

**Village of Homer Board of Trustees Meeting**

**March 14, 2018**

**6:02 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; Village Attorney, Dante Armideo; Homer Fire Department Chief, Mahlon Irish Jr.; Homer Police Chief, Robert Pitman; Department of Public Works Superintendent, Mike Harter; Village Recreation Director, Zachary Pollak; Village Fire Inspector Cody Johnson; Village Police Officer Dana Smith; Barton & Loguidice Engineer, Chris Lawton; and News Reporter, Nick Graziano from the Cortland Standard.

Mayor McCabe called the meeting to order.

On **Motion** by Trustee Clune, the Board approved the Village of Homer Board of Trustees Minutes of February 14, 2018 as written – **all ayes**.

On **Motion** by Trustee Clune to pay the following bills for February 2018 – **all ayes**.

- **F & G Funds – Vouchers 289 - 305 \$9,527.22**
- **A Fund – Vouchers 909 - 961 \$40,907.19**

**ACCEPTANCE FOR FILING OF WRITTEN REPORTS:**

**CODES** – Report was received as submitted, Trustee Clune states that Code Enforcement Officer Craig Umbehauer has been in Energy Code training, once certified the Village can apply for a \$5,000-dollar grant from NYSERDA. Village Code Book revision will take place this Thursday, 3/15/18. **Motion** to accept by Trustee Clune – **all ayes**.

**DOGS** – No report submitted.

**DPW** – Report was received as submitted. Superintendent Harter reads the report, residents please be mindful, due to snow plowing some dirt will be dug up from lawns, Brentwood area and like smaller streets are an issue, DPW will repair once the weather permits. What is happening for Arbor Day? Trustee Daley says he will be planning the event, Superintendent Harter state that the Village has 35 trees to be planted now and the Tree Committee will work on a list this summer. Mayor McCabe asserts the budget has been increased for tree planting this year. Trustee Daley asks do we have locations marked out and if the weather cooperates, can we have places picked and staged with trees? Superintendent Harter says the Village will have to coordinate with Dig Safely and have to cover empty holes before trees are planted. Mayor McCabe directs Superintendent Harter to go ahead with trees that we have. Also, how many volunteers do you have Trustee Daley? Trustee Daley informs that around ten volunteers have expressed interest. Superintendent Harter asks are the volunteers expected to show, the Village will have to use DPW workers for a Saturday. Mayor McCabe asks Trustee Daley to work with Superintendent Harter on an action plan for the Arbor Day event. Further, part of what has to

happen, should have a discussion with property owners on how best to care for the tree once it is planted. Trustee Clune asks do we have gator bags? Superintendent Harter claims we have a dozen. On another subject, trash bins are still a problem, not being put away properly, as well as trash that's not to be out. Mayor McCabe reiterates that if trash bins are not put away in timely manner, then property owner may be fined. Superintendent Harter informs amnesty day will be May 12, filled four dumpsters last year, may need 8 this year, electronics are not allowed, but metal is ok, the Village will advertise. DPW has been trimming trees, the Dafoe contract was extended 2 years ago, need to do another contract. Mayor McCabe went to seminar on street lights, National Grid has not been working with municipalities well. Trustee Daley says it would be best for the Village to do Smart street lighting, New York Power Authority (NYPA) gave a presentation recently, the switch can be a turnkey option, they run the entire process, and want to bundle multiple municipalities for better costs. NYPA does not respond to RFP's, NYPA does their own, and will provide a cost benefit analysis. Superintendent Harter asks if the Village will maintain the new lights? Mayor McCabe states that we will get a contract maintenance, NYPA finds other municipalities to bundle for better cost of maintenance too. Trustee Clune asks the DPW to remove all yellow "we build signs" from the Village rights-of-way. Mayor queries can we fine those that place the signs, Village Attorney Armedio claims yes, one cannot put a sign in the right of way. Superintendent Harter reports that 25 Park Street needs a run-off drain cleared of debris, Department of Environmental Conservation have greenlighted the project, the water level needs to drop before work can be done. **Motion** to accept by Trustee Clune – **all ayes**.

