



Homer Township Board

Special Meeting Minutes

May 20, 2021 at 7:00 P.M.

Homer Township Hall, 16057 S. Cedar Road, Lockport, Illinois 60491

The meeting was conducted at the Homer Township Hall in accordance with Illinois Gubernatorial Executive Orders, Restore Illinois Phase 4 and CDC Guidelines. A video recording of the meeting can be found at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y8Cnm1W7NPM>

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order on May 20th, 2021, by Township Supervisor Balich at 7:00pm at the Homer Township Hall, 16057 S. Cedar Road, Lockport, Illinois 60491.

2. Pledge and Invocation¹

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. John Walters did the Invocation (after the Public Comment by Josh Lund) asking that all newly elected officials have the strength and perseverance to prevail in their duties as elected officials representing the residents of Homer Township.

Supervisor Balich made some opening comments. This is the new group for Homer Township. Supervisor Balich committed to cooperation between the Township, Homer Glen, and Lockport. Our job is to work together as a community.

3. Roll Call for Quorum

Present were Supervisor Balich, Trustees Matt Connelly, Angela Adolph, Rob Rivera, and Michael Bonomo, Clerk Vicki Bozen, Highway Commissioner Brent Porfilio, Assessor Karen Szykowski, and Collector Mark Gawron. *A quorum was established.*

4. Public Comments

Josh Lund – Served on the Township Parks and Recreation Committee. Josh was concerned hearing committees may be dissolved. Worked to clean-up township parks and received awards for his efforts.

Sara Hamey – Leading initiative to stop trucks (18-Wheelers) illegally driving down township streets. Questioned the reason behind video recording every board meeting.

Sharon Sweas – Questioned actions being taken so quickly after new board and in the regards to the park land.

Traci Bratcher – Questioned the hiring of someone to video record the Township meetings and offered other options.

Andrew Rodeghero – President of the Homer Athletic Club. Agrees with Josh Lund’s comments on importance of parks. Spoke in favor of keeping “user agreements” between the Township and organizations. These organizations cannot afford any cost increases. Looks forward to working with new board.

Patrick Sheean – President of Lockport Junior Porters. District 33C allowed use of Butler fields for practice. He is glad that this new Administration will work with him.

¹ Homer Township does not endorse religious faith. The prayer is intended to lend solemnity to the public meeting and invite an attitude of respect and consideration.

Jen Consolino – Congratulated the newly elected officials. In 2019, it was voted in at the Annual Town Hall Meeting to have all meetings recorded but the previous administration did not abide by this. Applauded the video recording of the Township Board Meetings.

Ellen Moriarity – Asked if the campaign promise to conduct a bid process for any Township service will be led out to bid.

5. Approval of Minutes

a. April 12, 2021 Special Township Board Meeting minutes motion to table indefinitely

1st Adolf 2nd Rivera

Ayes (5)

Nay (0)

6. Reports from Administrative Staff and Contractors

No reports.

7. Reports from Elected Officials

a. Supervisor

Supervisor Balich will work on these items and is an ongoing agenda. Setting the framework for everything going forward. We continue to work until we get it done. Reiterated that this new administration is committed to “fixing where we live”.

b. Assessor

No report.

c. Clerk

Clerk Bozen welcomed all newly elected officials. One exception is Carmen Maurella who won as Township Assessor but will not take office until Jan 1, 2022. Clerk Bozen also announced that the Township Bank Account will stay with BMO Harris Bank.

d. Highway Commissioner

Took a moment of peace for former Road District Commissioner, Mike DeVivo. He met with Mike to brief him. Additionally, he met with Mayor Yukich and Village Manager Matt Walsh to review the IGA and transfer of assets and personnel. Brent stated that the main goal is to cut taxes for the Homer Township.

e. Trustees

No reports.

8. New Business

a. **Motion to authorize the Clerk to post a public hearing regarding the Road District budget (April 1, 2021 to March 31, 2022) on June 21st, 2021.**

1st Bonomo 2nd Connelly

Ayes (5)

Nay (0)

b. **Motion to confirm appointment of Township Attorney (Odelson Sterk Law Group).**

1st Adolf 2nd Rivera

Roll Call:

Ayes (5) Adolf, Bonomo, Connelly, Rivera, Balich

Nay (0)

c. **Motion to authorize Clerk Bozen to oversee the re-organization of the Township office personnel, hours, duties, and procedures.**

1st Bonomo 2nd Adolf

Ayes (5)

Nay (0)

