

VILLAGE OF HOMEWOOD
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING
TUESDAY, JANUARY 25, 2011
VILLAGE HALL BOARD ROOM

CALL TO ORDER: Village President Richard Hofeld called the meeting to order at 7:32 p.m. There were twenty-four people in the audience and one member of the press in attendance.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Village President Hofeld led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL: Village Clerk Gayle Campbell recorded the Roll Call. Those present and responding were Trustees Glenn Tienstra, Barbara Dawkins, Joe Casella, Anne Colton, Ray Robertson, and Village President Richard Hofeld. Trustee Tom Kataras was absent.

INTRODUCTION OF STAFF: Village President Hofeld introduced the present staff members: Village Manager Mark Franz, Village Attorney Christopher Cummings, Police Chief Larry Burnson, Fire Chief Bob Grabowski, Director of Finance Dennis Bubenik, and Director of Public Works John Schaefer.

MINUTES: A motion was made by Trustee Colton, seconded by Trustee Casella to approve the minutes of the Board of Trustees Regular Meeting held on Tuesday, January 11, 2011. **Roll Call: AYES: Trustees, Dawkins, Casella, Colton and Robertson. NAYS: None. ABSTAIN: Trustee Tienstra. ABSENT: Trustee Kataras. Motion carried.**

CLAIMS LIST: A motion was made by Trustee Robertson, seconded by Trustee Colton, to approve the Claims List of Tuesday, January 25, 2011, in the amount of \$343,683.16. **Roll Call: AYES: Trustees Tienstra, Dawkins, Casella, Colton and Robertson. NAYS: None. ABSENT: Trustee Kataras. Motion carried.**

MEET YOUR MERCHANTS: Allisa Opyd, a member of the Economic Development Committee, explained this committee serves as ambassadors to the businesses in Homewood, advocating for them. They also recruit new businesses and build on those already here, enforcing reasons to shop local.

She then introduced Jim Flamini and Mike Tieri, owners of J T Sausage Company located at 18217 Dixie Highway. Mr. Tieri stated the community has welcomed their new business warmly. He invited everyone to stop by and see what they have to offer, which includes a variety of sausages, other meats, cheeses and pastas. For more information visit their website at www.jtsausageco.com.

Mrs. Opyd presented the owners of J T Sausage Company with a Certificate of Recognition for participating in this portion of the meeting.

She announced the next Village event will be the Annual Chocolate Fest, to be held in the Auditorium on Saturday, February 19 from 11:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m., featuring great vendors and the Bake-Off. A downtown trolley and Bingo Stroll have been added to this year's festivities.

PRESENTATIONS: Shelly Marks, President of Homewood School District 153 School Board, introduced several representatives from the School District, Dale Mitchell, Superintendent, Tom Dockweiler and Alex Bosch, Co-Chairmen of Citizens for Homewood Schools. They informed the Board and audience of their upcoming referendum for public consideration on the ballot at the Consolidated Election on April 5, 2011, asking voters for approval of a \$7.5 million bond sale.

Mr. Mitchell began their presentation by highlighting the mission of School District 153.

Ms. Marks continued by explaining how the referendum would protect their best interests and help provide appropriate reserves to maintain their high quality of education and protect the children, community and property values of Homewood.

Mr. Dockweiler highlighted the overview of their finances, operating budget, and plans for the future.

Mr. Bosch explained their goals and how they are trying to educate the community on why they need to support the referendum.

Trustee Tienstra stated he, along with his children, are products of School District 153 and he supports the referendum.

Trustee Colton stated she supports this referendum and encouraged residents to also support it.

Trustee Robertson stated that while he supports the referendum, he had concerns of an article that was circulated which challenges the TIF districts and what they have accomplished. Past and present Village Boards have done the right thing in creating the Washington Park TIF District, which is one of the most successful in the State. All the TIF districts are going to help maintain property values in the Village, which are essential to the community.

