

HOMER TOWNSHIP MEETING MINUTES

BOARD OF TRUSTEES COMBINED PLANNING/BUSINESS MEETING

April 12, 2021 at 7:00 P.M.

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

*Minutes presented to the Board 5-10-2021
Minutes approved by the Board 5-10-2021*

The meeting will be conducted at the Homer Township Hall in accordance with Illinois Gubernatorial Executive Orders, Restore Illinois Phase 4 and CDC Guidelines.

An audio recording of the meeting will be available on the website: <http://www.homertownship.com/>

Supervisor Meyers conducted the Meeting of Township Board where the following official business was transacted. Also present was Attorney Sramek and Township Clerk Kruczek. Highway Commissioner Mike De Vivo and Assessor Szykowski were not in attendance.

The Meeting began at 7:00pm with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America and ended at 7:52pm

- 1. Call to order and Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America: The meeting was called to order at 7:00pm and the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America was performed.**
- 2. Roll Call: Supervisor Meyers, Trustees Kruczek, Kalas, Fijan and Offord.**
- 3. Matters from the Public:**
 - A.** Mr. Andrew Rodgehero: As president of the Homer Athletic Club Mr. Rodgehero thanked the current administration for all the progress made at the Complex over the past few years. He is optimistic that the new incoming Board will continue to be as supportive as this Board has been. Supervisor Meyers responded that she too is thankful for Mr. Rodgehero and the Homer Athletic Clubs service to our community.
 - B.** Mr. Roy Adcock: Trustee from Lockport Heights Sanitary District, Roy Adcock, praised this Board for their continued commitment and relentless pursuit addressing the issues plagued by the Lockport Heights community over the years. On behalf of himself and the community he thanked this Board for the success they've achieved with the CDBG program over the years. Mr. Adcock added, that close to 7 million dollars have been allocated to the sanitary district with the assistance of this Board. And while many issues have been resolved there is more work to be done Mr. Adcock relayed. He hopes that the new incoming administration will have the same resolve as this Board.

Mr. Adcock also encouraged the Board, both new and old, to continue the lawsuit in regard to the Village of Homer Glen Road District transfer of stewardship. He contends that the Village of Homer Glen should not be in control of the Road District that was paid for by all Homer Township residents which was in existence long before the Village of Homer Glen.

- C. Heather Glockler: Mrs. Glockler, a Lockport Heights Sanitary District resident residing in Homer Township, asked that the Board approve the CDBG Grant this evening. She explained the necessity for the Grant and how it would greatly benefit the residents in this community. Stating, that this Grant would help facilitate the necessary repairs needed to stop sewage backup when heavy rains occur. This matter Mrs. Glockler added has been documented with the Lockport Heights Sanitary District as well as the Road District over the last two years. It is a paramount and necessary improvement for this community she noted.

Going on, Mrs. Glockler addressed the increased semi-truck traffic as a result of the Prologis Warehouse District. These concerns have been brought forth to the City of Lockport as well she noted. The trucks create a dangerous situation for this residential neighborhood. For some reason the trucks, Mrs. Glockler explained, take a route through her subdivision to get to the Prologis Warehouses. However they are unable to reach their destination as their subdivision is one way in, one way out. It is an unhealthy occurrence for residents of the subdivision especially in light of the absence of sidewalks and presence of pedestrian traffic on the roadways. Additionally she explained, the trucks attempt to make turns on the narrow roadways which results in the destruction of residential property and blocking the roadways entirely. The Lockport Mayors colleague Ben Benson is investigating signage that would discourage trucks from entering this area, Mrs. Glockler explained, however she is also reaching out to this Board as well as others for assistance in finding some sort of resolve.

Regarding the Road District Mrs. Glockler went on, she is very concerned as to who will be responsible to maintain roads in the unincorporated areas. In the past, given her location, it has often proved difficult to determine what governmental agency is responsible for various issues in her subdivision. Therefore, she requests that once a determination is made regarding responsibility for the roads in the unincorporated areas she would like something to be put in writing and presented to the community. This type of clarity is essential that residents may reach the proper authority when an issue occurs she noted.

In closing, Mrs. Glockler thanked the current Board for their assistance over the past few years as they have proven to be very helpful addressing issues. Additionally, she looks forward to working with the new Board to address these community concerns.

- D. Mr. Daniel Motes: Mr. Motes who resides in the Lockport subdivision stressed the need to approve the CDBG Grant being presented this evening. Mr. Motes explained excessive rain has proven be quite problematic in his community. It is a challenge to keep water from entering his home during rainy periods he explained. Given such he is encouraging this Board to approve the Grant being presented this evening.

Regarding the Road District lawsuit, Mr. Motes went on, he encouraged this Board to take into consideration the unincorporated areas when making decisions. He also hopes the new Board will address the semi-truck traffic. Mr. Motes thanked the current Board for their service in the past.

