



HOMER TOWNSHIP

Meeting Minutes

Monthly Board of Trustees Meeting

March 13, 2023, at 7:00 P.M.

Homer Township Office, 14350 W. 151st Street,
Homer Glen, Illinois 60491

The meeting will be conducted at the Homer Township Office located at 14350 W. 151st 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 March 13, 2023, by Township Supervisor Balich at 7:00 pm at the Homer Township Office, 14350 W. 151st Street, Homer Glen, Illinois 60491

2. Pledge of Allegiance and Invocation¹

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

3. Roll Call for Quorum

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

4. Townships Of Illinois Scholarship

- a. Scholarship Applicants: both applicants were unable to attend

5. Special Recreation Association

- a. Presentation by Northern Will County Special Recreation Association & Lincolnway Special Recreation Association: Thank you to Mike and Keith for their presentation and explaining all the services they provide for Homer Township residents. Homer Township supplements by two-thirds (2/3) the out of district costs.

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

- a. Individuals who signed up are allowed to talk for 3 minutes during public comment
- b. Please no interruptions or talking out of turn
 - Joanne Milani commented on outdoor street and parking lot lighting for Founders Crossing
 - Angie Dryer commented on the upgrades at Founders Crossing
 - Missy Chandarana commented on special needs
 - Karen Wirth commented on mental health and the HERO organization
 - Nancy Hockenberry is worried about being blocked on facebook and wondering how everyone knows she donated a banner for display
 - Jessica Barnes commented about posts on facebook
 - Judy Van Lonkhuyzen commented on facebook and being blocked
 - Mike Carlson commented on facebook and how well the Village and the Township are working together and finally getting things done which never happened in the past.

7. Clerk Report: Vicki Bozen

a. Approval of Minutes

- i. Motion to approve February 6, 2023, Monthly Township Board Meeting Minutes
 - 1st Bonomo 2nd Gawron
 - All in Favor
 - Ayes (4)
 - Nay (0)

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.

b. Approval of Annual Town Meeting Agenda of the Electors April 11, 2023

- i. Motion to approve the April 11, 2023 Annual Town Meeting Agenda.
1st Bonomo 2nd Gawron
All in Favor
Ayes (4)
Nay (0)

c. Hiring of Seasonal Employee

- i. Motion to approve hiring a seasonal employee for \$13/hour
1st Bonomo 2nd Rivera
Roll Call
Ayes (4) Bonomo, Rivera, Gawron, Balich
Nay (0)

d. Volunteer & Committee Application

- i. Motion to approve the Homer Township Volunteer & Committee Application including Waiver. Application to be posted on our website under Committees.
1st Bonomo 2nd Gawron
All in Favor
Ayes (4)
Nay (0)

e. Parade

- i. Parade will be held Saturday June 24, 2023 with a rain date of Sunday June 25th to coincide with Homer Fest

f. Pet Expo

- i. Update on the PETFEST on Saturday June 17, 2023, at Town Center Park in Homer Glen.
 - 1. Motion to approve a three (3) year IGA with the Village of Homer Glen for the use of their facilities for the PETFEST.
1st Bonomo 2nd Rivera
All in Favor
Ayes (4)
Nay (0)
 - 2. Jay Roti and Jimmy Shake have offered their services at no charge to build the Pet Micro Pantry.

8. Supervisor Report: Steve Balich

- a. Town Hall
 - i. Open House/Ribbon Cutting was a success. Thank you to all who attended.
- b. Motion to approve zoning case ZC-22-080 Application for Map Amendment from A1 to R2 to obtain permits to rebuild existing home on property.
1st Bonomo 2nd Gawron
Roll Call
Ayes (4) Rivera, Gawron, Bonomo, Balich
Nay (0)
- c. Motion to authorize the Township Supervisor to oversee and/or implement all Township Communications.
1st Bonomo 2nd Gawron
All in Favor
Ayes (4)
Nay (0)
- d. Motion to authorize the Township Supervisor to have the ability to approve up to \$15,000.00 for each Communication. Trustee Gawron commented that this is general communication out of Township including newsletter.
1st Rivera 2nd Gawron
Roll Call
Ayes (4) Rivera, Gawron, Bonomo, Balich
Nay (0)

- e. Announcement
 - i. Governor Pritzker announces end of State COVID-19 Disaster Proclamation. Remote meeting option ends May 11, 2023.
- f. Important Information:
 - i. The Homer Township Board is against apartment buildings in Homer Township.

