

**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

**Administration Office**14350 W 151<sup>st</sup> Street

Homer Glen, IL 60491

Phone: 708.301.0522

**Assessor's Office**

Phone: 708.301.8166

**Highway Department**14500 W 151<sup>st</sup> Street

Homer Glen, IL 60491

Phone: 708.301.0246

[www.homertownship.com](http://www.homertownship.com)**HOMER TOWNSHIP****MINUTES**

Monthly Board of Trustees Meeting

May 13, 2024, at 7:00 P.M.

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

Homer Glen, Illinois 60491

<http://www.homertownship.com/>**1. Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order on May 13, 2024, by Township Supervisor Balich at 7:00pm 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, Robert Rivera, and Michael Clausen, Clerk Vicki Bozen, Highway Commissioner Brent Porfilio, and Assessor Carmen Maurella. Collector Michael Gondek was absent. *A quorum was established.*

**4. Public Comments** Must sign in and are limited to one 3-minute comment per person: none

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

**5. Clerk Report: Vicki Bozen****a. Approval of Minutes**

- i. Motion to approve April 9, 2024, Monthly Township Board Meeting Minutes  
1<sup>ST</sup> Shake      2<sup>ND</sup> Bonomo  
All in Favor      Ayes (5)      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
- ii. Looking for volunteers please fill out the application on our website and email it to vbozen@homertownship.com

**6. Supervisor Report: Stephen J Balich**

- a. Presentation of Homer Township TENTATIVE Budgets: General Assistance; Founders Crossing General; Founders Crossing Bond; Open Space; Park; Park Developer Contributions and Town funds for fiscal year April 1, 2024, through March 31, 2025. The Clerk will publish the Notice of Public Hearing, scheduled for June 10, 2024. Supervisor Balich says we are trying to find ways not to raise taxes. We have not raised taxes for three years in a row.

- b. Discussion of 143<sup>rd</sup> Street expansion. Attorneys have filed a suit. It will take a while, maybe six months. Homer Township is offering to take over 143<sup>rd</sup> Street.

- c. Motion to approve Supervisor Balich, Clerk Bozen, Highway Commissioner Porfilio, and Heidi Pacella to look for a new route, date, and new time for a Township Parade.

1 <sup>ST</sup> Bonomo	2 <sup>ND</sup> Clausen
All in Favor	Ayes (5)
	Nay (0)

<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.

