

**Village of Homer Board of Trustees
Meeting Minutes
May 2, 2017
6:00 p.m.**

The Regular Meeting of the Village of Homer Board of Trustees was held at the Community Building, 45 South Main St., Homer, New York with Mayor McCabe presiding.

Members present:

Mayor, Hal McCabe
Trustee, Patrick Clune
Trustee, Edward Finkbeiner
Trustee, Kevin Slack
Trustee, Tim Daley

Also present were: Village Clerk-Treasurer, Rich Couch; Deputy Clerk-Treasurer Kristen Case, Village Attorney, Francis Casullo; CEO, Craig Umbehauer; Police Chief, Robert Pitman; Village Historian and Homer School Board Member, Martin Sweeney; Homer School Superintendent, Nancy Ruscio; Homer School Director of Business and Finance, Mike Falls; Paul Gower; Steven & Bev Berry; Brad Smith; Don Ferris; Jenniferleigh Clune and Cortland Standard Reporter, Nick Graziano.

Mayor McCabe called the meeting to order and led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

A moment of silence was observed in memory of long time community member, former educator and School administrator, Margaret Morgan Perfetti who passed away on April 29, 2017 in the Village.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On **motion** by Trustee Clune, the Board approved the Village of Homer Board of Trustees Minutes of March 7, 2017. Approval of the April 4, 2017 minutes was tabled until the June meeting. **All ayes.**

On **motion** by Trustee Clune, the Treasurer's Report approved as presented. The Board of Trustees requested a more detailed financial report in the future. **All ayes.**

Mayor McCabe made the **motion** to approve the payment of bills. **All ayes.**

ACCEPTANCE FOR FILING OF WRITTEN REPORTS:

CEMETERY - no report was received.

CODES – report was received as submitted, **motion** to accept by Trustee Clune. **All ayes.** Mayor McCabe and Trustees did ask questions concerning properties outlined in the report. The CEO indicated that 32 Cortland Street was pending legal action.

POLICE – report was received as submitted, **motion** by Trustee Clune. **All ayes.** Mayor McCabe did comment on the Relay for Life event which was mentioned in the Police Report. The event is June 17, 2017 from 12 PM – 12 AM on the Village Green. Mayor McCabe announced that he was forming a Village of Homer team. Trustee Clune inquired about the Village's bike officer. Chief Pittman is aiming for Memorial Day.

DOGS –no report was received.

RECREATION – no report was received.

PUBLIC WORKS – report was received as submitted, **motion** by Trustee Clune. **All ayes.** Trustee Clune did comment that the Village received additional CHIPS funding. Trustee Clune reminded those in attendance that Saturday May 13th is Amnesty Day in the village.

WATER/SEWER/STREETS/PARKS & MEO – report was received as submitted, **motion** by Trustee Clune. **All ayes.**

FIRE DEPARTMENT – report was received as submitted, **motion** by Mayor McCabe. **All ayes.** Mahlon Irish Jr. was elected Fire Chief for this year.

FIRE INSPECTOR – no report was received.

OLD BUSINESS

Video Camera for recording Village Board meetings - after some discussion, Mayor McCabe made the **motion** that the Village would purchase equipment at a cost not to exceed \$500. **All ayes.**

NEW BUSINESS

Mayor McCabe introduced Rich Couch as the **Village Clerk/Treasurer** and Kristen Case as the **Deputy Village Clerk/Treasurer**. Mr. Couch also serves as **Village Tax Collector and Village Registrar**. Ms. Case serves as **Deputy Tax Collector**. Both Mr. Couch and Ms. Case were sworn in on May 1, 2017.

Superintendent of Schools, Nancy Ruscio and School Business Director Mike Falls presented the **proposed 2017/2018 operating budget for Homer Central School**. The presentation ended with a highlight of accomplishments of students and faculty. The school budget vote and election of school board members in Tuesday May 16, 2017 from 7 AM – 9 PM in the Old High School Music Building.

