

# HOMER TOWNSHIP

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STATE OF ILLINOIS

Will County,  
Town of Homer,

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MONTHLY BUSINESS/PLANNING  
MEETING

Accepted June 2, 2008

**THE BOARD OF TOWN TRUSTEES** met at the Town Hall (16057 S. Cedar Road, Homer Glen IL.) on May 5, 2008.

<b>PRESENT:</b>	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 7:05 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:** none

**OPEN FORUM:** 1. Residents: Denise Clements of 16953 Mohican Dr. Lockport.  
**Homer Township Annual Meeting**

On April 8, 2008 the annual meeting for Homer Township was held. Supervisor Fazio filed the annual report and it was read by the Township Clerk. I was in attendance and had 2 pages of questions that I sought answers to. I asked an initial question that I directed to Supervisor Fazio regarding 2 accounts that had been opened and closed at First Community Bank within the year. Supervisor Fazio responded to the question by indicating that he was attending the meeting as a citizen and not as the Supervisor and therefore would not answer my question. He stated that he lacked the information needed to respond to the question. I asked where I should seek the answers to the questions that I had and he stated that I should bring them to the next board meeting. While I am happy to follow his process, I found it disturbing that the Supervisor, who compiled the report, was not willing to respond to a general question about 2 bank accounts. It was not a question that required details in order to formulate a response. If you were the head of an organization and had opened bank accounts, you would definitely know the history of why they were opened, under whose authority, why they were closed and where the funds were dispersed. The total sum of the funds was \$150,000.

A few minutes following this discussion, he finally did respond to the question. (In my opinion perhaps even Supervisor Fazio found his lack of a response inappropriate, as he would most typically know the answer to the question, and would most likely not be attending the meeting merely as a citizen) Supervisor Fazio stated that he went to the bank to seek a higher interest rate. He further stated that he did not have the permission of the board. When the board found out, they directed him to close the account. There was some type of bank penalty associated with their action and he alleges the money went back into the account of origin. My concern is that we have a situation that allowed for Supervisor Fazio to move money independently without the knowledge and approval of the Board. Then the Board seems react to the discovery and somewhat impulsively directs the funds back to their origination account. If there was a better interest rate to be had, why not leave the money in the new account at that point? This is a situation that we as citizens and taxpayers should be very concerned over. In my opinion, the Supervisor's ability to move large amounts of taxpayer dollars without the approval of the Board is a very serious breach of what should be an established protocol.

Trustee Balich, was this situation turned over to the State's Attorney's Office for review as you have done with other events that you have deemed inappropriate? Trustee Balich, did you ask for the resignation of Supervisor Fazio in regards to this occurrence?

The Supervisor's Report also contained miscellaneous income of approximately \$519482.63 and miscellaneous expense of approximately \$401328.28. These substantial miscellaneous revenues and expenses require further clarification. So I am here tonight to again request that the Supervisor clarify the miscellaneous revenue and expense that is indicated in the Annual Township Report that he compiled. Since Supervisor Fazio was asked for this clarification at the Annual Town Meeting on April 8, hopefully Supervisor Fazio will be able to clarify the large amount of miscellaneous monies tonight. If not, please inform the citizens of Homer Township in what forum you will respond to these questions and concerns.

I respectfully request that this written concern and letter be entered into the official record of the meeting tonight.

Denise Clements, Homer Township

**PLAN COMMISSION REPORT:** No report

**SUPERVISOR REPORT:** 1. Resolution Historical Buildings: Resolution #HT080407 in support of selecting Fiddymont Creek as a site for the Will County Historical Society to move Historical Buildings to. **MOTION** by Trustee Meyers to accept resolution #HT080407, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Trustee Strack. **ROLL CALL** Trustee Balich – yes, Trustee Costa – yes, Trustee Meyers – yes, Trustee Strack – yes, Supervisor Fazio – yes. **MOTION CARRIED**

2. Early and absentee voting: Supervisor Fazio asked if the Clerk would be in the office for early/absentee voting. The Clerk asked if any of the secretaries would be sworn in for voting and if the Clerks computer would be a functioning.

