

**Village of Homer Board of Trustees Meeting  
August 2, 2016**

The Regular Meeting was called to order by Mayor Suits at 6:00 p.m. Present were Trustees Patrick Clune, Kevin Slack, Eugene Smith and Ed Finkbeiner; Deputy Clerk, Karen Gaebler and Attorney Fran Casullo. Also present were: Craig Umbehauer, CEO; Police Chief Robert Pitman; Mike Harter from the Village Streets & Parks Department; Paul Gower; Cortland County District Attorney, Mark Suben; Kristin Rocco-Petrella; Matt Petrella; Avery Petrella; Charles Bernheim; Cody Johnson; Harry Gardner; Victor Siegle; Nancy & Sandy Samson; News Reporters: Nick Graziano from the *Cortland Standard*, and Don Ferris from *The Homer News*.

Minutes from the Regular Meeting of July 5, 2016 were approved upon two minor corrections, **motion** by Trustee Clune - **all aye**.

**Motion** Trustee Smith - **All ayes** to pay the following bills:

<b>General Fund</b>	<b>Vouchers 410-511</b>	<b>\$223,579.39</b>
<b>Water Fund</b>	<b>Vouchers 127-156</b>	<b>\$ 4,351.00</b>
<b>Sewer Fund</b>	<b>Vouchers 127-156</b>	<b>\$ 4,351.00</b>
<b>Capital Projects Fund</b>	-----	-----
<b>Comm. Dev. Fund</b>	-----	-----

**ACCEPTANCE FOR FILING OF WRITTEN REPORTS:**

**CEMETERY** – Report was received as submitted, **motion** to accept by Trustee Slack - **all ayes**.

**CODES** – Report was received as submitted, **motion** to accept by Trustee Clune - **all ayes**. Mayor Suits mentioned that CEO Umbehauer has office hours on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 8:00-9:00 a.m.

**POLICE** – Report was received as submitted, **motion** to accept by Trustee Smith- **all ayes**. Trustee Clune inquired about the arrest this past weekend at the gas station. Chief Pitman reported on the success of the Innovative Readiness Training (IRT) program, in which the Village Police Department provided security for the event. The countywide, no-cost medical event was held at the Homer Intermediate School. Approximately 1,800 people benefited from the services provided by the military, with many people taking advantage of numerous free services.

**DOGS** – No report was received.

**RECREATION** – No report was received. Deputy Clerk Gaebler reported that soccer was coming to an end, while football would be starting soon. She also mentioned that the summer concerts have had great public attendance.

**WATER/SEWER/STREETS** – Report was received as submitted, **motion** to accept by Trustee Clune - **all ayes**. Mayor Suits apprised the Trustees that it will take 6-8 weeks to receive parts for the Clinton Street Pump Station. Mike Harter from the Streets & Parks Department reported that more vehicles would be sold using Auctions International in the coming months. Mr. Harter also submitted an updated vehicle report. Bids were received for the 2000 International 4x2 4700 Low Pro Dump Truck in the amount of \$14,300.00, and for the 2008 Dodge Avenger in the amount of \$38,050.00. On **motion** by Trustee Finkbeiner, the Board accepted the bids as received – **all ayes**.

**FIRE CHIEF** – Report was received as submitted, **motion** to accept by Trustee Smith - **all ayes**. Fire Chief Johnson thanked Chief Pitman and the Village Police Department for doing a great job at the IRT event.

**PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD:**

Victor Siegel apprised the Board he met several artists through the Center for the Arts who donate their time and talent for public art. The artists paint murals on sides of buildings and such at no charge. Mr. Siegel requested the Board authorize the group to paint appropriate seasonal designs on the bins at the Homer Community Gardens on Sunday, August 7, 2016 at 11:00 a.m. Trustee Slack and Trustee Finkbeiner would be available to monitor the group. Attorney Casullo reviewed a waiver provided by Mr. Siegel to be signed by the volunteers, and mentioned that the Village must discuss the matter with its insurance carrier before the work can be completed. On **motion** by Trustee Slack, the Board authorized the bins at the Homer Community Gardens to be painted by volunteers, subject to waivers being signed and Attorney approval - **all ayes**.

Charlie Bernheim presented a letter from The Landmark Society to the Mayor and Trustees on consideration of a proposal in regard to the use of the History Center located at 25 S. Main Street. Mayor Suits stated that the Board would look into the matter. Discussion was **tabled** until the September 6, 2016 meeting.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

Cortland County Legislator, Jim Denkenberger thanked the Village of Homer residents and the Village Police Department for doing a great job on the IRT event.

Trustee Clune gave an update on the Micro-Enterprise Assistance Program (MAP) Grant. A public meeting was held on July 29, 2016 in which there was a great public turnout; Karen Niday from the Cortland County BDC/IDA and two trustees were also in attendance. Several businesses were interested in applying for the MAP grant. The application deadline is August 24, 2016. Committee members would review the applications.

Mayor Suits mentioned that the Village received approval from the State to install the Clock on Main Street. Water & Sewer Sup't. Barber and his crew would accomplish the installation.

There was no date set for the next Building Committee meeting.

## **NEW BUSINESS:**

Cortland County District Attorney, Mark Suben commended Chief Pitman and the Village Police Department for their assistance and success with the IRT event. DA Suben spoke about the crime rate in Cortland County, his record as DA, plea agreements, and his work with the Child Advocacy Center.

Mayor Suits mentioned that the Village is a member of the Tompkins County Health Care Consortium. With regard to future rates, she explained that the Village is looking at a 3% increase for Health Insurance for the year 2017, and would probably see a bigger increase in 2018.

Mayor Suits introduced Kristin Rocco-Petrella as the new Clerk-Treasurer and Registrar for the Village of Homer. She was sworn in earlier today, to be effective August 8, 2016.

Mayor Suits discussed the purchase of an AED defibrillator for the Community Building. A monetary donation was given to the Fire Department for approximately half the cost of the AED, however another \$800.00 was needed to make the purchase. On **motion** by Trustee Smith, the Board authorized the expenditure of \$800.00 from the Fire Department budget for the purchase of an AED for the Community Building - **all ayes**.

Mayor Suits asked Don Ferris, Editor/Publisher of *The Homer News* for insight regarding submissions from the Village for future news articles. Mr. Ferris made some suggestions and indicated that he would run an article on the new Clerk-Treasurer. Mayor Suits suggested that the point of contact be the Clerk-Treasurer for submissions to the newspaper.

Mayor Suits asked Chief Johnson to talk about the old generator at the Fire Station, and whether the Village should keep the generator for future use or sell it. TLC was interested in purchasing the generator. Discussion continued regarding the usefulness of the generator. Attorney Casullo advised the Board that the generator could be sold for reasonable/fair compensation as long as it was determined to be surplus equipment and no longer needed. The Board **tabled** discussion on the matter until the September 6, 2016 meeting.

On **motion** by Trustee Finkbeiner, the Board adjourned the meeting at 7:07 p.m. – **all ayes**.

Mayor Genevieve A. Suits  
Karen A. Gaebler, Deputy Clerk-Treasurer