

The regular meeting of the Homer Town Board was held at the town hall located in the Village of Homer, on Wednesday, June 10, 2026, in the town boardroom, with Supervisor Park presiding.

Members Present: Supervisor, Michael R. Park,
Deputy Supervisor, Caleb J. Leach
Councilmember, Branden M. Brown
Councilmember, Sarah E. Head
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 II; Attendees: Larry Jones

Supervisor Park called the regular meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. and opened with the pledge of allegiance.

Supervisor Park stated he would like to declare June “Dairy Month” and had Councilmember Head read the below Dairy Month Proclamation. Supervisor Park introduced Andrea Niggli, the co-chair for Cortland County Chair Dairy parade and presented Andrea Niggli with a framed copy of the Dairy Proclamation and thanked her for her work.

**TOWN OF HOMER
PROCLAMATION**

June Dairy Month – June 2026

WHEREAS, dairy farming has long been an important part of the Town of Homer, Cortland County, and New York State, contributing significantly to our local economy, agricultural heritage, and rural character; and

WHEREAS, dairy farmers work tirelessly every day of the year to provide safe, nutritious, and wholesome dairy products for families throughout our community and beyond; and

WHEREAS, the dairy industry supports local jobs, strengthens our agricultural economy, preserves valuable farmland, and promotes responsible stewardship of our natural resources; and

WHEREAS, milk and dairy products provide essential nutrients that contribute to the health and well-being of people of all ages; and

WHEREAS, June Dairy Month provides an opportunity to recognize and celebrate the dedication, hard work, and contributions of dairy farmers, farm families, agricultural businesses, and all those involved in the dairy industry;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, **Michael Park, Town Supervisor**, on behalf of the Town Board of the Town of Homer, do hereby proclaim June 2026 as

"JUNE DAIRY MONTH"

in the Town of Homer and encourage all residents to recognize the important role of dairy farming in our community and to support our local dairy producers and agricultural businesses.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this 13 day of June, 2026.

Michael Park
Town Supervisor
Town of Homer

MONTHLY MEETING MINUTES

Councilmember Head made a motion, seconded by Deputy Supervisor Leach to approve the Draft Regular Town Board Meeting minutes of May 13, 2026. All voting aye, the motion carried. **RESOLVED: to approve the Draft Regular Town Board Meeting Minutes of May 13, 2026, with the mentioned change of Councilmember Warren to Councilmember Brown on motion for monthly General Bills.**

MONTHLY BILL PAY

General bills were approved as audited by Deputy Supervisor Leach, motioned by Deputy Supervisor Leach, to approve the general fund vouchers for payment, seconded by Councilmember Head. All voting aye, the motion carried. **RESOLVED: That General Fund, abstract #6 of 2026, vouchers #170 through #204 totaling \$101,194.36 were approved for payment.**

Highway bills were approved as audited by Councilmember Brown, motioned by Councilmember Brown, to approve highway fund vouchers for payment, seconded by Councilmember Williams. All voting aye, the motion carried: **RESOLVED: that Highway Fund, abstract #6 of 2026, vouchers #63 through #78 all totaling 27,77090 were approved for payment.**

Councilmember Head made a motion, seconded by Deputy Supervisor Leach, to approve and pay Daniel J Ellis II, voucher #8 in the amount of \$855.00 and pay Cortland County SWCD, voucher #9 in the amount of \$500.00, to be paid from the Seaboard Solar Project escrow account. All voting aye, the motion carried. **RESOLVED: to approve and pay Daniel J Ellis II, voucher #8 in the amount of \$855.00 and pay Cortland County SWCD, voucher #9 in the amount of \$500.00, to be paid from the Seaboard Solar Project escrow account.**

WRITTEN DEPARTMENT REPORTS

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

1. The Code Enforcement Officer-May 2026
2. Town Clerk- May 2026
3. Dog Control Officer-May 2026
4. Superintendent- April & May 2026

All voting Aye, the motion carried.