3. Office: He would like to start interviewing for a part time person in the office

4. Annual Town meeting: It was voted on by the electorate at the annual town meeting to transfer \$10,000 from the Town fund to the Park fund. The Attorney will review the statutes as to whether or not this can be done and bring his finding back to the Board.

5. Grant: Supervisor Fazio has been looking into a spillway grant for \$50,000 to repair the outflow at Morris Park that has been collapsing since last year. In order to even apply for the grant, engineering would have to be done at a cost to the Township.

6. Contracts signed: The contracts for the playgrounds were signed including an intergovernmental agreement with the Highway Department for removal of the old playground at Culver Park.

#### **TRUSTEE REPORTS :**

**Trustee Balich:** 1. Phone batteries: the batteries on the Trustee's phone are going bad. Could the Township purchase new batteries? Clerk Walano will look into the cost of new batteries compared to upgrading the phones.

2. Softball Tournament: There will be no cost for insurance but it won't cover the players so people will have to sign waivers. The softball tournament will be August 9, 2008

**MOTION** by Trustee Balich for \$500.00 for prize money and \$200.00 for tables and chairs, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Trustee Costa. **ROLL CALL** Trustee Costa – yes, Trustee Meyers – yes, Trustee Strack – yes, Trustee Balich – yes, Supervisor Fazio – yes. **MOTION**

#### **CARRIED**

3. Healing Garden: The pavers are in at the healing garden and the trees are ready to plant but there is going to be an aerator put in the pond and it would be helpful to have a pump that could plug into the electrical for the aerator and be used to water the trees.

Supervisor Fazio says the Township has such a pump already so they can go ahead and plant the trees.

**Trustee Costa:** 1. Park construction update: Heath Wright took pictures of a Homer Township fire truck so the fire truck at the complex play ground can look like a Homer Township fire truck. The complex playground should be done by June 21 and the Culver playground should be done by June 28. Both should be done in time for the fest.

2. The intergovernmental agreement with the Highway department to remove the old playground at Culver Park has been signed.

3. Parade update: Trustee Costa asked Supervisor Fazio if the contract had been signed with the band. Supervisor Fazio hadn't seen it so Trustee Costa will contact the band again.

4. Sports Groups: HAC will be getting some prices to get sprinkler lines run on the Pony field. They would like to run a line to tie into the well by the football field.

**Trustee Meyers :** 1. Trantina Farm development progress: Austin Welter Barn has passed Will County and has received an occupancy permit. The Grand opening is tentatively set for August or September. They will be looking for food vendors and crafters etc.

Well upgrades: They will need a building permit from Will County. They are working to get the well done while the rental house is vacant.

2. Trantina Farm security: Trenching is complete. The security company was out to review the site and an updated proposal is included. **MOTION** by Trustee Costa to spend up to \$2000.00 for the alarm system for the barn & garage as determined by the estimate from D & I Electronics dated May 5, 2008, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Trustee Balich. **ROLL CALL** Trustee Meyers – yes, Trustee Strack – yes, Trustee Balich – yes, Trustee Costa – yes, Supervisor Fazio – yes. **MOTION CARRIED**

3. Trantina Farm Seeding: Fuerte has fertilized and seeded some areas and will finish seeding in a couple of weeks. We are waiting to go thru the punch list before paying off the balance owed Fuerte.

4. Waiting for approval from Fuerte to open the Dog Park. They want to be sure the grass will take.

**Trustee Strack:** Nothing

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES: MOTION** by Trustee Meyers to release January 9, 2006, February 6, 2006, March 6, 2006, April 10, 2006 & June 5, 2006 executive session 2<sup>nd</sup> by Trustee Strack. **ROLL CALL** Trustee Strack – yes, Trustee Balich – yes, Trustee Costa – yes, Trustee Meyers – yes, Supervisor Fazio – yes. **MOTION CARRIED**

December 7, 2006 executive session minutes have not been distributed to the Board via the attorney. Trustee Meyers would like to have these minutes made available to the Board.

