

The regular meeting of the Homer Town Board was held at the town hall located in the Village of Homer, on Wednesday, April 8, 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; Village Mayor, Patrick Clune; County Legislator, Reed Cleland. Attendees: Michael Broughton, and Tim Malchak.

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

MONTHLY MEETING MINUTES

Councilmember Head made a motion, seconded by Deputy Supervisor Leach to approve the Draft Regular Town Board Meeting minutes of March 11, 2026. All voting aye, the motion carried. **RESOLVED: to approve the Draft Regular Town Board Meeting Minutes of March 11, 2026.**

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 #4 of 2026, vouchers #88 through #122 totaling \$217,709.61 were approved for payment.**

Highway bills were approved as audited by Councilmember Williams, motioned by Councilmember Williams, to approve highway fund vouchers for payment, seconded by Councilmember Brown; All voting aye, the motion carried: **RESOLVED: that Highway Fund, abstract #4 of 2026, vouchers #36 through #45 all totaling \$9,498.27 were approved for payment.**

WRITTEN DEPARTMENT REPORTS

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

1. The Code Enforcement Officer-March 2026
2. Town Clerk- March 2026
3. Dog Control Officer- March 2026
4. Superintendent- March 2026
5. Supervisor- March 2026

All voting Aye, the motion carried.

Councilmember Brown made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Williams, to approve and pay Daniel J. Ellis II, voucher #6 for \$1,327.50 to be paid from the project escrow account for the Seaboard project. All voting aye, the motion carried. **RESOLVED: to approve and pay Daniel J. Ellis II, voucher #6, for \$1,327.50 to be paid from the project escrow account for the Seaboard project.**

Deputy Supervisor Leach made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Head to approve and pay Harter Secrest & Emery, LLP, voucher #4 the amount of \$854.40 to be paid from the project escrow. All voting aye, the motion carried. **RESOLVED: to approve and pay Harter Secrest & Emery, LLP, voucher #2 the amount of \$854.40 to be paid from the project escrow account for the AES project.**

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

Cortland County Legislator Reed Cleland reviewed his monthly report and there were no questions for the county legislator.

Village Mayor, Patrick Clune, updated that the village is taking two trucks out of service and will be replacing them with a new brush rescue truck which should be available in May. The fire department elections are upcoming, and a dinner is scheduled for April 24th, 2026, and all town board members are invited to attend.

Mayor Clune also attended the Micron steering committee meeting for Cortland County which consisted of the IDA, BDC, TC3, NYSEG, National Grid. All representatives evaluated the impact this will have. The county is working on a GIS site selection mapping the Village of Homer first in identifying potential spots for development, and the City of Cortland and the Village of McGraw to survey next.

The IDA BDC is creating a tri-county alliance for less represented counties such as Cayuga, Cortland, and Madison. Mayor Clune distributed a document created by the IDA and BDC for local businesses to evaluate what services they could provide and will to collect data.

AGENDA ITEMS

Supervisor Mike Park explained the budget adjustments for 2025, and the town will need to file an AUD at the year end.

On Motion by Councilmember Brown, seconded by Deputy Supervisor Leach, to receive and file the budget adjustment for 2025. All voting aye, the motion carried. **RESOLVED: to receive and file the proposed budget adjustment for 2025.**

Superintendent Bean updated the town board as follows: the highway department cleaned and organized the facility, plowed and sanded, spring-clen up and repaired lawns damaged by plows. Superintendent Bean updated heavy rains created problems the highway department was still working on cleaning up.

The Highway Department opened the seasonal roads and worked on patch work and worked on culvert installations, equipment servicing, and looking for more highway employees.

Councilmember Williams made a motion, seconded by Deputy Supervisor Leach, to receive and file the March Superintendents Report. **RESOLVED: to receive and file the March Superintended Report.**

On motion by Councilmember Head, seconded by Deputy Supervisor Leach, **to hire Shawn Mead as a full-time motor vehicle operator and fund the position.** All voting aye, the motion carried. **RESOLVED: to hire Shawn Mead as a full-time motor vehicle operator and fund the position.**

Supervisor Park informed the town board that the highway department building will have a meter for electricity which will increase the monthly bill. Bids will also be need for the installation of a new furnace. Supervisor Park has received one bid but is waiting for more bids. Supervisor Park tabled until further notice.

There was discussion on the developers for the Seaboard project and the responsibility for Seaboard to repair/maintain the roads as needed. There will be a preconstruction survey which the contractors will reviews and a bond amount would need to be agreed upon and an inspection after the completion of construction.

