

HOMER TOWNSHIP

STATE OF ILLINOIS

Will County,
Town of Homer,

ss.

MONTHLY BUSINESS/PLANNING
MEETING

Draft March 2008

THE BOARD OF TOWN TRUSTEES met at the Town Hall (16057 S. Cedar Road, Homer Glen IL.) on March 3, 2008.

PRESENT:	Andrew Fazio	Supervisor
	Evelyn K. Walano	Town Clerk
	Stephen J. Balich	Trustee
	Mike Costa	Trustee
	Pam Meyers	Trustee
	Nancy Strack	Trustee

Township Supervisor Andrew Fazio and Evelyn K. Walano Township Clerk conducted the monthly Township Board meeting where the following official business was transacted: The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by Supervisor Fazio who asked Trustee Balich to lead the pledge to the flag. Also present were Attorney Gerald Sramek and Highway Commissioner DeVivo.

AMENDMENTS TO THE AGENDA: Trustee Meyers asked if amendments to executive session minutes needed to be discussed in executive session. **MOTION** by Trustee Meyers to add item #16 Executive session to the agenda 2nd by Trustee Costa **ROLL CALL** Trustee Balich – yes, Trustee Costa – yes, Trustee Meyers – yes, Trustee Strack – yes, Supervisor Fazio – yes. **MOTION CARRIED**

OPEN FORUM: Resident Bob Nolter of 13114 W. Hedge Apple his issue with his mailbox has not been resolved as of yet. He is unhappy that his mailbox has been replaced with a standard mailbox in a bucket of sand. Highway Commissioner DeVivo explained that the Highway Department can't replace his mailbox with the exact same one because to replace all the mailboxes that are hit with the exact same kind would become very costly. So a standard issue mailbox is what everyone gets. Once the ground thaws the Highway Department will put his mailbox in the ground but for now a bucket with sand is the best they can do.

Daryl Wiegmann of 16132 Windmill Dr. has a web site with information regarding the warehouse development which has been proposed adjacent to his property. He would like to know what the consensus is of the board regarding this development. None of the board members were for this development. He had a letter from McNaughton regarding the need for Lockport to have Gouger Rd. turned over to them. He wanted to know if the

Highway Commissioner was going to turn the road over to Lockport. The Highway Commissioner has been investigating the issue and wants to have a meeting with the residents in the area. The only benefit to giving Lockport the road is if you can't keep them from using the road at least you can force them to pay for upkeep of the road. Trustee Balich for the record does not want to give up Gouger "at any point at any time. Whether it is ware houses or houses or any type of commercial, what ever. I do not want to give up Gouger."

Tom Gangas of 16034 S. Windmill Dr. is not in favor of giving up the road and he is also not in favor of this development. He is also fearful that if Gouger Rd. is turned over to Lockport it gives them the opportunity to force annex along 159th Street including his subdivision.

Cathy Boo of 15850 W. Shady Ln. is concerned over the road where it goes over the bridge. She had heard at a Lockport Plan Commission meeting that the 163rd St. bridge is not built to support more than 5% or 10% truck traffic. If this development goes in, will the bridge be able to support the truck traffic? She asked if a bus weighs as much as a semi truck? Commissioner DeVivo said no they are lighter however he will find out about the limits of truck traffic on that road.

MOTION by Trustee Balich to have the Road Commissioner bring answers to the board for all the questions asked tonight, 2nd by Trustee Costa. Trustee Strack would like the information emailed to the board members. **ROLL CALL** Trustee Costa – yes, Trustee Meyers – yes, Trustee Strack – yes, Trustee Balich – yes, Supervisor Fazio – yes.
MOTION CARRIED

2. Allison Walk of Metcalf and Eddy had called earlier today saying that there is a moratorium on grants from Will County for the next 2 years so they will not be getting the grant for the Lockport Heights Sanitary District.

3. Attorney Dystrup was at the Plan Commission meeting.

PLAN COMMISSION REPORT: The 3 variances requested are:

1. Zoning change from R2 & C1 to C3.
2. Reduce the front yard set back from 100 ft to 49 ft.
3. Request not to have to put in parking stops.