The Board had a discussion about **advertising and public outreach through WXHC Radio**. The Mayor advised that the relationship would also include a link to the Village's website on WXHC's website. All agreed that this issue has been discussed before. Trustee Clune made the **motion** that the Village enter into an agreement with WXHC Radio at a cost of \$150 per month for six months. Motion carried - **All ayes.**

The Board discussed the proposed concrete and storage project at the Department of Public Works. The Board was advised that the Village had received two bids for different portions of the proposed project. One portion was roughly \$7,000 and another portion was roughly \$17,000. Village policy requires at least three bids for any expenditure greater than \$5,000. Trustee Clune made the **motion** that DPW Director Harter obtains additional bids and that a request for proposal (RFP) be issued. **All ayes.**

The Board, again, discussed the purchase of a front end loader for the Department of Public Works. A **motion** was made to move forward with this purchase. **All ayes.**

The board discussed moving Village Board of Trustee meetings from the first Tuesday of the month at 6 PM to the second Wednesday of the month at 6 PM to allow department heads more time to prepare monthly reports. The second Tuesday of the month would conflict with court. Trustee Clune asked members of the public who were in the audience if anyone objected. There was no objection. Trustee Daley made the **motion** that Homer Village Board of Trustee meetings be moved from the first Tuesday of each month at 6 PM to the second Wednesday of each month at 6 PM beginning in June. **All ayes.**

The Board discussed the Route 11 development grant. After short discussion, the Board agreed to move on to the next steps. Mayor McCabe told the Trustees that he has recently met with Cortlandville Town Supervisor Richard Tupper, Cortland Business Development Executive Director Gary Van Gorder and Rich Cunningham from Thoma Development. Mayor McCabe outlined the next steps as 1) issuing an RFP for a grant administrator, and 2) issuing an RFP the environmental study. A **motion** was made by Mayor McCabe to move forward with the next steps. **All ayes.**

Mayor McCabe announced that he was recently notified that a reputable developer had purchased the vacant property at 23 S. Main Street in the village with intent to rebuild on the site. Mayor McCabe indicated that he had talked with the developer about the importance of maintain the historic character of Main Street and that the developer in question was in agreement. Mayor McCabe stated that the village would be in contact with the developer as the project moved forward.

ATTORNEY

Village Attorney Francis Casullo informed the Mayor and Trustees that he has researched laws pertaining to the proposed move to Homer Town Hall and that the move should not encounter any legal issues. Mr. Casullo advised the Mayor and Trustees that any lease agreement should not exceed a term of 10 years, but could have an option for renewal.

Mr. Casullo informed the body that he had tendered his resignation earlier in the day with the Village Clerk. His resignation is effective Monday May 15, 2017 at 8 AM. Mr. Casullo thanked the group for the opportunity to work with the Village for the last two years. The attorney pledged to work with the Village's new attorney for a smooth transition. The Mayor and the all Trustees expressed appreciation for Mr. Casullo's guidance and counsel during his tenure.

COMMENTS FROM BOARD MEMBERS

Trustee Finkbeiner announced to the Mayor and Village Clerk that Finger Lakes Communications (phone system) would be coming to Village Hall at 1 PM on May 3rd to discuss possible cost savings associated with the Village's phone system.

Mayor McCabe announced that Village Hall would be closed on Monday May 8th and Tuesday May 9th so that Village Hall staff could attend NYCOM training. Village Hall will also be closing at 12 PM on Wednesday May 10th so that staff can attend a training offered by the New York State Comptroller's Office.

Trustee Slack commented that he had begun to look into possible parcels of land that could be used for a dog park.

Trustee Finkbeiner announced he would be attending a training on grant writing next week at Cayuga County Community College in Auburn.

Mayor McCabe announced that he had met with Bailey Place Insurance and advised them that the Village wanted to explore the possibility of a dog park, skate board park, and the return of swimming at Durkee Park.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The **motion** was made by Trustee Clune that the Board go into Executive Session to discuss personnel issues at 7:20 PM. **All ayes.**

The Board returned from Executive Session at 7:50 PM.

Mayor McCabe made the **motion** that there be a Special Meeting of the Board of Trustees on Monday May 15, 2017 at 8:15 AM in the Homer Village Hall. The purpose of the meeting is to appoint a new Village Attorney and address other business before the Board of Trustees. **All ayes.**

There was discussion regarding the Memorial Day Parade in the Village on Monday May 29th.

Trustee Clune made the **motion** to adjourn the meeting. **All ayes.** The meeting adjourned by Mayor McCabe at 7:55 PM

Respectfully submitted

Richard G. Couch
Village Clerk