

The Regular meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Homer held on Wednesday, January 5, 2022, in the Town Hall Board Room was called to order by Supervisor Frederick J. Forbes, Sr., at 6:30 p.m. Social Distancing was observed due to the on-going COVID-19 pandemic.

PRESENT

Frederick J. Forbes, Sr., Supervisor
Michael R. Park, Deputy Supervisor
Larry R. Jones, Councilmember
Barry E. Warren, Councilmember
Kevin M. Williams, Councilmember
Patrick M. Snyder, Attorney for the Town
Heather M. Hill, Town Clerk
Brooke L. Poli, Deputy Clerk
Kevin Conlon - Cortland Standard
Don Ferris – Homer News

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

MINUTES

The minutes of the December 8th regular meeting were approved as presented.

On motion by councilmember Jones, seconded by Deputy Supervisor Park and carried unanimously.

BILLS TO BE PAID

General bills were approved as audited on motion by Councilmember Warren, seconded by Councilmember Williams and carried unanimously: **RESOLVED: that General Fund vouchers #268 through #275 totaling \$4,455.59 are approved for payment.**

Highway bills were approved as audited on motion by Deputy Supervisor Park, seconded by Councilmember Jones and carried unanimously: **RESOLVED: that Highway Fund vouchers #213 through #217 totaling \$7,960.29 are approved for payment.**

ANNUAL APPOINTMENTS AND RESOLUTIONS

On motion by Supervisor Fredrick J. Forbes Sr., seconded by Deputy Supervisor Park and carried unanimously: **RESOLVED: that the annual appointments and resolutions for the year 2022 are approved as follows:**

Annual Appointments and Resolutions for the year 2022 are as follows:

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| 1. Deputy Supervisor | Michael R. Park |
| 2. Town Meeting Dates | Monthly, 1st Wednesday after 1st Tuesday at 6:30 pm |
| 3. Official Newspaper | Cortland Standard |
| 4. Official Depository of Town Funds | FNB of Dryden |
| 5. Attorney for the Town | Patrick M. Snyder |
| 6. Budget Officer | Fredrick J. Forbes Sr. |
| 7. Deputy Highway Superintendent | John Lansdowne |
| 8. Town Clerk/Tax Collector | Heather M. Hill |
| 9. Registrar of Vital Statistics | Heather M. Hill |
| 10. Deputy Town Clerk/Tax Collector | Brooke L. Poli |
| 11. Deputy Registrar of Vital Statistics | Brooke L. Poli |
| 12. Dog Control Officer | Lindsay Anderson |
| 13. Code Enforcement Officer | Kevin McMahan |
| 14. Deputy Code Enforcement Officer | Adam P. Brown |
| 15. Fire Inspector | Kevin McMahan |
| 16. Deputy Fire Inspector | Adam P. Brown |
| 17. Zoning Board Member Appointments | Ryan DuBois
Rhea Robinson |
| 18. PB/ZBA Chairman rate per meeting | \$50/Meeting |

19. PB/ZBA member rate per meeting	\$30/ Meeting
20. Mileage Allowance for Town Officials	Per Federal Government Allowance
21. Approval to invest surplus funds	Fredrick J. Forbes Sr.
22. Hourly rate for Highway Employees	As per Budget Adopted
23. Bid price for abrasive/salt	NYS Bid Price
24. Bid price for fuel	Cortland County
25. Board of Assessment Review Rate	\$125/Day
26. Appointment of Delegate to Association of Town's December 2021 Meeting	None
27. Town Historian Appointment	Martin Sweeney
28. Resolution-Salaries as Stated in Budget	Yes
29. Town Board Member's Salaries paid monthly	Yes
30. Resolution-Utility, Comptroller, Health Insurance, and HSA Bills to be Paid Upon Receipt	Yes
31. County Legislators	Kelly Preston Linda Jones Kevin Fitch

BUILDING FEES FOR CODE ENFORCEMENT

Supervisor Forbes discussed with the Board the Town of Homer's building permit fees that was brought to the Board in November. Deputy Supervisor Park suggested to keep the building permit fees the same for this year as the town is not in any financial hardship and revisit next year 2023. On motion by Deputy Supervisor Park, seconded by councilmember Jones and carried unanimously: **RESOLVED: to stay at the current fees for 2022 and revisit it at the end of the year.**

WALL STREET BRIDGE

Supervisor Forbes mentioned that the Wall Street Bridge funding was turned down from Bridge New York as he had said last meeting. He wants the Board to plan as to what to do with Wall Street. Supervisor Forbes said that Bridge New York said they would not make a one lane bridge due to the width of the road, it needs to be a two lane, in which he agrees. Deputy Supervisor Park said that he believes a concrete/steel bridge would be more expensive. After much discussion Supervisor Forbes wondered if the Federal Government would allow the stimulus money received by the Town to be used towards the bridge. Councilmember Warren suggested to continue applying every year until the grant is approved.

