



# HOMER TOWNSHIP

## Meeting Minutes

### Monthly Board of Trustees Meeting

January 9, 2023, at 7:00 P.M.

Homer Township Office, 14350 W. 151<sup>st</sup> Street,  
Homer Glen, Illinois 60491

The meeting will be conducted at the Homer Township Office located at 14350 W. 151<sup>st</sup> Street, Homer Glen, Illinois, 60491 in accordance with Illinois Gubernatorial Executive Orders, Restore Illinois Phase 5 and CDC Guidelines.

An audio recording of the meeting will be available on the website:

<http://www.homertownship.com/>

### Minutes

#### 1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order on January 9, 2023, by Township Supervisor Balich at 7:00 pm at the Homer Township Office, 14350 W. 151<sup>st</sup> Street, Homer Glen, Illinois 60491

#### 2. Pledge of Allegiance and Invocation<sup>1</sup>

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Rob Rivera did the Invocation

#### 3. Roll Call for Quorum

Present were Supervisor Steve Balich, Trustees Rob Rivera, Mark Gawron, Matt Connelly, and Michael Bonomo, Clerk Vicki Bozen, Assessor Carmen Maurella, Highway Commissioner Brent Porfilio and Collector Angel Shake. *A quorum was established*

#### 4. Public Comments (Must sign in and are limited to one 3-minute comment per person)

- Individuals who signed up are allowed to talk for 3 minutes during public comment
- Please no interruptions or talking out of turn

Sharon Sweas commented on items on the agenda including 5e, 7a, and 8a.

#### 5. Clerk Report: Vicki Bozen

##### a. Approval of Minutes

- Motion to approve December 12, 2022, Monthly Township Board Meeting Minutes  
1<sup>st</sup> Connelly 2<sup>nd</sup> Gawron  
All in Favor  
Ayes (5)  
Nay (0)
- Motion to approve the amended minutes for October 17, 2022, & November 7, 2022  
1<sup>st</sup> Bonomo 2<sup>nd</sup> Gawron  
All in Favor  
Ayes (5)  
Nay (0)
- Motion to approve and to release or not release November 23, 2021 Executive Meeting Minutes  
Motion to not release: 1<sup>st</sup> Bonomo 2<sup>nd</sup> Gawron  
All in Favor  
Ayes (5)  
Nay (0)
- Motion to approve and to release or not release May 19, 2022 Executive Meeting  
Motion to not release: 1<sup>st</sup> Rivera 2<sup>nd</sup> Gawron  
All if Favor  
Ayes (5)  
Nay (0)
- Motion to approve and to release or not release October 17, 2022 Executive Meeting

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<sup>1</sup> 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.

Motion to not release: 1<sup>st</sup> Bonomo      2<sup>nd</sup> Connelly

All in Favor

Ayes (5)

Nay (0)

**b. Parade**

- i. Parade will be held to coincide with the HOMERFEST on Saturday June 24, 2023 with a rain date of Sunday June 25<sup>th</sup>. Information

**c. Pet Expo**

- i. Update on the PETFEST on Saturday June 17, 2023, at Kilmer Field in Homer Glen. information

**d. ARPA Funding**

- i. Still waiting for additional information

**e. ComEd**

- i. The following Township properties have been approved for upgraded lighting under the ComEd Energy Efficiency Program with no cost (\$0) to Homer Township and a **savings of \$15,763.63**
  1. Township Office approved and valued at \$10,999.13
  2. Town Hall approved and valued at \$4,764.50

**6. Supervisor Report: Steve Balich**

- a. Thank you to all our Township Trustees, Administration office staff, Homer Township Road District, and Assessor staff for all your hard work in 2022

**7. Highway Commissioner Report: Brent Porfilio**

- a. **2023-2024 Budget/Levy** – Final Levy sent to County at the end of December 2022 for the 2023-2024 fiscal year for \$1.375 M which is a 22% tax reduction from previous year (2022-2023 levy was \$1.75M, 2021-2022 levy was \$5.08 M under De Vivo)
- b. **2023 Roadway Program** - January Infrastructure Assessment will determine limits - ~1 mile in budget @ \$250k)
- c. **Smith Road/Long Run Creek Bridge Replacement** - IGA with Lockport Township RD/City of Lockport (With an 80/20 IDOT funding match ~\$150k over 3+ years each IGA LA). Selected Phase I engineering firm last month and sending in paperwork to get started. 3+ year process to construction
- d. **Lighting Program** – An inventory has been developed of HTRD and COMED owned facilities. Under this program, all HTRD lights will be updated to a common standard where power is available, and where power is not available, solar panel lights will be investigated for feasibility. As a pilot test, solar lights will be installed along the HTRD entrance road next month for monitoring prior to installing in 7 locations in HT
- e. **HTHC Grant** – Will be preparing a press release soon for accepting applications for the 2023 HT Highway Commissioner Special Needs Grant for \$5,000.

**8. Assessor Report: Carmen Maurella**

- a. Quadrennial Year: the whole township will be reassessed  
Looking at every PIN in Township and Village. We are lower than most Townships. This happens every quad.

