

**Village of Homer Board of Trustees Meeting  
November 1, 2016  
6:00 p.m.**

The Regular Meeting of the Village of Homer Board of Trustees was held at the Community Building, 53 South Main St., Homer, New York with Mayor Suits presiding.

Members present:	Mayor, Genevieve A. Suits
	Trustee, Patrick Clune
	Trustee, Edward Finkbeiner
	Trustee, Kevin Slack
	Trustee, Eugene Smith.

Also present were: Village Clerk-Treasurer, Kristin Rocco-Petrella; Village Attorney, Francis Casullo; CEO, Craig Umbehauer; Fire Chief, Robert Johnson; Sup't. of Streets/Parks, Mike Harter; Nancy and Sandy Samson; Cody Johnson; Michael Balthazar; Paul Gower; Andrew Brush; Gordon Wheelock; Harry Gardner; Brad Smith from WXHC; and Don Ferris from *The Homer News*.

Mayor Suits called the meeting to order.

On **motion** by Trustee Clune, the Minutes from the Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees from October 4, 2016 were approved as submitted – **all ayes**.

**Motion** by Trustee Slack to pay the following bills for the month of November – **all ayes**

<b>General Fund (A)</b>	<b>Vouchers 696-776</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>66,182.84</b>
<b>Water Fund (F)</b>	<b>Vouchers 212-240</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>7,441.32</b>
<b>Sewer Fund (G)</b>	<b>Vouchers 212-240</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>2,124.32</b>
<b>Capital Projects Fund (H)</b>	-----		-----
<b>Comm. Dev. Fund (CD)</b>	-----		-----

**ACCEPTANCE FOR FILING OF WRITTEN REPORTS:**

**CEMETERY** – Report was received as submitted. **Motion** to accept by Trustee Smith– **all ayes**.

Mayor Suits noted that work at the Cemetery was winding down; Cemetery employees would be done for the season by November 16, 2016. The employees would hang the holiday decorations along Main Street soon.

**CODES** – Report was received as submitted. **Motion** to accept by Trustee Slack – **all ayes**.

Trustee Finkbeiner questioned the status of the code violation at 32 Cortland Street. CEO Umbehauer explained that the matter was still before the court. Trustee Slack mentioned the appearance of property located on S. Main Street formerly known as the “Gunroom” and questioned whether there was anything that could be done. Mayor Suits suggested Trustee Slack contact the property owner, which he would do.

**DOGS** – Report for September and October were received as submitted. **Motion** to accept by Trustee Smith – **all ayes**.

**DPW** – Report was received as submitted. **Motion** to accept by Trustee Clune – **all ayes**.

Sup't. Harter apprised the Board that the Streets Department would continue to pick up leaves throughout the Village as long as the weather permits.

Village Resident, Andy Brush questioned if work was going to be done near the Hooker Ave. railroad crossing as the road was marked with paint. Sup't. Harter would look into the matter.

**FIRE CHIEF** - Report was received as submitted. **Motion** to accept by Trustee Smith - **all ayes**. Trustee Clune commended the Fire Department, which had another busy month. He greatly appreciated their work, especially due to the recent chimney fire he had at his own home.

**POLICE** – Report was received as submitted. **Motion** to accept by Trustee Finkbeiner – **all ayes**.

Mayor Suits noted that Chief Pitman was taking advantage of free training opportunities and commended him for doing so.

**RECREATION** – No report was submitted.

**WATER & SEWER** – Report was received as submitted. **Motion** to accept by Trustee Clune – **all ayes.**

Mayor Suits mentioned that the Clinton Street Pump Station project was proceeding nicely. She urged the Trustees to visit the site if they had not done so already. She also mentioned that the Water & Sewer Department has been busy with repairs.

**FIRE INSPECTOR** – Report was received as submitted. **Motion** to accept by Trustee Slack – **all ayes.**

Trustee Clune noted Fire Inspector Fairchild's concern regarding Prima Studio. Mayor Suits would follow-up with CEO Umbehauer.

#### **PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD:**

Mayor Suits offered privilege of the floor to those in attendance.

Paul Gower, Village resident, referenced the Fire Inspector's monthly report and questioned whether there was a policy in place to address those who had not responded to fire inspection notifications. Mayor Suits indicated that she would follow-up with the Fire Inspector and would personally make phone calls to those who have not responded to the letters sent by the Village to schedule the appointments. If there is no response, Attorney Casullo would have to get involved.

