



# HOMER TOWNSHIP

## Meeting Minutes

Monthly Board of Trustees Meeting

October 16, 2023, at 7:00 P.M.

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

Homer Glen, Illinois 60491

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

### MINUTES

#### 1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order on October 16, 2023, by Township Supervisor Balich at 7:00 pm at the Homer Township Office, 14350 W. 151<sup>st</sup> Street, Homer Glen, Illinois.

#### 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 Michael Bonomo, Angel Shake, Michael Clausen, and Robert Rivera, Clerk Vicki Bozen, Highway Commissioner Brent Porfilio, and Collector Michael Gondek. Assessor Carmen Maurella was absent. *A quorum was established.*

#### 4. Presentation by grant writers

- a. Grant Staff, Inc. presented their services.

#### 5. 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

Dave Medema commented on the false reports from the Village of Homer Glen that they maintain 8 miles of Township roads when in fact they do not.

Gail Snyder commented on the open space program and the rezoning of the Welter property.

#### 6. Clerk Report: Vicki Bozen

##### a. Approval of Minutes

- i. Motion to approve September 11, 2023, Monthly Township Board Meeting Minutes  
1<sup>st</sup> Bonomo 2<sup>nd</sup> Rivera  
All in Favor  
Ayes (5)  
Nay (0)

##### b. FOIA reports

- i. Clerk Bozen read the FOIA responses received by the PAC in which all were determined that the Township did not violate any FOIA or OMA policies.

##### c. Levy

- i. Motion to approve the Tentative 2023 Levy for Town Fund, General Assistance Fund, Park Fund, and Debt Service  
1<sup>st</sup> Shake 2<sup>nd</sup> Clausen  
Roll Call  
Ayes (5) Rivera, Shake, Clausen, Bonomo, Balich  
Nay (0)
- ii. Motion to approve the Tentative 2023 Levy for the Road & Bridge Fund and the Building & Equipment Fund

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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.

Highway Commissioner Brent Porfilio commented that for a 3<sup>rd</sup> year in a row he is reducing the tax levy. Trustee Bonomo mentioned that due to Commissioner Porfilio's engineering background there is a substantial savings to the Road District as Commissioner Porfilio is able to do the engineering at no cost to the Highway Department.

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

Roll Call

Ayes (5) Clausen, Shake, Rivera, Bonomo, Balich

Nay (0)

#### 7. Supervisor Report: Steve Balich

- a. Motion to approve Angel Shake and Gianna Glorioso to assist the grant writer in various tasks and information gathering.

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

All in Favor

Ayes (5)

Nay (0)

- b. Motion to approve professional services for grant writing.

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

Roll Call

Ayes (5) Rivera, Bonomo, Shake, Clausen, Balich

Nay (0)

- c. Motion to approve hiring of professional services/public relations.

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

Roll Call

Ayes (5) Shake, Clausen, Bonomo, Rivera, Balich

Nay (0)

- d. Notification and discussion of Will County Zoning Case #ZC-23-078. Information only

- e. Motion to approve grant writing course for Clerk Bozen in an amount not to exceed \$3,000.00.

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

Roll Call

Ayes (5) Shake, Bonomo, Clausen, Rivera, Balich

Nay (0)

- f. Motion to approve Supervisor Balich and Township Attorney to explore disconnection proceedings or other methods of de-annexation.

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

Roll Call

Ayes (5) Bonomo, Clausen, Rivera, Shake, Balich

Nay (0)

#### 8. Highway Commissioner Report: Brent Porfilio

- a. **Smith Road/Long Run Creek Bridge Replacement** The Phase I Engineering has begun and is scheduled to be completed in 2024. We are still waiting for temporary bridge shoring options from the Phase I Consulting Engineer for stabilizing the bridge until construction which is not anticipated until 2025-2026.

- b. **2023 Roadway Paving Program** The 2023 Roadway Paving Program has been completed by D Construction for the following streets – a final walk thru will be performed this month:

i. Meader Road (Bruce Rd. to the S. limit of HT)

ii. Bruce Road (W/Meader Rd. intersection)

iii. Gougar Road (Bruce Rd. to N. Prairie Ridge sub.)

- c. **2023 Roadway Lighting Program** The 2023 Roadway Lighting Program is waiting on materials prior to starting up. We will be investigating solar lights for locations where electricity is not readily available in 2024.

- d. **2023 Roadway Striping Program** The 2023 Roadway Striping Program has been completed – a final walk thru will be performed this month.

- e. **2023 Homer Township Highway Commissioner's Grant** We are still accepting applications for the 2023 HT Highway Commissioner Special Needs Grant for \$5,000. Applicant needs to be a HS graduate, and Homer Township resident. The HTRD Grant application can be filled in via the following Homer Township Highway Department link:

i. <https://www.homerhighway.com/grant>

- f. **Muslim Ummah Cemetery** The access road/cul-de-sac and driveway serving this site have been completed, however HTRD has sent comments last month to the Owner of deficiencies in their driveway work in the HTRD ROW. The HTRD Site Access Permit remains valid, however only for addressing the driveway deficiencies.
- g. **2023-2024 Winter Salt** The HTRD has a 2-year contract for roadway blended salt which will continue thru this Winter. We have leftover salt from our previous mild winter and have an additional 300 ton available thru the current salt contract for the upcoming winter.
- h. **Miscellaneous** HTRD mileage, expenses, 2023-2024 & 2024-2025 Levy's, maintenance responsibilities, and recent false rumors about the dissolution of the HTRD will be discussed.

**9. Assessor Report: Carmen Maurella** no report

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

- a. Senior Task Force: Trustee Michael Bonomo Chair, Cindy La Ha Vice-Chair  
Trustee Bonomo commented on the success of the Senior Lifestyle Expo and the Halloween Party. Also coming up is the Senior Christmas party in December.
- b. Special Needs Committee: Trustee Angel Shake Chair, Highway Commissioner Brent Porfilio Co-Chair, and Collector Mike Gondek
- c. Resource Management Task Force: Trustees Michael Bonomo, Michael Clausen, Rob Rivera, and Angel Shake
- d. Land Use Committee: Assessor Maurella, Supervisor Balich, Highway Commissioner Porfilio, Clerk Bozen, Trustees Bonomo, Rivera, Shake, and Clausen, and Collector Gondek.
- e. Founders Crossing Task Force: Trustees Angel Shake and Michael Clausen
- f. Trustee Reports

**11. Accounting**

- a. A motion to approve all payment of bills for September 2023: Founders Crossing Bond, Founders Crossing General, General Assistance, Open Space, Park Developer Contribution, Park, Town, Road & Bridge, and Equipment & Building  
1<sup>st</sup> Bonomo      2<sup>nd</sup> Clausen  
Roll Call  
Ayes (5) Shake, Clausen, Bonomo, Rivera, Balich  
Nay (0)

**12. New Business**

- a. Supervisor Balich commented that the Township would be in favor of taking over Hadley Road if the Village of Homer Glen was unable to do it. Balich wants to make sure the residents there are protected.

**13. Old Business**

- a. Micro Pantry

**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 or 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 was adjourned at 8:06pm  
All in Favor  
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.