## 7. Highway Commissioner Report: Brent Porfilio

- a. **2024/2025 HTRD Budget** Presentation of Homer Township Road District TENTATIVE Budgets: Equipment & Building and Road & Bridge Funds for fiscal year April 1, 2024, through March 31, 2025. The Clerk will publish the Notice of Public Hearing, scheduled for June 10, 2024.
- b. **2024 Roadway Paving Program** The project has been awarded to Orange Crush and will take 6-8 weeks to complete. We are currently in the field marking out roadway and driveway work limits for the project, and passing out coordination flyers to residents within the project limits. HTRD staff will be providing all construction observation, oversight and management in order to save taxpayers from having to pay an engineering consulting firm perform that work as was done prior to my term. If any residents have questions or concerns, please call us. The work is scheduled to begin this week for the following streets off Smith Road 138<sup>th</sup> St - 0.23 miles and 140<sup>th</sup> St - 0.15 miles, off Lockport Heights 136<sup>th</sup> Ave -0.25 miles and 147<sup>th</sup> Pl – 0.47 miles
- c. **2023-2024 Roadway Lighting Program** The 2023-2024 Roadway Lighting Contract has been completed and we will be doing a punch list walk thru this month.
- d. **Smith Road/Long Run Creek Bridge Replacement** Phase II Design is anticipated to start upon approval of the Phase I Report in Fall/Winter of 2024 and Construction is anticipated to begin in the 2025/2026 construction season.
- e. **2024 Ditch Regrading and Culvert Jetting** Next month we will be performing ditch regrading near the Gougar/Bruce Road intersection, as well as along 163<sup>rd</sup> Street/Regents Road, and a few other locations within the HTRD. If you have witnessed any ditches which are holding water, clogged culverts needing jetting, or flooding in any unincorporated HTRD areas, please contact us so we can investigate and help.
- f. **2023-2024 Tax Bills have arrived** By now most everyone has received their tax bill reflecting yet another year of tax reduction for the HTRD, as well as for HT. We are proud to announce that the average resident property tax cost per month for the HTRD is less than the average price for a cup of coffee, and first class services continue to be provided by the HTRD maintaining and improving the roadways, mowing and cutting trees, salting and plowing snow, clearing ditches, upgrading lighting, sharing capital improvement costs via IGA's with other local agencies to save taxpayer money, pursuing grants, providing a top shelf HTRD maintenance facility, with an upgraded modern building, and new modern equipment, vehicles and materials, and supporting and providing the public with friendly, experienced staff. So we urge you to ignore the Village's recent statements of trying to dissolve the HT and HTRD and continue to benefit from, and enjoy, all of the services we have to offer for the price of an average cup of coffee for each month you live here in HT.
- g. **Will County DOT projects in HT – Parker/Hadley Road Transfer and 143<sup>rd</sup> Street Widening Project**  
**TRO – status** With respect to the Parker/Hadley Road transfer, HTRD previously filed paperwork and solicited WCDOT for the transfer of Parker/Hadley Road from N/US 6 to Wolf Road to the HTRD, however it required approval by the Village of Homer Glen which was denied. Afterwards, the Village of Homer Glen decided to take it over instead, filed the paperwork for it, and has received approval for the transfer. Moving forward, please contact the Village for any issues along this roadway ROW with respect to pavement issues/maintenance, parkway mowing & tree trimming, roadway salting & plowing, signing, ditches and general maintenance as they now will be collecting additional taxes and MFT money for this roadway. With respect to the 143<sup>rd</sup> Street widening project TRO, HT, in concert with the HTRD, spent much time and resources supporting the 143<sup>rd</sup> Street corridor residents, and in their push to block this project, by hosting and organizing presentations to the public, as well as lobbying and speaking to the Will County Board members to block this project. We were successful in getting the majority of the Will County Board to vote to halt the project and the bill was signed into law by the Will County Executive (Jennifer Betino Tarrant). However, 3 days after she signed the bill into law, she filed a subsequent veto to it, likely due to pressure from her local Democratic supporters who want the project to move forward. Subsequently, HT, in concert with the HTRD, filed a lawsuit against the Will County Executive to invalidate her veto. As over half of the 143<sup>rd</sup> Street widening segment length within HT between Lemont Road and Bell Road is under the jurisdiction of Homer Glen, it is disappointing that the Village still has yet to follow HT's lead and has not yet filed a law suit despite the fact that their mayor has publicly stated in front of the County Board and at public meetings that they are against the widening and support the residents. I would like to suggest, if you can, please contact the mayor and ask her to urge the Village to also file their lawsuit in order to further help the local residents and public win since they have jurisdiction over more than half of the project limits. Until the TRO veto lawsuit is resolved, we ask that all property owners along the 143<sup>rd</sup> street ROW avoid signing any eminent domain papers or offers to sell their property to the WCDOT – and if they have been offered to or signed anything, please bring copies of that paperwork to the HT Office for scanning and to send to our attorney.

## **8. 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.

## **9. Collector Michael Gondek**

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

- a.** Senior Task Force: Trustee Michael Bonomo Chair, Cindy La Ha Vice-Chair  
Seniors meet 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of every month
- 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

## **11. Accounting**

- a.** A motion to approve all payment of bills for April 2024: Certificate of Deposit, Equipment & Building, Founders Crossing Bond, Founders Crossing General, General Assistance, Open Space, Park Developer, Park, Road & Bridge, and Town.  
1<sup>st</sup> Shake            2<sup>nd</sup> Bonomo  
Roll Call            Ayes (5) Bonomo, Rivera, Shake, Clausen, Balich            Nay (0)

## **12. New Business**

- a.**

## **13. Old Business**

- a.** Micro Pantry for people & pets

## **14. Roll Call Vote to Enter Closed Session (If Necessary) Motion to go into executive session for possible litigation**

1<sup>st</sup> Bonomo            2<sup>nd</sup> Clausen  
Roll Call            Ayes (5) Clausen, Shake, Bonomo, Rivera, 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

## **15. Return to Open Session: Motion to return to Regular Session at 7:58pm**

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

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

- a.** None

## **17. Adjournment**

Meeting was adjourned at 7:59pm

1<sup>st</sup> Clausen            2<sup>nd</sup> Shake  
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.