Cathy Boo Chair of the Plan Commission handed out information from Will County Land Use case #72-15570 First Midwest Bank. Many residents raised issues regarding this plan. It was recommended to approve the zoning change and a reduction of the set back by 37 ft. and it was agreed a fence should be installed on the neighbors property to separate the residential from the commercial property. There was also some concern regarding whether or not this driveway on Boula Ave. was on the neighbor's property. Is this going to increase traffic on Boula Ave.? Is the parking lot going to shine lights into the neighbor's homes?

The residents came to the Board meeting tonight to ask for a continuance so they can review the information. They have not had enough time to review since they did not receive meeting notices until 3 days before the meeting.

MOTION by Trustee Balich to table until the next meeting, 2nd by Trustee Strack. Trustee Costa asked if waiting until the next meeting is enough time for the home owners to get the survey. The land owners felt it was. He also asked Attorney Dystrup if he could get a lighting plan to the people. Trustee Meyers asked if the information could be given to the Board before the next meeting. He will get the information to Supervisor Fazio who will pass it on to the board. **ROLL CALL** Trustee Meyers – yes, Trustee Strack – yes, Trustee Balich – yes, Trustee Costa – yes, Supervisor Fazio – yes. **MOTION CARRIED**

SUPERVISOR REPORT: 1. Mileage: Clerk Walano had brought up the mileage at the last meeting. She had said the State or somebody had changed the mileage and the board passed it. She has turned in her mileage report at \$0.50.5. The Federal rate went up to \$0.50.1. The Board has been paying \$0.49. Her report goes back to September. Trustee Strack asked if the calculations are from the office to where it is listed or from home. Clerk Walano said it was from the office. **MOTION** by Trustee Balich to table. Trustee Balich asked what was the Clerk doing going to the Town Hall, Founders or Lockport? Clerk Walano was posting agendas at Town Hall and Founders and had a meeting with the Lockport Clerk. Supervisor Fazio wanted to be clear that the Board didn't vote on \$0.505. **MOTION** withdrawn by Trustee Balich.

2. Annual Town Meeting April 8, 2008: **MOTION** by Trustee Balich to accept the agenda for the annual town meeting, 2nd by Trustee Costa **ROLL CALL** Trustee Strack – yes, Trustee Balich – yes, Trustee Costa – yes, Trustee Meyers – yes, Supervisor Fazio – yes. **MOTION CARRIED**

3. Planning Commission Meeting: They needed an interpreter for the meeting which they were able to supply. However he wanted to get one for the meeting tonight but it was too late and the person was not available. The person charged \$25.00/hour and charged for 2 hours. Trustee Strack knows of some interpreters.

4. FOIA not mentioned

5. Severe weather preparedness: The week of March 2nd – 8th is severe weather preparedness week so at 10 am on Tuesday March 4th the sirens will be going off.

TRUSTEE REPORTS:

Trustee Balich: item #3. Meetings/Township Responsibility: Trustee Balich: “Ok, um, I’m going to ah, go over to the item number 3. I want to address a problem that’s going on and it got a little bit worse today. Ah, when I came home from work I happened to put on channel 6 and I saw our Clerk on channel 6 out with a special program discussing her opinion which was already we talked about the mileage thing which was a lie. And she’s on there with a special program talking about how bad the board treats her and all this

