

The regular meeting of the Town of Homer Board held on Wednesday, September 6, 2023, in the Town Hall Board Room, was called to order by Supervisor Forbes 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, Deputy Clerk

**OTHERS PRESENT**

Patrick Clune, Trustee Village of Homer  
Margaret Mellott, Cortland Standard  
Gary Lawrence, Homer Resident  
Sarah Head, Homer Resident  
Deb Chapman, Homer Resident  
Boyd Chapman, Homer Resident  
Emmanuel Pothos, Cortlandville Resident  
Don Ferris, Homer Resident

**ABSENT**

John R. Phelps, Highway Superintendent

**PLEDGE**

**MINUTES**

On motion by Deputy Supervisor Park, seconded by Councilman Jones, and carried unanimously: **RESOLVED: The Special Meeting minutes of the August 16, 2023, 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 August 2023.
2. The Supervisor's reports of all financial activities for July 2023.
3. The Code Enforcement Officer's report on all building permits issued for August 2023.
4. The Dog Control Officer's report for July 2023.

On motion by Councilman Williams, seconded by Councilmember Warren, and carried unanimously: **RESOLVED: The Supervisor's monthly report for July, the Town Clerk's monthly report for August, and the Code Enforcement Officer's Monthly report for August, and the Dog Control Officer's report for July are received, accepted, and filed.**

**BILLS TO BE PAID**

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 #453 through #479 totaling \$22,806.59 are approved for payment.**

Highway bills were approved as audited by Councilmember Williams, motioned by Councilmember Williams, seconded by Deputy Supervisor Park, and carried unanimously: **RESOLVED: That Highway Fund vouchers #327 through #350 totaling \$38,435.66 are approved for payment.**

### **SEPTEMBER 20<sup>TH</sup>- SPECIAL MEETING**

Supervisor Forbes reminded the Town Board there is a Special Meeting held in the Senior Center to discuss billboards further on September 20<sup>th</sup>, 2023, at 6:30 pm.

### **NYS HOSTING MEETING ON OCTOBER 5<sup>th</sup>- 6<sup>th</sup>**

The New York State Employees' Retirement System contacted the Town of Homer to inquire if they could utilize the Senior Center to host a Regional Employer Education Seminar on October 5<sup>th</sup> and October 6<sup>th</sup> from 8:00 am- 4:00 pm. Supervisor Forbes stated there could be up to forty or fifty people in the Senior Center and that the Town of Homer would provide the requested space.

Supervisor Forbes stated he has reached out to local businesses to make sure the Town Hall parking lot was not being utilized so there would be plenty of parking available for the attendees.

### **COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT (CDBG) FUNDS ACCOUNT**

Supervisor Forbes informed the Town Board that a Mortgage Release letter for Anna Leach will need to be approved, signed, and sent before next month's meeting through the Community Development Block Grant Program (CDBG).

On motion by Supervisor Forbes, seconded by Councilman Warren, and carried unanimously: **RESOLVED: To send the CDGB Discharge of Mortgage Release letter to Anna Leach.**

### **LOADER & PRICES**

Supervisor Forbes stated that Superintendent Phelps recommended the purchase of a 2023 John Deere 624 P- Tier Wheel Loader for \$230,774.00 for the highway garage.

Superintendent Phelps reviewed and compared pricing for other models of wheel loaders such as a Volvo for \$222,000.00, a Develon for \$224,571.00, and a Hitachi for \$200,00.00.

One of the benefits Supervisor Forbes brought to the Town Board's attention was the village currently owns a John Deere, and if the town decided to purchase the proposed John Deere, the town and Village could inter-change the buckets for the loader.

Since it is a state bid, the Town Board could decide which loader to purchase, and Deputy Supervisor Park stated the loader could be available by the end of the month if the Town Board decides to move forward with the purchase.

The sale of the old wheel loader and the money allocated in the budget would help cover the cost of the proposed 2023 John Deere Wheel Loader.

