

Regular Meeting
October 6, 2021

The regular meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Homer held on Wednesday, October 6, 2021, in the Town Hall Senior Center was called to order by Supervisor Frederick J. Forbes Sr., at 7:26 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

Duane Reynolds, Homer West Hill Cemetery
Victor Siegle, Homer Village Resident
Valarie Puma, Cortland Standard
Kevin McMahon, Code Enforcement Officer
Liz Arnold, Homer Village Resident
Don Ferris, Homer News
Chris Spadolini – Cortland Recycling

MINUTES

The minutes of the September 8th, 2021 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 September.
2. The Code Enforcement Officer's report of all building permits issued for September.
3. The Dog Control Officer's report of all activities for September.
4. The Supervisor's report of all financial activities through September.

BILLS TO BE PAID

Highway bills were approved as audited by councilmember Warren, motioned by councilmember Warren, seconded by councilmember Jones and carried unanimously: **RESOLVED: that Highway Fund vouchers #134 through #145 totaling \$37,400.49 are approved for payment.**

General bills were approved as audited by councilmember Jones, motioned by councilmember Jones, seconded by councilmember Park and carried unanimously: **RESOLVED: that General Fund vouchers #181 through #195 totaling \$17,780.11 are approved for payment.**

2022 Tentative Town Budget

Supervisor Forbes reviewed the tentative budget for 2022, and informed the board that this is his 18th time preparing the budget for the Town of Homer. Forbes informed the board that the assessor and the assessor clerk approached the town for health insurance. In addition to the Town

of Homer, the assessor also works for Cazenovia, Virgil, and the City of Cortland. The assessor has been employed with the Town of Homer for five years and has never asked for a raise. The town of Virgil agreed between both towns to pay 20% of the assessor's health insurance.

Forbes also informed the Town Board of Caitlyn Brown's request to be put on the Town of Homer's health insurance plan. Brown informed Forbes she would incur the cost of the insurance. After reviewing Caitlyn's skills and abilities as a certified assessor, Forbes stated that the Town Board might consider giving her a raise which was already part of the budget process. Currently, she makes an hourly rate of \$15.10 and he suggested to raise her hourly rate to \$18.50 to compensating her insurance coverage. The Town Board agreed with Forbes's suggestions of Brown being put on the Town of Homer's insurance and to give her a raise.

On motion by Councilman Jones, seconded by Councilman Park and carried unanimously: **RESOLVED: that the tentative budget proposed by Supervisor Forbes with insurance adjustments is hereby adopted as the 2022 preliminary budget for the Town of Homer, with a proposed tax rate of \$1.32/thousand for the Village, and \$1.32/thousand plus a fire district tax of \$1.00/thousand for a total Town rate of \$2.32/thousand.**

FRANK SUITE ANNEXATION – Mr. Forbes presented a sub division application from Frank Suites regarding his property 18 Balmoral Way. Mr. Forbes brought an enlarged board map for a visual reference to share. Mr. Suite's grandson would like to purchase the lot to build his home with water and sewer hookup. Mr. Forbes stated that this is a complicated sub division as the property is located with 1 acre in the village of Homer and 1 acre in the Town of Homer. Supervisor Forbes wanted to make the Town Board aware that this sub division will be coming up on the planning board docket this month. Any subdivision approval will be contingent upon approval of the annexation. Forbes recommended having a joint hearing with the Village to approve or deny the annexation. Attorney Patrick Snyder informed the Town Board it is not necessary that all town board members be present at a hearing.

TOWN HALL FURNACE– Councilmember Warren updated the Town Board on the progress of the furnace. Next Gen HVAC found air in the lines that were showing error codes which they fixed. Warren stated they are still waiting on the insulation for the pipes to come in and he will keep us posted.

SERVICE OF ALL AIR FILTERS & AIR CONDITIONERS – Councilmember Warren updated the Board that he went through the town hall and changed out all air filters. Warren also ordered and has a backup filters for all areas.

FIRE COMISSIONER UPDATE – BUDGET & OVERRRIDE PASSED – Mr. Forbes said that the fire commissioners met and raised the budget by \$1,000 making it more than a 2% increase.

