

The regular meeting and public hearings of the Homer Town Board was held at the Town Hall located in the Village of Homer, on Wednesday November 12, 2025, in the town boardroom, with Supervisor Park presiding.

Members Present:

Supervisor, Michael R. Park,
Deputy Supervisor, Barry E. Warren
Councilmember, Sarah E. Head
Councilmember, Caleb J. Leach
Councilmember, Kevin M. Williams

Others Present: Town Clerk, Brooke L. Poli; Deputy Town Clerk, Lindsey VanHubert; Highway Superintendent, Kyle Bean; Attorney to the Town, Dan Ellis; Village Mayor, Patrick Clune. Attendees: Michael Broughton, Mariah L. Barredo, and Lily Byrne from WXHC.

Supervisor Park called the public hearing to order at 6:34 p.m. and opened with the pledge of allegiance. Attorney Ellis read the public notice for the preliminary budget.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that the Preliminary Budget of the Town of Homer for the fiscal year beginning January 1, 2026, has been completed and filed in the office of the Town Clerk of the Town of Homer, 31 North Main Street, Homer, New York 13077 where it is available for inspection by any interested person during regular office hours.

The Town Board of the Town of Homer shall hold a Public Hearing on said Preliminary Budget on November 12, 2025, at 6:30PM or as soon thereafter as the public can be heard. At such hearing, any person may be heard in favor of, or against, or for comment on the Preliminary Budget, or for or against or comment on any item or items therein contained.

The following are the proposed fiscal year 2026 salaries of the Town Officers of the Town of Homer:

SALARY SCHEDULE – 2026
Town Supervisor \$8,000.00
Town Board (4) \$5,000.00 Each
Town Justice \$30,600.00
Highway Supervisor \$66,000.00

Brooke L. Poli
Town Clerk
Town of Homer

There were no comments, and the public hearing was closed at 6:36 pm.

Supervisor Park opened the second public hearing at 6:36 pm for Local Law #3.

Attorney Ellis read the notice below for the public hearing.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Town Board of the Town of Homer will hold a public hearing on Wednesday, November 12, 2025, beginning at 6:30 p.m. at the Homer Town Hall, 31 North Main Street, Homer, New York, to consider the following local laws:

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1. Local Law No. 3 of 2025 – A local law to enact a temporary moratorium on the review and approval of applications for major solar energy systems and other commercial alternative energy development within the Town of Homer.

At the time and place of said hearing, all interested people will be heard in favor of or against the proposed local law or any part thereof. Comments may also be submitted in writing in advance of the meeting by submission to the Town Clerk. Copies of the proposed local laws are available for inspection at the Office of the Town Clerk, 31 North Main Street, Homer, New York, during regular business hours.

By Order of the Town Board
Town of Homer, New York

Brooke L. Poli, Town Clerk

Attorney Ellis updated that the county requested clearer clarification on what solar installations would be covered by the town's proposed law. The town specified that it would cover major solar installations as defined in the zoning law and the county wanted the law to cover just solar, no other alternative energy sources. Supervisor Park opened for any public comments.

Village resident, Victor Siegle, made several comments and handed out information for the town board to review on reasons for the Town of Homer to institute a 6-month solar moratorium. Another resident, Michael Broughton, posed concerns about how solar farms would affect or benefit the town and the effect it would have on the land. He stated he was against thousand-acre solar farms. It was also stated that Moratoriums can only be held for up to twelve months.

Supervisor Park closed the second public meeting at 6:52 pm.

Supervisor Park called the third public meeting to order at 6:52 pm for the cable television franchise agreement between Spectrum Northeast with the Town of Homer. He read the below for public comments.

For the approval of a Cable Television Agreement between Spectrum Northeast, LLC and the Town of Homer

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Town of Homer will hold a Public Hearing on November 12, 2025, at 6:30 p.m. at the Homer Town Hall, located in Homer, New York regarding granting a cable television franchise agreement by and between the Town of Homer and Spectrum Northeast, LLC, an indirect subsidiary of Charter Communications.

A copy of the agreement is available for public inspection during normal business hours at the Homer Town Clerk's office, 31 N Main Street, Homer, New York. At such public hearing, all persons will be given an opportunity to be heard. Written and oral statements will be taken at that time. Time limitations may be imposed for each oral statement, if necessary.

By Order of the Board

Town of Homer

There were no public comments, so the public hearing was closed at 6:53 pm.
The Regular Meeting opened at 6:53 pm.