On motion by Deputy Supervisor Park, seconded by Councilmember Williams, and carried unanimously: **RESOLVED: To purchase the 2023 John Deere 624 P-Tier Wheel Loader for \$230,774.00 from Five Star Equipment in North Syracuse.**

### **QUICKBOOK TRAINING & INSTALLATION OF SOFTWARE**

Supervisor Forbes stated the Town Clerks have started researching different operating programs to consider for accounting for the office. A few of the programs they reviewed were QuickBooks, Williamson Law Book, and Edmunds Govtech.

Deputy Supervisor Park said they are considering bringing a portion of the accounting back into the office. There are also training courses that Supervisor Forbes would like to have the town clerks attend in preparation.

After some discussion, the Town Board decided to review the submitted quotes and discuss them at the next Special Board meeting before they made any further decisions.

### **2023 VILLAGE RECREATION CONTRACT**

On motion by Councilmember Williams, seconded by Councilmember Warren, and carried unanimously: **RESOLVED: To authorize the town supervisor to sign the Village Recreation Contract with the Town of Homer in the amount of 35,419.00 for the fiscal year beginning March 1, 2023.**

### **CLEANING SERVICE**

The Town Clerk's Office is gathering quotes for a cleaning service for Homer Town Hall. They are also obtaining estimates to wax and clean the linoleum in back entrance, all stairwells, and landings, with the consideration of replacing the linoleum if necessary.

### **HOMER ADDED TO SIGN**

Supervisor Forbes stated George Haskel proposed adding Homer to the Preble sign on Interstate 81 to bring people down Route 11 and to the Town of Homer. Supervisor Forbes stated he reached out to Doug Johnston at the Syracuse DOT but has not heard back from him yet and would keep the Town Board updated.

### **911 CEREMONY**

Supervisor Forbes said all Homer Town Board members have been invited to the Village of Homer Fire and Police Departments Annual 911 Ceremony, held on September 11, 2023, at 6:00 pm. This will be held at the 911 Memorial next to the Village Fire Department. The entire Homer Town Board plans to attend the ceremony.

### **HIGHWAY SUPERINTENDENT**

Deputy Supervisor Park updated the Town Board that the Highway Department has had a good year so far and are working with Preble and Virgil through shared services. They are waiting for the conveyor to arrive so they can start to make preparations for the winter.

They are currently mowing roadsides and some of the highway employees have taken vacation time before the busy winter months begin.

### **TOWN ATTORNEY**

Attorney Snyder has had discussions with the Town Attorney for Cortlandville, who is John DelVecchio. Our two towns have been operating for several years under a verbal agreement as to which town would maintain portions of the roads that we share – Bond Road and Hatfield Road. The verbal agreement as to sharing the work has been very successful but the Cortlandville town board has suggested that it be put into writing. We have no objections to putting this in writing and Mr. DelVecchio will be providing a draft agreement that we can consider.

We have two major solar projects that are moving forward. They are EDF, and the project on Brake Hill Road, which is much smaller. We have not received any information concerning their status over the last month. However, it has been mentioned that EDF is attempting to get a PILOT agreement from the county Industrial Development Agency ("IDA.")

## **OTHER**

**Town Court Audit-** Supervisor Forbes said the CPA that audited the Homer Town Court records recommended in her draft report a lock box for the cash drawer key located in the Court Clerk's Office. Supervisor Forbes expects the final draft to be completed soon and the Town of Homer Court can then comply with the appropriate suggestions.

**Town Attorney for 2024-** Deputy Supervisor Park stated he and Attorney Snyder reviewed and updated the Town of Homer attorney job description. Attorney Snyder is retiring at the end of this year, and Deputy Supervisor said the town could advertise the position and start the interview of potential candidates.

The Town Board thanked Attorney Snyder for his years of service to the Town of Homer and Attorney Snyder stated it has been a good twenty years. His dedicated service to the town will be missed.

As there was no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:25 p.m.

Brooke L. Poli  
Deputy Town Clerk