

Village of Homer
Regular meeting of Trustees
January 9, 2023
7:00pm

Those present: Trustees: Guy James, Skip James, Ray Ryerson, Mike Johnson, Herb Lacey, and John Dodd, Mayor/Board President, Jim White, Clerk, Sharon Jeffers, Treasurer, Cindy Pruitt, Chief of Police, John Rouse, Maintenance/Water, Ryan Byerley, Sewer, Tom Parrish, Zoning, Dave Hermes, Attorney, Marc Miller, Farnsworth Engineers, Kevin Hannel, and Shane Niedzwecki, Guests, Roger Faulkner, Cheryl and Phil Brown, Christine Cunningham, Ted Hartke, James Lacey, and Adam Young.

Public Comment: Ted Hartke voiced his concerns with the proposed solar farm north east of the Village. He informed the board that the Village has a ½ mile jurisdiction that can not be taken away. He also informed them that the sound decibel of the inverters is high and suggests we ask for at least a minimum of 800 feet distance from all buildings. We need to ask what type of panels to confirm no hazardous materials.

Phil Brown stated that he has concerns with the decision the board made to allow a liquor license for gaming machines with a new food establishment. He feels that more gaming machines would hurt his business.

Adam Young owns home east of the Village and asks if the Village would help him in fighting the proposed solar farm that will be right behind his property.

James Lacey stated he attended the Champaign County Zoning Hearing in regards to the solar farm and states that the Zoning board stated they only take written complaints. Phone calls are not taken to the board.

Board Comments: Herb Lacey told Ted Harke that he is taking his comments very seriously.

Minutes: Mike Johnson motioned to approve regular, Recreation, and Library minutes as presented, seconded by Ray Ryerson, all in favor, motion approved.

Village Bills: Ray Ryerson motioned to pay Village bills as presented, seconded by Skip James, roll call vote: Guy James, yes, Skip James, yes, Ray Ryerson, yes, Mike Johnson, yes, Herb Lacey, yes, and John Dodd, yes, motion approved.

Reports: Mike Johnson motioned to approve monthly reports as presented, seconded by Ray Ryerson, all in favor, motion approved.

Mayor White informed the board that we will not be voting on the RFP's until next meeting.

Water Treatment Plant engineering: Mike Johnson motioned to authorize Farnsworth Engineering to submit contract for Water treatment plant and water main upgrade engineering for ion exchange version of the plant, Ray Ryerson seconded the motion, roll call vote: Guy James, yes, Skip James, yes, Ray Ryerson, yes, Mike Johnson, yes, Herb Lacey, yes, and John Dodd, yes, motion approved.

Straw poll vote was taken to authorize Mayor Jim White to negotiate with land owner to purchase land for water treatment plant, Guy James, yes, Skip James, yes, Ray Ryerson, yes, Mike Johnson, yes, Herb Lacey, yes, and John Dodd, yes.

Straw poll vote was taken to authorize Mayor Jim White to start finance talks to fund engineering costs, Guy James, yes, Skip James, yes, Ray Ryerson, yes, Mike Johnson, yes, Herb Lacey, yes, and John Dodd, yes.

Solar farm: Guy James motioned to rescind any prior support of a solar farm adjacent to the Village of Homer, confirm the Village's opposition to it, and provide for a special meeting on January 23, 2023 at 6:00pm for purpose of discussing a resolution detailing Village concerns, seconded by Mike Johnson, roll call vote: Guy James, yes, Skip James, yes, Ray Ryerson, yes, Mike Johnson, yes, Herb Lacey, yes, and John Dodd, yes, motion approved.

- Initial concerns to address, noise, set backs, ½ mile jurisdiction, and type of panels.

Cemetery walk: Failed due to no motion

TIF Resolution: Mike Johnson motioned to pass Resolution 010923R, in favor of TIF Districts as they stand, seconded by Skip James, roll call vote: Guy James, abstain, Skip James, yes, Ray Ryerson, abstain, Mike Johnson, yes, Herb Lacey, yes, John Dodd, yes, and Jim White, yes, motion approved.

