

Regular Meeting  
September 8, 2021

The regular meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Homer held on Wednesday, September 8, 2021, in the Town Hall Senior Center was called to order by Supervisor Frederick J. Forbes Sr., at 6:33 p.m.

Social distancing was observed due to the on-going COVID-19 pandemic.

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  
Heather M. Hill, Town Clerk  
Brooke L. Poli, Town Deputy Clerk

OTHERS PRESENT

Victor Siegle, Homer Village resident  
Patrick Clune, Trustee, Village of Homer  
Liz Arnold, Homer Village Resident  
Don Ferris, Homer News Paper  
Kevin Smith, Reporter Cortland Voice  
Kevin Fitch, Cortland County Legislator

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

MINUTES

**The minutes of the August 4th Public Hearings for Local Law # 1&2, August 4<sup>th</sup> regular meeting & the August 17th special meeting were approved as presented,** on motion by Councilmember Park, seconded by Councilmember Jones and carried unanimously.

MONTHLY REPORTS

Presented for audit by the board were:

1. The Town Clerk's report of all receipts and disbursements for August.
2. The Code Enforcement Officer's report of all building permits issued for August.
3. The Dog Control Officer's report of all activities for August.
4. The Supervisor's report of all financial activities through August.

BILLS TO BE PAID

Highway bills were approved as audited by councilmember Park, motioned by councilmember Park, seconded by councilmember Jones and carried unanimously: **RESOLVED: that Highway Fund vouchers #119 through #133 totaling \$30,717.13 are approved for payment.**

General bills were approved as audited by councilmember Warren, motioned by councilmember Warren, seconded by councilmember Williams and carried unanimously: **RESOLVED: that General Fund vouchers #155 through #180 totaling \$64,151.04 are approved for payment.**

## REGULAR BUSINESS

SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT SIGNS – Councilmember Park updated the board about his conversation with Mayor Hal McCabe regarding the decisions on the Soil & Water Conservation District signs. Councilmember Park stated the mayor had sign placement ideas and supports the direction the town wants to go and village will follow. Motioned by Councilmember Park, seconded by councilmember Warren and carried unanimously.

**RESOLVED: for the Town of Homer to give Amanda Barber up to \$1,000 for new Soil & Water signs with recommendations of larger signs and new placements.**

FUTURE OF SENIOR CENTER – Councilmember Williams informed the board that the Homer Senior club voted not to go with county grant. The club is still in flux about where they want to go regarding their clubs future. Kevin Fitch Cortland County Legislator stated that he was surprised to hear that the senior club does not want to apply for the county grant. Mr. Fitch said that Homer was number two in the county for participation and he thinks that the seniors should still apply for the grant. There was much discussion about the grant money being taxable, where the money comes from, how long it will last and other venue options for the club to meet. Supervisor Frederick J. Forbes Sr., said that applying for the grant could be subject to change as he did not attend this month's senior club meeting and was not aware of any changes made.

WORKMAN'S COMPINSATION QUOTE - Supervisor Forbes, informed the board that he is awaiting quotes for the Town of Homer Workman's compensation from Bailey's Place (PERMA) and New York State Municipal Workers' Compensation Alliance. Supervisor Forbes stated that both companies guaranteed a coverage of two years.

TOWN CLERK'S HOURS – Supervisor Forbes, opened the discussion about updating the town clerks business hours. Anita W. Jebbett had the hours to match the Homer Village clerk's hours. There was much discussion on what hours would service the town and clerks best. Supervisor Forbes, the councilmembers and clerks decided to make the town clerk office hours Monday-Thursday 8:30am to 4pm and Friday 8:30am to 1pm, without closing during the noon hour.

TOWN HALL FURNACE – Councilmember Warren informed the board that the installation of the furnace started today, Wednesday September 8<sup>th</sup>, 2021. Mr. Warren is pleased with Next Gen HVAC progress and price. Councilmember Park asked the board when we can complete payment to Next Gen HVAC. Supervisor Frederick J. Forbes Sr., said that we can pay the balance. Councilmember Williams proposed to give authority to Supervisor Forbes and Councilmember Warren to check the completion of the furnace before final payment is made. On motion by Councilmember Park, seconded by Councilmember Jones and carried unanimously.

TWO ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS MEMEBERS STEPPING DOWN - Supervisor Forbes, told the board that the Zoning Board of Appeals is in need of two new members as Chairman - Gary Lawrence is moving out of state this fall and Neil McMahon will also be leaving the Board. Supervisor Forbes stated that Gary Lawrence has done a terrific job as chairman. Supervisor Forbes, asked the board to please contact him if anyone has any recommendations.

TOWN CLERK OFFICE UPDATES - Supervisor Forbes, informed the board that Anita W. Jebbett had recommended to budget in \$2,000 for new computers. We received a quote Plan First Technologies for two new desktop computers, a laptop and docking station for the clerks and a laptop for Code Enforcement Officer. Mr. Forbes stated the clerks wanted to be more efficient with the public's needs. Creating two computer stations with two fully programmable computers, would allow the clerks to assist the customer's needs in a timely manner. Supervisor Frederick J. Forbes, Sr., made mention of the masks regulations constantly changing to build a permanent Plexiglas barrier like the Assessor and Court offices for the clerks to have freedom

behind the glass. Mr. Forbes wanted the board to be aware and to be part of the decision making process.

SOLAR ENERGY PROPOSED LOCAL LAW #4 – Patrick Snyder Town Attorney, wrote the proposed Local Law #4 since the last board meeting. Supervisor Forbes, received a letter from the Assessor's office from the assessor with his opinion on what route to take regarding the Solar Project. As stated on the letter from the assessor he chooses option 2. Mr. Forbes discussed the importance about all involved agencies coming together as a whole. Councilmember Park and Councilmember Jones agreed to sit on a committee to address the issue of assessments and pilot agreements. There was also a discussion about litigation over tax assessments. Supervisor Forbes, publically thanked Victor Siegle for challenging the Town Board to go deeper in the thought process than they ever anticipated. Mr. Forbes stated that we all have the same end goals and in order to move forward we need to do it collectively.

Victor Siegle, Village resident, presented the Town Board with various graphs and multiple solar handouts. Mr. Siegle reiterated his support for environmentally sound solar projects and he also informed the board that he endorsed equitable property taxes for all industries including solar projects. After much discussion about what was best for the town, the board talked about moving the proposed local law #4 to a public hearing. Motioned by Councilmember Williams, second by Councilmember Park, carried unanimously. **RESOLVED: that the Town of Homer move Proposed Local Law #4 to a public hearing at our next town board meeting, on Wednesday, October 6, 2021.**

Supervisor Forbes, asked if there was any other business. The meeting was adjourned at 8:31 PM.

Heather M. Hill  
Town Clerk