Councilman Jones and carried unanimously, **the Town Board approved the hiring of an electrician to install additional outlets in the former Supervisor's Office.**

Liability insurance – Supervisor Forbes reported that he had waived the terrorism coverage that was part of the Town's liability coverage, lowering the cost by \$350, and that he reduced the coverage on the Town Highway garage, after receiving advice from a contractor, from \$752,000 to \$550,000.

CDBG Grant – Forbes has received a report from Thoma Development Consultants, administrators of the Town's CDBG Grant, stating that six applicants were "in the pipeline" and nine more were under consideration for the housing grants.

On motion by Supervisor Forbes, seconded by Councilman Park and carried unanimously:

RESOLVED: WHEREAS, the Town of Homer is committed to the provision of equal access and equal housing opportunities for all its residents, and

WHEREAS, discrimination in the sale, rental or financing of dwellings on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, handicap, or familial status is prohibited by the federal Fair Housing Law of Title VIII of the 1968 Civil Rights Act and the Fair Housing Amendment Act of 1988, and

WHEREAS, the Town of Homer wishes to further Fair Housing in the Town and has designated the Town Code Enforcer to carry out the activities of the attached Plan and to address complaints related to the issue of Fair Housing in the Town,

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Town of Homer does hereby adopt the attached Fair Housing Plan by resolution and does designate the office of Town Code Enforcer to act as Fair Housing Officer for the Town of Homer. (See attachment)

Postage meter refill – On motion by Councilman Williams, seconded by Councilman Jones and carried unanimously, **the Town Clerk was authorized to add \$1,000 to the Town's postage meter.**

Time Warner Cable/Spectrum – Supervisor Forbes reported on a meeting he and Highway Superintendent Phelps had with representatives from Spectrum who are expanding coverage in the eastern section of the Town, including Health Camp, O'Shea, McDonald, Maxfield, Forbes and Corl Hill Roads.

Attorney Snyder said that he has received the short environmental assessment form from Spectrum in accordance with the Town's Road Protection Law. He reviewed the EAF and consulted the Department of Environmental Conservation's environmental resource mapper. No significant or unusual resources were identified.

On motion by Councilman Warren, seconded by Councilman Park and carried unanimously: **RESOLVED: that Supervisor Forbes is authorized to sign Parts 2 and 3 of the short environmental assessment form indicating a negative declaration under SEQR, and that Time Warner/Spectrum is authorized to proceed with the build-out in the eastern section of the Town of Homer as proposed (see maps on file).**

Banking – Supervisor Forbes said that he is continuing to look into the possibility of changing banks and purchasing Treasury notes.

Bridge update – Attorney Snyder reported that the applications for the "Bridge NY" grant program will probably not be released until this winter and no projects will be awarded until late 2018 with construction to be done in 2019.

NEW BUSINESS

Health insurance – Supervisor Forbes and Councilman Williams met with Don Barber, Executive Director of the Greater Tompkins County Municipal Health Insurance Consortium, and financial representative Steve Locey to discuss the health insurance plan offered through the Consortium. Councilman Williams reported on the plan which he considers to be good for both the Town and its employees. The plan is through Excellus Blue Cross/Blue Shield, as is the Town's current health insurance plan. He suggested that the Town could make adjustments through the H.S.A.'s for the plan's slight increase in deductibles and co-pays. He said that if the Town would like to join the Consortium, it must make a decision by September 19th for membership beginning January 1st, 2018.

Supervisor Forbes reminded the Board that the Town would maintain its current dental plan and its Medicare Advantage plan for those 65 or older.

On motion by Supervisor Forbes, seconded by Councilman Warren and carried unanimously:

RESOLVED, that the Town Board of the Town of Homer hereby directs the Supervisor to sign the Greater Tompkins County Municipal Health Insurance Consortium (GTCMHIC) Municipal Cooperative Agreement (MCA), submit copies of most recent financial information required by the GTCMHIC (up to two years of State comptroller AUD reports), supply contract population data of all employees/retirees eligible to be covered by the Consortium and benefit plan for each, and comply with the dependent verification requirements of the GTCMHIC, and

RESOLVED, that the Town Board hereby directs the Supervisor to request that a Surplus Reserve payment (5% of annual premium) be waived before coverage can begin, and

RESOLVED, further, that Kevin M. Williams be appointed as the Town's representative to the Board of Directors of the Consortium.

Village lease – Supervisor Forbes read the proposed lease, prepared by Attorney Snyder, with the Village for office space in the Town Hall, both temporarily in the two front offices, and in the future, with offices on the north side of the building. The lease payment for the short-term lease would be \$400/month. The Village would pay for its own phone service and the cleaning of its offices, and must provide proof of liability insurance for no less than \$1 million.

On motion by Supervisor Forbes, seconded by Councilman Park and carried unanimously: **RESOLVED: that the Town Board approves the new lease agreement with the Village of Homer for office space in the Town Hall, authorizes the Supervisor to sign the lease, and allows the Village to move into the temporary space during the month of September, at their convenience, with lease payments to begin in October.**

Attorney Snyder reminded the Board that they need to attach "Exhibit A" to the lease – a drawing of the proposed layout of the new Village office space, and that the resolution would be subject to a permissive referendum. There was much discussion about a revision of the previous proposed layout.

On motion by Councilman Park, seconded by Councilman Williams, and carried unanimously: **RESOLVED: that the Town Board hereby accepts the September 1st revision by Architect Randy Crawford of the proposed Town Hall renovation, agrees to send the plan on to the Village Board of Trustees for their approval, and authorizes the Town Supervisor to inform the Architect to prepare for the next step.**

HIGHWAY SUPERINTENDENT

Highway Superintendent Phelps reported on the activities of his department over the last month, including completing 10 miles of chip-sealing and two miles of shoulders, as well as helping other towns and the Village of Homer with their road projects. He said that they plan to paint the outside of the garage building, the fuel sheds and the fuel tanks before winter.

Phelps said that he is looking into some issues with two bridges – the Ayers Road Bridge and the Hights Gulf Bridge – that may need to be addressed in next year's budget.

Councilman Park commented that Phelps has done a good job of modernizing the Town's fleet of vehicles and suggested he continue doing so in next year's budget.

COUNTY LEGISLATOR

County Legislator Linda Jones informed the Town Board on the activity, and in some cases the lack of activity, at the County level, and expressed her concerns with the budget negotiations for the 2018 County budget. She also explained her recent vote against "flow control".

Town Councilman Jones spoke on behalf of many other East River Road residents, expressing his displeasure with the County Highway Department's recent "re-paving" of that road.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:07 p.m.

Anita W. Jebbett
Town Clerk