other stuff especially taken out Supervisor Fazio as being very, very, bad. Well, the fact of the matter is that I would uh like I would like our attorney to write a letter to Lockport TV, I want 20 minutes equal time and I think the Supervisor deserves 20 minutes equal time any Trustee that wants 20 minutes equal time to ah, get on that TV and have a special presentation like our Clerk did and enumerate all the laundry list of things that she's done wrong. I hope you're getting this very clear verbatim, I know you don't like to get but I want it verbatim get it off the thing and I'm gonna make sure it's on the minutes. To start off, one of your friends sent out his email like on the blogs and everything else is all in these blogs and whatever are always a bunch a lies anyway. But just so happened that this guy did an email and he's makin a bunch a false accusations and this stuff flies around and you know I, I got the emails from my friends they send it over to me I just laugh it off but uh, once I have decided that if I ever find out somebody that comes after my name, tries to smear my character if I find out that person's name I'm gonna end up getting a lawyer and I'm gonna sue 'em. And I know it's hard for a public official to sue another person for slandering their name but dog gone it I'm not gonna allow people to make up lies. The email states and I'm not gonna say who wrote it but the email states that our finance committee is incompetent, well we don't even have a finance committee. I have the emails with me, it's one of your friends, alright then the email goes on to say that I'm incompetent because I micro-manage the highway department and the Clerk's office. Now, I have never micro-managed the highway department or the Clerk's office. I've always stuck up for what I felt was stickin up for the people that elected me. In our book it says taxpayers expect and deserve stringent financial accounting of their tax dollars and spending with approved budgets and guidelines. By auditing township bills trustees provide a mechanism for fiscal checks and balances that eliminates misappropriation of funds, spending abuses, abuses, and potential fraud. Well, dog gone it Evelyn, you haven't been to work for how long. You don't give our, our minutes on time. Nothin's been done correct. And you have the audacity to get on the TV and start talking about the board is a hostile environment to you. I read last, last month, I read letters from everybody that works there and everybody said the same thing, there's no hostile environment, you're the problem. The assessor said you're the problem. The two people that work there said you're the problem. And I watched that program tonight it really, really got me mad. Then, I'm micro-managing right? On Jan, this is a letter from Nance Shultz-Voots to Evelyn and Bud Fazio, our Supervisor. I'm only gonna read a part of it. "On January 17, 2008, Evelyn called and I called Terri into the office. Evelyn said she hired two election judges to conduct early voting at the township. I said that's not acceptable and told her to call those judges and to tell them they can no longer work there. Evelyn called back in about five minutes later stating that she only had a few voters and she felt it was a waste of her time. You guys get that? You got that in the minutes, a waste of her time to be there and wanted to go back to the 8:30 to 11:30 hours. Now am I micro-managing when I demand a little bit of ethics and morality and worry about the people. Is that micro-manage? I say it's not so am I incompetent because I demand that, that you start doing your job the right way? You get on, on the TV set and you really nailed everybody with a bunch of lies and I'm pissed off about it. You should be ashamed of yourself. It's a waste of your time to be there for voting cause only a few people showed up. I hope everybody here in the room knows what she said. It's a waste of her time. Now, I'm just like, can't believe it. So

