

VILLAGE OF HOMEWOOD
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 2010
VILLAGE HALL BOARD ROOM

CALL TO ORDER: Village President Richard Hofeld called the meeting to order at 7:31 p.m. There were eleven 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 responding were Trustees Glenn Tienstra, Tom Kataras, Barbara Dawkins, Joe Casella, Anne Colton, Ray Robertson, and Village President Richard Hofeld.

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, Director of Community Development Paula Wallrich, Director of Public Works John Schaefer, and Assistant Village Manager Jim Marino.

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, October 26, 2010. **Roll Call: AYES: Trustees Kataras, Dawkins, Casella, Colton and Robertson. NAYS: None. ABSTAIN: Trustee Tienstra. Motion carried.**

CLAIMS LIST: Following questions from the Board, which were answered by staff, a motion was made by Trustee Casella, seconded by Trustee Colton, to approve the Claims List of Tuesday, November 9, 2010, in the amount of \$1,356,489.43. **Roll Call: AYES: Trustees Tienstra, Kataras, Dawkins, Casella, Colton and Robertson. NAYS: None. Motion carried.**

MEET YOUR MERCHANTS: Alissa Opyd, of the Economic Development Committee, stated this committee's purpose is to help retain businesses as well as recruiting new ones in the Village. The Meet Your Merchant portion of the Board meeting is to give exposure to Homewood businesses. It is very important for the community to support local businesses.

Mrs. Opyd then introduced the following Homewood businesses:

The manager from The Bargain Box, located at 18660 Dixie Highway, informed the Board and audience they offer customers a unique shopping experience of new and gently used donated items. Their hours of operation are Wednesday through Saturday

10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Proceeds from their sales benefit local agencies such as The Cancer Support Center, Respond Now and South Suburban PADS.

Tony Girolami, owner of Family Wines and Liquors located at 18707 Dixie Highway, has been a family owned business since 1976, offering a large selection of wine along with specialty beers and liquors. They are open Monday through Saturday, 10:00 a.m. until 9:00 p.m., and Sunday hours of 12:00 noon until 6:00 p.m., with expanded hours during the holiday season.

Each participant was given a Certificate of Recognition for participating in this portion of the meeting.

Allisa Opyd announced upcoming events taking place in the Village. The Downtown Homewood Business Association is hosting a Holiday Open House on November 12 and 13, 2010. On Friday local merchants will be open 10:00 a.m. until 9:00 p.m. and on Saturday from 10:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. Visit their website for more information: www.dhba.biz.

On Friday, December 3, 2010 the Third Annual Holiday Lights will begin at 6:00 p.m., and continue through 9:00 p.m. The trolley will make stops at various spots taking patrons throughout the downtown area. The tree lighting ceremony, scheduled at 7:00 p.m. at Irwin Park, will include visits with Santa. Join the festivities of holiday shopping and family fun. More information is available at www.homesweethomewood.com.

PRESENTATION: RESOLUTION R-2079/SUZANNE GROHE/RETIREMENT - 20 YEARS OF SERVICE/FIRE DEPARTMENT: A motion was made by Trustee Tienstra, seconded by Trustee Kataras to pass a resolution honoring Suzanne Grohe upon her retirement and 20 years of service to the Village of Homewood. ***Roll Call: AYES: Trustees Tienstra, Kataras, Dawkins, Casella, Colton and Robertson. NAYS: None. Motion carried.***

Fire Chief Grabowski thanked Suzanne Grohe for her years of service to the Village and read the resolution honoring her retirement. Mrs. Grohe was then congratulated by the Board and audience.

HEAR FROM THE AUDIENCE: Barbara Gordon, 19104 Pierce Avenue, expressed her concerns of the lack of street lights in her neighborhood.

Village Manager Franz responded that a project like this would be a Capital Project Improvement (CPI) and has been identified as an item to be discussed with next year's CPI budget providing there is funding.

Trustee Casella asked about the cost of a street light. Public Works Director Schaefer replied the cost would be two thousand to three thousand dollars because the power in that area is in the back of the properties and would need to be brought to the street.

OMNIBUS VOTE: Village Clerk Campbell read the following for the Board's consideration:

- A. ORDINANCE M-1820/SOUTHGATE TIF AMENDMENT ORDINANCE: An ordinance of the Village of Homewood, Cook County, Illinois, amending a Tax Increment Redevelopment Plan and Redevelopment Project for the Southgate TIF (Amendment #2) Redevelopment Project Area.
- B. ORDINANCE M-1821/DESIGNATING SOUTHGATE TIF AMENDMENT #2: An ordinance of the Village of Homewood, Cook County, Illinois, designating the Amendment #2 to the Southgate TIF Redevelopment Project Area of said Village a Redevelopment Project Area pursuant to the Tax Increment Allocation Redevelopment Act.
- C. ORDINANCE M-1822/SOUTHGATE TIF FINANCING ALLOCATION: An ordinance of the Village of Homewood, Cook County, Illinois, confirming Tax Increment Allocation Financing for the Southgate TIF Redevelopment Project Area.
- D. ORDINANCE MC-838/AMENDING CHAPTER TWO, ARTICLE VI OF THE MUNICIPAL CODE/CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION: An ordinance amending Chapter 2, Article VI of the Municipal Code of the Village of Homewood, Cook County, Illinois, concerning the Civil Service Commission.