TOWN HALL PARKING

Supervisor Forbes discussed that since the Village of Homer entity has moved back into the Town Hall the Village has been plowing the lot. At times there are cars parked in the lot and the village is concerned about the liability of hitting one of the parked vehicles. A village Board member suggested at their meeting to have the vehicles park on the south side than once the lot is plowed, they could move their vehicles. Forbes suggested to put up a "park at own risk" sign. Attorney for the Town Pat Snyder mentioned that it maybe be a good idea to have something written, hanging a sign, or making a flier to put onto windshields if they are not following the rules. Councilmember Williams suggested to make a schedule of odd and even parking dates. Mr. Forbes said that he would contact Phil from D.P.W.

WEDDING BARN

Supervisor Forbes asked Pat Snyder if the Planning Board had any ideas on the wedding barn. Pat Snyder said that the Planning Board talked about the zoning law from Virgil dealing with wedding barns, setbacks, and lot sizes. They thought it was a good idea but had no recommendations as the Virgil law is reasonable. Pat Snyder read the Virgil law and definition of an event center that they created. The law does not prevent someone from applying for a variance. Pat Snyder said the Town would have to write a local law to amend the zoning and add in their criteria for an event center. This will include a public hearing. Deputy Supervisor Park suggested to move forward. After much discussion the Board asked Pat Snyder to write up a proposed local law and once it is written it will be reviewed by the town board. Then the board will decide whether to go forward with a public hearing on it.

CAMERAS AT THE TOWN HALL

Supervisor Forbes shared the quote that Councilmember Williams received from Beard Electric regarding installing cameras at the Town Hall (attached). After much discussion the Board decided to go

with the Beard Electric quote which is up to 16 cameras and can grow from there. Supervisor Forbes mentioned that if there are any cameras with voice recordings there needs to be a sign posted. Deputy Supervisor Park asked if there needed to be more the one bid. Pat Snyder said that according to the town procurement policy if you cannot obtain more the one bid you must document your efforts and keep a record of them.

On motion by councilmember Williams, seconded by councilmember Warren and carried unanimously: **RESOLVED: to approve the Beard Electric bid of \$14920.00 for the installation of the video cameras as scoped out in the proposal.**

SOLAR UPDATE

The Board discussed whether to adopt the proposed local law opting out of Section 487 of the NYS Real Property Tax Law. All members felt that it was in the best interests of the town residents to do so. Board member Williams stated that he did not see any benefit in prolonging this anymore. There have already been 2 public hearings and the board has listened to both sides. Adopting this local law will encourage developers to go to the IDA for a pilot agreement, and the 3 towns should work together so they have an agreement with the IDA for future projects. The proposed local law will be renumbered as local law number 1 of this year since we are in a new year.

A motion was made by Council member Williams, seconded by Council member Jones to adopt Local Law #1, and opt out of Real Property Tax Law Section 487. The motion was approved unanimously. A copy of the local law is attached.

FUTURE OF SENIOR CENTER

Supervisor Forbes informed the Board that Ed Finkbinder and Kevin Slack are the two village board members to meet with Deputy Supervisor Park and Councilmember Warren regarding the senior center future plans. After much discussion Supervisor Forbes mentioned that he believes a full renovation needs to be had to the senior center for this to work.

SNOWMOBILE LAW

Supervisor Forbes emailed the Board the snowmobile Laws and Guidelines. Councilmember Warren stated that he forwarded the law over to the concern resident and explained this would be a state matter.

INSURANCE ADJUSTMENT FOR JOHN PHELPS

Supervisor Forbes stated that Mr. Phelps is going onto his wife's insurance as of January 2022. The Town gave significant raises to the Highway employee's but did not include the Superintendent. Several of the Highway employees will be making more than the Superintendent. Supervisor Forbes suggested to adjust the Highway Superintendent wages to \$65,500 annually. This is \$5,000 less for the Town if they were paying his health insurance. Pat Snyder stated he would research the legality of adjusting an elected official's wages as he is not certain. He mentioned the Board may have to adopt a Local Law. The Board agreed to wait to hear from Pat's findings to approve it.

ATTORNEY FOR THE TOWN

Pat Snyder informed the Board that Fran Casullo asked if the Town Board would adopt a more formal resolution on the annexation of the Suits property into the village of Homer. Pat Snyder has prepared the more formal resolution (attached) and the board went over it.

On motion by Councilmember Warren, seconded by Councilmember Jones and carried unanimously: **RESOLVED: the new wording be accepted on the annexation of the Suits property, 18 Balmoral Way.**

OTHER

WIND BREAK - Supervisor Forbes made mention that the Highway Department did a nice job with the wind break on the Town Hall.

BRIDGES - Deputy Supervisor Park mentioned that it would be a good idea to get with John Phelps and the engineer to get a plan and numbers together on the local bridge that is already yellow tagged and get it out for bid.

Councilmember Williams mentioned that the court audit can be prepared by himself, and Councilmember Warren next week. Supervisor Forbes agreed. Supervisor Forbes mentioned that the court is changing their hours from Monday, Tuesday and Thursday to Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday. The District Attorney has also changed the court sessions to the first and third Tuesday of each month. Councilmember Warren stated that he talked with the court clerks to turn up the thermostat of the court room each morning when court will be in session.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:42 p.m.

Heather M. Hill
Town Clerk