

The Regular Meeting of the Homer Town Board was held at the Town Hall located in the Village of Homer, on Wednesday, November 13, 2024, in the senior center, 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

Others Present: Town Attorney, Daniel J. Ellis II; Town Clerk, Heather M. Hill; Deputy Town Clerk, Brooke L. Poli; Town Historian, Martin Sweeney; Code Enforcement Officer, Kevin McMahon; Cortland County Legislator, Kevin Fitch; Village Trustee, Patrick Clune; Cortland Standard, Lily Byrne; Residents: Tim Malchak, Miles Dudgeon, and Emmanul Pothos.

MONTHLY MEETING MINUTES

Deputy Supervisor Warren made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Head, to approve the Draft Regular Town Board Meeting Minutes of October 9, 2024. All voting aye, the motion carried.

MONTHLY BILL PAY

General bills were approved as audited by Councilmember Leach, motioned by Councilmember Leach, to approve the general fund vouchers for payment, seconded by Deputy Supervisor Warren; All voting aye, the motion carried: **RESOLVED: That General Fund vouchers #257 through #299 totaling \$17,167.99 are approved for payment.**

Highway bills were approved as audited by Councilmember Williams, motioned by Councilmember Williams, to approve the highway fund vouchers for payment, seconded by Councilmember Leach; All voting aye, the motion carried: **RESOLVED: that Highway Fund vouchers #137 through #153, totaling \$29,602.02 are approved for payment.**

WRITTEN DEPARTMENT REPORTS

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

1. Town Supervisor – October 2024
2. The Code Enforcement Officer- October 2024
3. Town Clerk- October 2024
4. Fire Chief- October 2024

All voting aye, the motion carried.

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

Legislator Kevin Fitch stated the county is negotiating a sales tax agreement with the city, aiming for fair distribution. The negotiation deadline is set for February 2025, with an emphasis on including municipalities in discussions.

Legislator Fitch also said Senator Schumer announced there was \$10 million available in federal funding for rail improvements from Cortland to Syracuse and expected to boost local economies. The county is also looking to attract industries to support Micron, a major economic driver.

He also reported that the county faces financial challenges due to state mandates and reduced federal Medicaid funding. New York State owes the county \$6 million which is impacting their financial planning.

Resident Miles Dudgeon inquired when any final decisions concerning billboards would be made. Supervisor Park stated they were still reviewing information and there would not be any final decisions made until after January 1st of 2025.

Village Trustee Patrick Clune updated the town board that the village approved the proposed Length of Service Award Program (LOSAP) retirement program which would encourage and retain younger volunteers for the Village Fire Department. This program provides financial incentives for volunteer firefighters aimed at improving retention and attracting new members.

Trustee Clune also stated there was a property annexation request and discussion occurred on properties in the village seeking annexation by the town, with legal consultations required to determine the process.

Code Enforcement Officer Kevin McMahon discussed the unsafe building law and property maintenance. He updated on the properties deemed unsafe, and the efforts to clean them up, and the role of the new town law in addressing these issues.

AGENDA ITEMS

Town historian, Martin Sweeney, provided a detailed historical annual report on his various activities, including administrative tasks, genealogical research, and historical inquiries. The historian also discussed his interactions with local organizations and efforts to preserve historical artifacts and records. He reviewed the acquisition and preservation of historical artifacts, including paintings and maps and raised his concerns about fire and water damage to these artifacts.

Historian Sweeney reviewed the restoration and protection of the Hobart paintings with plexiglass and the cost and necessity of fine-tuning the paintings were debated, with a decision to use plexiglass for protection of the Hobart framed artwork. Martin will obtain an estimate for plexiglass for the two Hobart portraits for the town board's review.

Councilmember Head made a motion, seconded by Supervisor Warren, to receive and file the Town Historian's annual report. All voting aye, the motion carried. **RESOLVED: to receive and file the Town Historian's annual report.**

RESOLUTION #13 TO ADOPT THE 2025 PROPOSED PRELIMINARY BUDGET (GENERAL, HIGHWAY, FIRE) AS THE FINAL TOWN BUDGET FOR 2025.

