

Village of Homer Board of Trustees Meeting
October 11, 2017
6:05 p.m.

The Regular Meeting of the Village of Homer Board of Trustees was held at Town Hall, 31 North 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, Dan Egnor; Treasurer Don Ferris; Village Attorney, Dante Armideo; Homer Fire Department Chief, Mahlon Irish; Homer Police Chief, Robert Pittman; Village Recreation Director, Zachary Pollack; DPW Superintendent, Mike Harter; Newton Waterworks Superintendent, Lawrence Barber; WXHC News Director, Brad Smith; Harry Gardner; and Deanna Daley.

Mayor McCabe called the meeting to order.

On **motion** by Trustee Clune, the Board approved the Village of Homer Board of Trustees Minutes of September 7, 2017 as written – **all ayes**.

On **Motion** by Trustee Clune to pay the following bills for the month of September 2017– **all ayes**.

- **A Fund – Vouchers 549 – 626 \$211,457.07**
- **F & G Fund – Vouchers 178 – 199 \$55,879.31**

ACCEPTANCE FOR FILING OF WRITTEN REPORTS:

CEMETERY – Report was received as submitted. Mayor McCabe mentions that the Village is in the preliminary stages in a possible expansion of Glenwood Cemetery, as some acreage to the north are available for sale. **Motion** to accept by Trustee Clune – **all ayes**.

CODES – Report was received as submitted. Trustee Clune states that a complete listing of all vacant buildings is needed to ensure safety of fire department/first responders and the Village should purchase red square placards for said buildings. Trustee Clune had a walk-thru of derelict Homer Oil/Soybean Factory, main floor has been shuttered, upper floors not yet secured. Chief Irish will direct his dispatch to not send fire crews to the building for safety reasons and the complex needs a specific red placard identifying its condition. **Motion** to accept by Trustee Finkbeiner – **all ayes**.

DOGS – No report submitted.

DPW – Report was received as submitted. Trustee Clune thanks DPW for work completed on Albany Street, Hooker Street railroad crossing and James Street railroad crossing. The Village wishes to thank both the Town of Homer and the Town Preble for use of their Public Works trucks during the recent street work. Mayor McCabe wants the Code Department to weigh in on

the number of handicap parking spaces needed along the downtown Main Street corridor. Superintendent Mike Harter and Code Officer Craig Umbehauer will investigate. The Village wishes to promulgate fines/penalties for property owners who discard errant refuse curbside. The Board, Mayor and Village Attorney will discuss and set forth rules ready for the next Board meeting. Trustee Daley questions whether Orson Drive is the responsibility of the Village; it is determined by those relevant in attendance that it is not. **Motion** to accept by Trustee Slack – **all ayes**.

FIRE INSPECTOR – Report was not submitted.

FIRE DEPARTMENT – Report was received as submitted. Fire Chief asserts that his department needs to purchase protective hoods; at \$81.00 per, cost will be around \$1,600.00. Recent hose testing discovered some bad equipment, need to order new hoses. The Chief will work on quotes. Hose that is 25yrs old will not test, need to declare it surplus and shed from use. Two firefighters going through boot camp now, Trustees and Mayor are invited to their December graduation. Trustee Finkbeiner questions how the specifications for the new fire truck is progressing, perhaps joining a purchasing group will save on bid time. Also, Fire Contracts need to be done. Chief Irish requests that the Board approve four new fire fighter applications, **Motion** by Trustee Clune to accept – **all ayes**. **Motion** to accept report by Trustee Daley – **all ayes**.

POLICE – Report was received as submitted. Trustee Finkbeiner questions the Mayor on educating the Village residents on new surveillance cameras, a notice letter will be published in the Homer News. Trustee Clune asks the Police Chief on how successful the recent Drug Take Back program was; police had 65 visits in total. Chief mentions that the Bike Patrol will be out on Halloween and for the remaining Homer High School football games. Training for nighttime firearm use with a simulator has been successful. New Traffic Safety Grant will focus on crosswalks within the Village. **Motion** to accept by Trustee Finkbeiner – **all ayes**.