**FIRE DEPARTMENT** – Report was received as submitted. Mayor McCabe exclaims excellent work on the recent fire. Trustee Clune commends the rest of the Fire Department as well, close to 1000 alarms for the year. Chief Irish Jr. articulates the need to schedule a Village bridge review, to ascertain how Town of Homer bridge work would affect emergency routing. Chief Irish Jr. asks a code enforcement question, after a structural fire who's the officer tasked with inspection, the Code Enforcement Officer or the Fire Inspector? As of now inspections are not being done. An exhaust extraction system, for the quote given, the Village can lease for 8 years, with a first payment due once a contract is signed. The fire station needs a system and we need to budget for multiple payments, \$16,220 will be the first payment. Mayor McCabe extols, favoring the plan and the Village has access to Reserves and Unallocated Fund Balance to put to use. Slack is there any funding available for the project, FEMA grants require a 24-hour manned station. Mayor McCabe, the Village should use this project when calculating new Fire contracts. Trustee Finkbeiner recommends waiting for 2 months. Trustee Clune advises putting this matter on the agenda for the next work session and then have it ready for the April Village Board meeting. Chief Irish Jr. states mutual aid plan with Cortland County is up for renewal, the Mayor needs to sign if the Village wishes to participate. Trustee Finkbeiner wants to participate in the Mutual Aid Plan, Mayor McCabe will sign the plan. **Motion** to accept report by Trustee Slack – **all ayes**.

**FIRE INSPECTOR** – Report was received as submitted. Mayor McCabe questions Fire Inspector Johnson in regard to structural fires, who should be inspecting after the fire? Inspections need to be done by the Code Enforcement Office states Fire Inspector Johnson, and State/Village law requires that. Inspector Johnson reads the report, Greenbriar needs to be re-inspected, minor violations noted, business' that are out of date need to contact the Village or they can email inspection requests to cjohnson@homerny.org, Mayor asks if the new pricing structure for inspections is being used. Trustee Clune queried is everyone aware of the new pricing and that the new schedule needs to be on the Village website. **Motion** to accept by Trustee Finkbeiner - **all ayes**.

**POLICE** – Report was received as submitted. Mayor McCabe reads the report, when will the old Explorer be sold going, Chief Pitman states in April. Mayor McCabe informs when it sells, the money will be put into Reserves. Chief Pitman would like to introduce a new full-time Police Officer, Dana Smith, who'll be replacing Emmett Neno. Officer Smith looks forward to working in his new capacity for the Village. Trustee Slack impressed with active shooter and push for law change in arson, meth making. **Motion** to accept by Trustee Finkbeiner – **all ayes**.

**RECREATION** – Report was received as submitted. Recreation Director Pollak claims the Summer concert series is fully booked, Zach gives highlight of the report, would like to have the authority to refund RecDesk users. Treasurer Ferris recommends that activity be handled at the Village offices, this office needs access to RecDesk Recreation Director Pollak has ten customers awaiting a refund. Easter egg hunt will be held this Saturday 3/31 at noon, Kevin Reese from DPW will help with the event. There are 51 signups for tee ball and Babe Ruth league will be active this year. Football equipment needs refurbished, the Department will need \$10,000 in helmets alone. **Motion** to accept by Trustee Finkbeiner – **all ayes**.

**WATER & SEWER** – Report was received as submitted. Mayor McCabe reads the report, Village will get reimbursed for water meter replacement, no vendors will be solicited for the remaining work. **Motion** to accept by Trustee Slack – **all ayes**.

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

Mayor McCabe offered privilege of the floor to those in attendance:  
None

#### **OLD BUSINESS:**

No Old Business scheduled for this Board Meeting

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

On **Motion** by Trustee Clune, the Board authorized the hiring of one Volunteer Firefighter for the Homer Fire Department – **all ayes**.

On **Motion** by Trustee Finkbeiner, the Board approved a new 5-year contract with Ames Linen – **all ayes**.

On **Motion** by Trustee Clune, the Board approved entering into a Shared Services agreement with the Town of Homer. Mayor McCabe adds the Town and the Village have been working well together since the move back to Town Hall – **all ayes**.

The Village Tree Trimming contract and a new Invitation to Bid needs further discussion, tabled until the next Board work session.