- E. Mr. Jim Gorecki: Mr. Gorecki recognized that all too often Board members hear multiple complaints and very little praise. This evening however he would like to thank the current Board for all their hard work over the years. He recognizes the dedication of this Board and their continuous efforts to improve our community. Hopefully he added, the new Board will realize the efforts and accomplishments of this Board.

As a lifelong member of this community Mr. Gorecki contends that to just turn over the Road District to the Village of Homer Glen is unfair. These roads belong to the community he explained and the decision to give the roads to Homer Glen should be made by the people and none other. Should the Road District be acquired by the Village of Homer Glen Mr. Gorecki added they should be responsible to purchase the assets at fair market value.

As a member of the Lockport Heights Sanitary District Trustee, Mr. Gorecki added that he cannot thank this Board enough for all their efforts regarding the Lockport Heights water main project. It has been a very successful journey working with this Board over the years. These things were accomplished with tax dollars, grant monies and the support of this Board. And while there is still work to be done the

completion of the water main system is paramount and he is thankful to this Board for their good works. Supervisor Meyers also thanked Mr. Gorecki acknowledging that he is a volunteer on the Lockport Heights Sanitary Districts.

- F. Mrs. Christina Neitzke Troike: Mrs. Neitzke acknowledged this Board's good works and efforts over the years. She recognized working with many of the members of this Board in the past and their good works. Welcoming the new Board members, Mrs. Neitzke Troike is hoping that the transition to the new Board will proceed seamlessly.
- G. Mr. Steve Balich: Mr. Balich assured the audience that as the new Supervisor he has no intent on hindering the progress made by the Lockport Heights Sanitary District and vowed to continue working for the betterment of this faction. Regarding the semi-traffic, Mr. Balich added that he has a plan to address this issue in which he will discuss at a later date. Addressing the Sports Group, Mr. Balich declared his desire to work cohesively with them. It was determined, Mr. Balich's term will begin May 17th and at that time he will take possession of the necessary equipment to function as such.

Supervisor Meyers thanked the audience for their kind words and assured them that the transition will follow all applicable laws and be done so in a manner of professionalism. Adding, projects are being memorialized for the new Board, and what can be finalized will be. She reminded the audience that governmental projects like the Pace Bus project when done transparently move at a slower pace especially during Covid. The current Pace project currently is very near completion. Furthermore, Supervisor Meyers explained, this Board has reached out to the community via referendum to gauge public opinion on certain controversial issues. She would hope, that the new Board will heed the public's desires and take the appropriate actions. Supervisor Meyers indicated that it has been an honor to serve the residents of this community as a Trustee for two terms and Supervisor for three. During such time she has been fortunate to meet and work with many community members. Reflecting over the years there have been many positive accomplishments made during her time and Supervisor Meyers hopes this service will continue with the new Board. We should always remember, she added, the good that we do have in our community and continue to strive for more. She thanked the audience/community, adding that it has been an honor to serve them.

4. Accounting:

A. March 2021 account payables and receivables

1) **Motion to approve March 2021 account payables and receivables of the following funds by Trustee Kruczek, second by Trustee Offord, No Discussion, All yes- Motion carries.**

- a) Equipment & Building
- b) Founders Crossing Bond
- c) Founders Crossing (Operating)
- d) General Assistance
- e) Open Space
- f) Park Maintenance
- g) Park Developer Contributions
- h) Road and Bridge
- i) Town

B. Line Item Transfer of Budget Appropriation:

1) *TABLED by Town Board March 8, 2020:* Road District request for adjustments between appropriated line items in the Road and Bridge Fund transfer from 880-Contingencies \$20,000 and add \$20,000 to the line item 816-Equipment Maintenance.

- a) Highway Commissioner DeVivo has submitted a letter to the Board rescinding his request for the Line Item Transfer and indicating that they voided check # 48475, 48490 and 48497.