RECREATION – Report was received as submitted. Rec Desk has been working well. Recreation Director Pollack has added mass texting to the program. One issue, program does not recognize difference between Cortlandville/Cortland, problems with correct payments. Mayor McCabe asks when other activity can be populated on Rec Desk, Director Pollack to work on. **Motion** to accept by Trustee Finkbeiner – **all ayes**.

WATER & SEWER – Report was received as submitted. Superintendent Larry Barber states there will be a meeting tomorrow to discuss restarting the water meter project. Newton Waterworks has received a number of calls sent from the previous failed contractor. Mayor McCabe thanks Newton Waterworks for their assistance in the recently installed Electric Car Charging Stations. **Motion** to accept by Trustee Slack – **all ayes**.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD:

Mayor McCabe offered privilege of the floor to those in attendance:

Harry Gardner, a property owner on Rob San Drive, would like to lodge a complaint concerning a neighbor's property located on the corner of Rob San Drive and North Main Street. According Mr. Gardner, the property has become a contractor's junkyard, with sheds near other property lines, equipment and many vehicles. Also, how was the recent construction of a large garage approved? Trustee Clune mentions that the owner did purchase an adjacent property. Trustee Clune will have a discussion with the Village Code Officer and that an investigation of Zoning Board minutes should be done. Treasurer Ferris claims that work done on the property did not

come to the Planning Board, but the owner may be in compliance. Mayor McCabe assures that the Board will investigate and get back Mr. Gardner.

OLD BUSINESS:

Move to Town Hall is complete; many office work station issues need to be resolved. Plan First will begin swapping out older computer towers for new. Three older computers will be slated for the Recreation office, the Code Officer and the Cemetery office. New VOIP phones not working as needed, porting desired numbers has been a slow process. Village Clerk Egnor will update as soon as new information is available.

Mayor McCabe states that online reporting is coming to the Village website. The Code Officer will be working on a standard form for complaints.

NEW BUSINESS:

On **Motion** by Trustee Finkbeiner, the Board authorized submitted DPW equipment list ready for auction – **all ayes.**

On **Motion** by Trustee Finkbeiner, the Board voted to approve a supplemental funding to the Shade Tree Fund of a not to exceed \$20,000.00 from Unassigned Fund Balance – **all ayes.**

Newton Waterworks water and sewer rates have had errors for some time, after two billing cycles; Deputy Clerk-Treasurer discovered the problem and corrected the issues. The error was always in the property owner's favor. During the current billing cycle, all residents will be made aware of the issue and how it was fixed. One side note, the Deputy Clerk-Treasurer will research the charges that Homer School District has been paying to the Village to see what errors may be in place and the best way to solve the problem.

On **Motion** by Trustee Clune, the Board voted to approve the taking down of all leaflets/postings on utility poles within the Village – **all ayes.**

On **Motion** by Trustee Finkbeiner, the Board voted to adjust the cost threshold in the Village Procurement Policy, from \$800.00 to \$2,500.00– **all ayes.**

On **Motion** by Trustee Clune, the Board voted to approve raising the “Light of My Life” Banner for the month of November – **all ayes.**

On **Motion** by Trustee Finkbeiner, the Board voted to approve drafting a Request for Proposal for new Village entrance signage, at Route 281, Albany Street hill, Route 41, off 81 exit ramps, and Route 90. The Beautification Committee will participate in the process. Design and Cost need to be determined – **all ayes.**

Attorney – No comments

Comments for Board Members:

On **Motion** by Trustee Clune, repair maintenance needs to be done on the outside of the Fire Station, painting, fascia and molding. If there is money in reserves, should be used for that pupose – **all ayes.**

On **Motion** by Trustee Daley, on the subject of LED lights for the Village, a response from NYGRID is needed. Process for the Village to take ownership of streetlights should commence – **all ayes.**

On **Motion** by Trustee Finkbeiner, the Board recessed the meeting to an Executive Session at 7:37 p.m.

On **Motion** by Mayor McCabe, the Board reconvened at 8:28p.m.

The Village Clerk shall investigate Zoning Board minutes relevant to the Rob San Drive complaint. Further, keys to Town Hall and the Village offices need to be made available to all Trustees.

On **Motion** by Trustee Clune, the Board adjourned the Regular Meeting at 8:29 p.m. – **all ayes.**

Respectfully submitted,

Dan Egnor, Village Clerk
Darren “Hal” McCabe, Mayor