On motion by Deputy Supervisor Leach, seconded by Councilmember Brown, to approve the Road Use Agreement. All voting aye, the motion carried. **RESOLVED: to accept and authorize Supervisor Park to sign the Road Use Agreement.**

The was discussion on the Seaboard project and the necessary installation of several different means of erosion and storm water control and an agreement to maintain those systems for the life of the project. The agreement will be recorded with the county clerk and runs with the land, meaning any subsequent purchaser of the property would also be on notice and would be responsible for maintaining the storm water systems.

On motion by Councilmember Head, seconded by Deputy Supervisor Leach, to accept and approve the Storm Water Agreement and to authorize the supervisor to sign the agreement. All voting aye, the motion carried. **RESOLVED: to accept and approve the Storm Water Agreement and to authorize the supervisor to sign the agreement.**

This resolution is connected to escalating energy costs. Last month the board reviewed a resolution that other towns had signed but needed more information. A meeting including Supervisor Park, Mayor Clune, NYSEG and National Grid. Councilmember Williams wanted to clarify that the Town of Homer as a municipality should be included in the class for concerns and the addition of "The Town of Homer" was added to the resolution as well as spaces for all councilmembers and Supervisor Park to sign.

On motion by Councilmember Williams, seconded by Councilmember Brown, to approve the Energy State of Emergency Resolution. All voting aye, the motion carried. **RESOLVED: to adopt the resolution to call out Governor Hochul to declare an energy state of emergency related to escalating energy costs on behalf of the Town of Homer citizens and businesses, with added mentioned amendment: Supervisor Park and councilmembers to sign the Energy State of Emergency Resolution.**

Supervisor Park reviewed the progress of the lower-level renovations and discussed the remaining projects. The renovations are expected to be 99% completed by April 10th, 2026. Bulletproof glass for the police department installed the following week and cabinets after the open house. The Village Homer Police needed countertops and cabinets that were not in the initial drawings.

On motion by Deputy Supervisor Leach, seconded by Councilmember Head, to receive and file change order #8 for Diamond and Theil, regarding the lower-level renovation. All voting aye, the motion carried. **RESOLVED: to receive and file change order #8 for Diamond and Theil.**

Supervisor Park reviewed the open house on April 18th, at 10 am. Town Historian Martin Sweeney, will give a brief presentation around 10:10 am along with prior Supervisor Fredrick Forbes, who started this project, Robert Pittman the Chief of Police and Mayor Patrick Clune. The next projects for the town hall building will be assessing the roof system for the units outside and black top for the parking lot.

There was discussion on a speed limit change request for Sweeney Road and the process. The change would take Sweeney Road from 55 MPH to 45 MPH and multiple complaints reported, creating unsafe conditions for walkers and the road is shared with Cortlandville. This request will be a long-term project before any final decisions be made.

Town Clerk Poli updated the town board that the clerk's office had collected 92% of the taxes so far and the clerks would send out second notices soon. Town Clerk Poli mentioned Karen Snyder is assisting their office with the retention schedule and organization of the town's records.

There was discussion on having the town and deputy clerk attend the NYSTCA conference from April 19th through April 21st and the cost involved. There was discussion on the town office closing during tax season, and Attorney Ellis confirmed there was no conflict. The town board agreed to cover the cost of the hotel reservation, the conference registration, mileage, and one meal per day. The total cost of registration and hotel accommodation is \$794.00.

On motion by Councilmember Williams, seconded by Councilmember Head, to approve the funding for both Clerk Poli and Deputy Clerk VanHubert to attend the NYSTCA Conference April 19th through the 21st. **RESOLVED: to approve the funding for Town Clerk Poli and Town Deputy Clerk VanHubert to attend the NYSTCA Conference in Albany April 19th-21st, and to cover the mileage and one meal per day.**

Supervisor Park reviewed the Village of Homer Fireman’s dinner scheduled for April 24th. The town board members and spouses were invited to attend the dinner.

The town board reviewed the request from the USA Department of Agriculture to trap invasive species, including the European Cherry Fruit Fly (ECFF) on resident’s properties. This approval would give the USA Department of Agriculture permission to contact Homer residents who would like to participate in the program.

On motion by Councilmember Williams, seconded by Councilmember Head, to approve the ECFF Property Access Request for 2026. All voting aye, the motion carried. **RESOLVED: to accept and authorize Supervisor Park to sign the ECFF Property Access Request for 2026.**

Attorney Ellis reported he would send the draft seasonal road agreement to Deputy Supervisor Leach and Councilmember Head for review. This draft agreement would establish regulations for seasonal roads which are not maintained from November 1st through April 1st.

Supervisor Park made a motion to go into executive session at 7:30pm. Councilmember Head made a motion to go out of executive session at 8:00pm. There were no decisions made.

As there was no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:00 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Brooke L. Poli

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