

Village of Homer
Regular Meeting of Trustees
January 8, 2024
7:00pm

Those present: Village Trustees: Roger Faulkner, Skip James, Ray Ryerson, Mike Johnson, John Dodd, and Matt Seaver, Village Mayor/Board President, Jim White, Village Clerk, Sharon Jeffers, Treasurer, Cindy Pruitt, Maintenance/Water: Ryan Byerley, Sewer, Tom Parrish, Zoning, Dave Hermes, Engineer, Dennis Cummins, resident, Roy Woodmansee, and Solar representative, Mark Ludke.

Public Comment: Roy Woodmansee commented that being on the board is not easy, difficult decisions have to be made, and he thanked the board for what they do. He spoke in favor of the Police department.

Board Comment: Mike Johnson spoke in regards to the nuisance property on South Main St.

702 S Main St: Mike Johnson motioned for a straw poll vote to move forward with the next legal step regarding 702 S Main St, straw poll: Roger Faulkner, yes, Skip James, yes, Ray Ryerson, yes, Mike Johnson, yes, John Dodd, yes, and Matt Seaver, yes, motion approved.

Mark Ludke gave a presentation on a solar field to power the wastewater treatment plant. He explained what would be needed, the cost, installation, warranty, and credits.

Roger Faulkner motioned to table solar field until next meeting, seconded by Skip James, all in favor, motion approved.

Minutes: Mike Johnson motioned to approve regular, special, and library minutes as presented, seconded by Ray Ryerson, all in favor, motion approved.

Village bills: Ray Ryerson motioned to pay Village bills as presented, seconded by Skip James, roll call vote: Roger Faulkner, yes, Skip James, yes, Ray Ryerson, yes, Mike Johnson, yes, John Dodd, yes, and Matt Seaver, yes, motion approved.

Reports: Mike Johnson motioned to accept all reports as presented, seconded by Ray Ryerson, all in favor, motion approved.

- Water loss high, looking for a leak
- Meter pits have all been checked for lead lines
- We have a home inspector that will help inspect crawlspace homes for lead survey
- Treasurer reported that the audit still is not complete and we have received a non compliance from the state comptroller
- The treasurer asked for everyone to reach out to representatives. It is on the state agenda to allow bi annual audits for small communities.
- Sewer department asked to cut hole in fence then repair in order to get crane in to finish repairing last pump.

Radio reads: Mike Johnson motioned to approve purchase of 5 radio reads for water meters to replace broken/damaged ones, seconded by Skip James, roll call vote: Roger Faulkner, yes, Skip James, yes, Ray Ryerson, yes, Mike Johnson, yes, John Dodd, yes, and Matt Seaver, yes, motion approved.

- Clerk will try to make residents aware of the readers and ask them to handle with care.

Downtown sidewalk engineering: Mike Johnson motioned to enter into contract with Farnsworth Group to engineer sidewalk for the west downtown 100 S block in the amount of \$29,400.00, seconded by Matt Seaver, roll call vote: Roger Faulkner, yes, Skip James, yes, Ray Ryerson, yes, Mike Johnson, yes, John Dodd, yes, and Matt Seaver, yes, motion approved.

Police department: Mike Johnson motioned to disband the Homer Police Department, seconded by Matt Seaver, roll call vote: Roger Faulkner, no, Skip James, abstain, Ray Ryerson, yes, Mike Johnson, yes, John Dodd, yes, and Matt Seaver, yes, motion approved.

- Finances of continuing the Police department was discussed. Treasurer gave estimate costs.
- Police committee will meet to discuss equipment

GPS system: Matt Seaver motioned to purchase GPS system for the water department to be paid with Lead Line Survey Grant in the amount of \$4,332.00, Mike Johnson seconded, roll call vote: : Roger Faulkner, yes, Skip James, yes, Ray Ryerson, yes, Mike Johnson, yes, John Dodd, yes, and Matt Seaver, yes, motion approved

Tree removal: Mike Johnson motioned to accept bid from JT Tree Service in the amount of \$2,900.00 to remove damaged tree at E First St, seconded by Ray Ryerson, roll call vote: : Roger Faulkner, yes, Skip James, yes, Ray Ryerson, yes, Mike Johnson, yes, John Dodd, yes, and Matt Seaver, yes, motion approved

Heritage Post Prom: Mike Johnson motioned to contribute same amount as last year to Heritage Post Prom, seconded by Ray Ryerson, roll call vote: : Roger Faulkner, yes, Skip James, yes, Ray Ryerson, yes, Mike Johnson, yes, John Dodd, yes, and Matt Seaver, yes, motion approved.

Planning commission: Roger Faulkner, Ray Ryerson, and Jim White, and hoping for a couple of residents will meet as the planning commission. First meeting to be held Thursday, January 18th at 7:00 pm.

Special Funds committee will meet Thursday, January 18th at 6:00pm to discuss procedures for funds and to review new TIF application.

