

The regular meeting of the Homer Town Board was held at the town hall located in the Village of Homer, on Wednesday, March 11, 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; Village Mayor, Patrick Clune; County Legislator, Reed Cleland. Attendees: Michael Broughton, Tim Malchak, and Larry Jones.

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

MONTHLY MEETING MINUTES

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

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 Williams. All voting aye, the motion carried. **RESOLVED: That General Fund, abstract #3 of 2026, vouchers #50 through #87 totaling \$203,119.80 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 #3 of 2026, vouchers #27 through #35 all totaling \$20,422.99 were approved for payment.**

WRITTEN DEPARTMENT REPORTS

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

1. The Code Enforcement Officer-February 2026
2. Town Clerk- February 2026
3. Fire Chief- February 2026
4. Dog Control Officer- February 2026
5. Superintendent- February 2026
6. Supervisor- February 2026

All voting Aye, the motion carried.

Councilmember Williams made a motion, seconded by Deputy Supervisor Leach to approve and pay Harter Secrest & Emery, LLP, voucher #2 the amount of \$1,362.40 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 \$1,362.40 to be paid from the project escrow account for the AES project.**

Councilmember Williams made a motion, seconded by Deputy Supervisor Leach, to approve and pay Daniel J. Ellis II, voucher #5 for \$1,822.50 to be paid from the project escrow account for the Seabaord project. All voting aye, the motion carried. **RESOLVED: to approve and pay Daniel J. Ellis II, voucher #5, for \$1,822.50 to be paid from the project escrow account for the Seabaord project.**

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

Cortland County Legislator Reed Cleland reviewed his monthly report and informed the town board that the county welcomed a new county poet, and a presentation is planned on climate smart community programs, along with other updates. The town board thanked him for composing his newsletters and for attending their meetings.

AGENDA ITEMS

Superintendent Bean updated the town board as follows: the highway department cleaned and inspected the facility, maintained the garage, continued plowing, and problem solved with water issues on the north side of the town hall. The town board discussed hiring an additional seasonal motor vehicle operator.

On motion by Councilmember Head, seconded by Councilmember Leach, **to hire Logan Williams as a seasonal motor vehicle operator and fund the position.** All voting aye, the motion carried. **RESOLVED: to hire Logan Williams as a seasonal motor vehicle operator and fund the position.**

On motion by Councilmember Head, seconded by Councilmember Williams, to approve the Town of Homer to purchase, for a twelve-month term, 2026 Paid Family Leave Benefit coverage at a cost of \$2,508.47 through Shelter Point starting in April. All voting aye, the motion carried. **RESOLVED: to approve the Town of Homer to purchase for a twelve-month term 2026 Paid Family Leave Benefit at a cost of \$2,508.47 through Shelter Point starting in April.**

There was discussion on a proposed resolution to request the Public Service Commission to review recent electrical service rate increases and the town board tabled the resolution ~~deciding~~ until April.

Supervisor Park reviewed the progress of the lower-level renovations and discussed the remaining projects. The renovations are expected to be completed by April 10th, 2026. The town hall will be closed Friday, March 27, 2026, due to renovations.

There was discussion on bids collected for painting the stair tower located at the back of the town hall entrance. Supervisor Park obtained three separate bids: Ernz Co \$9,632.00, Commercial Contracting \$9,811.00, and Joseph Rivers Paint \$14,995.00.

On motion by Councilmember Williams, seconded by Councilmember Brown, to accept the low bid from Ernz Co in the amount of \$9,632.00 to paint the stair tower at the back of the town hall entrance. All voting aye, the motion carried. **RESOLVED:**

On motion by Councilmember Williams, seconded by Councilmember Leach, to authorize the supervisor to sign the (HCA) Host **Community** Agreement between the Town of Homer, NY and Scott Road Solar, LLC. All voting aye, the motion carried. **RESOLVED: to authorize the supervisor to sign the (HCA) Host Community Agreement between the Town of Homer, NY and Scott Road Solar, LLC, which calls for a one-time payment of \$200,000.00 to the Town.**

Councilmember Williams read the audit motion below for the town board's review.

Audit of the Town of Homer Court

On Motion of Councilmember Williams, Seconded by Deputy Supervisor Leach.