Following discussion, Village President Hofeld stated the items in the Omnibus Vote would be considered separately.

A motion was made by Trustee Robertson, seconded by Trustee Colton, to pass Omnibus Vote item "A" as presented. **Roll Call: AYES: Trustees Kataras, Dawkins, Casella, Colton and Robertson. NAYS: Trustee Tienstra. Motion carried.**

A motion was made by Trustee Dawkins, seconded by Trustee Robertson, to pass Omnibus Vote item "B" as presented. **Roll Call: AYES: Trustees Kataras, Dawkins, Casella, Colton and Robertson. NAYS: Trustee Tienstra. Motion carried.**

A motion was made by Trustee Casella, seconded by Trustee Colton, to pass Omnibus Vote item "C" as presented. **Roll Call: AYES: Trustees Kataras, Dawkins, Casella, Colton and Robertson. NAYS: Trustee Tienstra. Motion carried.**

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

MID YEAR 2010-11 GENERAL FUND REVENUES AND EXPENSES REVIEW: Finance Director Bubenik led in the discussion of the mid-year revenues and expenses in the General Fund giving a presentation and highlighting the budgeted and actual expenses

for the past six months. He stated the cash flow issue is more of a timing issue of when revenues are collected by the State and County and when they are disbursed to local governments.

At a previous meeting a question was raised as to a policy of how much cash the Village should have on hand to help through difficult economic times. As there is no mandated policy, each community sets their own. Homewood's policy has been to have three to six months of available funds on hand. We entered this recession very close to the six month level. Over the last two years a portion of these funds have been used to keep the service level where it is.

2010 REAL ESTATE TAX LEVY: Director Bubenik explained tax cap restrictions go by the more commonly know name of "Tax Cap Laws". These laws are mathematical in nature because they are designed as "one size fits all". The end result of the tax caps is real estate taxes growing each year at a level equivalent to the growth in the Consumer Price Index (CPI). The growth in CPI is also referred to as the rate of inflation.

This year the real estate tax setting process is made more complex due to the end of the Washington Park TIF. Those higher value TIF properties will now be part of the tax levy with the rest of the community reflected by Cook County as new construction. This is a good thing but will result in a high percentage increase in the levy which will cause confusion. He further stated that although the Village is considering a twenty-seven percent property tax levy, residents should only have an increase of two point seven percent, which is the rate of inflation.

The Washington Park TIF was created in 1986 with an EAV of \$3 million. It has grown to an EAV in 2008 of \$71 million. That is \$68 million of incremental EAV, making this a real TIF success story. Upon further review of some of the EAV growth in this TIF the past ten years and knowing that any underestimating would result under the tax cap rules as lost forever, the increase was increased from twenty percent to twenty-five percent. That is an aggressive percentage but given the unique situation faced this year with this TIF and the tax cap rules which penalize under estimation, the twenty-five percent is used. A joint meeting with finance department representatives of the Park District, High School, and Elementary School should result in these taxing bodies using similar assumptions as the Village.

Director Bubenik then highlighted the tax cap formula and the projected tax levy.

Village President Hofeld stated he is hopeful the sales tax revenue has reached its low point. He and Community Development Director Wallrich attended the International Council of Shopping Centers meeting and there was activity this year, unlike last year where nothing was happening. They had some very favorable responses to several sites in the Village.

There was discussion and questions asked that were addressed by staff.

Attorney Cummings clarified the Washington Park TIF properties have always been in the Village and have always paid property taxes to the Village. Calling it “New Construction” is just for this particular tax levy because of the TIF ending and is called “new” so that the value can be captured under the property tax code. These property taxes will now go into the General Fund instead of the TIF fund.

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

GENERAL BOARD DISCUSSION:

Director Schaefer informed the Board and audience he was informed by IDOT that the bridge repairs on Dixie Highway, south of Flossmoor Road, will be re-opened on Thursday, November 11, 2010. Additional work still needs to be completed.

Trustee Tienstra thanked Elaine Egdorf and everyone else for their work on the Hall of Fame ceremony.

Trustee Kataras thanked Homewood Disposal for starting the free leaf pick-up on November 3, 2010, one week earlier than had been arranged. The Village Key had stated this date as the start date of the program, and Homewood Disposal kindly began the leaf pick up then.

Trustee Dawkins, referring to the comments earlier in this meeting regarding street lighting, agreed the area is dark and suggested residents leave their porch lights on to help with this concern.

Trustee Casella thanked Mrs. Bielfeldt for donating the breakfast for the veterans. The turn out was great and the food prepared by Tom’s Family Restaurant was tremendous.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: A motion was made by Trustee Colton, seconded by Trustee Casella, to enter into Executive Session to discuss the setting of a price for sale or lease of property owned by the Village and the discipline of a specific employee or employees. ***Roll Call: AYES: Trustees Tienstra, Kataras, Dawkins, Casella, Colton and Robertson. NAYS: None. Motion carried.***

The Board took a short recess at 8:32 p.m. prior to entering into Executive Session and returned to open session at 10:05 p.m.

ADJOURN: A motion to adjourn was made by Trustee Colton, seconded by Trustee Casella. ***Roll Call: AYES: Trustees Tienstra, Kataras, Dawkins, Casella, Colton and Robertson. NAYS: None. Motion carried.*** The meeting adjourned at 10:06 p.m. There was no one in the audience.

Village Clerk