Adjourn: Mike Johnson motioned to adjourn, seconded by Ray Ryerson, all in favor, motion approved.
Adjourn: 8:53pm

Posted: Sharon Jeffers, Clerk

Village of Homer
Special Funds Committee Meeting
Thursday, January 18, 2024
6:00pm

Those present: Committee members: Matt Seaver and Skip James, Mayor Jim White, Treasurer, Cindy James, Clerk Sharon Jeffers, and business owner Becky Smith.

Discussed TIF Application from Ms Becky's for a new roof. Her roof has failed. The bid she acquired in 2021 was approximately \$22,000.00. Current price will probable be significantly more.

The Committee recommends that we present to the full board to enter into TIF agreement with Ms Becky's for \$10,000.00 to be paid over 5 years. Skip James, yes, Matt Seaver, yes, and Jim White, yes.

Discussed TIF application from Don's Auto for replacement of partial sign with a digital sign in the amount of \$32,171.44.

The Committee recommends that we present to the full board to enter into TIF agreement with Don's Auto for 10% of the project (\$3,216.00) to be paid over a two year period. Matt Seaver, yes, Skip James recuse, and Jim White, yes.

The TIF fund was reviewed, and Mayor Jim White discussed setting up written guidelines for TIF disbursements, agreements, and grants. He discussed some of his ideas. He will be preparing final guidelines to present the full board for approval.

TIF II district was discussed to help with the potential sub division.

Goad Trust fund was reviewed. Mayor Jim White asks that future board to be mindful of the fund and that the Village has been very blessed to have received such a gift.

Skip James motioned to adjourn, seconded by Matt Seaver, adjourned 7:00pm

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Posted: Sharon Jeffers, Village Clerk

Village of Homer
Plan Commission
January 18, 2024
7:00pm

Those present: Mayor Jim White, Ray Ryerson, Skip James, and Matt Seaver.

The Committee discussed developers and would like to recommend and actively seek a developer for a new subdivision in the farm field.

They discussed considering an easement instead of continuing Caroline north of Second St.

Mayor Jim White will talk with potential individuals with respect to their interest in purchasing lots in the farm field.

Adjourn: 8:15pm

Posted: Sharon Jeffers, Village Clerk

Tuesday Jan. 16, 2024
Homer Recreation Board
Village Hall 6:30pm

Present: Sharon Jeffers, Kim Dalle, Perry Dable, Tammy Boen, and Casey Phillips

Reviewed Profit and Loss Budget vs. actual due to the difference from mid-year fundraising
Changes made to budget and allocation considerations:

Freedom & Music Festival line budget - increase to \$30k, will now need hired police presence due to disbanding of local dept (there is a village line item for police protection from tavy levy that can be applied with board approval)

Christmas in Homer - increase to \$1k

Halloween - increase to \$500

Family Fun Day will be a new event for this year held in Aug. before school starts and we currently have a line item for Programs & Activities with approval of up to \$2,500 that we can use for this event

Recreation Board contact/business cards have been ordered that members can hand out while canvassing for sponsors, donors, vendors, and musicians

Freedom & Music Festival planning

Sponsorship letters for the Freedom & Music Festival need to be sent out within the next couple of weeks. Members will be given copies to hand out and email to new contacts. Bands and musicians need to be booked soon as we build out a lineup with various genres. We have confirmed Rock Posse and X-Krush for July 3rd, Logan Kirby Band to open right after the parade the next around 10:30am and ending with Big Guns at 7pm prior to the fireworks lighting off. We are looking for a mid-level band to draw fans in during the 2:00-5:00pm lull of the afternoon.

No car show this year- we will invite local collectors to participate in the parade that will step off at 9:30am and will be revamping how to best offer a show for upcoming years. There is too much competition on that holiday and we can focus on building more child-friendly activities for now.

Bingo Fireworks Fundraiser - will hold a bingo night at Charlie's in early March if schedules work out, awaiting confirmation from owners that a Saturday evening is open

Spring Fling Vendor Event

Will be held on Saturday, May 4 at the Village Hall from 8:00am-2:00pm to coincide with the townwide garage sales and possibly a library book sale. Case is going to reach out to Smith Burger food truck on their availability to serve lunch while Sharon will check with Traveling Tom's Coffee Truck for their hours. Kim is going to reach out to 2023 Christmas in Homer vendors for priority applications before advertising vendor openings.

Tuesday Feb. 6, 2024
Homer Recreation Board
Village Hall 7:15pm

Present: Kim Dalle, Perry Dable, and Casey Phillips

Bingo Fireworks Fundraiser

- Confirmed with Charlies that we can hold event at their restaurant on Sat. March 2 at 6:00pm. Facebook event page will be created by end of week to begin advertising
- Will need to have dedicated callers so we will plan on Kim and Case unless Rachel Denmark's husband would like to be caller that evening
- Free entry but \$1/card per round to play, will split each round pot with winner(s) and will need to ensure we have plenty of \$1 to make change
- Be sure new speaker and microphone is ready to use and pre-load a music playlist on phone for in-between rounds if games on tvs are muted
- Discussed how to allow kids to play while following rules and thought we could provide disposable bingo cards that they can follow along with and provide prizes/goodies in place of cash if they win while keeping the round going for adults. Will need to explore this more.