Adjourn: Ray Ryerson motioned to adjourn, seconded by Mike Johnson, all in favor, motion approved.
Adjourn: 8:34pm

Posted: Sharon Jeffers, Village Clerk

Village of Homer
Special Meeting
January 23, 2023
6:00pm
Village Hall, 500 E Second St, Homer, IL 61849

Those present: Village Trustees: John Dodd, Herb Lacey, Ray Ryerson, Skip James, Guy James, and Mike Johnson, Village Mayor/Board President, Jim White, Village Clerk, Sharon Jeffers, Village Attorney, Marc Miller, Guests, Roger Faulkner, Keith Rohl, Adam Young, Jim Lacey, Ted Hartke, and Sue and Tom Smith.

Public Comment: Keith Rohl spoke for the Drainage District, they received a letter in regards to the solar farm. He stated that they have no drainage ditches in that area. We informed him that they said they will not put the farm over the Villages current tile.

Roger Faulker stated that he researched the company and couldn't find any information on them. He asked what recourse the Village has if the inverters are louder then they have said.

Adam Young doesn't want to hear the inverters for the next 30 years.

Jim White said there are concerns with the poles that will be placed next to the Village property.

We might be able to request a zoning permit for the poles.

Mike Johnson motioned to pass Resolution 2023 R 2 opposing the proposed Solar Farm North and North East of the Village and Village Hall property, seconded by Skip James, roll call vote: Skip James, yes, Ray Ryerson, yes, Guy James, yes, Mike Johnson, yes, Herb Lacey, yes, and John Dodd, yes, motion approved.

If the board feels like they would add more requests, a new resolution can be written.

Ted Hartke passed out noise studies to the board and guests.

Adjourn: Ray Ryerson motioned to adjourn, seconded by Guy James, all in favor, motion approved.

Adjourn 7:03pm

Posted: Sharon Jeffers, Village Clerk

Homer Recreation Board
Village Hall
Tuesday, Jan. 10, 2023

Members present: Sharon Jeffers, Kim Dalle, Tammy Boen, Perry Dable, and Case Phillips

Called to order: 6:06pm

Forming a preliminary budget to submit to the Homer Village Board for approval

- tonight's group looked at previous year's expenses and revenues presented by Sharon to begin an outline for this year's budget
- July's Freedom & Music Festival carries most of the needed budget in both incoming and outgoing funds. \$22k was set aside for this year's estimated needs. Fireworks for the same event is the next highest expense and relies heavily on donations to reach the estimated costs for this year of \$13.5k. Christmas in Homer sits at \$500 and allocated reward money for community contests is \$300. A separate line item listed as Community Programs contains only the Village Halloween party at this time and \$200 has been set aside for that event.
- This estimated budget takes into consideration not only allocated property tax monies from the Parks and Recreation Fund but also projected sponsors, fundraising and donations that are anticipated to be able to fully fund these line items

Freedom & Music Festival

- Discussed band lineup and working to secure commitments from chosen headliners to begin advertising efforts. Looking to add 2 more bands to the lineup since the music portion of the festival will continue this year up to the start of the fireworks instead of ending at 7:00pm
- Board is asking for suggestions of bands that would be available on the 4th and possibly the 3rd
- Sharon has begun the process of sending out ask letters to local businesses and handed copies to the members to hand out to points of contact as well
- Vendor applications are being accepted and members are asked to reach out to crowd favorites to have them fill out an application for the event or email/call Sharon for more details

New Business

- Members please reach out to potential sponsors and give them an ask letter, let group know who you've talked to or secured

- Members please share the vendor application forms and tag businesses on Facebook to get the word out
- Members please like/share Facebook posts about the festival to drum up attention. An event page will be created closer to July as details of the festival are confirmed and that can be shared as well

Adjourned: 6:55pm

Next meeting: Tuesday Feb. 7 @ 6:30pm at Village Hall

**Homer Recreation Board
Village Hall
Tuesday, Feb. 7, 2023**

Members Present: Sharon Jeffers, Tammy Boen, and Case Phillips with Rachel Demark on speaker phone from home

Called to order: 6:30pm

Freedom & Music Festival

Donors & Sponsorships

- Sharon has mailed or emailed most of the original potential sponsors from last year's list. She will be working on following up with those businesses along with new names she collects
- Sharon is working on specific sponsors to cover the band fees for headliners Rock Posse & X-Krush as they have the highest fees but pull in a large crowd
- Sharon will email group the current working list of potential sponsors so that we all can work together on fundraising

Vendors & Food Trucks

- Pop's Smokehouse Kettle Corn, Juanitos Tacos, and Bud's BBQ have committed. Several others have been contacted and we need to follow up with.
- Craft Vendors & Merchants have started inquiring and we're working on follow ups to receive completed applications. The group is asked to help get the word out by sharing/tagging Facebook posts and posting/handing out the application

