



Stephen J Balich
Supervisor

Vicki Bozen
Clerk

Michael Bonomo
Michael Clausen
Robert Rivera
Angel Shake
Trustees

Carmen J Maurella, III
Assessor

Brent Porfilio
Highway Commissioner

Michael Gondek
Collector

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14350 W 151st Street
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www.homertownship.com

HOMER TOWNSHIP

Minutes

Monthly Board of Trustees Meeting
March 11, 2024, at 7:00 P.M.
Town Hall, 16057 S. Cedar Rd,
Lockport, Illinois 60491
<http://www.homertownship.com/>

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order on March 11, 2024, by Township Supervisor Balich at 7:00 pm at the Town Hall, 16057 S Cedar Rd, Homer Glen, Illinois.

2. Pledge of Allegiance and Invocation¹

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. John Walters did the Invocation.

3. Roll Call for Quorum

Present were Supervisor Steve Balich, Trustees Michael Bonomo, Angel Shake, and Michael Clausen, Clerk Vicki Bozen, Highway Commissioner Brent Porfilio and Assessor Carmen Maurella. Collector Michael Gondek arrived at 7:10pm. Robert Rivera was absent. A *quorum was established*.

4. Presentation of the Homer Township Highway Commissioner's Special Needs Grant

Brent Porfilio presented a check to the award recipient.

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.

Ellen Moriarty commented on a letter regarding FOIA.

Sharon Sweas commented on Township meeting locations comparing Town Hall vs Administrative Office and agenda posting. Additionally she commented on the logo change (the Township board has mentioned at numerous meetings that Michael Gondek designed this logo at no cost to the Township)

Gail Snyder commented on open space land acquisition and is glad to see a plan. She also commented on the cost, parking, and hearing from the public.

Christina Neitze-Troike wanted to recognize Brent Porfilio for his grant.

Lynn Richardson commented on Meader Road and the Muslim Cemetery and wanted to know if it was voted on by the County Board or Homer Township. Also a problem with two funerals on the same day which caused an issue with parking along Meader Road. The sheriff says they have no jurisdiction over enforcing the no parking signs.

6. Public Hearing/Presentation

- a. Motion to enter Public Hearing for the planned Civic Center on Trantina Farm.
1st Clausen 2nd Bonomo

Roll Call Ayes (4) Bonomo, Shake, Clausen, Balich Nay (0)

- i. Public Comments (Individuals must sign in and are limited to one 3-minute comment per person)

Andrew Panelli commented that he is on the DeBoer Woods homeowner's association and their concerns on building any structures on open space.

Elizabeth Prokop commented on building on open space land, the referendum and receiving grant fund for the civic center.

Sheri Boniecki commented about building on Trantina farm, referendum, costs, and plans.

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.

Jessica Barnes commented on the PETFEST, community center, free fill, and our open space. Lockport will not let us tap into the wastewater system. Who will benefit from it. Say no to Lockport Township high school. Sharon Sweas commented on the project including the pole barn and civic center.

Gail Snyder commented on phase 1 of a larger project and is this going to be scaled down. She is concerned about cost, grants and how it will be paid for.

Christina Neitze-Troike commented on a survey for storm water, environmental study, and other plans.

John Walters commented that he has gotten to know the board and that they want to do what is right for the community and he appreciates what they have to do.

Mike Campabello commented on how everyone came together for 143rd street. Questioned about tax dollars down the road and direct competition with other businesses. Looking for many options for people to vote on.

ii. Presentation

Jay Braderich president of Landmark Construction services presented the Trantina Civic Center Project including a diagram of what is to be built. Structure has been reduced to a 10,000 sq feet box, 100x100, and will have a buffer against residential area. Turn around for drop off and fire trucks, trash enclosure, gravel path for overhead door to bring things inside building. Large enough for high school basketball, 6 individual ADA bathrooms, future kitchen, storage, and small office, a 10,000 gallon water tank for sprinkler system, septic field, bike trail, parking lot, and a pond to retain run off before creek. Building designed as pre-engineered structure, full foundation, free span space, insulated metal panels, lighting, heat and air conditioning: very simple and very economical. Minimal amount of site lighting.

