

The Regular Meeting of the Homer Town Board was held at the Town Hall located in the Village of Homer, on Wednesday, January 8, 2025, 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

Others Present: Town Clerk, Heather M. Hill, Deputy Town Clerk, Brooke L. Poli; Village Mayor, Patrick Clune; Highway Superintendent, Kyle Bean; Attorney to the Town, Dan Ellis; Cortland Standard, Lily Byrne; Legislator, Reed Cleland; Town Historian, Martin Sweeney; Residents: Tim Malchak, Michael Broughton, and Emmanuel Pothos,

Supervisor Park called the meeting to order and opened with the pledge of allegiance.

MONTHLY MEETING MINUTES

Councilmember Leach made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Head, to approve the Draft Regular Town Board Meeting Minutes of December 11, 2024. All voting aye, the motion carried. **RESOLVED: to approve the Draft Regular Town Board Meeting minutes of December 11, 2024.**

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 Head; All voting aye, the motion carried: **RESOLVED: That General Fund, Abstract #13, vouchers #321 through #360 totaling \$15,945.55 are approved for payment.**

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 Head; All voting aye, the motion carried: **RESOLVED: That General Fund, Abstract #1, vouchers #8 through #8 totaling \$6,593.74 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 Deputy Supervisor Warren; All voting aye, the motion carried: **RESOLVED: that Highway Fund, Abstract #13, vouchers #176 through #187, totaling \$13,731.42 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, the motion carried: **RESOLVED: that Highway Fund, Abstract #1, vouchers #1 through #3, totaling \$16,872.82 are approved for payment.**

WRITTEN DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Councilmember Head made a motion, seconded by Deputy Supervisor Warren, to receive and file the following December monthly reports as presented:

1. The Code Enforcement Officer- December 2024
2. Town Clerk- December 2024
3. Fire Chief- December 2024

All voting aye, the motion carried.

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

County Legislator Reed Cleland stated that the 2024 year was a productive year for the county. He also said he serves on the Agriculture Planning and Environmental Committee and the county is working on the sales tax agreement. Supervisor Park requested that when the county discusses the sales tax agreement to keep the town supervisors informed.

Supervisor Park stated they finished installing the cameras by the stage and the court office window. Historian Sweeney thanked the town board for installing the cameras that will assist keeping the historical artifacts safe.

Village Trustee Patrick Clune informed the town board that open ice skating starts tomorrow, and Winterfest is January 24th through 26th. Nothing else to report.

Michael Broughton shared a recent picture of light pillars he had taken and stated that as the town board reviews the proposed billboards, to be careful about the decisions made that might affect the town, such as this natural phenomenon.

NEW BUSINESS

New Highway Superintendent Kyle Bean provided an update for the highway department, mentioning the office clean-up and technological upgrades. The discussion included plans for future updates and monthly check-ins and the addition of a computer and time clock were installed at the highway department's office. Supervisor Bean stated he had a great group at the highway department and thanked the town board for all their support and assistance.

Supervisor Park made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Leach, to approve the yearly appointments and resolutions. All voting aye, the motion carried. **RESOLVED: to approve the below 2025 yearly appointments and resolutions.**

Yearly Appointments & Resolutions

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| 1. Town Meeting Dates | Monthly, 2nd Wednesday, 6:30 p.m. |
| 2. Official Newspaper | Cortland Standard |
| 3. Official Depository/Town Funds | First National Bank of Dryden |
| 4. Town Attorney | Daniel J. Ellis II |
| 5. Environmental Attorney | Patrick Snyder |
| 6. Planning Board Chairman | Michael McMahon |
| 7. Planning Board Member | Jon Miller |
| 8. Planning Board Alternate | Lindsay Andersen |
| 9. Zoning Board Member | Stuart Young |
| 10. Zoning Board Alternate | Lindsay Andersen |
| 11. Planning/Zoning Chairman Rate | \$50.00/Meeting |
| 12. Planning/Zoning Member Rate | \$30.00/Meeting |
| 13. Mileage Allowance/Town Officials | Per Federal Government Allowance |
| 14. Board of Assessment Review Rate | \$125.00/Meeting |
| 15. Appointment/Delegate Association of Town | None |
| 16. Town Historian | Martin Sweeney |
| 17. Town Board Salaries | Paid Monthly |
| 18. Resolution- utilities, comptroller, Worker's compensation, health insurance, HSA, and postage | Yes |