Spring Fling Vendor Event

- Will be held on Saturday, May 4 at the Village Hall from 8:00am-2:00pm to coincide with the townwide garage sales and possibly a library book sale.
- Smith Burger food truck confirmed their availability to serve lunch 11:00-2:00pm and we will follow up to get them registered. Waiting to hear back from Traveling Tom's Coffee Truck if they are available.
- Kim emailed 2023 Christmas in Homer vendors for priority applications and is getting a solid response so far. Will open up to other vendors towards the end of this month

Freedom & Music Festival planning

- Sponsorship letters for the Freedom & Music Festival were sent out last month and we're making contact with new potential donors. We will need to focus hard on local businesses as we have lost a couple previous sponsors from last year that is significant.
- Perry has been in contact with several bands and musicians and is working out a lineup to include a couple new acts. Some have increased their fees substantially and we are negotiating to try to stay within last year's budgeted expenses to leave room for incidentals.
- Will offer vendors from Christmas in Homer and Spring Fling first choice for July 4th set up through email before posting online
- Start looking into food/beverage trucks that would be unique or sought after to book early, who specifically can be there the evening of the 3rd?

**Homer Community Library
Board Meeting Minutes
Dec. 12, 2023**

Present: Chantelle Thompson, Joe Rice, Christine Cunningham Library Director, Becci Powers, Troy Schiff, and Casey Phillips

Absent: Jillian Weathers

Visitors: David Steckel, Homer VFD member and interested in the open HCL board position

Call To Order: Joe called the meeting to order at 7:03pm

Public Comment: Guest, David Steckel, stated that he has lived in Homer for 4 years now and is very pleased with how Homer's library is being ran.

Friends of the Library: Cindy Happ was not present for tonight's meeting

Secretary's Report: Becci moved to accept November's minutes, and Troy seconded. Motion carried and report approved.

Treasurer's Report: Becci reported that she will be moving 2 CDs into 3 month terms unless a better deal presents prior to their maturation. Other income to note is another tax levy check was received, a check in memory of a resident was sent in, and an annual donation from the Homer Auxiliary was dedicated towards books.

Budget Report: The grand total is \$120,510.49 with a loss of \$1,084.27. Collection of fines are up this month.

Bills: Troy moved to approve Visa Debit charges from Amazon, Dell, and ThriftBooks totaling \$687.17, Chantelle seconded, motion carried and approved. Chantelle moved to approve \$334.06 for Baker & Taylor, postage due to Village of Homer for \$30.91, and \$21.99 to Carey Area Public Library for replacement cost for a damaged interlibrary loan book and Becci seconded. Motion carried and approved. Other bills to note are: IL Dept of Revenue for \$60.99

Librarian's Report: See full report for updates about Christmas in Homer event, technical challenges, and IHLS Member Day in February. We agreed that Becci should have a dedicated flash drive to assist with computer/data backups.

OLD BUSINESS

Employee Evaluation Committee: Jill and Troy have completed the evaluations and will address in closed session during this meeting

Per Capita: Christine says it's going well, it's due Jan. 20, 2024. There were 3 items on her checklist that we need to work on: 1. The east back door has very poor lighting in the winter months and a solar light would be beneficial so we will explore type and placement; 2. We will be putting out a community survey to see if the library is meeting the public's needs and it will most likely be an Every Door Direct mailing through USPS; and 3. Have an official policy in place to outline the Freedom to Read right under the 1st Amendment (board slated to adopt draft at next meeting).

New Trustee Ideas: We have a community member present tonight that intends to put in his application for the vacancy

NEW BUSINESS

Holiday Hours: The library will be closed Dec. 23 - 25 and Dec. 30 - Jan. 1

Discuss purchase of New Tablet: A new device is needed to process Square payments and the budget money is there for it. We will also look into purchasing a square terminal and compare the benefits of each.

Updates to Library Meeting Calendar: Board will continue to meet on the 2nd Tuesday of each month for the new year.

End of Year Employee Compensation: Becci made a motion to go into closed session at 7:47pm to discuss said compensation, Casey seconded and motion passed. Closed session was digitally recorded and stored. Paper copy of details and subject matter recorded and will be submitted for approval at next month's meeting. Becci moved to return to open session at 7:51pm and Chantelle seconded and motion passed. Chantelle made a motion in open session to approve End of Year Employee Compensation as discussed in the amounts of \$175, \$50, and \$25 and Troy seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Adjourn: Becci moved to adjourn meeting at 7:55pm and Chantelle seconded. Motion carried.

Submitted by Casey Phillips, Secretary