- d. Discussion and possible Action to hire a Township Administrator to work under the direction of the Township Supervisor and Township Clerk, to lead administration of General Assistance, manage the office, and to serve as Township FOIA Officer.**
1st Rivera 2nd Connelly
Roll Call
Ayes (5) Adolf, Bonomo, Connelly, Rivera, Balich
Nay (0)
- e. Motion to initiate a project to restructure all Township Committees.**
Adolf commented we don't know what committees we need
1st Adolf 2nd Rivera
Roll Call
Ayes (4) Adolf, Bonomo, Connelly, Rivera
Nay (0)
- f. Discussion and possible Action to hire a Township Finance Director (Firm).**
Supervisor Balich interviewed 3 firms and selected John Kasperek Accounting
1st Bonomo 2nd Rivera
Roll Call
Ayes (4) Adolf, Bonomo, Connelly, Rivera
Nay (0)
- g. Discussion and possible Action regarding the annual audit.**
Completed by previous board
No motion, no action
- h. Discussion and possible Action to hire Grant Spooner for \$150 per meeting to Video and record Township Meetings. This can be put on the Township Website.**
Supervisor Balich reported that he collected 4 bids, and Grant Spooner, local resident who has been involved in recording meetings for years, tendered the lowest bid for \$150.
1st Bonomo 2nd Adolf
Roll Call
Ayes (4) Adolf, Bonomo, Connelly, Rivera
Nay (0)
- i. Discussion and possible Action regarding Township Organization Chart.**
What positions we have and what it encompasses.
1st Connelly 2nd Rivera
Ayes (5)
Nay (0)
- j. Discussion and possible Action to issue request for proposals for IT services.**
Received 3 quotes and best one was AJ Technologies.
Motion to postpone
1st Rivera 2nd Bonomo
Ayes (5)
Nay (0)
- k. Discussion and possible Action regarding a long-term lease to Stallions & HAC for the Complex.**
We are approving going forward to work with them
1st Connelly 2nd Adolf
Ayes (5)
Nay (0)

- l. Discussion and possible Action regarding a long-term lease for the 3 fields and parking with Lockport Jr. Porters for a portion of Morris Park.**
 1st Connelly 2nd Adolf
 Ayes (5)
 Nay (0)
- m. Discussion and possible Action regarding a potential IGA giving the park portion of Morris Park to Lockport Township Park District.**
 Supervisor Balich has had an initial discussion with the Lockport Township Park District.
 1st Adolf 2nd Bonomo
 Ayes (5)
 Nay (0)
- n. Discussion and possible Action regarding a potential IGA giving Homer Glen all Township Parks except for the Sports Complex.**
 1st Bonomo 2nd Rivera
 Ayes (5)
 Nay (0)
- o. Discussion and possible Action regarding a potential IGA with School District 33c to give them property donated by the Welter Family to be used for Children.**
 In 2001 the Welter Family donated land and was asked by the Welter family for Homer Township to donate the land to be used for the benefit of children. Angela Adolph will lead this initiative.
 1st Adolf 2nd Connelly
 Ayes (5)
 Nay (0)
- p. Assignment of Trustee Bonomo to lead initiative and plan to stop Trucks from going in subdivisions.**
 Mike Bonomo dealing with state and township roads. New signs have been erected but feels that they are not properly placed to be effective. He has had discussions with Prologis, IDOT, Yellow Trucking, YRC Trucking, S&S Distribution, and others. Mike directed concerned citizens to reach out and contact him via text message at 312-523-8586. Supervisor Balich thanked the Village of Homer Glen Public Works Department for their assistance with signage. Supervisor Balich wants to be able to enforce this by deploying volunteer enforcement officers who will be trained to write tickets on trucks.
- i. Motion to approve appointment of Township Enforcement Officers
 1st Rivera 2nd Bonomo
 Ayes (5)
 Nay (0)
 - ii. Motion to approve Ordinance regarding the imposition of certain permits and fines concerning Semi-Trucks on subdivision roads in the Township. No motion required. Motion to direct Township Attorney to create ordinance to stop trucks going into subdivisions.
 1st Rivera 2nd Bonono
 Ayes (5)
 Nay (0)
 - iii. Approval of request to Highway Commissioner for further enforcement and action within his jurisdiction and powers.
 No motion

q. Discussion and possible Action regarding the Parade and assignment of Township Trustees and staff to coordinate same.

Supervisor discussed the plans for the Parade scheduled for June 26th. The Township is working with the Village of Homer Glen and the Heritage Chamber of Commerce to plan and manage this year's Parade. Next year and going forward, the management of this Parade will likely go to the Chamber of Commerce.

No motion required.

r. Discussion and possible Action regarding Highway Commissioner and the Township Road District Building with direction to Supervisor and assigned Trustee(s) to proceed with strategy.

Supervisor Balich announced the intention to work with the Village of Homer Glen to create a new IGA and a new much smaller Township Road District. He mentioned the IGA with the Village to build the path from Heritage park to the Sports Complex

1st Adolf 2nd Bonomo

Roll Call

Ayes (4) Adolf, Bonomo, Connelly, Rivera

Nay (0)

s. Discussion and possible Action regarding pending Road District litigation (executive session, if necessary).

Tabled by motion

1st Connelly 2nd Adolf

Ayes (5)

Nay (0)

9. Audit of Bill and Claims

None to discuss

10. Approval of Bills and Claims

None to discuss

11. Roll Call Vote to Enter Closed Session (If Necessary)

a. Approval to convene into Closed Session of the Homer Township Board to consider one or more of the following subjects under the Open Meetings Act: Section 2(c)(1) the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance or dismissal of specific employees of the Township or legal counsel for the Township, including hearing testimony on a complaint lodged against an employee of the Township or against legal counsel for the Township to determine its validity; Section 2(c)(11) pending, or probable or imminent litigation against, affecting or on the behalf of the Township; Section 2(c)(21) minutes of prior meetings lawfully closed under the Open Meetings Act, for the purpose of review, approval or release of such minutes

Not necessary.

12. Return to Open Session

Not necessary

13. Action Following Closed Session (If Any)

Not necessary

14. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 8:00 pm

1st Adolf 2nd Connelly

Ayes (5)

Nay (0)