C. Request for funding contributions (Resolution HT 2013-06/10):

- 1) Annual request from the Northern Will County Special Recreation Association for funding assistance in providing services to Homer Township residents.
 - a) **Motion to approve request by Trustee Offord, second by Trustee Kalas, No Discussion, All yes- Motion carries.**
5. **Highway Commissioner Mike DeVivo Report: No Report Highway Commissioner Mike DeVivo not present.**
6. **Assessor Karen Szykowski: No Report, Assessor Szykowski not present.**
7. **Clerk Kathy Kruczek Report:**
 - A. **FOIA Report:**
 - 1) FOIA tracker report: March 2021
 - B. **Minutes:** (Approved Township meeting minutes & audio recordings are available at www.homertownship.com)
 - 1) March 8, 2021 Regular Board Meeting Minutes presented for Board review and endorsement
 - a) **Motion to approve the March 8, 2021 Regular Board Meeting Minutes by Trustee Kruczek, second by Trustee Kalas, No Discussion, All yes- Motion carries.**
 - 2) March 31, 2021 Special Board Meeting/Morris Park Open House presented for Board review and endorsement
 - a) **Motion to approve the March 31, 2021 Special Board Meeting/Morris Park Open House by Trustee Kruczek, second by Supervisor Meyers, No Discussion, All yes- Motion carries.**
 - 3) March 8, 2021 Closed Meeting Minutes presented for Board Approval and to release/withhold
 - a) **Motion to approve the March 8, 2021 Closed Meeting Minutes without public release by Trustee Kruczek, second by Trustee Kalas, No Discussion, All yes- Motion carries.**
 - 4) **Semi-Annual Review of unreleased Minutes:**
 - a) September 14, 2020 previously approved Closed Meeting Minutes to release/withhold
 1. **Motion to withhold the September 14, 2020 Closed Meeting Minutes by Trustee Kruczek, second by Trustee Offord, No Discussion, All yes- Motion carries.**
 - b) January 14, 2019 previously approved Closed Meeting Minutes to release/withhold
 1. **Motion to withhold the January 14, 2019 Closed Meeting Minutes by Trustee Kruczek, second by Trustee Offord, No Discussion, All yes- Motion carries.**
 - c) February 11, 2019 previously approved Closed Meeting Minutes to release/withhold
 1. **Motion to withhold the February 11, 2019 Closed Meeting Minutes by Trustee Kruczek, second by Trustee Offord, No Discussion, All yes- Motion carries.**
8. **Supervisor Pam Meyers Report:**
 - A. **Administration:**
 - 1) **CDBG Program-Homer Township/Lockport Heights Sanitary District/ Will County**
 - a) The ten year phased water main/replacement project at Lockport Heights Subdivision is approaching an end! The work is moving along and projected to be completed soon. This successful partnership has been very important to the health and safety of our residents, many of which have contacted the Township to express their appreciation.
 - b) Request from the LHSD District for support from the Township to submit a 2021 Community Development Block Grant application for funding of a sanitary main line replacement project. The project is necessary to address the undersized, blocked and backing up lines (during heavy rain events). The Engineering recommendations, projected scope of work and estimated cost of \$920, 344.44 have been submitted.
 1. **Motion approving the proposal and directing the Township Supervisor to move forward with the CDBG application by Trustee Offord, second by Trustee Kalas, No Discussion, All yes- Motion carries.**
 - 2) **Memorandum of Understanding with the Will County Center for Community Concerns:**

- a) The Will County Center for Community Concerns has requested the Homer Township General Assistance Office renew the agreement partnership in providing assistance and services to low and moderate income households. While each entity will continue with their individual responsibilities in providing services, they will cooperate making referrals between the entities on behalf of persons needing assistance with utility payments, housing and other basic needs.
 1. The Supervisor of General Assistance will renew and execute the Memorandum of Understanding with the consensus of the Township Board.

3) ***Administration Center Budgeted capital improvement projects FY2020-21:***

- a) A proposal for removal and replacement of two original (1991) commercial grade air conditioning units as previously approved by the Board. The work was delayed due to the pandemic related backlog of materials and deteriorated/winter weather conditions.
 1. Materials previously unavailable/on backlog have improved along with weather conditions. The contractor has reached out make arrangements to start scheduling the work. He has indicated that they are seeing an increased cost of materials and would like to review the previously submitted proposal.

B. Status Report Facilities/Property Management:

1) ***Senior Housing Facility:***

- a) All units are occupied; rental payments are up-to-date and all lease agreements are current.

2) ***Morris Park:***

- a) Upland Design presented the updated idea options for the master site plan at the 3/31/21 open house. They also presented six options for playground designs. Community input was requested at the meeting. The electronic survey was updated and has been presented to the public for more input until March 14. Upland will present the new results and designs when complete.