Supervisor gave the financial overview as of May 31, 2026: target: 42% of budget spent; performance aligns, cash and general fund revenues tracking on schedule, with sales tax receipts as projected, general fund shows over-budgeted expenditures due to transfers for town hall capital improvements, highway fund is within budget, waiting for CHIPS reimbursements and sales tax allocations, building permit revenues have significantly exceeded projections, ongoing daily monitoring of finances, and the town continues to be in a strong financial position.

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

Legislator Reed Cleland gave the following update to the town board: **Occupancy Tax:** Passed in May 2026 legislative session and awaiting the governor's signature; **Constituent Engagement:** District meeting last week with approximately 12 attendees and covered term limits, jail progress, governance issues; **Legislature Summer Break:** County will skip July meetings per new bylaws and Reed plans a July District 10 "listening tour" and invited town board, village, and legislature members to join Legislator Cleland.

Village Mayor Patrick Clune informed the town board that the village & infrastructure planning comprehensive plan public session is scheduled for the evening of Monday, June 15th at Center for the Arts and urged the town board and village representatives to inform Homer residents. Historical Pictures Installation: Loaned from Historical Society; more to be added downstairs. **Upcoming Event:** Homer Fireman Field Days this weekend.

Village Mayor Clune discussed the New York State Roundabout Construction Project which proposes constructing roundabouts on main access roads highways 90 & 41, with projected duration of 1.5–2 years per roundabout. There were concerns discussed and Councilmember Head raised her concerns and stated the proposal does not currently consider large farm equipment dimensions and extended road closures would critically impact farming operations or a clear traffic rerouting plan provided for farm or business traffic. Left turn lanes were discussed as an alternative and to have engineers ride along with farm operators to see firsthand the issues discussed. Public hearings now expected late October–November.

AGENDA ITEMS

Cortland County Sheriff Helms reviewed the speed study results conducted on Sweeney Road stating midday 64 vehicles in approximately 2.75 hours and no actionable speeds were reported and afternoon/evening approximately 90 vehicles were reported in a three-hour time, with one speed at 68 mph in a 55 zone. There was discussion about purchasing a portable sign/radar and Sheriff supported the idea, with counsel on the placement. The town board thanked Sheriff Helms for coming and for his input on the reports on Sweeney Road.

Village Chief Pitman reported the transition to the new downstairs facility was complete as of May and has received positive feedback from the officers and public. He invited the town board and community to come and view the enhanced lobby with historical displays. There was discussion on enhanced security improvements to the town hall.

There were three quotes reviewed for a radar speed sign which included the following: ElanCity for \$4,000.00, JC Smith Inc. for \$2,957.00 with an approximate delivery/freight charge of an additional \$100.00, and Crossroads Highway Supply, Inc. for \$3,855.00. The board stated that the proposal from JC Smith did not meet the required specifications for data recording.

On Motion by Councilmember Williams, seconded by Councilmember Brown, to approve and accept the proposed bid from Crossroads Highway Supply in the amount of \$3,855.00. All voting aye, the motion carried. **RESOLVED: to approve and accept the proposed bid from Crossroads Highway Supply in the amount of \$3,855.00.**

Superintendent Bean gave the following highway garage facility update: the garage is compliant with PESH safety standards, the highway equipment is thoroughly serviced and maintained; new roadside mower in use and properly maintained; Salt storage building's concrete walls were treated to extend lifespan; ongoing culvert road work, seasonal road grading, vegetation work; Summer road repairs underway through June/July.

Superintendent Bean reported his community engagement along with Councilmember Head, in the Dairy Parade featuring the highway equipment which was well received. Supervisor Park and Superintendent Bean are compiling a policy procedural manual for handling various issues such as speed limit change requests, adding signage, maintenance requests, etc.

Assessor Fitts's reassessment report below was read for the town board's review:

Town of Homer – Revaluation Project Update

For the 2027 Assessment Roll

Where Things Stand

-At the end of September 2025, we sent out data mailers asking property owners to look over their house information and let us know if anything needed updating. The response was excellent, and I'm now going through each one and updating the property database. This part of the project should wrap up later this summer.

