

VILLAGE OF HOMEWOOD
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING
TUESDAY, JANUARY 26, 2010
VILLAGE HALL BOARD ROOM

CALL TO ORDER: Village President Richard Hofeld called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. There were ten people in the audience and no members 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 Tom Kataras, Barbara Dawkins, Joe Casella, Ray Robertson, and Village President Richard Hofeld. Trustee Tienstra joined the Board meeting at 7:34 p.m. Trustee Anne Colton 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, Director of Community Development Bill Ernat, Director of Public Works John Schaefer, and Assistant Village Manager Jim Marino.

MINUTES: A motion was made by Trustee Kataras, seconded by Trustee Dawkins to approve the minutes of the Board of Trustees Committee-of-the-Whole Meeting held on Saturday, November 14, 2009. **Roll Call: AYES: Trustees Kataras, Dawkins, Casella, and Robertson. NAYS: None. ABSENT: Trustees Tienstra and Colton. Motion carried.**

MINUTES: A motion was made by Trustee Dawkins, seconded by Trustee Kataras to approve the minutes of the Board of Trustees Committee-of-the-Whole Meeting held on Tuesday, November 17, 2009. **Roll Call: AYES: Trustees Kataras, Dawkins, and Robertson. NAYS: None. ABSTAIN: Trustee Casella. ABSENT: Trustees Tienstra and Colton. Motion carried.**

Trustee Tienstra joined the Board meeting at 7:34 p.m.

MINUTES: A motion was made by Trustee Casella, seconded by Trustee Robertson to approve the minutes of the Board of Trustees Regular Meeting held on Tuesday, January 12, 2010. **Roll Call: AYES: Trustees Kataras, Dawkins, Casella, and Robertson. NAYS: None. ABSTAIN: Trustee Tienstra. ABSENT: Trustee Colton. Motion carried.**

CLAIMS LIST: Following questions from the Board, which were answered by staff, a motion was made by Trustee Casella, seconded by Trustee Kataras, to approve the Claims List of Tuesday, January 26, 2010, in the amount of \$249,212.24. **Roll Call: AYES: Trustees Tienstra, Kataras, Dawkins, Casella, and Robertson. NAYS: None. ABSENT: Trustee Colton. Motion carried.**

MEET YOUR MERCHANTS: Community Development Director Ernat introduced Jean Vandersanden, Clinical Manager at Rehabilitation Institute of Chicago. Ms. Vandersanden informed the Board and audience that their facility is an internationally known rehabilitation facility with locations throughout the suburban area. Their Homewood facility, located at 1055 175th Street, provides physical, occupational and speech therapy services. For more information visit their website at www.ric.org.

Director Ernat presented Ms. Vandersanden with a Certificate of Recognition for participating in this portion of the Board of Trustees meeting.

HEAR FROM THE AUDIENCE: Charles Deringer, Chicago Heights, expressed his concerns of the Asian carp fish and the positive effect they may have on the Great Lakes.

Brian Nussbaum, Homewood Area Chamber, gave an update on the Community Auction. Residents have until January 31, 2010 to save their receipts. During the week of February 3, 2010 through February 11, 2010 receipts will be tallied at various locations. For a list of locations, newly donated items and participating businesses visit www.homewoodareachamber.com or www.facebook.com/communityauction2010. The purpose of the Community Auction is to encourage people to shop locally in Homewood, Flossmoor and Glenwood. January 30, 2010 had been added as an additional “double points” day. Anyone interested in volunteering to help tally receipts or help on the day of the auction was encouraged to contact the Homewood Area Chamber at 708-206-3384.

OMNIBUS VOTE: Village President Hofeld stated item “B” had been removed for consideration at a later date. He then asked for a motion regarding item “A”.

- A. ANNUAL REPORT/TREE COMMITTEE: The 2009 Annual Report for the Tree Committee.

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

OLD BUSINESS

PUBLIC HEARING/BOND ISSUE NOTIFICATION

CALL TO ORDER: At 7:50 P.M. Village President Hofeld announced that the next agenda item for the President and Board of Trustees was a public hearing (Hearing) to receive public comments on the proposal to sell not to exceed \$2,200,000 General Obligation Limited Tax Bonds (the Bonds) for the purpose of paying the costs of acquiring capital equipment and constructing capital improvements in the Village and explained that all persons desiring to be heard would have an opportunity to present written or oral testimony with respect thereto.

ROLL CALL: Village Clerk Gayle Campbell recorded the Roll Call. Those responding were Trustees Glenn Tienstra, Tom Kataras, Barbara Dawkins, Joe Casella, Ray Robertson, and Village President Richard Hofeld. Trustee Anne Colton was absent and did not participate in the meeting in any manner or to any extent whatsoever.