**Motion by Councilmember Leach
Seconded by Councilmember Williams
VOTES: AYE- Park, Warren, Williams, Leach, Head; NAY- 0**

WHEREAS, the Proposed Preliminary Budget for the Year 2025 has been duly prepared by the Supervisor and Town Board and a duly publicized public hearing was held on the 13th day of November 2024 at 6:30 P.M.; and

WHEREAS, at which time all persons desiring to be heard were heard.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that, pursuant to Section 109 of the Town Law of the State of New York, the Town Board of the Town of Homer hereby ADOPTS THE PROPOSED PRELIMINARY BUDGET, as amended, altered, and revised, as the FINAL BUDGET for the Town of Homer for the Year 2025.

Resolution Adopted on November 13th, 2024.

The town board discussed the installation of security cameras and reviewed a proposal from Billitier Electric. No other bids were submitted, although other bids were pursued. The installation of one camera would be installed by the historical artifacts, and one installed by the town court window.

Deputy Supervisor Warren made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Leach, to accept Billitier Electric’s quotation in the amount of \$2,750.00 for the installation of two additional indoor cameras. All voting aye, the motion carried. **RESOLVED: to accept Billitier Electric quotation in the amount of \$2,750.00 for the installation of two new additional indoor cameras at Homer Town Hall.**

RESOLUTION #14 TO AUTHORIZE TEMPORARY DISCONTINUANCE OF MAINTENANCE OF SEASONAL LIMITED USE HIGHWAYS IN THE TOWN OF HOMER

**Motion by Councilmember Leach
Seconded by Councilmember Head
VOTES: AYE- Park, Warren, Williams, Leach, Head; NAY- 0**

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING TEMPORARY DISCONTINUANCE OF MAINTENANCE OF SEASONAL LIMITED USE HIGHWAYS IN THE TOWN OF HOMER

Highway Superintendent John R. Phelps has designated certain portions of Town highways as seasonal limited use highways and is hereby authorized by the Homer Town Board to temporarily discontinue snow and ice removal and maintenance on those Town highways from December 1st, 2024, to April 1st, 2025, as follows:

| | |
|------------------|---|
| Foster Road | .50 miles |
| Burhans Road | .50 miles |
| Wolf Road | .25 miles |
| Grange Road | .75 mile from Rice Road to Brake Hill Road |
| Brake Hill Road | .50 miles |
| Rice Road | .50 miles |
| Carroway Hill Rd | .25 miles |
| McDonald Road | .25 miles |
| Sessions Hill Rd | 2.50 miles |
| Vern King Road | 1.25 miles from house #5937 to Sessions Hill Road |
| Maxson Road | 1.70 miles from Sessions Hill |
| Forbes Road | .87 miles |
| Chapman Road | .75 miles |
| Searls Road | .50 miles |
| Dillon Road | .25 miles |

Adopted November 13th, 2024, by the Homer Town Board.

Councilmember Leach updated the town board that the highway hired a new employee who started earlier this week and running a route with a truck purchased from Scott. There were no other significant updates from the highway department to report.

There was a report that Wall Street Bridge has been closed and removed from records due to lack of action and funding. It remains a walking bridge for local use. Plans to prioritize funding and repairs after the new year are in place.

Town Clerk Hill updated they have started organizing for the upcoming tax season. Donna, our new hire, is temporarily assisting the Village of Homer due to staff shortages. The clerks received positive feedback for their services.

Supervisor Park stated the town advertised in the Cortland Standard for cleaning estimates for the Homer Town Hall for the upcoming 2025 year. A decision will be made at the upcoming town board meeting.

Grants in the amount of \$5,000 and \$10,000 for repairs at the Homer highway garage were granted to the town. NYSERDA visited the town garage to assess what repairs needed to be done. The town must obtain quotes for the heating system issues and a leaky roof. Plans for

temporary fixes and future upgrades are underway and they are assessing other items for repairs. The town is in receipt of the \$5,000 grant and are still waiting for the \$10,000 grant.

The town is expecting a new highway truck to be delivered by the end of the month. Decisions on selling the old truck will follow. Supervisor Park would like to consider purchasing a shipping container when renovations begin downstairs at the town hall.

Attorney Ellise stated he did not have anything to report. There have not been many ZBA meetings and there have been consistent monthly planning board meetings which have mostly been subdivision applications.

Councilmember Willaims made the motion, seconded by Councilmember Leach: All voting aye, the motion carried to go into executive session to discuss a personnel issue at 8:11 p.m.

Councilmember Head made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Williams; All voting aye, the motion carried to adjourn the executive session at 8:30 p.m.

As there was no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Brooke L. Poli
Deputy Town Clerk