

Regular Meeting
February 2, 2022

The regular meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Homer held on Wednesday, February 2, 2022, in the Town Hall Senior Center 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

Michael Park, Deputy Supervisor
Larry R. Jones, Councilmember
Barry E. Warren, Councilmember
Kevin M. Williams, Councilmember
Patrick M. Snyder, Attorney for the Town
Brooke L. Poli, Deputy Town Clerk
Heather M. Hill, Town Clerk

ABSENT

Frederick J. Forbes, Sr., Supervisor

OTHERS PRESENT

Rick Villnave – Cortland County Head Mechanic
Ward Dukelow – Senior Club Member
Ed Finkbeiner – Village Trustee
Joe Cortese – Homer Resident
Sylvia Hammond – Homer Resident
Tanya Digennaro – Village Treasurer
Patrick Clune – Village Trustee
Don Ferris - Editor Homer News

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

MINUTES

The minutes of the January 5th meeting were approved as presented, on motion by Councilmember Jones, seconded by Councilmember Williams and carried unanimously.

MONTHLY REPORTS

Presented for audit by the Board were:

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

BILLS TO BE PAID

General bills were approved as audited on motion by Councilmember Jones, seconded by Councilmember Williams and carried unanimously: **RESOLVED: that General Fund vouchers #1 through #20 totaling \$12,643.95 are approved for payment.**

Highway bills were approved as audited on motion by Councilmember Warren, seconded by Councilmember Jones and carried unanimously: **RESOLVED: that Highway Fund vouchers #1 through #16 totaling \$12,097.48 are approved for payment.**

GATEWAY COMMUNITY PARK PROPOSAL

Ed Finkbeiner & Joe Cortese presented a proposal on a Gateway Community / Dog Park that would be located at the old Casey's Field, which is easily accessible for all four local municipalities and direct exit off Route 81. There is approximately 88 level acres worth of land that can be utilized with 11 acres on the North end of the site that the IDA could utilize. This Community Park would be the first Cortland County Dog Park. It would offer fitness activities, events, and potential income for the local communities. The

total investment start-up cost would be roughly \$450,000, \$420,000 for property purchase and \$30,000 for construction of the dog park. Mr. Finebeiner and Mr. Cortese are hoping that the communities can come together as this project will not be able to be established alone.

ANNUAL APPOINTMENTS AND RESOLUTIONS REVISIONS OF 2022

On motion by councilmember Williams, seconded by councilmember Jones and carried unanimously:
RESOLVED: to add HSA, Health Insurance, BAR checks, and Planning & Zoning checks to the January 2022 list of bills to be paid prior to the Homer Town Board meeting.

BUILDING FEES FOR CODE ENFORCEMENT UPDATE

Town of Homer Board still looking over spreadsheets. Will discuss later date.

PROPOSED LOCAL LAW #3 OF 2022

Attorney for the Town, Patrick Snyder wrote a proposed Local Law #3 of 2022 (**attached**) creating a health insurance buyout program for town officials and employees.

On motion by councilmember Warren, seconded by councilmember Williams and carried unanimously:
RESOLVED: Proposed Local Law #3 of 2022, that the Town reimburse the employee or officer for 60% of the premium expense otherwise paid by the Town, be moved to a Public Hearing in March.

PROPOSED LOCAL LAW #2 OF 2022 WEDDING BARN / EVENT CENETR UPDATE

Attorney for the Town, Patrick Snyder shared the Proposed Local Law #2 of 2022 with the Town Board.

On motion by councilmember Warren, seconded by councilmember Jones and carried unanimously:
RESOLVED: Proposed Local Law #2 of 2022, be moved to a Public Hearing in March.

COURT AUDIT AND RESOLUTION

Councilmember's Kevin Williams and Larry Jones performed an audit of the 2021 fiscal year for the Town of Homer Court Office concluding the term of Judge William Foley on January 26, 2022 (attached). Williams and Jones found all records to be clear, concise, and accurate.

