

The regular meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Homer held in the board room of the Town Hall Building on Wednesday, July 10, 2018, was called to order by Supervisor Frederick J. Forbes, Sr., at 6:30 p.m.

PRESENT

Frederick J. Forbes, Sr., Supervisor
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

ABSENT

Larry R. Jones, Councilman

OTHERS PRESENT

Hal McCabe, Mayor, Village of Homer
Kelly Preston, Cortland County Legislator
Matt Whitman, Director, Cortland Area Communities That Care Coalition
Robert Barber, Executive Vice President for Marketing, McNeil & Co.
Lloyd Sutton, Jr., Supervisor, Town of Truxton
Patrick Clune, Trustee, Village of Homer

MINUTES

The minutes of the June 6th 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 were:

1. The Supervisor's report of all cash receipts & disbursements for May.
2. The Town Clerk's report of all cash receipts & disbursements for June.
3. The Code Enforcement Officer's report of all building permits issued in June.
4. The Dog Control Officer's report of all activities for the month of June.
5. The status of funds report for the CDBG housing rehab grant as of the end of June.

ANNUAL REPORTS

Presented for audit by the Board were:

1. The Tax Collector's Return Document from the Cortland County Treasurer's Office for the 2018 tax collection.

BILLS TO BE PAID

General bills were approved as audited on motion by Councilman Park, seconded by Councilman Williams and carried unanimously: **RESOLVED: that General Fund vouchers #125 through #149 totaling \$28,003.74 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 #98 through #122 totaling \$36,137.78 are approved for payment.**

Community Development bills were approved as audited on motion by Councilman Williams, seconded by Councilman Warren and carried unanimously: **RESOLVED: that Community Development Fund vouchers #27 through #33 totaling \$71,397.61 are approved for payment.**

CORTLAND AREA COMMUNITIES THAT CARE COALITION

Matt Whitman, Director of Cortland Area Communities That Care Coalition (CACTC), informed the Board about his organization whose mission is to engage the community to promote a healthy culture for positive youth development. He outlined their three main goals as drug prevention, with an emphasis on the opioid epidemic; positive activities for youth development; and promotion of literacy. He handed out booklets created by his organization designed to address the opioid issue for different audiences. The Board thanked him for a very informative presentation.

WORKERS' COMPENSATION

Councilman Park, who represents the Town and Village of Homer, and the Towns of Preble, Scott and Truxton on a special committee on workers' compensation insurance, introduced Robert Barber of McNeil & Co., administrators of the Cortland County Self-Insurance Fund.

Barber reported on recent improvements to the management of the fund. The improved financial status is a direct result of the concerns which were expressed by the members of the County, City, Towns, Villages, & Schools Committee (CCTVS), of which Park's committee is off-shoot. Barber explained that they use an average of the assessed value of each municipality to stabilize the cost of the insurance and now have a separate policy for firefighters who have the biggest risk of loss. He said that unlike private workers' compensation policies, the State does not require local governments to post a bond or establish a reserve for loss control and future costs. However, the County is now building up a separate reserve for that purpose.

Barber said that the County will now be sharing information with the other municipalities in the County, not just the County Legislature as had happened in the past. Other recent changes include a claims portal and requirements for the prompt reporting of claims.

Barber said that a better managed self-insurance plan makes a lot of sense as a cost-effective way for municipalities to maintain insurance coverage.

Park said that the committee is also looking at ways to promote workplace safety and the prevention of accidents, and that he feels that the Cortland County Self-Insurance Fund is now heading in the right direction.

Supervisor Forbes stated that the CCTVS did all its members a great service by bringing this issue to the attention of the County Legislature. The Board thanked Barber for all his information.

REGULAR BUSINESS

Health care consortium - On motion by Councilman Williams, seconded by Councilman Park and carried unanimously: **RESOLVED: that the Town of Homer hereby requests the Greater Tompkins County Municipal Health Insurance Consortium to make all enrollment changes, additions, and deletions online at the Excellus Web portal, and that the Supervisor is authorized to sign the Municipal Authorization, allowing the Health Consortium to have access to the Town's Excellus web portal for all membership data for the group.**

Letter of recognition – Councilman Williams agreed to write a letter of recognition for Rowen Travis who will be awarded the status of Eagle Scout. Williams accepted the offer by Mayor Hal McCabe to work together on a statement of recognition.