right now I'd like to make a motion that ah, Jerry get a hold of Lockport Television and demand that I personally, and anybody else on this board, matter a fact before I get the motion would you like to be on, on that thing for 20 minutes like Evelyn?" Supervisor Fazio, "I would like to see this thing, from what I, from what I under, from what I understand most of it was lies". Trustee Balich, "It was all lies". Supervisor Fazio, "And ah, and so, the thing that, that kinda disturbs me ah you know I guess we're starting to live in a world where if you know the right people, you can do the right things, I don't see this TV guy here tonight. Uh, um I'd received numerous calls ah, on the last couple shows where, the one show, every time uh, Miss Walano spoke and it was kind of negative ah, for her, the sound disappeared. Everybody wanted to know what happened to the sound. And the next time, he didn't even put it on. It, it got screwed up or something and he had some excuse that didn't get on. Now all the sudden I'm hearing she spoke, was it tonight you spoke? Is that where you were before you came to this meeting?" Clerk Walano, "no" Trustee Balich, "This has been, Bud, this has been out for awhile. I just happened to catch it tonight and that's what ..." Supervisor Fazio: "Let me carry, let me carry this a step further because you know, I'm sick and tired. I, I think this girl has a problem and when I say problem, I think she has a psychological problem and, but I am sick and tired of the things that we have to put up with. She insists that she goes to work. She hasn't been in that office, she does not work. Her reason is that she's being abused. Nobody abuses her, if anything happens, she abuses everybody else. I didn't want to go into this tonight but we're here. Ah, I'm at a point now that if she, when I hear this tape, ah, I'm prepared to go to court, ok, if this tape, if this tape is what I, what I think it is and what I've been told that it is, ah, I'll do whatever I have to do. And, ah, ah because I'm tired of people doing this to everybody. It seems like two things are happening, people do anything they wanna do until somebody sues them and puts a stop to it, uh, or they say anything they want to about people. There's people their whole lives get ruined because people like Miss Walano go out and say things, ah, and manipulate people to get them to do things like that and that happens so, you know, after I see this tape ah, believe me, I'll do whatever it takes and, and as ah, you know, but, this thing I won't be using our, our attorney, I'll have my own attorney and ah, and believe me she won't be using our attorney either, she'll have to have her own attorney, and ah, I'm prepared to do that. If this says what I've been told that it says." Trustee Balich: "Uh, I've watched it and, and what I was taken back really back cause it was, nothing on that thing that she said was true, everything was a malicious lie." Supervisor Fazio, "Ok," Trustee Balich: "You writing that down? Cause I want to get in the minutes." Supervisor Fazio "Let's, let's go on with your report." Trustee Balich "Yes?" "This may be against the rules but could I have your names around the board"? "Trustee Balich" "Mike Costa" "Pam Meyers" "Nancy Strack" "Bud Fazio" "Evelyn Walano" "Mike DeVivo" "Gerald Sramek" "Thank you very much. I'm Sharon Wilhelmi. I am the um, election judge that served in, in the office, that was hired, and I worked there. Pardon me, I'm a little nervous right now. Um, it, it was an experience for me. It really wasn't very pleasant. There was a lot of tension in the office. Um, I really don't know what to say, but it, it wasn't" audience member "Just relax." Mrs. Wilhelmi, "Basically I felt it was like a lot of little children fighting back and forth and I'm an adult woman, I'm 67 years old, I mean, I've been around. I was very, very disappointed with my elected officials. I have lived in Homer Township since 1986. That basically is my statement".

Supervisor Fazio “Ok, anything else Steve?” Trustee Balich, “Yeah, ok, ah, I would withdraw that motion in light of Supervisor Fazio taking the lead on this situation. But, I, want to make it real clear, that I’m not gonna allow my name to be trampled down at any time and anybody that does that, they’ve got a problem because you know enough’s enough and everyone on this board when they see that thing you’re gonna know what I’m talking about. Your name is going down the drain too.”

1. & 2: Annual Softball Tournament, Insurance cost: The softball tournament will be August 9th, 2008. It will be held in conjunction with HAC because they have the insurance needed if someone gets hurt. They will be asking for the normal \$500.00 plus money for the insurance rider. These costs will be given at the next meeting.

Trustee Costa: 1. Culver Park Upgrade: plans were handed out. Concept plan B was chosen, however the tire swing was taken out and replaced with parallel bars. The committee felt since applying for a grant takes so long they would like to pay for the park ourselves. The cost is estimated to be \$63,000 not including the cost of removing the old equipment. They are hoping to get volunteers to help remove the old equipment. Possibly the Highway Department could help.

2. Complex Playground Planning: Concept B, this area would be for 7 year olds and younger and in a safe area for the youngsters to play while their older brothers and sisters are playing ball. Cost is estimated at \$23,700. Both parks combined plus costs for estimates and bid preparation are estimated at \$96,000. **MOTION** by Trustee Balich to go out to bid on each project individually 2nd by Trustee Meyers, Trustee Meyers suggested that if there is to be a spring thing by the fire truck that it look like a Dalmatian dog. **ROLL CALL** Trustee Balich – yes, Trustee Costa – yes, Trustee Meyers – yes, Trustee Strack – yes, Supervisor Fazio – yes. **MOTION CARRIED**

3. Purdy and Paul property lease contracts: bids have been submitted: Attorney Sramek wanted to be sure the leases have the correct information as to the areas that will be farmed, particularly the Paul property where the 10 acres have been seeded with grass seed. The area to be farmed is basically from the fire house east and south to the trees. Sam Buck submitted a price to farm 76 acres of the Purdy property for \$6460.00/year and Richardson submitted a price to lease 6.06 acres of the Purdy property for \$600.00/year Jeff Haas submitted a price to farm 50 acres of the Welter property for \$2,000/ year. **MOTION** by Trustee Balich to accept the bids 2nd by Trustee Strack **ROLL CALL** Trustee Costa – yes, Trustee Meyers – yes, Trustee Strack – yes, Trustee Balich – yes, Supervisor Fazio – yes. **MOTION CARRIED**