MONTHLY MEETING MINUTES

Deputy Supervisor Warren made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Head to approve the Draft Regular Town Board Meeting minutes of October 8, 2025. All voting aye, the motion carried. **RESOLVED: to approve the Draft Regular Town Board Meeting minutes of October 8, 2025.**

MONTHLY BILL PAY

General bills were approved as audited by Councilmember Head, motioned by Councilmember Head, to approve the general fund vouchers for payment, seconded by Councilmember Leach; All voting aye, the motion carried. **RESOLVED: That General Fund, abstract #11, vouchers #319 through #365 totaling \$100,204.55 are approved for payment.**

Highway bills were approved as audited by Deputy Supervisor Warren, motioned by Deputy Supervisor Warren, to approve highway fund vouchers for payment, seconded by Councilmember Head; All voting aye, the motion carried: **RESOLVED: that Highway Fund, abstract #11, vouchers #139 through #174 all totaling \$174,776.58 are approved for payment.**

WRITTEN DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Councilmember Williams made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Leach, to receive and file the following monthly October reports as presented:

1. The Code Enforcement Officer- October 2025
2. Town Clerk- October 2025
3. Fire Chief- October 2025
4. Dog Control Officer- October 2025
5. Superintendent October 2025

All voting aye, the motion carried.

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

Village Mayor Pat Clune informed the town board that the county is raising tipping fees from \$90.00 to \$105.00 per ton. This will affect the village and other municipalities and will be a 16.6 percent increase.

AGENDA ITEMS

Highway Superintendent Bean reported the highway department ordered enough salt and extra stock and are winter ready. The highway facility is much safer and more efficient since the updates to its facilities. He reported they have applied undercoating to the trucks to prolong the life of the vehicles. The two seasonal employees are back for the winter season and Superintendent Bean completed PESH training and employees worked on patchwork.

Superintendent Bean will be getting quotes for the purchase of new trailers for next month's town board meeting to review and consider, as the town has three trailers and two are unsafe for the road. There is money in the budget that the town could invest.

Duane Reynolds from Homer West Hill Cemetery submitted and reviewed his 2024-2025 fiscal year treasurer's report. He reported they sold six lots this year and have approximately 100 lots remaining. He reviewed the financial report, expenditure, and submitted a state filing and the town board thanked him for his service.

Councilmember Williams made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Leach, to accept and file the Homer West Hill Cemetery Association 2024-2025 Fiscal Year Treasurer's Report and New York State Department of State form. All voting aye, the motion carried. **RESOLVED: to accept and file the Homer West Hill Cemetery Association 2024-2025 Fiscal Year Treasurer's Report and New York State Department of State form.**

RESOLUTION #12 RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN BOARD OF THE TOWN OF HOMER TO ADOPT THE 2026 PROPOSED PRELIMINARY BUDGET AS THE FINAL TOWN BUDGET FOR 2026.

**Motion by Councilmember Leach
Seconded by Councilmember Williams
VOTES: AYE- Park, Warren, Williams, Leach, Head; NAY- 0**

WHEREAS, the Proposed Budget for the Year 2026 has been duly prepared by the Supervisor and Town Board and a duly publicized public hearing was held on the 12th day of November 2025 at 6:30 P.M.; and

WHEREAS, at which time all persons desiring to be heard were heard.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that, pursuant to Section 109 of the Town Law of the State of New York, the Town Board of the Town of Homer hereby ADOPTS THE PROPOSED PRELIMINARY BUDGET, as amended, altered, and revised, as the FINAL BUDGET for the Town of Homer for the Year 2026.

RESOLUTION #13 A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF CONGRESSMAN NICK LANGWORTHY’S ENERGY CHOICE ACT (H.R. 3699, S. 1945) AND IN OPPOSITION TO GOVERNMENT-MANDATED NATURAL GAS BANS

Motion by Councilmember Head

Seconded by Deputy Supervisor Warren

VOTES: AYE- Park, Warren, Leach, Head; NAY- Williams

WHEREAS, affordable and reliable energy is essential to the health, safety, and economic prosperity of New York families, businesses, and communities; and

WHEREAS, natural gas remains a dependable, cost-effective, and clean-burning energy source used by millions of New Yorkers to heat their homes, cook their food, and power their businesses; and

WHEREAS, in 2019, New York State enacted the **Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act (CLCPA)**, which mandates aggressive emissions reductions and serves as the foundation for sweeping energy restrictions, including efforts to phase out natural gas; and

