



Homer Township Minutes

Monthly Board of Trustees Meeting
August 11, 2025, at 7:00 P.M.
Homer Township Town Hall
16057 S. Cedar Road
Lockport, IL 60491

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Township Supervisor Steilen at 7:00 p.m.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Moment of Silence

4. Roll Call for Quorum

Present were Supervisor Sue Steilen, Clerk Tami O'Brien, Trustees Keith Gray, Ken Marcin, Don Melody, Chris Sievers, Collector sara Palermo, Highway Commissioner John Robinson, Assessor Carmen Maurella, Attorney Jason Guisinger. *A quorum was established.*

5. Public Comments (must sign in)

None

6. Approval of Minutes

a. July 14, 2025

Trustee Gray motioned to approve the minutes of July 14, 2025, and seconded by Trustee Melody.

Roll Call Vote:

Ayes (5) Trustees Gray, Marcin, Melody, Sievers and Supervisor Steilen

Nays (0)

The motion carried.

7. Reports and Communications from Elected Officials

a. Trustee Melody

Trustee Melody stated the first meeting for Open Space/Civic Center Committee had a great turnout.

Trustee Gray

Trustee Gray stated that he was working on a write-up for the Veterans Committee. He will have it ready in a couple of weeks. Anyone interested in Volunteering for the Committee should email the Township.

Trustee Marcin

No report

Trustee Sievers

Trustee Sievers stated she would like to recognize one of our Homer Glen residents Austin Bielski, he had a lemonade stand "Cups for Cancer". This is his 8th year, and he has raised just shy of \$15,000. Since the year he started, he has raised over \$35,000.

b. Clerk O'Brien

Senior Bingo was held on July 8; it was a great turnout. Thank you to all the Volunteers. The Senior Christmas Party has been booked along with the entertainment for December 9 at Crystal Palace in Lemont. We will accept any type of donations for the program: food and/or cash.

c. Highway Commissioner Robinson

Just finished up the Motor Fuel Tax for the year. Going through the bills and justifying everything.

e. Assessor Maurella

Working on Board of Reviews. The portal has opened with the County. Any residents that don't agree with the Assessor's soft appeal have an option to go to the Board of Review. The Board accepts evidence from the Assessor's office that is provided, and they make a decision. If not, they can go down to PTAB where the Township Assessor just acts as a witness to the evidence that's presented to the County. That's the last resort, once the final decision is in that's what the tax assessment will be. Last year the Assessor's office did about one hundred or so. They work with the residents to try and come to some agreement if they can. If anyone has any questions they can contact the Assessor's office. The office has been working on a lot of permits this year.

f. Collector Palermo

No report

g. Supervisor Steilen Report

Supervisor Steilen is in the process of hiring a Maintenance Foreman. She has been focusing on what needs to be maintained on properties. There has been a lot of vandalism over a period of months, the Village is experiencing it as well. There was graffiti at the concession stand at Morris Park, and that has been painted. There were benches that were smashed at the Healing Garden. Those have not been repaired yet. There have been broken windows on the barn at Trantina Farm, those have been repaired. Have been concentrating on repairs of the Parks and the playground equipment. Before we can talk about Civic Center we have to address the maintenance and repairs needed at the parks.

8. Action Items

a. Approval of Bills for Payment - Village Invoice

Consider approval of payment of all bills for August 2025: Certificate of Deposit, Equipment & Building, Founders Crossing Bond, Founders Crossing, General Assistance, Open Space, Park, Road & Bridge and Town Fund.

Trustee Sievers motioned to approve bills for payment and seconded by Trustee Marcin.

Roll Call Vote:

Ayes (5) Trustees Gray, Marcin, Melody, Sievers and Supervisor Steilen

Nays (0)

The motion carried.

c. Approval to Amend 2025 Regular Meeting Schedule to change the regular Meeting location to 16057 S. Cedar Rd from 14350 W. 151st St.

Trustee Gray motioned to approve amending the 2025 Regular Meeting Schedule to change the location to 16057 S. Cedar Rd from 14350 W. 151st St. and seconded by Trustee Melody.

Roll Call Vote:

Ayes (5) Trustees Gray, Marcin, Melody, Sievers and Supervisor Steilen

Nays (0)

The motion carried.

d. Approval to execute the Fourth Amendment to Lease – Telecom Tower at 14350 W. 151st St.; SpectraSite Communications, LLC.

Consider for approval and execution of Fourth Amendment to Lease - Telecom Tower at 14350 W. 151st St.; SpectraSite Communications, LLC.

Trustee Gray asked for clarification from Attorney Jason Guisinger, the lease states that in 2031 the monthly rental will increase by 10%. At the bottom of the agreement, it states the next escalator occurs in 2026. This resolution allows Attorney Guisinger and Supervisor Steilen to make clarifying revisions. Then the revisions will be reported to the board.

Trustee Gray motioned to approve the Fourth Amendment to lease and seconded by Trustee Marcin.

