



HOMER TOWNSHIP

Meeting Minutes

Monthly Board of Trustees Meeting

December 11, 2023, at 7:00 P.M.

Homer Township Office, 14350 W. 151st Street,

Homer Glen, Illinois 60491

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

MINUTES

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order on December 11, 2023, by Township Supervisor Balich at 7:00 pm at the Homer Township Office, 14350 W. 151st Street, Homer Glen, Illinois.

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

Amendments to the Agenda

A motion was made by Trustee Shake to move Agenda item 4c after Executive Session between 14 and 15

1st Bonomo 2nd Clausen

All in Favor Ayes (5) Nay (0)

A motion was made by Trustee Bonomo to move item 12 before item 4.

1st Shake 2nd Clausen

All in Favor Ayes (5) Nay (0)

12. 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

Ellen Moriarty declined to speak.

Mike Carlson commented on what a great job Trustee Bonomo and his team has done with the Seniors and Vets. Asked why people don't help instead of causing a problem.

Jim Shake commented on Township representing everyone and the taxpayer and that the taxpayer wants lower taxes. He also commented that Collector Gondok, Highway Commissioner Porfilio, Trustee Shake and Clausen along with Supervisor Balich, have saved the Township thousands of dollars by offering their expertise at no charge and volunteering their time.

4. Clerk Report: Vicki Bozen

a. Approval of Minutes

i. Motion to approve November 6, 2023, Monthly Township Board Meeting Minutes

1st Bonomo 2nd Rivera

All in Favor Ayes (5) Nay (0)

ii. Motion to approve and to release or not release November 23, 2021 Executive Meeting

Minutes. Not to Release

1st Shake 2nd Clausen

All in Favor Ayes (5) Nay (0)

iii. Motion to approve and to release or not release May 19, 2022 Executive Meeting

Not to Release

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.

1st Clausen 2nd Rivera
All in Favor Ayes (5) Nay (0)

- iv. Motion to approve and to release or not release October 17, 2022 Executive Meeting
1st Clausen 2nd Rivera
All in Favor Ayes (5) Nay (0)

b. Tax Abatement

- i. Motion to approve Tax Abatement for the Township's General Obligation Bonds Series 2021 in the sum equal to the levy.
1st Bonomo 2nd Clausen
Roll Call Ayes (5) Rivera, Shake, Clausen, Bonomo, Balich Nay (0)

c. Holiday Display Program

- i. Motion to amend the Holiday Display Program that all items must be installed and taken down by Township maintenance staff. Moved after Executive Session

5. Supervisor Report: Steve Balich

- a. Discussion of Hadley Road and 143rd Street expansion
b. Notification and discussion of Will County Zoning Case #ZC-23-115. Motion to approve. No motion
c. Discussion of Agreement sent to the Village of Homer Glen to remove Township Property from the Village of Homer Glen and take it back as Unincorporated Property
d. Farming license bid solicitations were published for Welter Property. One proposal was received Motion approving the proposal submitted by Jeff Haas of \$60 per acre for a term of four years.
1st Shake 2nd Bonomo
Roll Call Ayes (5) Bonomo, Clausen, Shake, Rivera, Balich Nay (0)

6. Highway Commissioner Report: Brent Porfilio

- a. **Smith Road/Long Run Creek Bridge Replacement** We are waiting for the temporary bridge shoring options from the Phase I Consulting Engineer for stabilizing the bridge until construction which is not anticipated until 2025-2026
b. **2024 Roadway Paving Program** We are assessing and updating our HTRD roadway, bridge and culvert ratings database this month for 2024 and will be announcing the streets to be improved for the 2024 Roadway Paving Program in January 2024.
c. **2023 Roadway Lighting Program** The lighting materials required for the 2023 Roadway Lighting Contract are still on order and the Program is now scheduled for completion in the Spring of 2024.
d. **2023 Homer Township Highway Commissioner's Grant** We will be closing applications for the 2023 HT Highway Commissioner Special Needs Grant on 12/31/23 and announcing the winner in January, 2024. The 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 <https://www.homerhighway.com/grant>
e. **2023-2024 Winter Plowing & Salt** Our snow plow trucks and equipment have already been out for the winter season – we now have 4 trucks equipped with salt spreaders and plows to best serve you and take on the worst of winter storms, including having trucks on reserve for breakdowns. We are operating at a 2.5-3 hour salt and plow cycle, and prioritize arterials roadways first – we typically make our first rounds at 4-5AM well before rush hour. If there are ever any issues with our salting and plowing operations, please contact us at 708-301-0246. We ask that you please avoid parking in the street during snow events so we have a clear path to salt and remove snow

7. Assessor Report: Carmen Maurella: none

8. Homer Township Committee & Trustee Reports

- a. Senior Task Force: Trustee Michael Bonomo Chair, Cindy La Ha Vice-Chair
Trustee Bonomo talked about the Senior Christmas party and thanked all those that helped to put together this and other events mentioning this is all for the seniors. Also that he will be adding more events.
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
Michael Gondek talked about the current Homer Township logo and how it symbolized Homer Township very well. He designed and presented a new Homer Township logo. He showed how it worked in print, on apparel, and digitally. He is also updating our website. He is volunteering his time to both create the new logo and update the website.

9. Accounting

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

10. New Business

- a.

11. Old Business

- a. **Micro Pantry**

12. Roll Call Vote to Enter Closed Session (If Necessary) for possible litigation at 7:53pm

1st Shake 2nd Clausen
Roll Call Ayes (5) Rivera, Clausen, Shake, Bonomo, Balich Nay (0)

- 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

13. Return to Open Session at 8:31pm

1st Bonomo 2nd Clausen
Roll Call Ayes (5) Shake, Clausen, Rivera, Bonomo, Balich Nay (0)
No motion was taken in Executive Session

14. Action Following Closed Session (if any)

- a. Motion that nothing will go up at Township at any time unless accepted and owned by the Township. Township employees are only authorized to put up anything at the Township. We do not allow for freedom for religion to go up and do not accept this as a donation. Accepted donations cannot have anything with contact info including email, phone numbers, websites, etc. and any kind of advertising within the holiday program. The Holiday Display program will go from Thanksgiving to Epiphany. Trustee Shake commented that the existing guidelines in place were not being followed and this will make the guidelines clearer. Supervisor Balich commented that this is also for public safety.

1st Bonomo 2nd Clausen
Roll Call Ayes (5) Rivera, Shake, Bonomo, Clausen, Balich Nay (0)

15. Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 8:37pm
1st Clausen 2nd Rivera
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.