

Regular Meeting
March 2, 2022

The regular meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Homer held on Wednesday, March 2, 2022, in the Town Hall Senior Center was called to order by Supervisor Frederick J. Forbes Sr., at 6:35 p.m.

PRESENT

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

ABSENT

Larry Jones, Councilmember

OTHERS PRESENT

Tim Malchak, Town of Homer Resident
Tessa Keefe, East Homer Resident
Henry Foster, East Homer Resident
Karen Keefe, East Homer Resident
Joe Keefe, East Homer Resident
Laurie Snyder, East Homer Resident
Scott Snyder, East Homer Resident
Sarah Voga, East Homer Resident
Jon Galeotti, East Homer Resident
Emmanuel Pothos, Cortland Resident
Charles Sudbrink, Cortland County Superintendent of Highways
Don Ferris, Homer News
Patrick Clune, Trustee Village of Homer
Kevin Smith, Cortland Voice
Kevin Conlon, Cortland Standard

PLEDGE

MONTHLY REPORTS

Presented for audit by the board were:

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

BILLS TO BE PAID

Highway bills were approved as audited by councilmember Warren, motioned by councilmember Warren, seconded by Deputy Supervisor Park, and carried unanimously: **RESOLVED: that Highway Fund vouchers #17 through #32 totaling \$26,101.69 are approved for payment.**

General bills were approved as audited by Deputy Supervisor Park, motioned by Deputy Supervisor Park, seconded by councilmember Williams, and carried unanimously: **RESOLVED: that General Fund vouchers #21 through #46 totaling \$11,241.09 are approved for payment.**

EAST HOMER CROSSING ROAD CONCERN

East Homer resident Tessa Keefe opened the discussion about the various concerns regarding East Homer Crossing Road. No Shoulder, no sidewalk, no speed limit sign posted and high traffic at extreme speed, with no regards to people, pets, and children. Supervisor Forbes introduced Charles Sudbrink, Cortland County Superintendent of Highways who stated that this is a county road and would need to submit a request to the state. He said that this was not going to be a quick fix and suggested a caution sign. After hearing the concerns from the residents, Supervisor Forbes said that the Homer Town Board will pass a resolution to ask the county to petition the state to post speed limit sign and Attorney for the Town, Patrick Snyder will compose the petition.

On motion by Councilmember Williams, seconded by Councilmember Warren and carried unanimously: **RESOLVED: To send a petition to the Cortland County Highway Department, and the petition be forwarded to the New York State Department of Transportation (NYSDOT), to reduce the speed limit to 40 MPH on East Homer Crossing Road.**

EXTENSION OF TAX COLLECTION

On motion by, Supervisor Forbes seconded by Deputy Supervisor Park and carried unanimously: **RESOLVED: The Town Board request that the County Treasurer's Office grant an extension of time until May 31st, 2022, for the collection of Town and County taxes by the Homer Town Tax Collector.**

SIGNS ALONG INTERSTATE 81

Emmanuel Pothos presented his informational packet (**attached**) to the Board with his proposed billboard installation in the Town of Homer, visible for Interstate 81. Patrick Snyder asked is there is any restrictions on what the signs would look like. Emmanuel said the state does have Rules & Regulations and he will send those to Patrick Snyder.

On motion by Councilmember Williams, seconded by Councilmember Warren, Deputy Supervisor Park abstaining and carried: **RESOLVED: to have the Town Attorney draw up a proposed Zoning Law amendment and send it to the Planning Board and town board for their review.**

HISTORIC MARKER GRANT MONEY

Town Historian Martin Sweeney received a grant check in the amount of \$1,140.00 from the William G. Pomeroy Foundation to the Town of Homer to install a NYS Historic Marker at Arnold's Florists on Cayuga street.

PROPOSED LOCAL LAW #3 OF 2022

On motion by Deputy Supervisor Park, seconded by councilmember Williams and carried unanimously: **RESOLVED: To adopt proposed Local Law #3 of 2022, creating a health insurance buyout program for town officials.**

This becomes Local Law #2 of 2022 since the zoning law amendment cannot be voted on yet due to the General Municipal Law review process.

PROPOSED LOCAL LAW #2 OF 2022

Supervisor Forbes stated that proposed local law #2 will have to go through a full County Planning Board review before a vote can take place.

CDBG – JOAN LEOPARDI

In 2018 Joan Leopardi applied and qualified for the Housing Grant given through the Town of Homer. Joan accepted a differed loan of 20,470.00 for updates on her home. Joan reached out to Supervisor Forbes mentioning that the hot water tank that was installed less than 4 years ago had to be replaced and has asked for a price reduction on the remaining balance.