b. Motion to accept the building of a Civic Center on Trantina Farm. Motion to move to before 8a
1st Clausen 2nd Bonomo

Roll Call Ayes (4) Clausen, Shake, Bonomo, Balich Nay (0)

c. Motion to end Public Hearing and return to regular meeting agenda.
1st Shake 2nd Clausen

Roll Call Ayes (4) Bonomo, Shake Clausen, Balich Nay (0)

7. Clerk Report: Vicki Bozen

a. Approval of Minutes

i. Motion to approve February 5, 2024, Monthly Township Board Meeting Minutes
1st Shake 2nd Clausen

All in Favor Aye (4) Nay (0)

ii. Motion to approve February 23, 2024, Special Board Meeting Minutes
1st Bonomo 2nd Shake

All in Favor Ayes (4) Nay (0)

iii. Motion to approve the April 9, 2024, Annual Town Meeting Agenda
1st Clausen 2nd Shake

All in Favor Ayes (4) Nay (0)

b. PETFEST

i. PETFEST will be on June 15, 2024 on the Homer Township property located just west of the Baseball Fields from 12pm to 3pm. Volunteers please fill out the online application.

8. Supervisor Report: Stephen J Balich

Supervisor Balich commented on the Trantina farm site picked in the 2020 referendum and he said the civic center is for people living here. We have nothing like this anywhere near Homer and everyone in Homer Township can use it. We are looking for a place for children, special needs basketball, and seniors. It can be an afterschool program, battle of bands, senior yoga, etc. as it is for all the different uses and it covers every age group in this town. Money is not coming from tax increases. Muslim cemetery was supposed to be voted on by County Board, but they never voted on it possibly because of Federal Law. Brent Porfilio sent letter to owner, will put up cameras, and have put an ordinance for no parking. Sheriff's office is supposed to enforce this.

a. Motion to accept the building of a Civic Center on Trantina Farm.

1st Clausen 2nd Bonomo

Roll Call Ayes (4) Shake, Bonomo, Clausen, Balich Nay (0)

b. Discussion of 143rd Street expansion.

c. Motion to approve Supervisor Balich to execute an agreement with Hearne & Associates for the Township's annual audit for a term of 1 or 2 years. Motion for 2 years.

1st Shake 2nd Bonomo

Roll Call Ayes (4) Clausen, Bonomo, Shake, Balich Nay (0)

9. Highway Commissioner Report: Brent Porfilio

- a. **2024 Roadway Paving Program** The bidding documents are being prepared for the Program and bidding is scheduled for this month for the following streets: off Smith Road 138th St - 0.23 miles and 140th St - 0.15 miles, off Lockport Heights 136th Ave -0.25 miles and 147th Pl – 0.47 miles, and off Archer Ave Basham Ave -0.15 miles
- b. **2023-2024 Roadway Lighting Program** The 2023-2024 Roadway Lighting Contract is now scheduled for completion in the Summer of 2024
- c. **Smith Road/Long Run Creek Bridge Replacement** Design is anticipated to start upon approval of the Phase I Report in 2024, and Construction is anticipated to begin in the 2025/2026 construction season.

10. Assessor Report: Carmen J Maurella III

- a. The 2024 Soft Appeal will be open February 1-May 30, 2024. The Soft Appeal process is available to assist taxpayers in reviewing their assessments. Please keep in mind that the assessments are as of January 1, 2024. The assessments are based on 3 years of valid sales, not including the current year. For example, 2024 values are based on 2023, 2022, and 2021.

11. Collector: Michael Gondek

12. Homer Township Committee & Trustee Reports

- a. Senior Task Force: Trustee Michael Bonomo Chair, Cindy La Ha Vice-Chair
- b. Special Needs Task Force: 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

13. Accounting

- a. A motion to approve all payment of bills for February 2024: Certificate of Deposit, Founders Crossing Bond, Founders Crossing General, Open Space, General Assistance, Park Developer Contribution, Park, Town, Road & Bridge, and Equipment & Building

1st Shake 2nd Bonomo
Roll Call Ayes (4) Clausen, Bonomo, Shake, 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 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

17. Return to Open Session

18. Action Following Closed Session (if any)

- a.

19. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 8:32pm

1st Shake 2nd Bonomo

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.