**MOTION** by Trustee Meyers to accept/not to release February 4, 2008 executive session minutes 2<sup>nd</sup> by Trustee Costa. **ROLL CALL** Trustee Balich – yes, Trustee Costa – yes, Trustee Meyers – yes, Trustee Strack – yes, Supervisor Fazio – yes. **MOTION CARRIED**

**MOTION** by Trustee Meyers to table Feb. 21, 2008 executive session minutes until the second half to the meeting is released by the attorney for Board review 2<sup>nd</sup> by Trustee Costa. **ROLL CALL** Trustee Costa – yes, Trustee Meyers – yes, Trustee Strack – yes, Trustee Balich – yes, Supervisor Fazio – yes. **MOTION CARRIED**

**MOTION** by Trustee Meyers to accept March 3, 2008 regular session minutes, dies for lack of a second 2<sup>nd</sup>. **MOTION** by Trustee Costa to table March 3, 2008 2<sup>nd</sup> by Trustee Strack. Discussion, **ROLL CALL** Trustee Meyers – yes, Trustee Strack – yes, Trustee Balich – yes, Trustee Costa – yes, Supervisor Fazio – yes. **MOTION CARRIED**

**MOTION** by Trustee Meyers to accept April 7, 2008 regular board meeting minutes as amended 2<sup>nd</sup> by Trustee Costa. Discussion, **ROLL CALL** Trustee Strack – yes, Trustee Balich – yes, Trustee Costa – yes, Trustee Meyers – yes, Supervisor Fazio – no. **MOTION CARRIED**

**APPROVAL OF APRIL BILLS PAYABLE IN MAY: MOTION** by Trustee Balich to approve April bills 2<sup>nd</sup> by Trustee Costa. Discussion, Open Space back house electric bill \$315.39 & Park garage Nicor bill for \$4,992.73 are very high. Road & Bridge add what month the MFT deposit is for. Open space revenues from farm lease should be put in open space fund not the town fund. **ROLL CALL** Trustee Balich – yes, Trustee Costa – yes, Trustee Meyers – yes, Trustee Strack – yes, Supervisor Fazio – yes. **MOTION CARRIED**

**Resolution of Previous Months Bills:** None

**HIGHWAY COMMISSIONERS REPORT:** The fuel will have to be put out for bid again because of the flex rate.

Highway Commissioner presented his budget to the Board and asked if there is a date to approve the tentative budget? Attorney Sramek stated there would need to be 2 special meetings, one to approve the tentative budget for posting and one for final approval.

The road paving bid will be opened on Tuesday May 13 at 11 am.

**ASSESSOR REPORT:** nothing

**CLERKS REPORT:** 1.Clerks computer is still not fixed.

2. A list of missing items was handed out to the Board. Clerk asked for keys for the new posting boxes. Also requested that the [HomerClerk@comcast.net](mailto:HomerClerk@comcast.net) be the only email put on the website for the Clerk since only the Supervisor and his staff have access to the Homertown email address. Asked the Supervisor what all of the interest adjustments were for on the list of bills.

**Old Business:** none

**New Business:** Trustee Costa stated that there will be information in the newspaper regarding a new roof for TLC. Nelson Brothers are supplying the labor, more information regarding donations will be in the newspaper.

**MOTION** to adjourn by Trustee Balich 2<sup>nd</sup> by Trustee Meyers. **ROLL CALL** Trustee Balich – yes, Trustee Costa – yes, Trustee Meyers – yes, Trustee Strack – yes, Supervisor Fazio – yes. **MOTION CARRIED**

Meeting adjourned 9:50 pm

Respectfully submitted

Evelyn K. Walano  
Homer Township Clerk