

The Regular Meeting of the Homer Town Board was held at the Town Hall located in the Village of Homer, on Wednesday, September 11, 2024, in the town board room, with Supervisor Park presiding.

Members Present: Supervisor, Michael R. Park,
Deputy Supervisor, Barry E. Warren
Councilmember, Sarah E. Head
Councilmember, Caleb J. Leach
Councilmember, Kevin M. Williams
*(Second half of meeting)

Members Absent: Councilmember, Kevin M. Williams
*(Absent first part of meeting) Attended 911
Memorial Service representing the town.
Arrived at meeting @6:59 p.m.

Others Present: Town Attorney, Daniel J. Ellis II; Town Clerk, Heather M. Hill; Deputy Town Clerk, Brooke L. Poli; Residents: Tim Malchak; Michael Broughton; Maria Barredo; Bridget Solini; David Sorini; Karen Dudgeon; Robert Barredo; Louis Cranson; Lisa Williams; Dani Bruso; Miles Dudgeon; Cheryl Barredo; Ward Dukelow; Pierre Beaudry; and Emmanuel Pothos.

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

Dani Bruso, a marketing Coordinator for Point-Broadband, discussed her efforts to improve digital literacy in the community, including scheduling classes at the local library and sought suggestions for further community involvement.

A few residents expressed opposition to the billboard proposal, questioning the board’s transparency and the potential economic impact on local properties. Supervisor Park stated the town board are in hopes of completing the research and SEQR process within the next two months and ensuring all procedures are followed correctly.

MONTHLY MEETING MINUTES

Deputy Supervisor Warren made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Head, to approve the Draft Regular Town Board Meeting Minutes of August 14, 2024. All voting aye, (Councilmember Williams Absent), the motion was carried.

Councilmember Leach made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Head, to approve the Draft Public Hearing Minutes of August 14, 2024. All voting aye (Councilmember Williams Absent), the motion was carried.

MONTHLY BILL PAY

General bills were approved as audited by Deputy Supervisor Warren, motioned by Deputy Supervisor Warren to approve the general fund vouchers for payment, seconded by Councilmember Leach; All voting aye, (Councilmember Williams Absent), the motion was carried: **RESOLVED: That General Fund vouchers #198 through #225 totaling \$24,492.08 are approved for payment.**

Highway bills were approved as audited by Councilmember Head, motioned by Councilmember Head, to approve the highway fund vouchers for payment, seconded by Councilmember Leach; All voting aye, (Councilmember Williams Absent), the motion was carried: **RESOLVED: that Highway Fund vouchers #108 through #120, totaling \$106,567.23 are approved for payment.**

RESOLUTION #11 A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN BOARD OF THE TOWN OF HOMER TO AUTHORIZE THE PURCHASE OF A 10-WHEEL TRUCK, WESTERN STAR BRAND, THROUGH MUNICIPAL AUCTION.

**Motioned by: Supervisor Park
Seconded by: Deputy Supervisor Warren
VOTES: AYE- Park, Warren, Leach, Head; NAY- 0
(Councilmember Williams Absent)**

WHEREAS, the Town Board of the Town of Homer recognizes the need to replace its highway truck fleet on an as needed basis to ensure proper highway maintenance;

AND WHEREAS, the Town Highway Department is in need of an additional 10-Wheeler truck for highway work purposes.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Town Board of the Town of Homer, as follows:

- 1. Authorization: The Town Board hereby authorizes the Town Highway Superintendent to purchase a 10-Wheel Truck, Western Star Through Municipal Auction;**
- 2. Maximum Amount: The purchase is authorized in an amount not to exceed \$80,000.00**
- 3. Effective Date: This resolution shall take effect immediately.**

RESOLVED, that this resolution be entered into the minutes of the Town Board meeting and that copies be provided to the Town Clerk, Highway Superintendent, and any other parties as necessary.

WRITTEN DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Councilmember Leach made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Head, to receive and file the following monthly reports as presented:

1. Town Supervisor – August 2024
2. The Code Enforcement Officer- August 2024
3. The Dog Control Officer- August 2024
4. Town Clerk- August 2024

All voting aye, (Councilmember Williams Absent), the motion was carried.

Deputy Supervisor Warren made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Leach, to receive and file as presented the Planning Board Minutes of August 2024. All voting aye, (Councilmember Williams Absent), the motion was carried.

AGENDA ITEMS

Supervisor Park stated a budget adjustment needs to be made to the 2024 budget due to receiving funding in the amount of \$3,268.00 from the state. A new budget line should be created entitled A3089, and the funds could be utilized for the Town Clerk Equipment.

Councilmember Head made the motion to amend the 2024 budget line and create A3089 and increase the appropriations in A budget by \$3,268.00, seconded by Deputy Supervisor; All voting aye, (Councilmember Williams Absent), the motion was carried: **RESOLVED: to amend the 2024 Budget by increasing revenues in Account A by \$3,268.00 and create a new budget line entitled A3089.**

Councilmember Leach updated the town board that the new truck will be arriving in a week or so and the highway employees are taking vacation time. They are making sand and salt preparations and are completing road patching and mowing. The highway department is in decent shape for the fall and are working on the Ayers Bridge Road project.

Chairman of the Planning Board, Michael McMahan, thanked the town board for the invitation to come and give updates for the Planning Board. He stated there have been the usual subdivisions, lot line adjustments, and special permits. He discussed the ongoing issues, including the Wedding Barn on Rice Hill Road operating without a permit and the need for the Comprehensive Plan to be updated.

