



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

August 19, 2024, at 7:00 P.M.

Homer Township Office, 14350 W. 151st Street,

Homer Glen, Illinois 60491

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

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order on August 19, 2024, by Township Supervisor Balich at 7:00pm at the Homer Township Office, 14350 W 151st Street, 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, Clerk Vicki Bozen, Trustees Michael Bonomo, Angel Shake, Robert Rivera, and Michael Clausen, Highway Commissioner Brent Porfilio, Collector Michael Gondek, and Assessor Carmen Maurella. *A quorum was established.*

4. Public Comments

Must sign in and are limited to one 3-minute comment per person

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

John Hylton commented on rally

Angie Dryer commented on garage doors at Founders Crossing

Dan Fialko Thanked the volunteers from Homer Township that helped at Homer Fest and working together to get a lot done

Jessica Barnes commented on Facebook posts

Ellen Moriarty commented on volunteering and 143rd Street expansion

John Walters no comment

Jay Roti commented on Freedom Caucus and working together

Jay Roti asked for additional 3 minutes Supervisor Balich made motion 2nd Shake all if favor Ayes (5) Nay (0)

Motion by Supervisor Balich to move 8b to 6c

1st Bonomo 2nd Shake

Roll Call Ayes (5) Shake, Clausen, Rivera, Bonomo, Balich Nay (0)

5. Clerk Report: Vicki Bozen

a. Approval of Minutes

- Motion to approve July 8, 2024, Monthly Township Board Meeting Minutes
1st Clausen 2nd Bonomo All in Favor Ayes (5) Nay (0)

6. Supervisor Report: Stephen J Balich

a. Discussion of Civic Center

- Applications for Emergency General Assistance can be submitted only once every 18 months.

Supervisor Balich read the following statement in regard to 143rd Street Expansion:

In order to quell the misconstructions of reality and accusations flung by a very small, fringe group, I am providing the following information and explanations concerning the litigation to cease the widening of 143rd Street.

At the request of numerous residents, the Township (and Road District) have explored all of their legal options and avenues to prevent what is seen as the illegal actions by the Will County Executive in her “oops veto attempt” and prevent the 143rd Street widening project from proceeding. The Township has played an integral role in ensuring the lawsuit was prepared and filed. For the preliminary, procedural stages, it was determined that the Township and Road District should not, themselves, be named as direct “parties” to the suit. The Township and Road District may formally join at a later time. However, the Township and Road District are serving an integral role in protecting and defending the rights of its citizens, which is what the

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.

elected Township officials have been chosen to do. Neither the Township nor the Road District have paid any money to the alternate attorneys who are representing the plaintiff County Board Members at this time. The Township and Road District will continue to fight on behalf of its residents and will continue to be an active participant in this litigation

7. Transfer

- i. Motion to approve line-item transfer of the amount of \$30,000.00 from 731 Building Maintenance in the Founders Crossing General Budget, Founders Crossing General Fund to 780 ARPA in the Founders Crossing General Budget, Founders Crossing General Fund.
1st Shake 2nd Bonomo
Roll Call Ayes (5) Bonomo, Shake, Rivera, Clausen, Balich Nay (0)
- ii. Motion to approve a line-item transfer of the amount of \$2,500.00 from 752 Operating/Maintenance in the Open Space Budget, Open Space Fund to 747 Security System in the Open Space Budget, Open Space Fund.
1st Bonomo 2nd Clausen
Roll Call Ayes (5) Clausen, Rovera, Bonomo, Shake, Balich Nay (0)

8. Highway Commissioner Report: Brent Porfilio

- a. **Smith Road/Long Run Creek Bridge Replacement** The Phase I Report is scheduled for completion this Fall and Phase II Design is anticipated to start upon approval of the Phase I Report and selection of a new consultant. Construction is anticipated to begin in the 2025/2026 construction season.
- b. **143rd Street Widening Project TRO – status:**
 - i. With respect to the 143rd Street widening project TRO, and certainly contrary to what HG Trustee Reynders stated at the last HG Board meeting a couple of weeks ago, and HT has stated numerous times, HT has filed a law suit at Will County with the Clerk of the 12th Judicial Circuit Court (opened on 4/18/24, Case #2024-CH000084) suing the Will County Executive Jennifer Bertino Tarrant for an illegal veto to the affirmative vote by the County Board to block the 143rd Street widening (voted on 2/15/24; Resolution Number 24-27). The case is awaiting a trial date with another judge and is set for status on 9/12/24.
 - ii. HT paid for, and is managing, this lawsuit thru an alternate attorney who specializes in these types of cases, and naming as the Plaintiff the Will County Board members who voted in the affirmative for the Resolution to block the WCDOT widening project - rather than HT – to improve the odds of winning the case for HT.
 - iii. As previously mentioned, it is disappointing that the Village is spending local taxpayer dollars just “monitoring” this case - which does nothing to help 143rd Street & HT residents – rather than filing a separate suit against the County Executive. I continue to urge HT residents along 143rd Street to please contact the HG mayor/Village trustees and urge them to also file a lawsuit to help our residents
 - iv. Until this lawsuit is resolved, we ask that all property owners along the 143rd 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
- c. **2025 HTRD Solar Lights Program** We have received bids for, and are evaluating, installing solar lights throughout the HTRD ROW in dark areas where power is not available in 2025. So far this summer the solar light is functioning adequately, however as the winter season has less light and harsher conditions a decision will be made in the Spring on whether to move forward.
- d. **2024 HTRD Crack Sealing Program** We are beginning yet another new annual maintenance program in HTRD with our 2024 HTRD Crack Sealing Program in an effort to further reduce our annual capital improvement costs. We started last week in the Bridlewood Estates subdivision. Within this new program, HTRD staff will be crack sealing all “3 & 4” rated streets in the HTRD limits which will be extending the life of our pavement a few more years prior to having to perform mill & overlay improvements – this will save us money in the long run and allow us to reduce our long-term annual Capital Improvement Program budget. The crack sealing progresses at a rate of ~1 lane mile/day and we will be trying to finish up the program in the next ~8 weeks to beat the cooler fall weather. Doing the crack sealing with HTRD staff and equipment is saving HTRD taxpayers’ money for this extremely important ongoing annual roadway maintenance.

9. Assessor Report: Carmen J Maurella III

10. Collector Michael Gondek

11. Homer Township Committee & Trustee Reports

- a. Senior Task Force: Trustee Michael Bonomo Chair, Cindy La Ha Vice-Chair
Senior Lifestyle Expo on September 14, 2024 with free parking and free admission.
- b. Special Needs Task Force: Trustee Angel Shake Chair, Highway Commissioner Brent Porfilio Co-Chair, and Collector Mike Gondek
- c. Land Use Committee: Assessor Maurella, Supervisor Balich, Highway Commissioner Porfilio, Clerk Bozen, Trustees Bonomo, Rivera, Shake, and Clausen, and Collector Gondek.
- d. Founders Crossing Task Force: Trustees Angel Shake and Michael Clausen
- e. Trustee Reports

12. Accounting

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

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

13. New Business

- a.

14. Old Business

- a. Micro Pantry for people & pets

15. 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

16. Return to Open Session**17. Action Following Closed Session (if any)**

- a.

18. Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 7:53pm

1st Clausen 2nd Bonomo 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.