What's Coming Next

-Once the data updates are finished, I'll move on to reviewing property sales from the past five years. Those sales will help build valuation models that estimate today's market value for properties that haven't sold recently. I expect this work to be completed in the fall.

-After that, I'll start comparing each parcel's estimated value to what the models predict. I'll also be doing field reviews to make sure the property information we have on file matches what's actually there.

New Assessments & Notices

-New assessments will be completed in February 2027. Disclosure notices — which show your new assessment and the estimated tax impact — will be mailed out during the first week of March 2027.

Opportunities to Talk with Me

-Property owners will be able to meet with me informally throughout March and April to go over their new assessments, ask questions, or share information.

-The Tentative Roll will be filed by May 1, 2027. I'll continue meeting with property owners during May as well.

-Grievance Day is May 27, 2027, which is the formal opportunity to challenge an assessment.

On motion by Supervisor Park, seconded by Deputy Supervisor Park, to receive and file Chris Mauler's resignation from the Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA). All voting aye, the motion carried. **RESOLVED: to receive and file Chris Mauler's resignation from the Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA).**

The town board will actively be looking to fill the vacant ZBA position but do have an alternate member and will still be able to conduct meetings as a replacement is found. The town board discussed reducing the zoning board size to five if a replacement cannot be found.

Town Clerk Poli relayed they will meet with the Cortland County Finance office to settle for the 2026 tax season on June 11th. It was also reported marriage season is underway and ongoing appointments are being made. The office would like to explore options to hire summer interns to assist with record keeping and retention schedule and the town board supported the idea.

Supervisor Park stated the lower level is 98% completed and the generator has been installed and operational, which cycles every Saturday at 1:00 pm for a live test. Back up batteries were purchased for the court computers.

Historical pictures are displayed on loan from the historical society in the main hallway at the town hall. Martin Sweeney and David Quinland were thanked by the town board for hanging the pictures. There was discussion on considering contacting Homer Central School to see if they would like to display any Carpenter paintings in the town hall they have in storage.

On motion by Councilmember Head, seconded by Deputy Supervisor Leach, to approve the purchase of 40 chairs for \$1,411.96 and twelve tables for \$4,332.00 for the new conference room downstairs. All voting aye, the motion carried. **RESOLVED: to approve the purchase of forty chairs for \$1,411.96 and 12 tables for \$4,332.00 for the new conference room downstairs.**

On motion by Deputy Supervisor Leach, seconded by Councilmember Head, to approve the purchase of Meeting Owl 3 & Expansion Mic Bundle for \$1,248, TV bracket for \$38.00, and television for \$749.00 for the new downstairs conference room at the town hall. All voting aye, the motion carried. **RESOLVED: to approve the purchase of Meeting Owl 3 & Expansion Mic Bundle for \$1,248, TV bracket for \$38.00, and television for \$749.00 for the new downstairs conference room at the town hall.**

Supervisor Park tabled any decisions or further discussion on the request for a speed reduction on Sweeney Road and seasonal road information until next month.

Attorney Ellis stated there is limited communication with the AES Solar project and are waiting for a response and for reimbursement to the town from the developer's escrow. There are still contracts that need to be signed before any work can begin on the Houghton Hill Road solar project.

Supervisor Park made a motion to go into executive session at 7:41 pm to discuss an attorney- client privileged contract discussion.

Supervisor Park made the motion to come out of executive session at 8:10 pm. The regular meeting resumed at 8:10 pm.

On motion by Councilmember Williams, seconded by Deputy Supervisor Leach, to authorize the supervisor to execute letter of engagement with PMV Legal Services. All voting aye, the motioned carried. **RESOLVED: to authorize the supervisor to execute letter of engagement with PMV Legal Services. All voting aye, the motioned carried.**

As there was no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:20 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Brooke L. Poli