

Town of Homer Supervisor's Update

September 2026

As summer begins to wind down, the Town of Homer continues to stay busy with road work, Town Hall improvements, budget planning, and several important policy issues. I want to give residents a brief update on where things stand.

Town Finances

The Town continues to be in good financial condition. Revenues are running at approximately **84% of budget**, and normal operating expenses are generally staying within budget. General Fund revenues outside the Village are performing particularly well, helped by strong building permit activity.

As we begin preparing the **2027 Town Budget**, we are watching increasing costs for insurance, fuel, wages, and other services, along with changes in the Town's share of sales-tax revenue. Our goal is to continue providing good services while being responsible with taxpayer dollars.

Highway Department

Our Highway Department has had another busy month. Crews have been working on road maintenance, culverts, roadside mowing, vegetation and sight-distance improvements, sign replacement, grader patching, and tree work.

Speed Sign Results

The Town recently purchased and began using a portable speed sign to help us better understand traffic concerns on Town roads. Rather than relying only on complaints or observations, the sign gives us actual traffic counts and speed data.

On **Sweeney Road**, the sign recorded **1,549 vehicles**. The average speed was **36 mph**, with a recorded high speed of **64 mph**. Approximately **3.6% of the vehicles were recorded as speed violations**. Based on this information, the Board did not believe the data supported changing the current speed limit at this time.

On **Creal Road**, the sign recorded **1,052 vehicles**, with an average speed of **34 mph**. The data showed **no speeding activity** during the monitoring period.

These results show why the speed sign is a valuable tool. When residents bring traffic concerns to the Town, we can now collect actual information before deciding whether additional action is necessary. We plan to continue rotating the sign to other areas of concern throughout the Town.

Solar Law

The Town continues working on an updated **Solar Law**. I want to emphasize that the draft that has been circulated is a **starting point, not a finished law**.

We have received helpful comments concerning agriculture, agrivoltaics, residential solar, commercial solar development, setbacks, soils, and property rights. The Town Board, Planning representatives, legal counsel, and others will continue reviewing these issues before a final proposal is presented.

Our goal is to develop a reasonable law that protects the Town and our agricultural community without unnecessarily restricting homeowners or responsible development.

Town Hall

The Town Hall project is nearing completion. The Board awarded the remaining HVAC roof work to Stiles Contracting for **\$21,535**, with the goal of completing the work before winter. We are also looking at a small landscaping improvement along the parking area that should reduce mowing and weed-whacking maintenance while keeping the Town Hall grounds attractive.

Looking Ahead

Work is continuing on our seasonal-road procedures and the review of lot-size requirements. We want to take the time necessary to get these policies right and avoid unintended consequences. The Board has also scheduled a **public hearing for October 14, 2026, at 6:30 p.m.** concerning a local law to override the property-tax cap as part of the 2027 budget process. Scheduling the hearing gives the Town flexibility during budget preparation and provides residents an opportunity to be heard.

There is a lot going on in the Town of Homer, and I appreciate the residents who attend meetings, ask questions, bring concerns forward, and offer constructive ideas. The speed-sign program is a good example of how resident concerns can lead to the Town gathering better information and making decisions based on actual data.

Michael Park
Town Supervisor
Town of Homer