9. Highway Commissioner Report: Brent Porfilio

- a. **2023 Roadway Program** - The scope of this annual program includes improving 1-2 mile segments of HTRD ROW (which includes the roadway, driveway aprons, sidewalks, signing, drainage and parkways). The 2023 Roadway Program will be bid out later this month while we wait for geotechnical information on the existing roadway pavement materials/thicknesses, base conditions, and IBR strengths. This year we will be bidding out the following 2.32 miles of HTRD collector roadways:
 - Meader Road (Bruce Rd. to the S. limit of HT) – 1 mile
 - Bruce Road (W/Meader Rd. intersection) – 0.24 miles
 - Brue Road (Gougar Rd. to W/I-355) – 0.33 miles
 - Oak Avenue (E. limit of the Willow Walk subdivision to Gougar Rd.) – 0.25 miles
 - Gougar Road (Bruce Rd. to N. limit of Prairie Ridge subdivision) – 0.25 miles
 - Basham Avenue and 140th Place (N/Archer Ave.) – 0.25 miles
- b. **Smith Road/Long Run Creek Bridge Replacement** – The scope of this project includes replacing the existing substandard 2 lane bridge. This will be a 3-4 year project from Phase I thru construction completion. IDOT will be paying for 80% of the project costs, while the remaining 20% will be via a local agency funding match shared between the 3 IGA local agencies wherein each agency will be paying an estimated \$150k spread out over an estimated 3 years, on a monthly basis, based on an estimated total project cost for Engineering, CM and Construction of ~\$2.3M.)
- c. **2023 Lighting Program** – The scope of this new program includes standardizing all roadway lights in HTRD ROW to the same system, to reduce electricity bills, to help with maintenance and parts replacement, and provide roadway lighting in dark, unsafe areas of the HTRD roadway system. We will be investigating using solar lights for locations where electricity is not readily available – and as a pilot test, a few will be installed along the HTRD entrance road for monitoring prior to the feasibility of installing them in HTRD areas where needed. The 2023 Roadway Lighting Program will be bid out later this month while we wait for geotechnical information required for foundation design and depth.
- d. **2023 Striping Program** — The scope of this new program includes installing roadway grade paint striping to all turning lanes, ADA cross walks, striped medians, shoulder lines, and center lane lines as required within the HTRD roadway system. This program should be repeated every 3-5 years moving forward. The 2023 Roadway Striping Program is currently out to bid and bidders can access the bidding documents and package via our website.
- e. **2023 HTHC Grant** – We are accepting applications for the 2023 HT Highway Commissioner Special Needs Grant for \$5,000 until April 1, 2023. The HG Ability Awareness Committee will be assisting with selection as required.

10. Assessor Report: Carmen Maurella

- a. Preliminary three-year average property assessments in Homer Township will be per Illinois State Mandate increased by 8.26 % for all properties. Everyone will receive a notice by mail in late August that shows an 8.26 % percent assessment increase to their property. Again this is per Illinois State Mandate.

11. Homer Township Committee & Trustee Reports

- a. Homer Township Volunteer Committee: Trustee Michael Bonomo Chair, Cindy La Ha Vice-Chair, Clerk Vicki Bozen, Trustee Mark Gawron, Collector Angel Shake, Patti Komar, and Rose Reynders.
- b. Senior Task Force: Michael Bonomo Chair, Cindy La Ha Vice-Chair
- c. Rob Rivera
- d. Mark Gawron
 - i. Food Drive will benefit the Lockport Fish Food Pantry.
- e. Matt Connelly
 - i. Multi-Cultural Event at Homer 33c was held March 9th at Hadley Middle School. Thank you to all who attended.
- f. Land Use Committee: Assessor Maurella, Supervisor Balich, Highway Commissioner Porfilio, Clerk Bozen, Trustees Bonomo, Rivera, Gawron and Connelly
- g. Truck Task Force: Highway Commissioner Porfilio

12. 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 8:22pm
1st Bonomo 2nd Gawron
Roll Call
Ayes (4) Gawron, Rivera, Bonomo, Balich
Nay (0)
- b. Motion to enter Committee on Local Government Consolidation and Efficiency Act. 8:22pm
1st Bonomo 2nd Gawron
Roll Call
Ayes (8) Porfilio, Maurella, Shake A, Balich, Gawron, Bonomo, Rivera, Shake J
Absent (1) Roti
Nay (0)
- 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
Nancy Hockenberry signed up to speak and declined
- d. Motion to approve February 6, 2023 meeting minutes.
- e. Discussion on Township efficiency and possible improvement.
 - i. Local efficiencies: Chairman Vicki Bozen commented on the following
 1. Summary of previously discussed matters: Seniors, IGA, Community Outreach/Events, Ability Awareness, Highway Department, Township Office Staff
 - ii. An analysis of whether consolidation should be an option with another unit of government
 - iii. Create a report with recommendations covering efficiencies, accountability, and consolidation explanations
 - iv. Paper surveys will be passed out to residents who attended for input on matters discussed and handed in to Clerk Bozen before leaving the meeting.
- f. Motion to exit Committee on Local Government Consolidation and Efficiency Act. 8:25pm
1st Maurella 2nd Rivera
Roll Call
Ayes (8) Porfilio, Maurella, Shake A, Balich, Gawron, Bonomo, Rivera, Shake J
Absent (1) Roti
Nay (0)
- g. Motion to enter Homer Township Regular Board Meeting 8:26pm
1st Bonomo 2nd Gawron
Roll Call
Ayes (4) Gawron, Rivera, Bonomo, Balich
Nay (0)

13. Accounting

- a. A motion to approve all payment of bills for February 2023: Founders Crossing Bond, Founders Crossing General, General Assistance, Open Space, Park Developer Contribution, Park, Town, Road & Bridge, and Equipment & Building
1st Bonomo 2nd Rivera
Roll Call
Ayes (4) Bonomo, Rivera, Gawron, Balich
Nay (0)

14. New Business

- a.

15. Old Business

- a. Micro Pantry

16. 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 subject 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

17. Return to Open Session

18. Action Following Closed Session (if any)

a.

19. Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 8:27pm

1st Gawron 2nd Rivera

All in Favor

Ayes (4)

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.