**9. Homer Township Committee & Trustee Reports**

- a. Homer Township Volunteer Committee: Trustee Bonomo, Cindy LaHa, Clerk Bozen, Trustee Gawron, and Collector Shake
- b. Mark Gawron - HomerFest- update
- c. Rob Rivera
- d. Matt Connelly
- e. Land Use Committee: Assessor Maurella, Supervisor Balich, Highway Commissioner Porfilio, Clerk Bozen, Trustees Bonomo, Rivera, Gawron and Connelly
- f. Truck Task Force: Highway Commissioner Porfilio

**10. Committee on Local Government Consolidation and Efficiency Act:** Clerk Vicki Bozen Chairman, Angel Shake Vice-Chair, Supervisor Steve Balich Trustees: Mike Bonomo, Matt Connelly, Mark Gawron, and Rob Rivera, Carmen Maurella, Brent Porfilio, Jim Shake, and Karen Roti

- a. Motion to exit Homer Township Regular Board Meeting at 7:27pm  
1<sup>st</sup> Gawron      2<sup>nd</sup> Bonomo

All in Favor

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

Nay (0)

- b. Motion to enter Committee on Local Government Consolidation and Efficiency Act at 7:28pm

1<sup>st</sup> Rivera      2<sup>nd</sup> Bonomo

All in Favor

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

Nay (0)

Also present were Clerk Vicki Bozen Chairman, Collector Angel Shake Vice-chair, Assessor Carmen Maurella, Highway Commissioner Brent Porfilio, Resident Jim Shake, and Resident Karen Roti. A *quorum was established*.

- c. Public Comments: (Must sign in and are limited to one 3-minute comment per person)
- i. Individuals who signed up are allowed to talk for 3 minutes during public comment
  - ii. Please no interruptions or talking out of turn
- d. Discussion on Township efficiency and possible improvement.
- i. Local efficiencies
    1. Seniors
    2. IGA
    3. Community Outreach/Events
    4. Township offers services in a much more cost effective: smaller staff
  - ii. An analysis of whether consolidation should be an option with another unit of government
    1. The following has been consolidated with the Village
      - a. Ability awareness
      - b. Highway Department
  - iii. Create a report with recommendations covering efficiencies, accountability, and consolidation explanations
- e. Motion to exit Committee on Local Government Consolidation and Efficiency Act. 7:43pm
- i. Paper surveys will be passed out to Homer Township residents who attended for input on matters discussed and handed in to Clerk Bozen before leaving or end of the meeting. No respondents  
1<sup>st</sup> Rivera      2<sup>nd</sup> Gawron  
Roll Call  
Ayes (10) Bonomo, Gawron, Connelly, Rivera, Balich, Jim Shake, Roti, Porfilio, Maurella, Angel Shake  
Nay (0)
- f. Motion to enter Homer Township Regular Board Meeting. 7:44pm  
1<sup>st</sup> Connelly      2<sup>nd</sup> Bonomo  
All in Favor  
Ayes (5) Gawron, Rivera, Connelly, Bonomo, Balich  
Nay (0)

## 11. Accounting

- a. A motion to approve all payment of bills for December 2022: Founders Crossing Bond, Founders Crossing General, General Assistance, Open Space, Park Developer Contribution, Park, Town, Road & Bridge, and Equipment & Building  
1<sup>st</sup> Connelly      2<sup>nd</sup> Gawron  
Roll Call  
Ayes (5)  
Nay (0)
- b. Line Item Transfer of Budget Appropriation
- i. Motion to approve reassignment of items within the Homer Township Highway Department Budget from 819 IGA-Snow Removal to 845 Building Supplies in the Road & Bridge Fund in the amount of \$20,000.00  
Voted on in item 6 of Agenda  
1<sup>st</sup> Bonomo      2<sup>nd</sup> Connelly  
Roll Call  
Ayes (5) Bonomo, Connelly, Rivera, Gawron, Balich

Nay (0)

- ii. Motion to approve reassignment of items within the Homer Township Highway Department Budget from 818 IGA-Tree Maintenance & Mowing to 842 Fuel/Oil in the Road & Bridge Fund in the amount of \$5,000.

Voted on in item 6 Agenda

1<sup>st</sup> Connelly 2<sup>nd</sup> Gawron

Roll Call

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

Nay (0)

## **12. New Business**

a.

## **13. Old Business**

a.

## **14. 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 approved under the Open Meetings Act

- i. Call Closed Session to Order

- ii. Roll Call

- iii. Discussion

- iv. Motion to Adjourn Closed Session and return to regular meeting

## **15. Return to Open Session**

## **16. Action Following Closed Session (if any)**

a.

## **17. Adjournment**

Meeting adjourned at 7:45pm

1<sup>st</sup> Bonomo 2<sup>nd</sup> Gawron

Ayes (5)

Nay (0)

### **NOTICE UNDER THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT**

Persons with disabilities requiring reasonable accommodations in this meeting should contact the Township Supervisor's Office, 14350 W. 151st Street, Homer Glen, IL 708-301-4534. Office hours are Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. Please give at least 48 hours notice prior to the meeting. Request for ASL interpreters require five (5) working days advance notice.