Mr. Dockweiler thanked Trustee Robertson for raising the point and acknowledged that the TIF Districts in general and the WP TIF specifically has done a tremendous job of generating revenue both short term through surplus distributions and long term through property taxes. Ms. Marks explained that the School Board does not share the opinion stated in the article and are very thankful for the professional way the TIF has been run. Mr. Mitchell stated the schools and Village must continue work together for the betterment of the community.

Village Manager Franz stated it has been a very important priority for the Village and other taxing bodies to collaborate at the joint review boards. The Village Board has done a great job managing all four TIF districts, making sure they are financially sound and creating investments.

Following more discussion, the Board thanked the representatives from School District 153 for their presentation.

HEAR FROM THE AUDIENCE: No one came forward

OMNIBUS VOTE: Village President Hofeld stated there was one item for the Board's consideration:

- A. ANNUAL REPORT/FIRE AND POLICE COMMISSION: The 2010 Annual Report for the Fire and Police Commission.

A motion was made by Trustee Tienstra, seconded by Trustee Colton to pass, approve, accept or award the Omnibus Vote item "A" as presented. **Roll Call: AYES: Trustees Tienstra, Dawkins, Casella, Colton and Robertson. NAYS: None. ABSENT: Trustee Kataras. Motion carried.**

INTERGOVERNMENTAL PERSONNEL BENEFITS COOPERATIVE (IPBC) POOL – THREE YEAR RENEWAL: Finance Director Bubenik led in the discussion of the renewal of the Village's employee health insurance, which is the second largest expense of the Village.

Local government bodies often find the best way to handle an operating expense is to group together with similar government bodies in a pooling relationship. These pools provide the individual members with "strength in numbers", which they could not obtain on their own. That strength in numbers is often referred to as "purchasing power". The end result of the pooling concept is better control of expenses than going on their own.

Examples of pools the Village is a member of include IRMA for risk management insurance lines, NIMEC for electric pumping needs and street lighting, and IPBC for health/life insurance. Each of these pools has assisted Homewood in controlling costs better than we could do on our own.

In the early part of the last decade the Village was going it on its own for health/life insurance. Health insurance costs were increasing dramatically. These increases were coming without any explanation or back-up, which we could not continue to accept. During this time we were in ongoing discussions with Gallagher Benefit Services on their IPBC health/life insurance pool. In 2004 it was determined the IPBC pool was the best option for the Village.

The IPBC pool has served its members well, including the Village of Homewood. Health insurance continues to be an increasing expense across the country, but the strength in

numbers and purchasing power offered by the IPBC pool has assisted in control of this cost.

Greg Aleman, from Gallagher Benefit Services, addressed the Board regarding our partnership with IPBC.

ORDINANCE M-1832/IPBC- THREE YEAR RENEWAL: Following discussion, a motion was made by Trustee Casella, seconded by Trustee Dawkins to pass an ordinance extending the period of participation in the Intergovernmental Personnel Benefit Cooperative (IPBC) for a period of three additional years. ***Roll Call: AYES: Trustees Tienstra, Dawkins, Casella, Colton and Robertson. NAYS: None. ABSENT: Trustee Kataras. Motion carried.***

MANAGER'S REPORT: Village Manager Franz had nothing further to report.

GENERAL BOARD DISCUSSION: There was no further discussion.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: A motion was made by Trustee Colton, seconded by Trustee Dawkins, to enter into Executive Session to discuss probable litigation and semi-annual review and approval of Closed Session minutes at 8:56 p.m. ***Roll Call: AYES: Trustees Tienstra, Dawkins, Casella, Colton and Robertson. NAYS: None. ABSENT: Trustee Kataras. Motion carried.***

The Board took a short recess at 8:56 p.m. prior to entering into Executive Session and returned to open session at 9:17 p.m.

ADJOURN: A motion to adjourn was made by Trustee Casella, seconded by Trustee Robertson. ***Roll Call: AYES: Trustees Tienstra, Dawkins, Casella, Colton and Robertson. NAYS: None. ABSENT: Trustee Kataras. Motion carried.*** The meeting adjourned at 9:18 p.m. There was no one in the audience.

Village Clerk