No further requests for privilege of the floor were made.

#### **OLD BUSINESS:**

There was discussion regarding the possibility of installing cameras and lights at Durkee Park to combat vandalism, and perhaps throughout the Village. Trustee Finkbeiner was researching the different options available and seeking price quotes from 5-6 different vendors. He provided the Trustees with information regarding the success that SUNY Cortland and the City of Cortland have had after installing surveillance cameras. SUNY Cortland, which has 179 cameras, used to have one to two vehicle break-ins per week in their Route 281 parking lot. Since installing the cameras there has only been one break-in.

Trustee Finkbeiner mentioned that he would meet with one of the vendors, Finger Lakes Technologies Group to discuss the different packages available to run fiber optics cable throughout the Village, and tie into the County and City's fiber optics.

Trustee Finkbeiner discussed the cost of cameras, which was approximately \$3,500 per camera, \$150 per mount, as well as the associated yearly expenses such as license fees for the software. He noted that it was budget season now and did not anticipate that anything would happen until after April 1, 2017.

Mayor Suits questioned the type of cameras used at SUNY Cortland as well as the posting requirements to inform the public that there are cameras in the Village. Trustee Finkbeiner indicated that SUNY Cortland's system has about 2 terabytes of data and holds recorded video for 2 weeks. Only one sign was necessary indicating that surveillance cameras were in use. He added that only one camera may be needed at Durkee Park. Money may be available from Homeland Security for cameras at the water tanks that would tie into the police station.

Mayor Suits mentioned the connectivity issues the Village Police and Fire Departments were having, and stated it would be beneficial to have fiber optics throughout the Village. Trustee Finkbeiner apprised the Trustees that the City of Cortland ran fiber optics for \$3.00 per foot and that it would cost about \$15,000 for one mile. Discussion continued about the benefits of surveillance cameras as well as fiber optics throughout the Village.

There was a brief discussion regarding the vacant Village Historian position. Mayor Suits indicated that she has not received any resumes for the position. Trustee Clune received an email from an interested individual, which he would follow up with. Trustee Finkbeiner recommended the Village approach Town Historian Martin Sweeney and ask him to serve as Village Historian.

Trustee Smith, Chair of the Building Committee, gave an update on the last committee meeting discussing new Village office space. The Committee met again today for a walk-through of the Train Depot on James Street and the Homer Town Hall. The next Building Committee meeting would be held on November 14, 2016 at 6:00 p.m. at the Village Office. Trustee Smith hoped the Village would receive information regarding the State grant by then.

In consideration of the work the Building Committee has done over the past 18 months, Trustee Finkbeiner made a motion for the Building Committee to present its findings to the Village at a public meeting to be held December 1, 2016 at the Community Building for the public to hear the pros and cons of the choices the Committee has been working on, and that the Trustees vote on the matter at the December 6, 2016 regular meeting. No action was taken on this motion. Mayor Suits stated she was in favor of a public informational meeting. Trustee Smith was not in favor of the Trustees voting on the matter on December 6<sup>th</sup> in the event that the Building Committee did not complete their findings yet. After discussion, Trustee Clune offered the following motion.

*AUTHORIZE THE BUILDING COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT A VILLAGE  
HALL INFORMATIONAL MEETING ON DECEMBER 1, 2016*

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*Motion by Trustee Clune*

*VOTES: ALL AYES ADOPTED*

*BE IT RESOLVED*, the Board of Trustees does hereby authorize and direct the Building Committee to conduct a Village Hall Informational Meeting to present its findings thus far with regard to the future of the Village Office, on December 1, 2016 at 7:00 p.m. at the Homer Fire Department, with the Village Trustees in attendance.

Mayor Suits apprised the Board the Village has the opportunity to sign a non-binding administration agreement with Municipal Electric and Gas Alliance (MEGA) to look into the possibility of lowering energy prices for the Village and its residents.