Bingo

- Group confirmed we'd like to hold bingo in the hall during the festival to allow for guests to cool off and be a fundraising source for fireworks
- Considering selling drinks/snacks as well since it would be far enough away from other vendors
- Sharon is confirming state licensing requirements and fees to host bingo. There are different fees for however many days bingo would be played, so board is considering offering it possibly monthly as a continuous fundraiser and community activity
- Sharon is looking for the village's bingo equipment and supplies, and Case will price out replacement items should anything be missing or damaged

Bands

- Rock Posse and X-Krush confirmed as headliners for July 3, wanting to add one more smaller group to open for them
- A couple previous artists are interested in coming back, they are looking at their schedules and we will follow up. We need to think of one or two more bands to invite and add to lineup to fill out additional time leading up to fireworks.

- Perry Dable is going to reach out to Turning Stones to see if they can be July 4th's headliner if their fees are within budget

Misc

- Discussed if wrestling is an option this year but will need to find out if they're still active and if we can secure a tent for shade
- Brainstormed ideas for family/kid friendly activities such as having a balloon artist for a set time and confirmed we'd like to look further into building a Putt-Putt course

New Business/To Do

- Get approval to apply for Bingo license
- Rent/secure ice machine
- Work on collecting as many sponsors as possible before next meeting
- Keep inviting vendors to fill out application
- More ideas for fundraising games such as Putt-Putt

Next meeting: Tuesday March 7 @ 6:30pm

Adjourned: 7:35pm

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Adjourned: 7:35pm

Homer Community Library Board Meeting Minutes

December 13, 2022

Present: Mary Kay Anderson, Jill Weathers, Troy Schiff, Joey Rice, Becci Powers, Chantelle Thompson, Christine Cunningham Library director.

Absent: Chris Thompson, Alice Kirby assistant librarian.

Open: The meeting was called to order by Jill Weathers, president, at 7:02 pm.

No public comment

Friends of the Library noted that the November local author book fair was attended by around 100 people. It went well, with the High School FFA hosting games for the kids. The Friends purchased some of the local authors' and illustrators' books for the library. The next meeting will be in January.

Minutes: Becci moved that we approve the November 8, minutes as read. Troy seconded. Motion passed.

Treasurer's Report: We have a grand total of \$126,879.97. We had a loss of \$1761.69 this month. The board generally agreed to put the 90 day CD into a long term CD with higher interest.

Bills: Joey moved to pay the Visa Debit Bills of \$180.19. Chantelle seconded. Motion passed.

Other bills to note: Illinois Department of Revenue \$95.54.

Becci moved to approve the Baker and Taylor bill of \$383.95, Troy seconded, Motion passed.

Chantelle moved to reimburse June Wingler \$41.00 for 2x4's to repair shelf backs. Joe seconded. Motion passed.

Librarian's Report: Becci and Christine attended an online IHLS member seminar.

Christine is planning to send a survey to teens to determine how to best serve teens.

The Homer Historical Society agreed to fund ancestry.com for a year.

Christine will be on vacation Dec. 21 to Jan. 4. Her hours are covered.

OLD BUSINESS:

Per Capita: Christine filled out the per capita forms. She was able to point out what we are doing in some of the items that before we had said we were too small, or did not have the funds. The board is pleased with the way we are moving forward.

Employee Evaluation Committee: We rated Christine all 5's. Jill noted that she would like Christine to be able to go to a Woman's leadership conference. Christine rated Alice all 5's and noted she is a good asset to the library. Chantelle continues to work on the forms.

New Trustee ideas: Casey Phillips may be interested in being on the board. Mary Kay continues to communicate with Pam about the library.

NEW BUSINESS:

Holiday hours: Saturday Dec. 24th the library is closed, and New Year's Eve, however Alice might do a ball drop event at noon for kids on Dec. 31. Alice will be paid the 2 Saturdays that the library will be closed.

Alice might show a movie at noon each day of the break.

End of Year Employee Compensation: Joey moved to go into closed session. Becci seconded. Motion passed. Chantelle moved to enter open session. Joey seconded. Motion passed.

Joey moved that the end of year employee compensation be as follows:

Christine \$150

Alice \$100

June \$50

Troy seconded. Motion passed.

Adjourn: Joey moved to adjourn at 7:52 pm. Troy seconded. Motion passed.