TRANSFER OF FUNDS FROM VILLAGE OF HOMER, VIRGIL AND CITY OF CORTLAND – Mr. Forbes said we should consider allowing the village of Homer, Virgil and the City of Cortland to have access to make a direct deposit instead of issuing a paper check to the Town of Homer. Forbes mentioned that by doing this it would make it easier on himself and Cahill & Knobel. On motion by Supervisor Forbes, seconded by Councilmember Warren and carried unanimously: **RESOLVED: To accept direct deposits from the Village of Homer, Virgil and City of Cortland instead of issuing a paper check to the Town of Homer.**

FUTURE OF SENIOR CENTER – Mr. Forbes informed the Board that he met with the Chief of police. He is unsure of the direction that the senior club wants to take. Forbes is hoping to make the senior center work for both the senior club and the police but so far it is not working out. They cannot share a common entrance and the process is moving forward slowly. Forbes stated that the county provided most of their needs and the town hall is the place where the seniors can meet. Councilmember Williams inquired, what is the square footage needed by the seniors. Following much discussion, Councilmember Warren said they still seem to have a lot of unanswered questions.

CODE ENFORCEMENT OFFICER

Kevin McMahon, Code Enforcement Officer provided the Cortlandville Building, Planning and Zoning fees price list. He informed the Board that although Cortlandville, Virgil and Village of Homer fees are higher then the Town of Homer's current price list, having each town that he serves have the same rates would make his job easier. Mr. McMahon mentioned the Town Hall consider excepting credit cards for a form of payment. Supervisor Forbes replied this would be a decision from the town clerks.

TOWN ATTORNEY

Mr. Forbes asked Mr. Snyder if there was anything he wanted to discuss. Patrick M. Snyder, Attorney for the Town said that the main thing he wants to address is the EDF project. There are many documents that should be reviewed on the state's website. Mr. Snyder said the proposed Road Use and Protective Order Agreements he does not recommend entering into at this time. He stated that he would not recommend entering into any protective orders as the Town will be giving up a lot and bearing the burden of proof in the future. He would rather rely on the Freedom of Information Law without the complications of protective orders. He is also concerned about how the division of labor will work in the future between the three towns.

TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE POSTAGE MACHINE – Mr. Forbes presented to the Board that the Town clerks requested \$1,000 to be added to their postage machine in the Town clerk's office. This is necessary to finish out the year and prepare for the upcoming tax season. On motion by Councilmember Warren, seconded by Councilmember Park and carried unanimously:
RESOLVED: to add \$1,000 to the Town of Homer Clerk's Office postage machine with the September bills.

CLERK AND CODE ENFORCEMENT COMPUTER QUOTES – Supervisor Forbes said the Code Enforcer and Town Clerks are in need of updated computer systems. Kevin McMahon stated that after he talked with Councilmember Kevin Williams he is no longer in need of a new laptop because Plan First Technologies upgraded his current software to Windows10 Pro. Councilmember Williams informed the Board that he would meet with the Town Clerks and discuss their request for new computers when he comes into the office to audit the bills this week.

BLINDS FOR TOWN CLERKS OFFICE – Supervisor Forbes said the Town Clerk's requested to have blinds installed to the clerk's office to provide privacy. Mr. Forbes asked councilmember Warren to have a conversation with the clerks on how to move forward to meet the needs requested.

DAVID SCHILINSKE SPECIAL REQUEST – Mr. Forbes told the Board that he received a phone call from David Schilinske. He had a service dog for 15 years that has passed away. He was inquiring about permission to put up a memorial by the dam of Little York Lake. Mr. Schilinske told Mr. Forbes that they used to walk past the dam on a daily. Following much discussion with the Board as to who has ownership of the dam, Mr. Forbes said he would reach out to Cortland County and pursue this request.

DUANE REYNOLDS HOMER WEST HILL CEMETERY UPDATE – Duane Reynolds, Homer West Hill Cemetery told the board he was here to hand in his annual report that was requested at the August 4, 2021 meeting (attached). He informed the Board that the cemetery had a great year. He also wanted to make note from the August 4, 2021 minutes that the cemetery address was incorrect and that it is located on NYS Route 90 not NYS Route 41. The Town clerks apologized and told Duane the correction would be made. On motion by Councilmember Park, seconded by Councilmember Jones and carries unanimously: **RESLOVED: that the Town of Homer receive and accept Homer West Hill Cemetery's Annual report that will be filed in the Clerk's office.**

Supervisor Forbes, asked if there was any other business. The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 PM.

Heather M. Hill
Town Clerk