On motion by Councilmember Warren, seconded by Deputy Supervisor Park and carried unanimously: **RESOLVED: that the Town of Homer adjust Joan Leopardi's present differed loan of \$5,458.52, forgiving \$1500.00, reducing the total to \$3,958.52, if Joan continues to reside at 32 Burgett Drive for the remaining contact period of two years.**

PLANNING BOARD MEMBER REPLACEMENT

Supervisor Forbes informed the Board that there will be an opening on the Planning Board as of April 1, 2022. Betsy Gray is moving after approximately 10 years of service on the Board. Mike McMahon recommended Erin Mahunik who is a Special Education teacher in Homer and resides at Marian Drive, who is interested in taking Betsy's place.

On motion by Deputy Supervisor Park, seconded by Councilmember Warren and carried unanimously: **RESOLVED: that Erin Mahunik will replacement Betsy Gray on the Town of Homer Planning Board effective April 1, 2022.**

TOWN HALL CAMERA UPDATE

No new update.

2022 SHARED SERVICES GRANT PARTICIPATION

Supervisor Forbes advised the Board of a Grant referred by the Cortland County Clerk, Elizabeth Larkin for the Town of Homer to participate in a 2022 Shared Services Grant through the NYS archives Local Government Records Improvement Fund.

On motion by councilmember Williams, seconded by Deputy Supervisor Park and carried unanimously: **RESOLVED: that the Town of Homer apply for the 2022 Shared Services Grant.**

BRIDGE COMMITTEE UPDATE

Supervisor Forbes informed the Board that the Village of Homer would like them to set a date for the bridge committee meeting to take place. After discussing schedules, the meeting will be on March 17, 2022 @ 5:30pm.

FUTURE OF SENIOR CENTER

Supervisor Forbes suggested that the entire Town Board complete a 15-minute walk through of the Town Hall basement with the Village of Homer Board, to assess future plans. After discussing schedules, the meeting will be on March 17, 2022 @ 5:00pm. Supervisor Forbes stated that the clerks and Town Attorney do not need to attend. Attorney for the Town, Patrick Snyder suggested that the clerks put a notice on both entrances of the Town Hall and notify the press.

BLINDS FOR TOWN CLERKS OFFICE UPDATE

Supervisor Forbes asked councilmember Warren to stop by and discuss the installation of blinds for the Town Clerks Office.

HIGHWAY SUPERINDENT

Not present.

ATTORNEY FOR THE TOWN

Patrick Snyder discussed the Armideo approved subdivision that took place back in 1992. Snyder talked with Code Enforcement Officer, Kevin McMahon in hopes to come to a conclusion, as to how to address this as the lots are less the current requirements of 2.4 acres making them non buildable lots. They concluded that there should be another subdivision approval and/or a variance before receiving any kind of building permits for new construction. The last extension of the subdivision approval expired on or about 2006. Kevin McMahon stated that the subdivision in 1992 was never finalized, as the Homer Town Board requested a BOND from Joe Armideo in which he continued to ask for multiple extensions and the requirements to the subdivision were never met. Those requirements included the construction of roads and drainage facilities.

Patrick Snyder discussed taking all the Zoning Laws from the Town of Homer and combining them into one. He would like the Town Board to review them and give him their feedback. Copies of the zoning law and amendments will be sent to all town board members.

There have been no changes on the resolutions concerning PILOT agreements for solar projects, which were adopted by the Homer Town Board and IDA about a year and a half ago. Supervisor Forbes asked if any member of the board wished to change the previously adopted resolution, and no one did.

LEGISLATOR

Not present.

ASSESSOR'S OFFICE UPDATE

Supervisor Forbes updated the board on the status of the Assessor's office as they have had some health/family issues happening. The Town/Village clerks have been trying to help as much as they can while the assessor's office has been closed.

OTHER

Deputy Supervisor Park updated the Town Board that the Wall Street bridge previously yellow tagged by New York state has been lifted. The pieces that are deteriorating do not affect the structure of the bridge. No money needs to go into the bridge at this time.

The Highway truck that is on order price is still staying the same per the original contract as Highway Superintendent John Phelps as switched vendors to keep the price locked in. Park also mentioned that John Phelps is having to order sand because the local yards are sold out.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:22 p.m.

Heather M. Hill
Town Clerk