Board of Assessment Review – Supervisor Forbes said that he would be making a recommendation at the August meeting for a new member of the BAR to replace Hugh Riehlman.

Power line expansion – There was discussion about the status of the proposed power line to be expanded through portions of East Homer. The project is currently on hold as it is being re-assessed by NYSEG and others involved.

Family Health Network – Councilman Williams reported on attending an open house of the new offices located in the Village of Homer on Route 281.

Sales tax revenue – There was much discussion about the County’s plan to keep more sales tax in 2019, taking revenue away from the Towns, Villages and the City of Cortland. Supervisor Forbes expressed concern that the County has no accurate financial information to work with. County Legislator Kelly Preston said that the current estimate is for a loss to the Town of around \$86,000, instead of the \$33,000 that Forbes had been expecting.

New grant applicants - On motion by Supervisor Forbes, seconded by Councilman Williams and carried unanimously: **RESOLVED: that Supervisor Forbes is authorized to sign his approval of two more applicants for the Community Development Block Grant – Karla Cannavino, 24 Cherry Street, for \$26,518, and Thomas Cornell, 34 Grove Street, for \$29,945.**

Hights Gulf Road Bridge – There was discussion about the recently received engineering design for the repair of the bridge. Councilman Park noted that there are a few items that need correcting such as the type of steel to be used.

On motion by Councilman Williams, seconded by Councilman Warren and carried unanimously: **RESOLVED: that the Town advertise for bids for the repair of the Hights Gulf Road Bridge based on a proposal by Barton & Loguidice with some minor corrections and following a review of the proposal by Attorney Patrick Snyder, with bids to be returned to the Town Clerk’s Office and opened on Wednesday, August 8th, at 2:00 p.m., and a bid award to be scheduled for a special meeting to be held on Monday, August 13th, at a time to be determined.**

Board members voiced concern that the bridge repair be completed by the end of October.

Wall & Pine Street Bridges – Highway Superintendent Phelps reported that he will need to close access to both the Wall Street and Pine Street bridges due to their failure to pass State DOT inspections. There was discussion about whether or not to do temporary repairs to the Wall Street Bridge. Phelps was concerned that to do so might jeopardize the Town’s application to the Bridge NY program for a grant to replace the bridge. Supervisor Forbes noted that the bridge is used often, especially when school is in session, to avoid a long wait at the Albany Street intersection. Councilman Park suggested that the Town ask the engineers, Barton & Loguidice, to come up with stop-gap measures to make it so the Wall Street Bridge could remain open.

On motion by Councilman Williams, seconded by Councilman Park and carried unanimously: **RESOLVED: that a request be made to Barton & Loguidice to design a “stop-gap” repair for the Wall Street Bridge to bring it back to a 3-ton capacity rating.**

Town Hall Office Renovation – On motion by Councilman Warren, seconded by Councilman Park and carried unanimously: **RESOLVED: that the Town advertise for bids for alterations to the Town Hall based on the plans and bid specifications prepared by Crawford & Stearns, Architects, for the expansion and renovation of office space; with any bids to be returned to the Town Clerk’s Office and opened at 2:00 p.m. on Monday, August 20th, and with a bid award to take place at a special meeting to be held on Monday, August 27th, at a time to be determined.**

Supervisor Forbes reported that he has cleared many items off the stage in anticipation of the project. Councilman Williams said that he had asked someone to look over the items left to see if there is any value in them.

On motion by Councilman Williams, seconded by Councilman Warren and carried unanimously: **RESOLVED: that, not including certain doors, moldings and set pieces being reserved for the project, the remaining items on the Town Hall stage are declared of no use to the Town either now or in the future and that they be advertised for purchase by sealed bid in the Homer News, with the stage to be open for inspection of the items on Saturday, July 21st, from 10 a.m. until noon.**

HIGHWAY SUPERINTENDENT

Highway Superintendent Phelps reported on his department’s activities over the past month, including screening grindings for a cold mix to be used on Foster-Moore and Harrison Roads. He reported that the new truck is now in Watertown and will be ready for use by September.

COUNTY LEGISLATOR

Kelly Preston gave a brief summary of the activities at the County Legislature over the past month, including approval to advertise for the position of County Administrator. She also spoke about the need to consider improvements to the current County jail along with exploring alternatives to incarceration.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:45 p.m.

Anita W. Jebbett, Town Clerk