Roll Call Vote:

Ayes (5) Trustees Gray, Marcin, Melody, Sievers and Supervisor Steilen

Nays (0)

The motion carried.

e. Open Space/Civic Center Committee Member Appointments

Consider approval of the appointment of Sue Steilen-Chair, Josh Barrett, Margaret Sabo John Robinson, Paul McGary, Don Melody and Sara Palermo to the Open Space/Civic Center Committee. Supervisor Steilen stated on August 4, there was a meeting inviting the Public to hear about the Civic Center and volunteer to be on the Open Space/Civic Center Committee. There's still room for others to join the Committee.

Trustee Sievers motioned to approve the Open Space/Civic Center Committee Member Appointments and seconded by Trustee Gray.

Roll Call Vote:

Ayes (5) Trustees Sievers, Gray, Marcin, Melody and Supervisor Steilen.

Nays (0)

The motion carried.

e. Line-Item Transfer

Consider approval of a line-item transfer of \$5,394.00 from 990 Contingency from Open Space, Open Space Fund to 734 Liability /TOIRMA from Open Budget, Open Space.

Trustee Melody motioned to approve and seconded by Trustee Marcin.
Roll Call Vote:
Ayes (5) Trustees Sievers, Gray, Marcin, Melody and Supervisor Steilen.
Nays (0)
The motion carried.

9. Old Business

a. 143rd Street Update

Supervisor Steilen stated the County has chosen to continue moving forward with the project. They are open to entertaining a compromise of five lanes to Parker and leaving the two lanes to Lemont Road. They did not mention installing a traffic light at Crème Road, but this is something we would like to see. Supervisor Steilen asked for any discussion.

Trustee Gray stated most of the impact would be the residences east of Parker Road, Dawn wood, Chickasaw and Oak Trail. The compromise Trustee Gray agreed with was the modified three-lane configuration.

Per Highway Commissioner Robinson he stated as someone that drives 143rd Street every day, the traffic isn't getting any lighter. Last week 143rd Street was backed up going east from Parker Road to Stadtler. The roads aren't built for the current traffic but the future traffic.

Trustee Marcin was concerned about the school on 143rd, turning left will be very hard in the mornings.

Supervisor Steilen stated when she talks to residents, they don't want it widened. Supervisor Steilen would still like to fight for the modified three lanes with a turning lane.

Will County Board member Stephen Balich spoke from the audience, stating, "whatever the Village of Homer Glen and Homer Township wants that's what he'll be fighting for." Board member Balich stated they will be installing a traffic light at Crème Road. A board can overthrow what a prior board voted on. If the future County Board decided to go west, they would have to start all over again. There is a transportation meeting in September.

Per Supervisor Steilen she would like to hear from more residents, and she would support the Village. The consensus of the Township would be the compromise of the third lane. Per board member Balich, Jim Richmond will follow our lead.

b. Civic Center

A Committee was created and going through a single audit that was triggered because of the federal funds involved. Supervisor Steilen is appealing to the grant manager to get funding for the septic system because Will County is trying to close out the grant. Supervisor Steilen has taken photos and would like to get a video uploaded to our website so residents can see the status of the Civic Center. There will be another Open Space/Civic Center Committee meeting on September 2.

c. Parade

The Village is having a parade at Heritage Park on Saturday, August 30. Trustee Sievers is working on getting a banner and giveaways for the parade.

10. New Business

a. Logo Discussion

Per Supervisor Steilen the previous Administration changed the Township logo. There is also a copy of the branding guidelines in the packets made by Mr. Gondek. There has been an expression of altering the logo as an alternate. Trustee Gray stated the only change would be to remove the roots from the tree and make them into a couple of hills. It would be easier to reproduce for cut vinyl and Apparel. We will continue to use the current logo with roots.

b. Announce General Assistance Procedures as a statement for the minutes.

Supervisor Steilen announced that Homer Township has adopted the written standards provided in the Township Supervisors of Illinois General Assistance Handbook for determining General Assistance to be provided for applicants.

General Assistance (GA) is a locally administered public assistance program mandated by Illinois State Law for qualified individuals with financial needs. General Assistance is designed to be a safety net after all other resources have been exhausted. In accordance with the adopted written standards, GA can provide monthly payments to help individuals meet their basic needs.

Interested individuals can apply to Homer Township for General Assistance. An applicant must be a resident of Homer Township, age 18 or older, and a United States Citizen or Qualified Immigrant. In addition, an applicant must meet all financial and non-financial eligibility requirements. The Township General Assistance program is designed to be a program of last resort.

Junior Porters will be using the firepit on Trantina Farm on September 25, 2025. Fencing will be installed around the silos, corn crib and the playground.

Senior events discussion, concerning Senior Expo to close to taking office for there to be time to plan for it. There may be multiple smaller events. There is a credit due from Drury Lane Theater from a trip cancelled during covid.

11. Roll Call vote to Enter Closed Session

12. Return to Open Session

13. Action Following Closed Session (if any)

None

14. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn by Trustee Sievers and seconded by Trustee Melody. Voice vote. All were in favor.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:00 pm



Tamara O'Brien, Township Clerk

Approved at the Board of Trustees Meeting dated September 8, 2025