*AUTHORIZE MAYOR TO SIGN THE COMMUNITY CHOICE  
ADMINISTRATION AGREEMENT BETWEEN MUNICIPAL ELECTRIC AND  
GAS ALLIANCE (MEGA) AND VILLAGE OF HOMER*

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*Motion by Trustee Finkbeiner*

*VOTES: ALL AYES ADOPTED*

*BE IT RESOLVED*, the Board of Trustees does hereby authorize and direct the Mayor to sign the Community Choice Administration Agreement between Municipal Electric and Gas Alliance (MEGA) and the Village of Homer to look into energy prices for the Village of Homer.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Mayor Suits requested a motion authorizing her to sign the Discharge of Mortgage between the Village of Homer and Mary Henry with regard to her Community Development Block Grant. Ms. Henry paid off her loan in the amount of \$8,030.30.

*AUTHORIZE MAYOR TO EXECUTE THE DISCHARGE OF MORTGAGE  
BETWEEN THE VILLAGE AND MARY HENRY*

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*Motion by Trustee Clune*

*VOTES: ALL AYES ADOPTED*

*BE IT RESOLVED*, the Board of Trustees does hereby authorize and direct the Mayor to execute the Discharge of Mortgage between the Village of Homer and Mary Henry with regard to the Community Development Block Grant for property located at 36 Cortland Street in the Village of Homer.

Mayor Suits informed the Board she spoke with Supervisor Forbes last week who informed her that the Town had a new Assessor, Brian Fitts. Mr. Fitts' office is located at the Homer Town Hall.

Mayor Suits also apprised the Board that she spoke with Supervisor Forbes regarding the replacement of either the Wall Street or Pine Street bridge in the Village. After speaking with department heads, Mayor Suits suggested the Village request that the Wall Street bridge be replaced to be as wide as the road. The bridge would be a vehicle and pedestrian bridge. One of the biggest concerns was for the bridge to accommodate a fire truck. Fire Chief Johnson voiced his concerns and ultimately agreed that Wall Street was the best option. Trustee Clune voiced his concern regarding the pump station located near the Wall Street bridge, but agreed that replacing such bridge would be the better option.

*RESOLUTION REQUESTING THE TOWN OF HOMER REPLACE THE  
BRIDGE ON WALL STREET IN THE VILLAGE OF HOMER*

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*Motion by Trustee Smith*

*VOTES: ALL AYES ADOPTED*

*BE IT RESOLVED*, the Board of Trustees hereby request that the Town of Homer replace the existing bridge located on Wall Street in the Village of Homer with a new bridge, and be it further

*RESOLVED*, the Board of Trustees further requests that such bridge be as wide as the existing road.

Mayor Suits mentioned that she and Supervisor Forbes were approached by Smart Watt Energy with regard to a new program available for converting municipal streetlights to LED. The Town does not have enough outdoor streetlights to make the program feasible, however if the Village participates the Town could potentially piggyback on the project. There were a few different options available for replacing the lights, which could save the Village money in the long run. Mayor Suits would set up a meeting for the company to discuss the program with the Village and the Town.

Attorney Casullo requested the Board convene to an Executive Session to discuss personnel matters.

Trustee Finkbeiner questioned the status of the 2015/2016 Audit. Clerk-Treasurer Rocco-Petrella explained that it was forthcoming.

No further comments or discussion were heard.

On **motion** by Trustee Clune, the Board recessed the Regular Meeting to an Executive Session to discuss personnel matters at 6:55 p.m. – **all ayes**.

No action was taken in Executive Session.

On **motion** by Trustee Finkbeiner, the Board adjourned the Executive Session and reconvened the Regular Meeting at 7:30 p.m. – **all ayes**.

*AUTHORIZE MAYOR TO HIRE MICHAEL TALARICO AS PART-TIME  
RECREATION DIRECTOR FOR THE VILLAGE OF HOMER*

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*Motion by Trustee Clune*

<i>VOTES: Mayor Suits</i>	<i>Aye</i>
<i>Trustee Smith</i>	<i>Aye</i>
<i>Trustee Clune</i>	<i>Aye</i>
<i>Trustee Finkbeiner</i>	<i>Aye</i>
<i>Trustee Slack</i>	<i>Nay</i>

*BE IT RESOLVED*, the Board of Trustees does hereby authorize and direct the Mayor to hire Michael Talarico as the part-time Recreation Director for the Village of Homer, effective November 21, 2016, for 30-hours per week at the rate of \$16.00 per hour.

