



Homer Township Minutes

Monthly Board of Trustees Meeting
September 8th, 2025, at 7:00 P.M.
Town Hall
16047 S. Cedar Road
Homer Glen, 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, Trustees Ken Marcin, Don Melody and Chris Sievers, Highway and Attorney Jason Guisinger. Acting as Clerk, Mary Pat DeGrassi. Absent were Assessor, Carmen Maurella, Trustee Keith Gray, Clerk Tami O'Brien and Collector Sara Palermo. **Commissioner John Robinson was absent.**

A quorum was established.

5. Public Comments (must sign in)

Resident Angie Dryer had a question regarding a Public Notice at Founders Circle, Case#HG-2523-SC, September 18th, 2025, at 7:00 pm at 14240 West 151st Street, Homer Glen. Per Supervisor Steilen, it sounds like a zoning hearing from the Village Board. Supervisor Steilen stated she will look in to it after the meeting.

6. Approval of Minutes

Motion to approve August 11, 2025, Monthly Board Meeting Minutes

Trustee Melody motioned to approve the minutes of August 11, 2025, and seconded by Trustee Marcin.

Roll call Vote:

Ayes (4) Trustees Marcin, Melody, Sievers and Supervisor Steilen

Nays (0)

The motion carried

7. Reports and Communications from Elected Officials

a. Trustee Marcin

No report

b. Trustee Sievers

Trustee Sievers stated she visited Trantina Farms on Labor Day weekend. She stated there is a lot of work that needs to be done. We will continue to focus on that.

c. Trustee Melody

No Report

d. Clerk O'Brien

Absent

e. Highway Commissioner Robinson

Absent

f. Assessor Maurella

Absent

g. Collector Palermo

Absent

h. Supervisor Steilen Report

Supervisor Steilen stated there is Bingo on Tuesday, September 9 at Cross of Glory Church. It's five dollars to play Bingo, it covers lunch and ten games. If not a resident of Homer Township, the fee is ten dollars.

Also, in remembrance of the 2,979 victims who lost their lives to the terrorist attacks on September 11, now referred to as "Patriot Day." The Flags will be lowered to half-staff from sunrise to sunset that day.

Supervisor Steilen addressed the "Facebook" chatter regarding the maintenance at Trantina Farms. There are also some maintenance issues at Founders Crossing as well. When we took over on May 19, there were two maintenance people on staff, one was out on medical leave, and the other maintenance employee was working by himself until the end of the month. At the end of the month Sean Reardon retired after many years of service. Jim Shake came back and was working on his own. We were advertising and interviewing to hire another maintenance person as well as a Seasonal worker. We brought back a temporary employee. He had very limited time to work. We hired a seasonal worker that started in July, so the month of June was a very difficult month. We also hired a Maintenance Foreman that was supposed to start in July, but he was in a car accident and severely injured two days before his start date. We have hired a new Maintenance Foreman Shawn Smith.

Trantina Farm has been neglected over several years, which we knew that coming in. We started to get things in place to get the ball rolling for maintenance. The number one importance was the playground area, it looked unkept. Supervisor Steilen asked the Director of Parks from the Village of Homer Glen to come over and look at Trantina Farms, she gave some recommendations. Also, Highway Commissioner Robinson was a former certified playground safety inspector. The biggest issue was the mulch in the playground: it had been there for so long, it had decomposed so much and became dirt. It was very unsafe for falling off or jumping off the playground equipment. The plan was to remove the mulch, so we didn't fence off the area because we were getting equipment in to remove it. Unfortunately, when John Robinson went out to work, he tried two pieces of equipment, and they both got stuck. Since we didn't have the Maintenance foreman start in July, we hired Bengtson's Nursery in August to cut the grass and weed at Trantina. We did get a quote from Bentson's to remove the mulch, so they started today, September 8, and are about one third of the way done. We have mulch on order and that will be up and running soon. The equipment in the Parks, the swing sets and some bolts were missing so we are not sure when the playground will be open. Also on the grounds are two silos. We had a Structural Engineer come out and look at the silos. They are concrete and they could be a draw for someone to climb or go in; we don't want a piece of concrete falling on someone. The report on the silos came back. The silo to the east, which is the older one, must be demolished.

We are currently looking at quotes to demolish one silo, and we are keeping the other one. The one to the west needs a roof, so in the meantime we have fencing around the Silos to keep anyone from playing in that area. Also, the corn cribs the gray structure in the back is in good shape but needs a few boards

replaced and needs to be cleaned out so you will see fencing around there. You will see a lot of fencing on the grounds, but that is for safety reasons. We closed it on Sunday of Labor Day weekend once we heard there were kids playing there. That is the status as of now on Trantina Farm. Since May we've replaced two windows on the Barn, it's a Historic Building. The benches by the firepit are rotten, so those will be removed. We have an Eagle Scout Candidate working on new benches but those won't be completed for a couple of months. Also, the Porters are having a bonfire event there on September 19.