On **Motion** by Trustee Finkbeiner, the Board approved Resolution 1, Declaring the Intent of the Village of Homer Village Board to Act as Lead Agency in the upcoming Sewer Systems Improvement Project – **all ayes**.

WHEREAS, the Village of Homer (Village) is proposing the Village of Homer Sewer System Improvements Project (Project), located in the Village of Homer, Cortland County, New York; and

WHEREAS, the Project has been classified as a “Type I Action” as defined by the State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA) in 6 NYCRR Part 617.4; and

WHEREAS, it is the intent of the Village of Homer Village Board to assume the role of “Lead Agency” for purposes of conducting a SEQRA/SERP assessment of the Project; and

WHEREAS, Part I of a Full Environmental Assessment Form (FEAF) has been completed, reviewed by the Village of Homer Village Board, and will be circulated to all Involved Agencies for purposes of establishing the Village of Homer Village Board as “Lead Agency” in accordance with 6 NYCRR Part 617.6(b).

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED AND DETERMINED, that the Mayor of the Village of Homer hereby is authorized to sign Part I of the Full Environmental Assessment Form (page 13); and it is further

RESOLVED AND DETERMINED, that the Village of Homer will send said Part I of the Full Environmental Assessment Form and associated site figure to the attached list of “Interested and Involved Agencies” under cover of a “Notice of Intent to Establish Lead Agency” letter for purposes of establishing Lead Agency status under SEQRA/SERP; and it is further

RESOLVED, that the Mayor of the Village of Homer and Village Board, together with the Village of Homer Attorney and B&L, are hereby authorized to take all actions, serve all notices, and complete all documents required to give full force and effect to this determination.

**On Motion** by Trustee Finkbeiner, the Board approved Resolution 2, Reestablish the Position of Village Clerk Assistant Part-Time – **all ayes**.

WHEREAS, the Homer Village Board desires to reestablish a Village Clerk Assistant, Part-Time and,

WHEREAS, the position of Village Clerk Assistant, Part-Time is duly needed,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the position of Village Clerk Assistant, Part-Time is hereby reestablished and, The duties of the Village Clerk Assistant, Part-Time, will be those outlined in New York State Village Law and/or as determined by the Mayor and the Village Board.

**On Motion** by Trustee Finkbeiner, the Board approved Resolution 3, Declare April Fair Housing Month – **all ayes**.

WHEREAS, in accordance with the Title VIII Fair Housing Policy of the Civil Rights Act of 1968 and the Fair Housing Amendments Act of 1988 and,

WHEREAS, the month of April 2018 has been designated by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's Office of Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity as Fair Housing Month.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Village Board of the Village of Homer hereby declares and proclaims April as Fair Housing Month in the Village.

## **Attorney**

Nothing to report.

## **Comments from Board Members:**

Trustee Slack passes along a resident’s inquiry, why does the Village only allow a maximum exemption of \$16,200 for tax relief, when the Town of Homer allows the full maximum of \$20,200? Trustee Clune agrees that the Village should be in line with surrounding communities. This needs to be approved by the Board before July 1<sup>st</sup> of this year.

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

On **Motion** by Trustee Finkbeiner, the Board reconvened at 9:12 p.m.

On **Motion** by Trustee Clune, the Board approved additional raises for various Department of Public Works and Newton Waterworks employees, above the 2% raise already given to all Village employees. This is being done to retain a competitive standing in securing a quality workforce for the Village – **all ayes**.

On **Motion** by Trustee Finkbeiner, the Board approved a salary range of \$13.50 to \$15.50 for the Part-Time Village Clerk Assistant – **all ayes**.

On **Motion** by Trustee Finkbeiner, the Board approved letting the Deputy Clerk-Treasurer manage the Farmers Market this year. Trustee Slack agrees with the Village takeover but would like to put a \$1,000 not to exceed on expenditures for the endeavor – **all ayes**.

On **Motion** by Mayor McCabe, the Board approved the Village's registration with the Farm Bureau – **all ayes**.

On **Motion** by Trustee Daley, the Board adjourned the Regular Meeting at 9:14 p.m. – **all ayes**.

Respectfully submitted,

Dan Egnor, Village Clerk  
Darren "Hal" McCabe, Mayor