WHEREAS, building on the CLCPA, Governor Kathy Hochul and the New York State Legislature in 2023 enacted provisions in the state budget banning natural gas and other fossil fuel hookups in most new residential and commercial buildings, effective 2026 for smaller buildings, and 2029 for larger buildings, thereby eliminating consumer choice and limiting access to affordable energy; and

WHEREAS, Governor Hochul has publicly supported these bans and related measures as part of her administration’s climate and energy agenda, despite widespread concerns that such mandates will increase costs, strain grid reliability, and restrict energy diversity; and

WHEREAS, these top-down policies undermine affordability, threaten reliability during peak demand, and strip away the freedom of consumers and businesses to choose the energy sources that best meet their needs; and

WHEREAS, Congressman Nick Langworthy of New York and Senator Jim Justice of West Virginia introduced the **Energy Choice Act (H.R. 3699, S. 1945)**, federal legislation that ensures state and local governments cannot restrict consumer access to natural gas and other affordable energy sources, thereby protecting freedom of choice for New Yorkers and all Americans; and

WHEREAS, the Energy Choice Act would safeguard households, small businesses, hospitals, farmers, and manufacturers from harmful government overreach and preserve access to an “all-of-the-above” energy strategy that strengthens reliability and affordability;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the [NAME OF COUNTY LEGISLATURE/BOARD] strongly supports the Energy Choice Act as introduced by Congressman Langworthy (H.R. 3699) and Senator Justice (S. 1945) and stands firmly opposed to New York State’s natural gas bans, the CLCPA-driven restrictions, and other state energy mandates that eliminate consumer choice; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the [NAME OF COUNTY LEGISLATURE/BOARD] urges Congress to pass the Energy Choice Act to defend consumer choice, protect energy affordability, and preserve reliable access to natural gas for New Yorkers; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that copies of this resolution be sent to Congressman Nick Langworthy, Senator Jim Justice, the New York Congressional delegation, Senators Chuck Schumer and Kirsten Gillibrand, Governor Kathy Hochul, and leadership of the New York State Legislature.

The board discussed the proposed solar moratorium and the changes that had been made. The board acknowledged that the county planning task force is working on a uniform solar law for the towns.

RESOLUTION #14 A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN BOARD OF THE TOWN OF HOMER TO ADOPT THE PROPOSED LOCAL LAW #3 OF 2025 ENTITLED A LOCAL LAW ADOPTING A MORATORIUM ON CERTAIN ENERGY PRODUCTION AND STORAGE USES IN THE TOWN OF HOMER.

Motion by Deputy Supervisor Warren

Seconded by Councilmember Leach

VOTES: AYE- Park, Warren, Leach, Head, Williams; NAY- 0

WHEREAS, the Town of Homer has authorized the Attorney for the Town to draft a local law to impose a moratorium on certain energy storage and production uses in the Town of Homer; and

WHEREAS, the proposed local law was prepared by the Attorney and presented to the Town Board; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Homer, after careful study and consideration of the proposed local law, after review of comments and receipt of a recommendation of approval from County Planning rendered under the General Municipal Law, and taking consideration of public comments, including a public hearing held on October 8, 2025, has considered the local law for adoption; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Homer has undertaken an environmental review of the adoption of said local law and has determined that the proposed moratorium is a TYPE II ACTION under the State Environmental Quality Review Act 617.5(c)(36); and

WHEREAS, the Town Board of the Town of Homer has considered the local law's impact on the residents of the Town of Homer and determined that it is in the best interest of the residents to enact a temporary moratorium on the permitting and development of certain energy storage and production uses within the Town of Homer so that the Town may explore future zoning updates; and

WHEREAS, the Town Board recognizes the pending solar development application of Scott Road Solar, LLC (Seaboard Solar) for property located on Houghton Hill Road, and specifically exempts this application and development from the moratorium as an application predating said moratorium.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Local Law #3 of 2025 entitled A LOCAL LAW ADOPTING A MORATORIUM ON CERTAIN ENERGY PRODUCTION AND STORAGE USES IN THE TOWN OF HOMER is hereby adopted.

Member Williams describe the history of the Spectrum franchise agreement with the Town of Homer.

RESOLUTION #15 A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN BOARD OF THE TOWN OF HOMER IN THE MATTER OF THE GRANTING OF A CABLE TELEVISION FRANCHISE HELD BY SPECTRUM NORTHEAST, LLC IN THE TOWN OF HOMER, COUNTY OF CORTLAND, NEW YORK.

