

Regular Meeting
July 6, 2022

The regular meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Homer held on Wednesday, July 8, 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
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

OTHERS PRESENT

Patrick Clue, Homer Village Trustee
Donald Ferris, The Homer News
Kevin Fitch, Cortland County Legislature
Gary Lawrence, Town of Homer Resident
Kevin Limiti, Cortland Standard

PLEDGE

MINUTES

On motion by Councilmember Williams, seconded by Deputy Supervisor Park and carried unanimously: **RESOLVED: The minutes of the June 8th, 2022, meeting, were approved as presented.**

MONTHLY REPORTS

Presented for audit by the Town Board were:

1. The Town Clerk's report of all receipts and disbursements for June 2022.
2. The Code Enforcement Officer's report of all building permits issued for June 2022.
3. The Dog Control Officer's report of all activities for June 2022.

BILLS TO BE PAID

General bills were approved as audited by Councilmember Warren, motioned by Councilmember Warren, seconded by Deputy Supervisor Park, and carried unanimously: **RESOLVED: that General Fund vouchers #119 through #138 totaling \$52,854.51 are approved for payment.**

Highway bills were approved as audited by Councilmember Jones, motioned by Councilmember Jones, seconded by Councilmember Williams, and carried unanimously: **RESOLVED: that Highway Fund vouchers #92 through #109 totaling \$34,304.12 are approved for payment.**

APPOINTMENT OF CAITLIN BROWN AS PERMANENT DEPUTY ASSESSOR

Supervisor Forbes informed the Board that the Assessor Brain Fitts has asked by Board approval to appoint Caitlin Brown as a permanent Deputy Assessor for the Town of Homer, City of Cortland, and Virgil. Her position does not affect the budget or insurance premiums for the Town of Homer. Councilmember Williams asked if they need approval from the Triumvirate? Attorney for the Town Patrick Snyder suggested to request a subject of approval from the other two parties.

On motion by Supervisor Frederick J. Forbes, Sr., seconded by Councilmember Williams and carried unanimously: **RESOLVED: To appoint Caitlin Brown as the permanent Deputy Assessor for the Town of Homer, provided that the Town of Virgil and City of Cortland also approve.**

TOWN SUPPLYING TOILETRIES FOR SENIOR CENTER

Supervisor Forbes notified the Board that the seniors from the David Harem Senior Club inquired about whether the Town was providing toiletries in the downstairs bathrooms or if the senior group was responsible for that. Mr. Forbes stated that the Cortland County may have paid for their toiletries in the past. The Board confirmed that the Town will provide.

PLAN FIRST MANAGED SERVICE FEES PAYMENT SCHEDULE

Supervisor Frederick J. Forbes, Sr. informed the Board that the invoice for Plan First is always a month behind their pay schedule. There are two options to get on their payment schedule, to add their facility to our pre-pays or pay a month in advance. Councilmember Williams asked if the Town could participate in a yearly payment plan.

On motion by Councilmember Park, seconded by Councilmember Williams and carried unanimously: **RESOLVED: That the monthly managed services payment with Plan First can be paid monthly with the pre-pays, unless the Town Clerks can talk to Plan First and negotiate an annual payment plan.**

DEC HUNTING LICENSE EVENT

Supervisor Forbes confirmed the date for the DEC hunting license event will be held on August 6, 2022. He informed the Town Board, that as of now, the Town Clerk's office does not have credit card capabilities and would like to start researching what it would entail to start accepting credit card payments. Supervisor Forbes would like to see if clerk's office could accept credit card payments as an option for the DEC hunting license event in August. He asked the Town Board if they would like to pursue this as an option.