*AUTHORIZE MAYOR TO HIRE KEVIN REESE AS A FULL-TIME MEO FOR THE VILLAGE OF HOMER*

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*Motion by Trustee Clune*  
*VOTES: ALL AYES ADOPTED*

*BE IT RESOLVED*, the Board of Trustees does hereby authorize and direct the Mayor to hire Kevin Reese as a full-time MEO for the Streets Department at an hourly rate of \$14.50, effective November 10, 2016, and be it further

*RESOLVED*, the hourly rate shall increase to \$15.00 after the completion of the probationary period.

*AUTHORIZE MAYOR TO HIRE DEVIN MOORE AS A FULL-TIME LABORER FOR THE VILLAGE OF HOMER*

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*Motion by Trustee Clune*  
*VOTES: ALL AYES ADOPTED*

*BE IT RESOLVED*, the Board of Trustees does hereby authorize and direct the Mayor to hire Devin Moore as a full-time Laborer for the Streets Department at an hourly rate of \$10.50 per hour, effective November 10, 2016.

*AUTHORIZE MAYOR TO HIRE NICK CASTERLINE AS A FULL-TIME MEO FOR THE VILLAGE OF HOMER*

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*Motion by Trustee Clune*  
*VOTES: ALL AYES ADOPTED*

*BE IT RESOLVED*, the Board of Trustees does hereby authorize and direct the Mayor to hire Nick Casterline as a full-time MEO for the Streets Department at an hourly rate of \$14.50, effective November 21, 2016, and be it further

*RESOLVED*, the hourly rate shall increase to \$15.00 after the completion of the probationary period.

*AUTHORIZE MAYOR TO HIRE JONATHON MORRISON AS A FULL-TIME MEO FOR THE VILLAGE OF HOMER*

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*Motion by Trustee Clune*  
*VOTES: ALL AYES ADOPTED*

*BE IT RESOLVED*, the Board of Trustees does hereby authorize and direct the Mayor to hire Jonathon Morrison as a full-time MEO for the Streets Department at an hourly rate of \$14.50, effective November 28, 2016, and be it further

*RESOLVED*, the hourly rate shall increase to \$15.00 after the completion of the probationary period.

*AUTHORIZE EXPENDITURE OF UP TO \$10,000 TO COVER A PORTION OF THE BILL THE VILLAGE RECEIVED FOR CLEANUP CONTAINMENT OF THE BUILDING PREVIOUSLY LOCATED AT 35 S. MAIN ST.*

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*Motion by Trustee Clune*  
*VOTES: ALL AYES ADOPTED*

*BE IT RESOLVED*, the Board of Trustees does hereby authorize the expenditure of up to \$10,000 to cover a portion of the invoice billed to the Village of Homer by Contento’s for cleanup containment as a result of the devastating building fire for property located at 35 S. Main St.

There was a brief discussion regarding the use of a Village truck for Mike Harter who was recently appointed 3<sup>rd</sup> Assistant Fire Chief. Due to liabilities, the Board denied use of the truck to Mr. Harter.

There was discussion regarding the sale of a 1991 Kobelco excavator to the Town of Homer, per the request of Water & Sewer Sup't. Barber. Mayor Suits explained that the Town would like to purchase the surplus equipment from the Village, for the total cost of \$18,000. The Board did not have a problem authorizing the sale as long as the purchase price was proper.

*AUTHORIZE WATER & SEWER SUP'T. BARBER TO SELL THE  
1991 KOBELCO EXCAVATOR TO THE TOWN OF HOMER*

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*Motion by Trustee Clune*

*VOTES: ALL AYES ADOPTED*

*WHEREAS*, the Town of Homer would like to purchase a piece of equipment that the Village of Homer is willing to sell at a fair and reasonable price, therefore

*BE IT RESOLVED*, the Board of Trustees does hereby authorize and direct the Water & Sewer Sup't. to sell the 1991 Kobelco SK120LC Excavator, Serial No. YPU0569; Model No. SK120LCIII) to the Town of Homer for the fair and reasonable price of \$18,000.00, and be it further

*RESOLVED*, a bill of sale shall be signed and furnished to the Town of Homer upon receipt of \$18,000.00.

No further comments or discussion were heard.

On **motion** by Trustee Smith, the Board adjourned the Regular Meeting at 7:50 p.m. – **all ayes.**

Respectfully submitted,

Kristin E. Rocco-Petrella, Clerk-Treasurer  
Genevieve A. Suits, Mayor