

The regular meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Homer held on Wednesday, March 7, 2018, 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
Patrick M. Snyder, Attorney for the Town
John R. Phelps, Highway Superintendent
Anita W. Jebbett, Town Clerk

ABSENT

Kevin M. Williams, Councilman

OTHERS PRESENT

Linda Jones, Cortland County Legislator
Nick Graziano, reporter, Cortland Standard
Brad Smith, reporter, WXHC

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

MINUTES

The minutes of the February 7th public hearing and regular 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 report of all receipts & disbursements for February.
2. The Supervisor's monthly report of all cash receipts & disbursements for December, 2017, And January & February of 2018.
3. The Dog Control Officer's report of all activities for the month of February.
4. The status of funds report on the Homer Town Rehabilitation Program for February.

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 #31 through #50 totaling \$16,106.35 be approved for payment.**

Highway bills were approved as audited on motion by Councilman Park, seconded by Councilman Warren and carried unanimously: **RESOLVED: that Highway Fund vouchers #20 through #41 totaling \$27,262.03 be 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 #13 through #16 totaling \$15,788.26 be approved for payment.**

BRIDGE REPAIR/REPLACEMENT

There was discussion regarding the proposed contract with Barton & Loguidice for engineering work on the Hights Gulf Road Bridge.

On motion by Councilman Park, seconded by Councilman Jones and carried unanimously: **RESOLVED: That Supervisor Forbes is authorized to sign the proposal from Barton & Loguidice for Phase III engineering for the Hights Gulf Road Bridge, in accordance with the Terms & Conditions as amended, for the proposed fee of \$12,500; and that Barton & Loguidice also agree to provide engineering services in the preparation of the Bridge NY grant application for the Wall Street Bridge.**

Attorney Snyder said that a draft application to the Bridge NY program should be submitted by March 29th. The State will then review the application and recommend any changes, with the final version of the application to be due in April.

Highway Superintendent Phelps said that the chances of getting a grant were down to 30% this year from 50% in previous years.

Supervisor Forbes said that his office had received a phone call from an architect/engineer working with the City of Cortland expressing some interest in relocating the Wall Street Bridge, should it be removed by the Town, to Yaman Park. He also stated that there was interest in the bridge by the CNY Living History Center and by the Village for Durkee Park. He suggested that relocation of the bridge at a location in Homer would take precedence.

NEW BUSINESS

Shared office services – On motion by Councilman Warren, seconded by Councilman Jones and carried unanimously: **RESOLVED: that Supervisor Forbes is authorized to sign the “Shared Office Services Agreement Between the Town of Homer and the Village of Homer” to provide occasional supplemental office help should the need arise due to a fluctuating workload or absences due to illness or vacation, with the Town or the Village to reimburse the other for all appropriate costs per hour.**

Mayor McCabe is expected to sign the agreement at the Village’s meeting next week.

Fair Housing month – On motion by Councilman Park, seconded by Councilman Warren and carried unanimously: **RESOLVED: that April be declared as Fair Housing Month in the Town of Homer in accordance with the Title VIII Fair Housing Policy of the Civil Rights Act of 1968 and the Fair Housing Amendments Act of 1988.**

First National Bank of Dryden – Supervisor Forbes reported that he is in process of moving the Town’s funds from Key Bank to the First National Bank of Dryden. He said that the Tax Collector Account would stay in Key Bank for the remainder of the collection through June, and the Community Development Fund would remain for the duration of the Housing Grant.

Annual Financial Report – Supervisor Forbes stated that the Annual Financial Report for 2017 has been filed with the State Comptroller’s Office and is available for board members and the public to review in the Town Clerk’s Office anytime during office hours.

Town’s procurement policy – Attorney Snyder said that he is looking into a revision of the Town’s procurement policy recommended by Thoma Development for the Town’s CDBG grant. It is based on Federal HUD guidelines that appear to conflict with the policy wording mandated by the State of New York. He asked that any proposed revision be postponed until the April meeting so that he could continue to research the issue.

Greater Tompkins County Health Consortium – Forbes reported that Consortium Manager Donald Barber of Caroline will be attending the April meeting to answer any questions about the health consortium.

Computer/laptop for Supervisor – On motion by Councilman Jones, seconded by Councilman Warren and carried unanimously: **RESOLVED: that the purchase of a computer for the Town Supervisor, either desktop or laptop, is authorized for a cost up to \$800.**

Town Hall balcony – Supervisor Forbes explained that Lakeland Environmental has found a small amount of asbestos in the glue holding up the wall tiles in the balcony area. He said that the asbestos is in “nonfriable” form, meaning that it would not become airborne unless it was ground up. In an abundance of caution, Forbes suggested that the tiles be removed and has contacted Contento Contractors, who have licensed asbestos abatement personnel on their staff.

On motion by Councilman Warren, seconded by Councilman Park and carried unanimously:
RESOLVED: that the Town accepts a proposal by Contento Contractors for a C&D debris clean-up of the Town Hall balcony and stairwells for a total of \$6,500.

On motion by Councilman Park, seconded by Councilman Jones and carried unanimously:
RESOLVED: that the purchase of plywood panels are approved to expedite the cleanup of the balcony by creating a walkway across the ceiling at a cost not to exceed \$500.

To avoid a conflict of interest, the Town Attorney was not involved in reviewing the proposal from Contento Contractors.

HIGHWAY SUPERINTENDENT

Highway Superintendent Phelps reported on his department’s activities over the past month, mainly involving snow removal and ice control, and resulting in several equipment breakdowns.

There was much discussion about the purchase of a new large truck. Phelps outlined the four separate quotes he had received on four different vehicles being offered on an Onondaga County contract. After reviewing all quotes and test-driving them, Phelps recommended that the Town accept a quote on a Western Star 4700 fully equipped with dump box and snow plow for \$199,997, and adding an extended warranty.

On motion by Councilman Park, seconded by Councilman Jones and carried unanimously: **RESOLVED: that the Town Board accepts the bid from Tracey Road Equipment for a new 2019 Western Star 4700SF with Henderson plow and body per Onondaga County Contract #7823 and including the extended warranty.**

COUNTY LEGISLATOR

County Legislator Linda Jones reported on the activities at the County Legislature over the past month. She said that she is on a committee looking into similarly-sized counties and how their county governments compare to Cortland County’s. She will be meeting with representatives from Chenango County in the near future.

Linda Jones is heading up a group of volunteers to restore some of the former attractions in Dwyer Park, such as the circus trailers, that have fallen into disrepair. She has gotten an enthusiastic response from the public about improving and celebrating the history of Cortland County’s only county park.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Anita W. Jebbett
Town Clerk