

Regular Meeting
April 6, 2022

The regular meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Homer held on Wednesday, April 6, 2022, in the Town Hall Senior Center was called to order by Supervisor Frederick J. Forbes Sr., at 6:30 p.m.

PRESENT

Frederick J. Forbes, Sr., Supervisor
Michael R. Park, Deputy Supervisor
Larry 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, Town Deputy Clerk

OTHERS PRESENT

Tim Malchak, Town of Homer Resident
Emmanuel Pothos, Cortland Resident
Patrick Clune, Trustee Village of Homer
Jennifer Clune, Village of Homer Resident
Kevin Smith, Cortland Voice
Kevin McMahon, Code Enforcement Officer
Kevin Fitch, County Legislator Chairman
Pierre Beaudry, Village of Homer Resident
Lori Tyrrell & Husband, Town of Homer Residents
Richard Watrous, Cortlandville Resident

PLEDGE

MINUTES

On motion by Deputy Supervisor Park, seconded by Councilmember Jones and carried unanimously: **RESOLVED: The minutes of the February 2, 2022 & March 2, 2022, meeting were approved as presented.**

MONTHLY REPORTS

Presented for audit by the board were:

1. The Town Clerk's report of all receipts and disbursements for March.
2. The Code Enforcement Officer's report of all building permits issued for March.

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 #33 through #54 totaling \$59,384.10 are approved for payment. *Amount change to voucher**

number 38 was made upon payment, 4/7/2022. In the amount of \$1957.50 adjusted from \$195.50, amending the grand total to \$59,384.10 from \$57,622.10. The Homer Town Board will need to approve this change at the next Town Board meeting on May 4th, 2022.

General bills were approved as audited by Deputy Supervisor Park, motioned by Deputy Supervisor Park, seconded by councilmember Jones, and carried unanimously: **RESOLVED: that General Fund vouchers #47 through #70 totaling \$14,967.12 are approved for payment.**

APPOINTMENT NEW ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS CHAIRMAN

On motion by Supervisor Frederick J. Forbes Sr., seconded by councilmember Warren and carried unanimously: **RESOLVED: Approve to appoint Daniel Gustafson for the Zoning of Appeals Board Chairman.**

SIGNS ALONG INTERSTATE 81 UPDATE

Emmanuel Pothos reiterated his original proposal of installing seven billboards located in the Town of Homer that has now down sized to four digital billboards. Places that are being considered for the installation of the billboards include property of Niswender Enterprises LLC Little York Crossing Road Eastside of Interstate 81, property of Jason Allen West side of Interstate 81, Homer Iron Works Eastside of Interstate 81, and property of Timothy Malchak Eastside of Interstate 81. The targeted traffic for the billboards is interstate 81 and will not be seen from Route 11. The Homer Town Board asked for a simulation of how the billboards would appear in both day and nighttime settings. Emmanuel stated that he would request a presentation from the digital signage manufacturer company, known as Daktronics, that could hopefully be composed and presented at the next Town Board meeting in May. The Town Attorney Patrick Snyder wrote a draft resolution that needs more work and is not ready for public review. The Town Board thanked Emmanuel for his time and look forward to the presentation from the billboard manufacturer.

PROPOSED LOCAL LAW #3 OF 2022

On motion by Councilmember Williams, seconded by councilmember Warren and carried unanimously: **RESOLVED: to file a Negative Declaration Record relative to the Environmental Seeker Form on Local Law #3 of 2022.**

On motion by Supervisor Frederick J. Forbes, Sr., seconded by Deputy Supervisor Park and carried unanimously: **RESOLVED: To amend the Zoning Law to allow for Wedding Barns & Event Centers in the Town of Homer.**

Attorney for the Town Patrick Snyder stated that the hours of operation were adjusted from 8am to 10pm, to 8am to 12am (midnight).

BUDGET ADJUSTMENTS

Supervisor Frederick J. Forbes, Sr., informed the Board that the Budget Adjustments are not ready yet.

FUTURE OF SENIOR CENTER UPDATE

Crawford & Stearns, who is the architect firm that has done all the updates on the Homer Town Hall have scheduled a walkthrough, free of charge, within the next two weeks to draw up plans with the idea of trying to accommodate both the police department and seniors. Randy Crawford is also going to assess the balcony and give Mr. Forbes his thoughts and recommendations.

FIRE DEPARTMENT ANNUAL DINNER

On April 22, 2022, representing the Homer Town Board, Councilmember Kevin Williams and spouse will be attending the Fire Departments Annual Dinner at the Homer Elks Club.

TOWN HALL CAMERA UPDATE

Mr. Beard notified Mr. Forbes that the Town Hall camera installing is hopefully just a couple weeks away.

EAST HOMER CROSSING UPDATE

Supervisor Forbes mentioned the letter composed by Town Attorney Patrick Snyder, regarding East Homer Crossing Road speed limit change was sent to all board members and the county for review.

POSTAGE MACHINE

On motion by Councilmember Warren, seconded by Councilmember Williams, and carried unanimously: **RESOLVED: To add \$1,000 to the Town Clerk's postage machine.**

BRIDGE COMMITTEE UPDATE

Supervisor Forbes updated the Town Board that the bridge committee met yesterday with the three potential companies – Delta, LaBella and C&S concerning Wall, Water and Albany Street bridges. The three companies will notify Mr. Forbes once their proposal is completed.

HIGHWAY SUPERINDENT

Not present.

ATTORNEY FOR THE TOWN

EDF has submitted their application materials for their Solar Project. Details are available on the State Office of Renewable Energy Siting Website.

LEGISLATOR

County Legislator Chairman, Kevin Fitch reported that there is a new full time Cortland County Attorney, Victoria Monty. Kevin Fitch gave an overview report of the activities at the County over the past month or two. The City of Cortland Wastewater Treatment Plant and the Cortland landfill are no longer charging each other to dispose of waste and are looking into 100% funding grants to create a pipeline that leads to both facilities. The City and County are also working together as a team to clean up the Apex site which is an “eye sore” by suspending tipping fees and possibly selling the site. The County attended the NYSEG conference in Albany where they talked about AIM funding. The AIM funding was taking out of the county’s sale tax and giving to municipalities. The New York State budget recognized this was not a great thing and will be getting back county sales tax. Reverting Sales Tax diversion to the failing Hospitals and Nursing Homes a percentage of sales tax was taking out and put into a fund totaling \$5 million that was never distributed. Another subject that was brought up was Medicaid. \$9 million of the County’s budget is for Medicaid. The county gets reimbursed as it is getting used but it is backed logged four years. The county received a report from the coroner’s office from 2021 with 17 opioids overdose deaths listed. The county is looking to create some what of a task force at the county level as there are so many counties, state, and nonprofit agencies. The are looking to get everyone together in one room and create a plan and better direction as to how to fix the issue. Cortland City, Village, Town, and school meetings have been established and they will keep us updated, not meeting will be touching on grants. The last signature was collected for the building purchase on Port Watson Street to move the Mental Health Department into.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:43 p.m.

Heather M. Hill
Town Clerk