Village President Hofeld opened the discussion and explained that the reasons for the proposed issuance of the Bonds were as follows: vehicles, building/technology improvements, reforestation/landscape improvements, streets/sidewalks, water/sewer/storm water lines. Village President Hofeld then asked Director of Finance Dennis Bubenik to address the Board members and audience regarding this matter.

DISCUSSION: Director of Finance Dennis Bubenik led the discussion on the proposed issuance of \$2,200,000 Village of Homewood General Obligation Bonds. He said that the possible bond issuance would be a funding source for Capital Improvements Projects. These GO Bonds receive tax exempt status with the IRS and therefore are attractive investments to investors and save the municipalities on interest expense because this tax exempt feature results in a lower interest rate.

Our recent Capital Improvement Project budget noted \$20 million of capital projects/equipment we would like to replace. With low debt outstanding, historically low borrowing GO rates, and a large number of infrastructure projects in the Village, staff recommended and the Board agreed to move forward with the sale of \$2.2 million of GO Bonds.

The Bond Issue Notification Act (BINA) hearing is a requirement with our upcoming issue of \$2,200,000 general obligation debt. This Hearing allows elected officials and the public the opportunity to comment on any issues related to the bond sale.

COMMENTS FROM THE BOARD: Whereupon Village President Hofeld asked for additional comments from the members of the President and Board of Trustees. Additional comments were made by the following:

Trustee Tienstra asked for a review of the sewer lines and proposed sewer line projects.

Public Works Director Schaefer answered that, as the Board is aware of, there is a mandate from Thorn Creek Sanitary Basin District (TCSBD) to reduce the Village's infiltration of rain water in the sanitary sewer system. The system is old and there are areas that need to be replaced. This will help alleviate flooding of basements and the cost of treating that water. A current project being studied is in the 3rd Addition. Also, there are areas where there are frequent water main breaks. Some of the funds from this will help to address several of these areas.

Trustee Tienstra asked if any of the mandated money paid to TCSBD is returned to the Village.

Director Schaefer stated the money paid to them is for the treatment of the sanitary sewer water based on the water usage. There are also charges within that to help the Village maintain our sewer system.

Village Manager Franz added the mandated money is for Homewood's system and remains with the Village. Verification is given to them that the Village has spent that money minimizing the infiltration of rain water into the sewer system.

Trustee Casella reiterated that certain procedures will be followed for the approval of projects requested.

COMMENTS OF WRITTEN TESTIMONY: President Hofeld asked for any written comments from the public. No written testimony concerning the proposed issuance of the Bonds was received.

COMMENTS FROM THE AUDIENCE: President Hofeld asked for any oral testimony or public comments concerning the proposed issuance of the Bonds. There were no statements made concerning the proposed issuance of the Bonds.

ADJOURN: Village President Hofeld then announced that all persons desiring to be heard had been given an opportunity to present oral and written testimony with respect to the proposed issuance of the Bonds. Village President Hofeld asked for a motion to adjourn the Hearing. A motion was made by Trustee Casella, seconded by Trustee Kataras that the Hearing be finally adjourned. After a full discussion thereof, Village President Hofeld directed that the roll be called for a vote upon the motion. ***Roll Call: AYES: Trustees Tienstra, Kataras, Dawkins, Casella, and Robertson. NAYS: None. ABSENT: Trustee Colton. Motion carried.***

Village President Hofeld declared the motion carried and the Hearing was finally adjourned at 8:02 p.m. and returned to regular session.

NEW BUSINESS

INCREASE IN CLASS 9 LIQUOR LICENSES/WALGREENS: Finance Director Bubenik presented a request from Walgreens to increase the number of Class 9 Liquor Licenses from two to four to allow the sale of packaged beer & wine only at their two locations in Homewood.

Anas Al-Hamwi, District Manager from Walgreens, addressed the Board regarding their request.

Mr. Patel, owner of Homewood Liquors, expressed his concerns of the approval of this request due to the proximity of his store and the Walgreens located at 183rd Street and Halsted Street, explaining the negative impact he felt it would have on his business.

Trustee Tienstra also expressed his concerns due to the location of the Walgreens by Millennium School and Homewood Liquors.

Trustee Kataras complimented Mr. Patel for recently expanding his store and supporting Homewood. He also stated that having been in the liquor business, it is about volume and it is difficult for a local store to compete with a national chain.

Trustee Dawkins asked Mr. Al-Hamwi what impact this would have if the Board did not approve their request and asked Mr. Patel about the percentages his store sold beer and wine versus liquor.