On motion by councilmember Jones, seconded by councilmember Williams and carried unanimously:
RESOLVED: To accept and file the audit with the Town Clerk and forward copies of the 2021 fiscal year audit to New York State unified Court System along with a copy of the adopted motion accepting the audit.

SOLAR UPDATE

Attorney for the Town, Patrick Snyder updated the Town Board on the solar meeting with Cortlandville concerning EDF and potential PILOT agreements. EDF has not approached the IDA yet. There have been no changes with regard to the towns' policies concerning PILOT agreements.

NEW YORK STATE AG LETTER OF INSPECTION FOR COUNTRY ACRES

Deputy Supervisor Park informed the Town Board that they received a letter from New York State Agriculture and markets on the inspection of the Country Acres. The report indicated that the dog shelter services were rated "Satisfactory".

On motion by councilmember Warren, seconded by councilmember Jones and carried unanimously:
RESOLVED: To accept and file the municipal shelter inspection report completed one January 11, 2022.

ASSOCIATION OF TOWNS ANNUAL MEETING

Deputy Supervisor Park asked the Board on Supervisor Fred Forbes behalf if any members were interested in attending the Association of Towns Annual Meeting. All Board members respectfully declined.

BRIDGE UPDATES

Deputy Supervisor Park mentioned that the Pine Street Bridge needs more attention, they are working on a scope of work needed to put out for bid. The Wall Street Bridge funding was turned down from Bridge New York. Still up for discussion if the ARPA funding can be applied to the maintenance of both bridges. Pat Clune Village Trustee stated that the Albany Street bridge needs to be repaired as well. Deputy Supervisor Park stated that he will discuss with Supervisor Forbes to get the bridge committee together.

FUTURE OF SENIOR CENTER UPDATE

No new update - still exploring.

APPOINT CAITLYN BROWN AS DEPUTY ASSESSOR THROUGH JULY 1, 2022

On motion by councilmember Williams, seconded by councilmember Jones and carried unanimously:
RESOLVED: To appoint Caitlyn Brown as Deputy Assessor through July 1, 2022.

BUDGET ADJUSTMENT FOR 2021

Deputy Supervisor Park stated that the Town Board is going to wait for Supervisor Fred Forbes on this revision.

ATTORNEY FOR THE TOWN

Attorney for the Town, Patrick Snyder informed the Town Board that Betsy Gray, member of the Planning Board is moving out of the Town and will need to step down.

Snyder talked with Kevin McMahon about the stipulations out on Route 41 concerning the Armideo subdivision that was approved in 1992. The lots are less than one acre, requirements are 2.4 acres making them non buildable lots. The roads are laid out but never built, quite a mess. Snyder said they may need to meet with Mr. Armideo and the owners of the lots and relook at the subdivision with the Planning Board.

Snyder and Kevin McMahon were approached by Emmanuel Pothos, proposing billboard construction on route 11 in the Town of Homer. Deputy Supervisor Park informed the Board that he was also approached as he is the owner of one of the properties in consideration. Snyder said that the Zoning Law would need to be amended and a public hearing held. The Town Board decided to invite Emmanuel to the next Board meeting to hear his proposal.

Patrick Snyder would like to take all the Zoning Laws from the Town of Homer and combine them into one. It would be a good time to reevaluate the existing laws and adopt a new comprehensive local law. The board agreed that this would be a very good idea.

HIGHWAY SUPERINDENT

Not present.

LEGISLATOR

Not present.

OTHER

Deputy Supervisor Park talked with Highway Superintendent John Phelps who informed him that the truck ordered last year price was going up \$10,000. Deputy Supervisor Park requested a copy of the original contract and suggested to Mr. Phelps the possibility of switching vendors. Rick Villnave Cortland County Head Mechanic stated they ordered four trucks and are a year and a half out from delivery with body prices also going up \$30,000. Deputy Supervisor Park stated that he will work with Mr. Phelps and keep the Board updated.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:56pm.

Heather M. Hill
Town Clerk