4. HAC & 5. Stallions field projects: HAC is still looking at adding a score board. They would like to work on the Pony field in the fall. Baseball asked if the spring start up could be done in March. Supervisor Fazio didn’t think that would be possible. June 21st is Championship night. Trophies will be given out and there will be a movie for families to watch. HAC has agreed to pay \$900.00 for the start up and winterization fees for the baseball fields. Football hasn’t met yet to discuss paying these fees. Since the sports groups rely heavily on sponsorships they asked if they could put sponsors advertisements

on the backstops. Also, HAC would like to add a wind screen to the ball field at Culver Park.

Supervisor Fazio said there is a problem at Morris Park where the culvert caved in last year and there is not enough money to fix it. He is not sure it will hold up in the spring rains.

Trustee Meyers: Nothing to vote on. There are new members so they are reeducating and planning so there is nothing new at this time.

Trustee Strack: Nothing

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: MOTION by Trustee Balich to table all minutes and bills except contractual 2nd by Trustee Costa **ROLL CALL** Trustee Meyers – yes, Trustee Strack – yes, Trustee Balich – yes, Trustee Costa – yes, Supervisor Fazio – yes. **MOTION CARRIED**

APPROVAL OF FEBRUARY BILLS PAYABLE IN MARCH: See above motion

Resolution of Previous Months Bills: None

HIGHWAY COMMISSIONERS REPORT: The salt bin is almost empty. He is trying to empty it completely so it can be cleaned and maintained. The Highway department will probably order 3 new trucks this year. A small one ton truck, a wing truck and a bucket truck. The paving program will be coming up soon. There is a possibility of turn lanes on 151st Street at Parker Rd. but it may be cost prohibitive. We may do some engineering this year and do the work next year. He was looking onto fixing the roads in Lockport Heights but he may have to look at that again since the Sanitary District won't be doing their work there first. If the board would like he can email the paving list once it is solidified.

ASSESSOR REPORT: Supervisor Fazio said she had taken a short trip and ended up in the hospital when she returned home.

CLERKS REPORT: 1. Clerk asked about the minute books requested at the last meeting. Trustee Strack said they had been ordered and should be delivered in a couple of weeks. Clerk Walano stated that she will bring the information regarding the mileage rates. Trustee Balich said the Clerk insinuated at the meeting and on the tape that Bud violated the law. The Clerks believes the board did vote to increase the rate higher than the state rate. For the record I'd like to state that although having had various medical issues over the past couple of months. I have been doing my job whether at the office or at home. I was in the office on Wednesday and Thursday, there was no list of bills available until Friday at which time I did start on them but had to leave and finished on Saturday. The letter from the Will County Clerk is in the record for last month. Trustee Balich said he asked that it be put in verbatim. Supervisor Fazio had FIOA on the agenda under Supervisor's report but he said nothing about it. That FOIA was put in the Clerks

box. The gentleman who came in was an attorney and was rather rambunctious to get figures and rules from the sports things. Supervisor Fazio stated that he had to take care of the FIOA because the Clerk is not in the office. However he never tried to contact the Clerk to notify her that a FOIA had been filed. He said the Clerk was lying again because they were almost in violation in posting the agenda for the Plan Commission. However Clerk Walano did post the Plan Commission agenda.

Old Business: none

New Business: none

MOTION to go into executive session by Trustee Balich, it was decided the executive session was not needed. Motion withdrawn.

MOTION to adjourn by Trustee Balich 2nd by Trustee Costa. **ROLL CALL** Trustee Strack – yes, Trustee Balich – yes, Trustee Costa – yes, Trustee Meyers – yes, Supervisor Fazio –yes **MOTION CARRIED.** Meeting adjourned 9:40 pm

Respectfully submitted

Evelyn K. Walano
Homer Township Clerk