Mr. Al-Hamwi stated Walgreens is looking to accommodate their customers with one-stop-shopping by providing this option. He did not feel they would be competing with a full liquor store.

Mr. Patel answered that their wine sales are about thirty-five percent, with beer sales at thirty percent. The rest of their sales is liquor.

Trustee Dawkins stated the approval of their request would give residents another choice, and she does not feel the school is an issue due to the location of both Homewood Liquors and Walgreens.

Trustee Casella responded that he supports Mr. Patel and felt Walgreens would be competing with Homewood Liquors.

Trustee Robertson stated he found this discussion interesting because of action taken by the Board in the past regarding the request of a third martial arts school. His concern is of the Walgreens located in Cherry Creek Plaza due to the proximity to Homewood-Flossmoor High School and possible concerns of parents.

Following more discussion, the Board decided to defer this matter until all Board members were present and Trustee Robertson's concerns are addressed.

Village President Hofeld invited anyone with comments to contact the Village Manager's office.

2010-2015 STRATEGIC PLAN: Village Manager Franz led in the discussion of the 2010-2015 Strategic Plan. The Board and staff have embarked on a strategic planning process that has resulted in the completion of the 2010-2015 Strategic Plan. The Village hired the Center for Government Studies at Northern Illinois University to facilitate this process which involved Committee of the Whole meetings with the Board and senior management.

The six strategic issues identified as critical to Homewood are: How are we going to provide services in a new revenue environment?; How do we effectively manage our human resources?; How do we promote intergovernmental cooperation to maintain quality of life in the region?; How do we maintain and improve our infrastructure?; How do we attract and maintain businesses?; and, How do we maintain a strong community?

Staff has created an action plan with specific action steps to address each of the goals and objectives listed under these strategic issues. These action steps will be included in the Goals and Accomplishments section of individual department budgets for the fiscal year 2010-2011 Budget.

In addition, the 2010-2015 Strategic Plan included survey results from the online survey that was conducted as part of the planning process. The Strategic Plan and survey will be available to the public online.

This Strategic Plan will be the guide for the Village over the next five years. Progress on the goals and objectives will be reported on a regular basis through the budget process, bi-annual project status reports, and in department annual reports.

Village President Hofeld thanked the Board, staff and citizens for their input that went into the development of the Strategic Plan.

A motion was made by Trustee Dawkins, seconded by Trustee Robertson to accept the 2010-2015 Strategic Plan. **Roll Call: AYES: Trustees Tienstra, Kataras, Dawkins, Casella, and Robertson. NAYS: None. ABSENT: Trustee Colton. Motion carried.**

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

GENERAL BOARD DISCUSSION:

Trustee Tienstra inquired about the items he had requested and also if the vote for non-union employees' cost of living allowance (COLA) is approved in open session. Village Manager Franz responded that a union contract is a specific vote. The COLA consideration for non-union employees is part of the budget process.

Trustee Kataras thanked the Joint Community Relations of Homewood and Flossmoor for hosting the meeting at Homewood-Flossmoor High School, reminded everyone to vote at the upcoming election, and stated he had received a petition regarding the water problems in the 3rd Addition and asked that the Board be notified of these meetings. He expressed his condolences to the family of Mike Nemitz, a former long time employee of the Village.

Trustee Dawkins agreed with Trustee Kataras regarding the nice welcoming at the high school. It is a great facility with great staff and an exceptional student body.

Trustee Casella also agreed with Trustees Kataras' and Dawkins' comments. He thanked the Department of Public Works for the great job they did cleaning the streets of snow and ice during the last storm. He commended the Fire Chief and his staff for their efforts with the fire inspection program and also thanked Police Chief Burnson and his staff for the job they do.

Village President Hofeld stated he, along with other Board members, were at the high school and he too was very impressed with all the opportunities they offer.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: A motion was made by Trustee Dawkins, seconded by Trustee Kataras, to enter into Executive Session to discuss the semi-annual review of Executive Session Minutes and the employment, compensation, performance, or dismissal of specific employees at 8:35 p.m. **Roll Call: AYES: Trustees Tienstra, Kataras, Dawkins, Casella, and Robertson. NAYS: None. ABSENT: Trustee Colton. Motion carried.**

The Board returned to open session at 9:58 p.m.

ADJOURN: A motion to adjourn was made by Trustee Robertson, seconded by Trustee Casella.
Roll Call: AYES: Trustees Tienstra, Kataras, Dawkins, Casella, and Robertson. NAYS: None.
ABSENT: Trustee Colton. Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 9:59 p.m. There was no one in the audience.

Village Clerk