8. Action Items

a. Approval of Bills for Payment

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

Trustee Marcin motioned to approve the bills for payment for August 2025 and seconded by Trustee Sievers.

Roll Call Vote:

Ayes (4) Trustees Marcin, Melody, Sievers and Supervisor Steilen

Nays (0)

The motion carried

b. Approval to Allow the Supervisor to Enter into an Agreement to Purchase Additional Security Equipment and Services for the Buildings and Grounds at Trantina Farm for the Not-to-exceed amount of \$10,000

Trustee Sievers motioned to approve the Supervisor to enter into an Agreement to Purchase Additional Security Equipment and Services for the Buildings and Grounds at Trantina Farm for the not-to-exceed of \$10,000 and seconded by Trustee Melody.

Roll Call Vote:

Ayes (4) Trustees Marcin, Melody, Sievers and Supervisor Steilen

Nays (0)

The motion carried

c. Approval of Resolution 2025-0809 RES 1 Opposing Will County's Five Lane Expansion of 143rd and the Proposed Compromise Presented at Will County Board Public Works & Transportation Committee Meeting on September 2, 2025.

Consider for Approval of Resolution 2025-0809 RES 1 Opposing Will County's Five Lane Expansion of 143rd and the Proposed Compromise Presented at Will County Board Public Works & Transportation Committee Meeting on September 2, 2025.

Trustee Melody motioned to approve Approval of Resolution 2025-0809 RES 1 Opposing Will County's Five Lane Expansion of 143rd and the Proposed Compromise Presented at Will County Board Public Works & Transportation Committee Meeting on September 2, 2025, seconded by Trustee Marcin.

Roll Call Vote:

Ayes (4) Trustees Marcin, Melody, Sievers and Supervisor Steilen

Nays (0)

The motion carried

9. Old Business

a. Civic Center Update

In July, we had the General Contractor out to talk to us. He stated the items needed to bring the building to occupancy. The amount needed is pretty high. We do not have the funds. He said the previous administration had talked about going out for a loan. We have formed an Open Space / Civic Center Committee. They have started meeting. There is room for more on the committee. Before moving forward, we want community input. The community did not have input before the building was put up. If we were to change anything regarding the use of the building, now is the time to talk about it, as it may affect infrastructure. We do not have enough funds in our reserves to do that. We

must look at the options. What grants are available? How long will it take to get one? Do we get a loan? What do we do? So that stuff, those items, questions, and options will be presented to the public. Hopefully we'll have something at our next meeting. We are working on developing a video so that people can see the interior or see not just the interior, the exterior and what needs to be done. It looks like a finished building when you drive by it because you see a striped parking lot and you see an exterior, but you're not seeing the inner workings that aren't there. We do not want to rush into doing something. We want to do it right. We will be coming up with some kind of survey for community members, to give us some input before we go forward. And then I'm hoping that by next month we'll have that video completed. We've had to look at the grant funding, and we had to come up to find all sorts of documents to give to the grant administrators, and as well as our auditors. And so, you know all that process we've been able to uncover what the whole story is and be able to give that to the public. We are also gathering input from different contractors and other people that have businesses or ideas of what would be the most efficient or cost-effective way that we could move forward.

10. New Business

a. Access Will County Dial-a-ride

Supervisor Steilen stated when she was at the Village of Homer Glen, one of their most frequent calls was from people who needed rides, especially senior citizens and people with disabilities that need transportation that can accommodate a wheelchair. Those are not in large supply in our area. The Pace Dial a Ride system that is currently in use has limitations on where it will take people. They will take you to your medical appointment. They will take you to Silver Cross, but people want to get to other places. It will not cross the County line into Orland, or it doesn't get you to all places in Will County. Will County has a system called Access Will County Dial-a-Ride, and it's currently in effect. Access Will County Dial-a-Ride has somebody that's full-time answering calls and helping people figure out their transportation needs. Instead of a limited area around Homer Glen, they will take you anywhere within the county and portions of Cook County. The County is drafting an agreement to present to us. The individual pays a small portion of the fee, but the Township makes up the difference. Eventually, what we would be paying Pace would transfer over to Will County. Supervisor Steilen will meet with the representatives this week, and we are looking at January of 2026 as a possible start date. It may cost us more money, but if we were to implement a program like Lockport Township, which has three of their own buses for riders, it would cost more. We don't have anything. All we have is Pace. This would probably be our more cost-effective way of adding on to transportation for seniors and those with special needs. More information will be coming forth at our next meeting.

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

Meeting was adjourned 7:35 at pm.

Tamara O'Brien, Township Clerk

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