Supervisor Park reported they should know in December if the town will receive the grant they applied for, to update the Comprehensive Plan.

*Councilmember Williams arrived at the town board meeting.

Town Clerk Hill reported their office has been busy and introduced the new part time Deputy Clerk, Donna Kotas, to the town board. Ms. Kotas previously worked in the village

office and retired. She is assisting with various tasks in the clerk's office as well as completing filing in the Code Enforcement's office.

There was discussion about the potential donation of an old copier to the Homer Fire Department and their request for a donation towards a new rescue mini pumper truck. The Homer Fire Department is considering updating the fire truck, which is over 20 years old, to a new four-wheel drive model.

Supervisor Park reported he attended the county meeting where they discussed sales tax. If the county stays with the formula for distributing the sales tax, the Town of Homer would lose approximately \$600,000.00 of the town's budget. If approved, these changes would take place over the next two to four years.

Discussion occurred on the reassessment plan Assessor Brian Fitts proposed at last month's meeting. The cost for the plan would be \$49,175.00, which would cover paying assessors and mailing fees. Potential state aide reimbursement was also discussed.

Councilmember Head made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Leach, to approve the reevaluation for the Town of Homer and authorize Supervisor Park to contract for the assessment work with Mr. Fitts. All voting aye, the motion was carried: **RESOLVED: to approve the reevaluation of the Town of Homer and to authorize payment of \$49,175.00.**

There was an update given on the Wall Street Bridge project. The town did not receive funding, and alternative plans are being considered to reduce costs. Supervisor Park stated he would like to get a committee together and develop a new plan. Councilmember Leach and Councilmember Williams are interested in being on the bridge committee.

Supervisor Park stated he has been in contact with the engineers and architects for the final bid documents and layout for the downstairs renovations. He informed the town board it would be another two months before Crawford and Stearn would have finalized plans for the renovations. The town would like to obtain bids by the winter and the police present in the town hall will be an asset.

Supervisor Park stated he would like to consider making plans for office renovations at the highway department including painting and disposing of old records. He presented three quotes for the purchase of a new computer, even though it was under our Procurement Policy required amount.

Councilmember Williams made the motion to accept the lowest of three bids from Computer Outlet North, to purchase a new computer in the amount of \$817.99, seconded by Councilmember Leach; All voting aye, the motion was carried: **RESOLVED: to accept and approve the purchase of a new computer in the amount of \$817.99 for the highway garage from Computer Outlet North, Inc.**

Other necessary updates discussed for the highway department included installing a time clock and internet. Supervisor Park said Spectrum is the best option for service at the highway

garage, as there quote came in the lowest. They are waiting for the formal submission of the quote. He also stated to ensure continuity and better communication for the highway, the purchase of a cell phone might be considered.

Attorney Dan Ellis presented and read the below for the town board's review and discussion.

RESOLUTION #12 A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN BOARD OF THE TOWN OF HOMER TO AUTHORIZE DEPUTY TOWN CLERKS TO ACT GENERALLY FOR AND IN PLACE OF THE TOWN CLERK.

Motioned by: Supervisor Park

Seconded by: Deputy Supervisor Warren

VOTES: AYE- Park, Warren, Leach, Head, Williams; NAY- 0

WHEREAS, the Town Board of the Town of Homer recognizes the need to ensure the smooth and efficient operation of the Town Clerk's office;

WHEREAS, it is necessary to have adequate coverage and delegation of responsibilities to maintain effective administrative functions within the office of the Town Clerk;

AND WHEREAS, authorizing two Deputy Town Clerk's to assist in the Town Clerk's office will ensure smooth and efficient operation in the office of the Town Clerk;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Town Board of the Town of Homer, as follows:

1. Authorization: The Town Board hereby authorizes Deputy Town Clerk 1, by position, and Deputy Town Clerk 2, by position, "to act generally for and in the place of the Town Clerk of the Town of Homer."
2. Scope of Authority: The aforementioned Deputy Town Clerks are authorized "to act generally for and in the place of" the Town Clerk of the Town of Homer. This includes, but is not limited to, executing official documents, attending meetings, and fulfilling administrative functions related to the Town Clerk's office.
3. Duration: This authorization shall be effective immediately upon adoption of this resolution and shall remain in effect until further notice to the contrary is provided by the Town Board.
4. Effective Date: This resolution shall take effect immediately.

RESOLVED, that this resolution be entered into the minutes of the Town Board meeting and that copies be provided to the Town Clerk, Deputy Town Clerks, and any other parties as necessary.

Attorney Ellis also stated he consulted with the Code Enforcement Officer about the solar lot percentage coverage and might need to review the local zoning law for clarification. There are two proposed solar projects for the Town of Homer.

The Unsafe Building Law was filed on September 3, 2024, and there was discussion on addressing dangerous buildings and Attorney Ellis will evaluate the ongoing issues of the wedding barn.

Supervisor Park made the motion, seconded by Councilmember Leach: All voting aye, the motions was carried to go into executive session to discuss a personnel item.

Councilmember Head, seconded by Councilmember Leach; All voting aye, the motion was carried to adjourn the executive session at 7:50 p.m.

As there was no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Brooke L. Poli
Deputy Town Clerk