Motion by Councilmember Leach

Seconded by Deputy Supervisor Warren

VOTES: AYE- Park, Warren, Leach, Head, Williams; NAY- 0

An application has been duly made to the Board of the **Town of Homer, County of Cortland**, New York, by **Spectrum Northeast, LLC**, an indirect subsidiary of Charter Communications, Inc. ("Charter"), a limited liability company organized and existing in good standing under the laws of State of Delaware doing business at 815 Erie Blvd E., Syracuse, NY 13210, for the approval of a renewal agreement for Charter's cable television franchise for fifteen (15) years commencing with the date of approval by the Public Service Commission.

The franchise renewal agreement would bring the franchise into conformity with certain provisions of the Federal Cable Communications Policy Act of 1984, as amended, and certain court rulings.

A public hearing was held in the **Town of Homer**, New York on November 12, 2025, at 6:30 P.M. and notice of the hearing was published in the Cortland Standard on November 6, 2025.

NOW, THEREFORE, the Board of the **Town of Homer** finds that:

1. Spectrum Northeast, LLC has substantially complied with the material terms and conditions of its existing franchise and with applicable law; and
2. Spectrum Northeast, LLC has the financial, legal and technical ability to provide these services, facilities and equipment as set forth in its proposal attached; and
3. Spectrum Northeast, LLC can reasonably meet the future cable-related community needs and interests, taking into account the cost of meeting such needs and interests.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of the **Town of Homer** hereby grants the cable television franchise of Spectrum Northeast, LLC and the **Town of Homer** for fifteen (15) years commencing with the date of approval by the Public Service Commission and expiring fifteen (15) years hence.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of the **Town of Homer** hereby confirms acceptance of this franchise renewal agreement.

Supervisor Park made a motion, seconded by Deputy Supervisor Warren, no part-time employee will have health insurance or HSA account after 2026, only full-time employees will be eligible. All voting aye, the motion carried. **RESOLVED: no part-time employee will have health insurance or HSA account after 2026.**

Town Clerk Poli updated Deputy Town Clerk Kotas is out for four more weeks, hired Karen Snyder to come into the office to help work on our records and retention schedule, highway employees installed safety strips up to the balcony. The town's website is up and live and for the public to access and the finals steps to switch emails to .gov. Clerk Poli reported Deputy Linsey VanHubert has been a terrific addition to the town clerk's office.

Supervisor updated the lower-level renovations are coming along and the two vaults in the lower-level are no longer there. Issues with the heat were resolved, and they will be pouring concrete soon, and other updates were given.

Attorney Ellis explained the Town of Cortlandville, Town of Solon, and the Town of Homer are requesting the town board obtain Attorney Matthew Eldridge from Harter Secrest on retainer who would be an invaluable resource to negotiate with AES on the 90MW solar project. The split for the escrow account would be the following: Cortlandville-47%, Solon-13%, and Homer-40%. He represents other towns with their AES projects and has experience and understanding on large scale solar development.

RESOLUTION #16 RESOLUTION TO RETAIN MATTHEW ELDRED, ESQ. (HARTER SECREST) FOR LIMITED LEGAL SERVICES ON THE AES SOLAR PROJECT, UP TO \$6,800 UNTIL AN ESCROW AGREEMENT IS REACHED.

**Motion by Deputy Supervisor Warren
Seconded by Councilmember Leach
VOTES: AYE- Park, Warren, Leach, Head, Williams; NAY- 0**

WHEREAS, the Town Board of the Town of Homer requires legal assistance related to the AES Solar Project; and

WHEREAS, Matthew Eldred, Esq. is qualified to provide such services;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Board hereby retains Matthew Eldred, Esq. on a limited scope retainer to provide legal services related to the AES Solar Project; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Town Supervisor is authorized to execute a retainer agreement consistent with this resolution.

RESOLUTION #17 RESOLUTION TO RETAIN DANIEL ELLIS II, ESQ. FOR LIMITED LEGAL SERVICES ON THE SEABOARD SOLAR PROJECT

Motion by Councilmember Head

Seconded by Councilmember Leach

VOTES: AYE- Park, Warren, Leach, Head, Williams; NAY- 0

WHEREAS, the Town Board of the Town of Homer requires legal assistance related to the Seaboard Solar Project; and

WHEREAS, Daniel Ellis II, Esq. is qualified to provide such services;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Board hereby retains Daniel Ellis II, Esq. on a limited scope retainer to provide legal services related to the Seaboard Solar Project; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Town Supervisor is authorized to execute a retainer agreement consistent with this resolution.

Attorney Ellis did not have any further updates.

As there was no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:05 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Brooke L. Poli

