

Regular Meeting
February 7, 2018

The regular meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Homer held on Wednesday, February 7, 2018, in the board room of the Town Hall building was called to order by Supervisor Frederick J. Forbes, Sr., at 6:40 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

Mahlon Irish, Jr., Homer Fire Chief
Patrick Clune, Trustee, Village of Homer
Linda Jones, Cortland County Legislator

MINUTES

The minutes of the December 29th year-end meeting and the January 3rd organizational meeting were approved as presented, on motion by Councilman Park, seconded by Councilman Jones, and carried unanimously.

MONTHLY REPORTS

Presented for audit by the Board were:

1. The Town Clerk's monthly reports of all receipts & disbursements for December & January.
2. The Code Enforcement Officer's report of all building permits issued for January.
3. The Dog Control Officer's reports of all activities for December & January.

ANNUAL REPORTS

Presented for audit by the Board was:

1. The Town Clerk's annual report of all receipts & disbursements for 2017.

BILLS TO BE PAID

General bills were approved as audited on motion by Councilman Park, seconded by Councilman Jones and carried unanimously: **RESOLVED: that General Fund vouchers #5 through #30 totaling \$21,554.60 are approved for payment.**

Highway bills were approved as audited on motion by Councilman Warren, seconded by Councilman Williams, and carried unanimously: **RESOLVED: that Highway Fund vouchers #3 through #19 totaling \$20,832.43 are approved for payment.**

Community Development bills were approved as audited on motion by Councilman Warren, seconded by Councilman Jones and carried unanimously: **RESOLVED: that Community Development Fund vouchers #7 through #12 totaling \$34,362.86 are approved for payment.**

HOMER FIRE DISTRICT

On motion by Councilman Williams, seconded by Councilman Jones and carried unanimously:

RESOLVED: that the Homer Town Board accepts the proposed 2018 contract between the Homer Fire District and the Village of Homer for fire protection services within the Town of Homer in the amount of \$88,314.

BRIDGE REPAIR/REPLACEMENT

Supervisor Forbes reviewed a letter and contract proposal from the engineering firm of Barton & Loguidice regarding engineering for repair of the Hights Gulf Road Bridge. There was much discussion about Town bridges that are in need of repair – Hights Gulf Road and Pine Street – and the Wall Street Bridge which the Board is planning to replace.

Fire Chief Mahlon Irish agreed that the Wall Street Bridge should be replaced with a two-way bridge that will be able to carry the weight of a fire tanker truck. He said that this would be particularly important if the Albany Street Bridge is shut down for any reason, because other routes to provide emergency services to properties east of the Village would require a much longer travel time. Irish agreed to provide documentation to prove the need for replacement of the Wall Street Bridge for any application for State funding.

There was discussion about obtaining another quote from an engineering firm on the Hights Gulf Road Bridge and to help with the Bridge NY grant application for the Wall Street Bridge.

On motion by Councilman Warren, seconded by Councilman Jones and carried unanimously: **RESOLVED: That the Town Board authorizes the Bridge Committee to review qualifications and proposals, and select an engineering firm for the proposed bridge projects, including technical help in the filing of an application for the Bridge NY grant program.**

REGULAR BUSINESS

Court audit – Supervisor Forbes reminded Board members Jones and Williams that an audit of the 2017 Justice Court records could be done any time now.

Extension of tax collection – On motion by Supervisor Forbes, seconded by Councilman Williams and carried unanimously: **RESOLVED: the Town Board requests that the County Treasurer's Office grant an extension of time until June 1st, 2018, for the collection of town and county taxes by the Homer Town Tax Collector.**

Assessment Review Board – Supervisor Forbes confirmed that there will be an opening on the Board of Assessment Review. Member Hugh Riehlman is planning to resign from the Board.

Justice Court computer program – Justice Foley has informed the Town Board that the State will now pick up the cost of annual maintenance of the Justice Court's computer program. Supervisor Forbes said that this will mean a savings of about \$1,300 to the Town.

Postage meter refill – On motion by Councilman Williams, seconded by Councilman Jones and carried unanimously, **the Town Clerk was authorized to add \$2,000 to the Town's postage meter.**

Town Hall stage & balcony – There was much discussion about what should be done with various items now stored on the Town Hall stage prior to the start of the office renovation project. Councilman Williams agreed to look into how best to advertise the various items, such as old doors, chairs, wood molding, etc. for sale.

There was also discussion about how best to use the space in the balcony area. Windows long covered over from when the building was used as a movie theater have been uncovered, and the remaining balcony seats have been advertised for sale. Councilman Park suggested that Architect Randy Crawford be consulted in case plans to open up a walled off space to allow natural light into the main part of the building affects other parts of the office renovation project.

Budget modifications – On motion by Councilman Williams, seconded by Councilman Warren and carried unanimously: **RESOLVED: the proposed modifications of the 2017 Town budget as of the end of the fiscal year were approved as presented (attached).**

COUNTY LEGISLATOR

Legislator Linda Jones reported on activities at the County Legislature over the past month including discussions about the hiring of a Fiscal Director to aid in the administration of County government.

Councilman Larry Jones said that he will continue to complain about the County's "repair" of East River Road, the condition of which continues to deteriorate. He is advocating for the County to discontinue the use of their own paving machine for major road projects.

ATTORNEY FOR THE TOWN

Attorney Pat Snyder reported that Matt Neuman on behalf of a snowmobile club has inquired about getting the Town's assistance in placing a bridge over the south end of Lower Little York Lake. In particular he was inquiring about the environmental review process. It was explained to Neuman that the Town does not appear to have any jurisdiction at this time, and therefore could not serve as lead agency for the environmental review.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

Anita W. Jebbett
Town Clerk