

Town of Homer Supervisor's Report

Community Update – May 2026

As we move through the spring construction and project season, I would like to take the opportunity to provide residents with an update on several important town activities, projects, and discussions currently underway in the Town of Homer. The Town Board, employees, and department heads continue working hard to address infrastructure needs, maintain town services, and plan responsibly for the future while keeping the community informed and involved.

First, I would like to thank the many residents who attended the town hall and highway building open house on April 18th. The event was a tremendous success and provided the public with an opportunity to view the recent improvements made to the town hall facilities, ask questions, and speak directly with town officials and staff. The feedback received throughout the event was overwhelmingly positive and appreciated by everyone involved. It was encouraging to see such strong community interest and participation.

The town hall lower-level renovation project continues to move forward and remains one of the most significant capital improvement projects undertaken by the town in recent years. The project is focused on improving accessibility, for the village police department to increase functionality of meeting and office space, enhance public safety, and modernizing portions of the facility to better serve residents for decades to come. As with many large construction projects, adjustments and unforeseen conditions occasionally arise during the process. The town board continues to carefully monitor project costs, contractor progress, and scheduling to ensure the project remains productive and financially responsible.

In addition to town hall improvements, the town continues focusing heavily on highway infrastructure and road maintenance planning. The highway department is currently preparing for a busy construction and repair season throughout the town. Road maintenance, drainage improvements, culvert repairs, ditching operations, roadside mowing, and equipment preparation are all underway or being scheduled. Maintaining roads and infrastructure across the town remains one of the largest responsibilities within the annual town budget.

The town board has also continued discussions regarding speed limit concerns on several town roads. Residents have raised questions regarding traffic volume and vehicle speeds in certain areas, and the town is reviewing the proper procedures required through New York State for potential speed limit reductions. Any proposed changes require engineering review and coordination with Cortland County the New York State Department of Transportation before implementation can occur. The board remains committed to reviewing these requests carefully and responsibly.

Another important topic currently being discussed involves seasonal road policies and long-term roadway maintenance planning. Seasonal roads create unique challenges related to snow removal, maintenance costs, liability exposure, and emergency access. The town board continues reviewing existing policies and New York State Highway Law requirements to ensure the town's policies remain clear, enforceable, and fair to residents while protecting taxpayer resources.

The town also continues monitoring regional development activities and intergovernmental projects that may affect the community in the future. Discussions involving infrastructure improvements, grant opportunities, regional planning, and cooperation with the Village of Homer and Cortland County remain ongoing. Coordination between municipalities is increasingly important as communities face rising operational costs, infrastructure demands, and state mandates.

Financial planning remains one of the town board's top priorities. Like many municipalities across New York State, the Town of Homer continues experiencing increasing costs related to fuel, equipment, construction materials, insurance, employee benefits, and infrastructure repairs. The Board continues working closely with department heads and staff to maintain responsible budgeting practices while protecting essential services residents rely upon. Long-term planning is critical to ensure the town remains financially stable and capable of addressing future infrastructure and operational needs.

The town board also continues reviewing procurement policies, internal financial controls, and administrative procedures to ensure the town remains compliant with current New York State requirements and maintains transparency in government operations. Good government requires accountability, communication, and public involvement, and the board remains committed to those principles.

I would also like to recognize the dedication and professionalism of the town's employees across all departments. Whether working in the highway department, clerk's office, code enforcement, administrative operations, employees continue working hard each day to serve the residents of the Town of Homer. Their efforts often occur behind the scenes but are essential to maintaining the services and quality of life our community expects.

As always, residents are encouraged to attend town board meetings, review public information posted by the town, and stay engaged in local government. Public input and involvement are valuable and appreciated as the town continues planning for the future.

The Town of Homer continues moving forward through careful planning, investment in infrastructure, and community involvement. While challenges always exist, there are also many

positive developments occurring throughout the town, and I remain optimistic about the future of our community.

Thank you again to the residents of the Town of Homer for your continued support, feedback, and participation.

Sincerely,

Michael R. Park

Town Supervisor

Town of Homer