RESOLUTION #1 TO APPROVE AND AUTHORIZE THE SUPERVISOR TO SIGN THE 2025 AMENDMENT TO THE MUNICIPAL COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT FOR THE GREATER TOMPKINS COUNTY MUNICIPAL HEALTH INSURANCE CONSORTIUM

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

WHEREAS, the Town of Homer is a Participant in the Greater Tompkins County Municipal Health Insurance Consortium (the "Consortium"), a municipal cooperative organized under Article 47 of the New York Insurance Law, and

WHEREAS, the municipal participants in the Consortium, including this body, have approved and executed a certain Municipal Cooperation Agreement (the "Agreement"; effective date of October 1, 2010), and

WHEREAS, Article 47 of the New York Insurance Law (the "Insurance Law") and the rules and regulations of the New York State Department of Financial Services set forth certain requirements for governance of municipal cooperatives that offer self-insured municipal cooperative health insurance plans, and

WHEREAS, the Agreement sets forth in Section Q2 that continuation of the Consortium under the terms and conditions of the Agreement, or any amendments or restatements thereto, shall be subject to Board review and upon acceptance of any new Participant hereafter, and

WHEREAS, the Municipal Cooperative Agreement requires that amendments to the agreement be presented to each participant for review and adopted by a majority vote by its municipal board, and

WHEREAS, the Town of Homer is in receipt of the proposed amended Agreement and has determined that it is in the best interest of its constituents who are served by the Consortium to amend the Agreement as set forth in the Amended Municipal Cooperative Agreement, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that upon receipt and review of the amended Agreement, the Town of Homer approves at a meeting of the governing body held on January 8, 2025, and authorizes the Chief Elected Official to sign the **2025** Amendment to the Municipal Cooperative Agreement (Effective 1.1.25) of the Greater Tompkins County Municipal Health Insurance Consortium as recommended by the Board of Directors.

Supervisor Park reviewed the town hall building drawings and informed the town board that Chief Pitman proposed building a simulation room for police training located in the balcony at the town hall. Mayor Patrick Clune said the simulation room would be a small arm simulation, which would be similar to a video game with multiple scenarios and levels of training. The village would cover all cost of the proposed room.

Chief Pitman completed research for the project and consulted Code Enforcement Kevin McMahan.

Deputy Supervisor Warren made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Leach, to authorize the Village Police to construct a simulation room, as proposed and at the expense of the Village, within the Town Hall. All voting aye, the motion carried. **RESOLVED: to approve the village to install a small arm simulation room in the balcony located at the town hall.**

Supervisor Park read the letter from the Department of State stating they did not receive the grant the town applied for to revise the Comprehensive Plan. The town board plans to debrief and consider reapplying in the future.

Town Clerk Hill updated the clerks won a 55-inch television and laptop from a Perma survey contest they entered for the town. Plans were discussed to utilize these items for meetings

and office upgrades. There was also an update that the town clerk's office tax season has started, and the office has been very busy.

Councilmember Head made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Williams, to approve payment to West Lake Art Conservation Center for the conservation of the portraits of Gideon Hobart and Electa Hobart in the amount of \$1,445.10 and \$325.10. All voting aye, the motion carried. **RESOLVED: to authorize the first 50% payment to West Lake Art Conservation Center in the amount of \$1,445.10 and \$325.10 for the conservation of the portraits of Gideon Hobart and Electa Hobart.**

Supervisor Park discussed the delay for the blueprints for the renovations for the town hall basement which were supposed to be completed in 2024. The engineers informed the town supervisor that they would not have the plans available until spring.

A decision was made to have Councilmember Williams and Councilmember Leach complete a 2024 court audit.

There was discussion on a problem with the Village Clerk's door and Deputy Supervisor Warren stated he would assess it to see if it was able to be fixed.

Cahill and Knobel assisted with completing the annual reporting for the obligating funds (SLFRF/ARPA State & Local Fiscal Recovery Funds) the town had received to encumber the \$318,870.84 and should be in order and completed correctly.

Attorney Ellis updated the town board that there were several applications submitted for the planning board but had nothing further to report.

Supervisor Park requested an executive session to discuss personnel issues.

Deputy Supervisor Warren made the motion, seconded by Councilmember Leach: All voting aye, the motion carried to go into executive session at 7:25 p.m.

Councilmember Williams made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Leach; All voting aye, the motion carried to adjourn the executive session at 7:52p.m.

As there was no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:52 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Brooke L. Poli
Deputy Town Clerk