On motion by Councilmember Williams, seconded by Deputy Supervisor Park and carried unanimously: **RESOLVED: That the Town of Homer Clerk's office could pursue getting three Request for Proposals (RFP) to consider having credit card payments in the Town Clerk's office and the Board could vote on them at the August meeting.**

TOWN HALL CLERK'S OFFICE OPEN TEMPORARILY ON SATURDAYS

Supervisor Forbes stated that the Town Board might consider hiring a third clerk to work on Saturdays in the months of August, September, and October to accommodate the busy hunting season. The Town Board discussed whether the clerk would process hunting only or fulfill other duties of the clerk during the Saturday hours. Supervisor Forbes informed the Town Board that the Town Clerk, Heather Hill, was willing to work the stated temporary Saturday's and agreed she could determine the hours of operation.

On motion by Deputy Supervisor Park, seconded by Councilmember Warren and carried unanimously: **RESOLVED: The Town Clerk's office would be open on Saturday for the months of August, September, and October, and the hours would be determined by the Town Clerk and decided at the next meeting.**

BILLBOARDS DISCUSSION

Supervisor Forbes stated that the Town Board might consider bringing in an independent source to evaluate the information Emmanuel Pothos presented and believes it is incumbent upon the Town Board to verify the facts presented. Supervisor Forbes also stated that if the Town Board has questions or concerns, he would like the option to pose those pertaining to the billboards and the surrounding area to an independent source. An area Supervisor Forbes recommended comparing was the light pollution from the billboards versus the existing lights from Preble rest area.

Attorney Snyder stated that if the Town Board adopts or amends a Zoning Law, that it must go through a SEQR (State Environmental Quality Review) process. Since the Town Board has an applicant that has approached the Town Board to have the Zoning Law changed, the Town Board has the right and obligation, under SEQR, to require an environmental assessment form. If the Town Board feels that the proposed presentation would have a significant impact on the environment, it would then require an

environmental impact statement. The burden would then lie on the applicant who would have to go through that process. Attorney Snyder stated that if the Town wants to consider Emmanuel's presentation, that Town Board would have to have the environmental assessment form or environmental impact statement first and then have the expert review what Emmanuel presented. Attorney Snyder informed the Town Board that they were under no obligation to accept or entertain Emmanuel's proposal to amend the zoning law, and could evaluate it later. As there are still unanswered questions, the Town Board decided to wait for a later date.

HIGHWAY SUPERINTENDENT

Not present.

ATTORNEY FOR THE TOWN

Attorney for the Town of Homer stated the only thing he wanted to address was the EDF project. Mr. Snyder stated that he and Supervisor Forbes had a conference call with Steve LaFevre and discussed multiple issues. He also stated there will be a public hearing on August 2nd at 5:00 p.m. with a deadline of public comments of August 12th. The information and various documents can be located on the Office of Renewable Energy Siting's website.

LEGISLATOR

Legislator Kevin Fitch thanked the Town Clerks for agreeing to have weekend hours on Saturday. Mr. Fitch updated the Town Board the county is preparing to move the City Court into the County Office Building.

He also stated there has been discussion on bringing back shared services. One item they are considering is the county collecting taxes for all the municipalities, giving the community more ways to pay their taxes. The county would then distribute the checks to the municipalities.

He informed the Town Board they decided to extend the Redistricting Law to May of 2023, because the county wants to look at the full government process. One of the areas they are considering is becoming a charter county. The New York State Association of County Attorneys is putting together a presentation of the pros and cons of becoming a charter county. Out of the sixty-three counties, there are only nineteen charter counties and more on the way. He said by becoming a charter county this would give the county more control and less state regulations.

The Dwyer Park fourth of July celebration was a considerable success and the AirFest and Pumpkinfest are the next events on the calendar. He informed the board that this is the first time since the pandemic they have been able to host these events.

He also stated the county is helping the City of Cortland with the cleanup and the removal of contaminated debris at Apex Cooper Tool ground site. The county is allowing them to take the contaminated debris to the county's landfill.

The Cortland County, Village of McGraw, City of Cortland, and Cortlandville have applied for grants to install the leachate pipeline that would run from the landfill through the Village of McGraw and then into the wastewater plant. Barton and Loguidice are the engineers putting together a proposal for the installation of the pipeline.

As there was no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:33 p.m.

Heather M. Hill
Town Clerk