WHEREAS, Section 2019-a of the uniform Justice Court Act requires that town boards provide an annual audit of the town justice court's records and dockets; and

WHEREAS, Town Board member Williams performed such an audit of the 2025 Town of Homer court records on February 25th, 2026, using a checklist and documentation provided by the New York State Comptroller's Office; and

WHEREAS, Board member Williams found all records to be clear, concise, and accurate; that all reports and disbursements were made on a timely basis, that the checkbooks were

reconciled on a timely basis, and that cooperation by the Court Clerks was found to be excellent; During the audit the following was noted:

- 1. Audit sampling included four random months Chosen during the 2025 calendar year, December, August, May, March**
- 2. Sampling includes verification of deposits, in the Justice account and bail account, cash receipts tied into deposits Justice account and bail account. Verification of timely banking procedures and timely monthly reporting documents.**
- 3. Open caseloads are within a normal range.**
- 4. Bank reconciliations frequently reconciled online prior to receiving monthly mailed statements.**
- 5. Bail account has limited entries and disbursements and were reviewed and reconciled by individual case documents to follow the collection and reimbursements of bail monies. There is very minimal activity in the bail account.**
- 6. The audit takes note that in March 2025 the monthly checklist form provided by the Office of Court Administration has been implemented and is noted in all the months audited.**
- 7. In 2025 all disbursements were ACH initiated and no handwritten checks were written in 2025 from the Justice account.**
- 8. The month of May noted on 05/14/2025 a deposit for the Justice account was deposited into the Bail account in error. The audit notes that the error was discovered during normal reconciliation and corrected on 06/09/2025.**

On Motion of Councilmember Williams, Seconded by Deputy Supervisor Leach, to accept and file the audit resolution with the Town Clerk and forward a copy of the adopted motion accepting the audit to the NYS Office Of Comptroller. All voting aye, the motion carried.

Town Clerk Poli updated the town board that the clerk's office had collected 85% of the taxes so far and the clerks would send out second notices soon.

Supervisor Park reviewed the town department plan with a time schedule he composed which included the following: meeting with the town justice to review the first quarter, explore bookkeeping software program for the town clerk's office, update and develop agreements with the village, evaluate comprehensive plan, and develop a manual for building maintenance protocols.

Supervisor Park reviewed the town infrastructure project plan he composed with the town board which included the following: the quotes obtained for painting the stair tower, develop an RFP for April for repairing and painting the cupola and trim, replacing the town hall roof, deal with water problem for lower level, develop a plan for the installation of a media system in new conference room, develop a replacement plan to replace bridge in one year, work on new entrance at the highway department, develop plan to paint the siding at the highway department, and to upgrade the blacktop in the town parking lot.

Attorney Ellis read a resolution in support of a grant application that the City of Cortland Mayor, Scott Steve, has requested from the town concerning support for proposed roundabout.

On motion by Councilmember Williams, seconded by Councilmember Leach, to authorize the supervisor to sign the resolution in support of the City of Cortland transportation alternatives program grant application. All voting aye, the motion carried. **RESOLVED: to authorize the supervisor to sign the resolution in support of the City of Cortland transportation alternatives program grant application. All voting aye, the motion carried.**

There were no seasonal road updates.

The board of assessment review member, Leclar Dennis, moved out of the Town of Homer and needs to be replaced, as he can no longer serve on the board. The qualifications to be a member on the board of assessment review is you must be a town resident, a five-year term, attend a three-hour online training course, meetings are one day on the fourth Tuesday of May, and two days after

a town wide assessment. The meetings are four hours, from 4:00 pm until 8:00 pm. The stipend is \$120 per day.

Councilmember Williams stated James Ferris is willing to accept the vacant position to be a board of assessment review member. Councilmember Williams stated he would like to accept Leclar Dennis's resignation and offer James Ferris the five-year position of board of assessment review member.

On motion by Councilmember Williams, seconded by Councilmember Brown, to accept Leclar Dennis's resignation and offer James Ferris the five-year term position of board of assessment review member. **RESOLVED: to accept Leclar Dennis's resignation and offer James Ferris the five-year term position of board of assessment review member.**

Attorney Ellis stated he is negotiating the Road Use Agreement on the five-megawatt solar project and will be meeting with the council of Seaboard Solar tomorrow.

Supervisor Park discussed obtaining a quote to deep clean the town hall due to all the construction and to have reimbursement from the contractors. Absolutely Clean submitted a quote in the amount of \$862.00 and Supervisor Park stated they accepted and approved of the contract. They will begin in the next week and will have completed by the open house on Saturday, April 18, 2026.

Village Mayor Clune reported that the 250th Bicentennial is this year and will make plans to celebrate this year or in the future.

As there was no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:54 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Brooke L. Poli