3) ***Town Center Baseball Field Safety Netting:***

- a) Proposals for repairs to safety netting were solicited from KBrothers, Fencemasters and National Sports Nets. KBrothers and Fencemasters declined to submit a proposal. National Sports Nets submitted a repair proposal for \$6,740.
 1. **Motion to approve the proposal for \$6740.00 by Trustee Kalas, second by Trustee Kruczek, Discussion:** Trustee Fijan asked what was exactly would they be replacing. Supervisor Meyers answered this is strictly to repair the support posts that are loose as well as some netting repairs. Trustee Fijan remarked that this appears to be an ongoing problem and is concerned with spending monies when the problems will not be permanently rectified by the repair. Weighing in, Trustee Kruczek added that he has personal experience with netting and explained that it does deteriorate especially when harsh weather exists. While he is not just concerned with the netting, Trustee Fijan explained, but rather he is questioning the poles that continually bend and the constant repairs required. Supervisor Meyers agreed that enhanced netting was used with an existing support structure in an effort to provide the public with improved protection during game times. She believes the structural posts need to be stabilized and this will be something the new Board will need to address. Mr. Rodgehero (HAC president from the audience) added that there is no damage to the poles themselves but rather to the cables that support the netting. Trustee Fijan believes the poles were not constructed properly to support the netting. Explaining, Mr. Rodgehero supplemented that the poles were placed long before any of us here today and that we are trying to do the best we can with what we have. Supervisor Meyers commented that unfortunately the Township lacks the funds to replace the entire system. Regardless should we be able to purchase an entire new system we would be criticized for spending too much. Yes- Trustee Kalas, Kruczek, Offord, Supervisor Meyers. No- Trustee Fijan. Motion carries.

C. Financial/Accounting:

1) Annual Audit as required by Illinois Statute:

a) The March 31, 2021(FY20-21) Audit of the Township and Road District finances has begun.

2) FY21-22 Budgets

a) Fiscal year 2021-22 Tentative fund budget development continues.

9. TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE & LIAISON REPORTS:

A. Events, Chairman John Kruczek: Presented the Board with written resignation letters for the Events Committee from himself and Kathleen Kruczek.

B. Open Space Planning & Operations, Chairman Tom Fijan: No Report

C. Parks & Recreation, Chairmen Ed Kalas: No Report

D. Senior Citizen & Special Needs Advocacy, Chairman George Offord: No Report

E. Military & Veteran Affairs Report, Liaison Karen Szykowski: No Report

10. New Business (Action/Motion may be requested):

A. Complaint from residents of Lockport Heights Subdivision regarding safety issues and damage to properties concerns as a result of increased semi-truck traffic on the subdivision roads which are not constructed for that type of use. The residents have submitted pictures identifying and documenting the increased number of occurrences. They are requesting assistance from the Board to act as a facilitator to future Town meetings and/or collaboration with other governmental entities within the District requesting assistance on their behalf. Supervisor Meyers reminded the audience that complaints should be registered with the proper authority and not on Facebook. Adding that this Board has been working with local authorities in the hope of rectifying these issues as well as documenting the problems at hand.

11. Old Business: None

12. Closed Executive Session: None

13. Call for Motion of Adjournment: Motion to adjourn at 7:52pm by Trustee Kruczek, second by Trustee Offord, No Discussion, All yes- Motion carries.

The next Homer Township Board Meeting is scheduled for May 10, 2021 at 7:00 p.m.*

* Disclaimer: Township meeting locations, whether conducted in person or by electronic/telephonic participation, etc. may vary with minimum advance notice. The meeting schedules are subject to change in response to the official directives of the Covid-19 Coronavirus pandemic. Please monitor the Township website and meeting Agendas regularly for modifications to the posted annual schedules required by Illinois Statute.

NOTICE UNDER THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT

In accordance with the requirements of title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 ("ADA"), Homer Township will not discriminate against qualified individuals with disabilities on the basis of disability in its services, programs, or activities.

Employment: The Township does not discriminate on the basis of disability in its hiring or employment practices and complies with all regulations promulgated by the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission under title I of the ADA.

Effective Communication: The Township will generally, upon request, provide appropriate aids and services leading to effective communication for qualified persons with disabilities so they can participate equally in Homer Township programs, services, and activities, including qualified sign language interpreters, documents in Braille, and other ways of making information and communications accessible to people who have speech, hearing, or vision impairments.

Modifications to Policies and Procedures: The Township will make all reasonable modifications to policies and programs to ensure that people with disabilities have an equal opportunity to enjoy all of its programs, services, and activities. For example, individuals with service animals are welcomed in Township offices, even where pets are generally prohibited.

Anyone who requires an auxiliary aid or service for effective communication, or a modification of policies or procedures to participate in a program, service, or activity of Homer Township, should contact the office of the *Township Clerk Kathy Kruczek, 14350 W. 151st Street, Homer Glen, IL 708-301-7042* as soon as possible but no later than 48 hours before the scheduled event.

The ADA does not require Homer Township to take any action that would fundamentally alter the nature of its programs or services, or impose an undue financial or administrative burden. Homer Township will not place a surcharge on a particular individual with a disability or any group of individuals with disabilities to cover the cost of providing auxiliary aids/services or reasonable modifications of policy, such as retrieving items from locations that are open to the public but are not accessible to persons who use wheelchairs.

Complaints that a program, service, or activity of Homer Township is not accessible to persons with disabilities should be directed to the *Township Supervisor, Pam Meyers, 14350 W. 151st Street, Homer Glen, IL 708-301-4534.*