

VILLAGE OF HOMEWOOD
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING
TUESDAY, JANUARY 12, 2010
VILLAGE HALL BOARD ROOM

CALL TO ORDER: Village President Richard Hofeld called the meeting to order at 7:32 p.m. There were forty-three people in the audience and two 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 Glenn Tienstra, Tom Kataras, Barbara Dawkins, Joe Casella, Anne Colton, Ray Robertson, and Village President Richard Hofeld. No trustees were 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 Casella, seconded by Trustee Colton to approve the minutes of the Board of Trustees Regular Meeting held on Tuesday, December 8, 2009. **Roll Call: AYES: Trustees Tienstra, Kataras, Dawkins, Casella, Colton and Robertson. NAYS: None. Motion carried.**

MINUTES: A motion was made by Trustee Colton, seconded by Trustee Casella to approve the minutes of the Board of Trustees Special Meeting held on Tuesday, December 15, 2009. **Roll Call: AYES: Trustees Dawkins, Casella, Colton and Robertson. NAYS: None. ABSTAIN: Trustee Tienstra and Kataras. Motion carried.**

CLAIMS LIST: Following questions from the Board, which were answered by staff, a motion was made by Trustee Tienstra, seconded by Trustee Dawkins, to approve the Claims List of Tuesday, January 12, 2010, in the amount of \$1,896,791.18. **Roll Call: AYES: Trustees Tienstra, Kataras, Dawkins, Casella, Colton and Robertson. NAYS: None. Motion carried.**

APPOINTMENTS: A motion was made by Trustee Dawkins, seconded by Trustee Kataras to approve the reappointments of Loretta Lipinski and Sherwin Rosenfeldt to the Cable Commission for terms ending 1/8/2013, Myron Tibbie, Jr. and Frank Casella to the Rail Committee for terms ending 1/8/2013, A. J. Tiller to the Storm Water Committee for a term ending 1/22/2013, and Charlene Dyer to the Veterans Committee for a term ending 1/23/2013.

***Roll Call: AYES: Trustees Tienstra, Kataras, Dawkins, Casella, Colton and Robertson.
NAYS: None. Motion carried.***

MEET YOUR MERCHANTS: Community Development Director Ernat introduced Kurt Powers, owner of Powers Building Improvements, a home based business in Homewood. Mr. Powers stated he has been in business for twenty years, doing many different building improvements. For further information about Powers Building Improvement, contact Mr. Powers at 708.799.4192.

Mr. Ernat presented a Certificate of Recognition to Mr. Powers for his participation in this portion of the Board meeting.

PRESENTATIONS

PROCLAMATION/GIRL SCOUT COOKIE PROGRAM 2010: Village Clerk Campbell read a proclamation issued by Village President Hofeld proclaiming Girl Scout Cookie Program Time in the Village of Homewood. President Hofeld invited all Girl Scouts to stop by the Village Hall on Saturdays from 9:00 a.m. until 12:00 noon and he would order cookies from them.

OATH OF OFFICE/POLICE OFFICER KEVIN KUHN: Police Chief Burnson introduced newly appointed Police Officer Kevin Kuhn to the Board and audience. Village Clerk Campbell administered the Oath of Office to Police Officer Kevin Kuhn, who was welcomed by the Board.

MUSCULAR DYSTROPHY ASSOCIATION (MDA) PLAQUE PRESENTATION: Kate Schae from the Muscular Dystrophy Association stated they are very proud of the partnership the MDA has had with Homewood Firefighter's Local 3656 over the past six years. The funds raised this year were over \$4,235.00. Chloe Ochoa and her family, who have made a tremendous impact on the Homewood Fire Department, were selected by the MDA to be the State Ambassadors representing MDA across the State of Illinois during the year 2009. Ms. Schae presented a plaque made by Chloe to the Homewood Firefighter's Local 3656 for monies raised during the annual "Fill the Boot" fundraiser drive.

PROCLAMATION/CHLOE OCHOA – HONORARY FIREFIGHTER: Fire Chief Grabowski read a proclamation issued by Village President Hofeld proclaiming Chloe Ochoa an Honorary Firefighter with the Homewood Fire Department. Firefighter/Paramedic John Elashik, on behalf of the members of the Homewood Fire Department, presented Chloe Ochoa with a plaque containing an honorary Firefighter's badge with her name imprinted and the Homewood Fire Department's patch.

CERTIFICATES OF HONOR/FIRE DEPARTMENT: Fire Chief Grabowski read a letter from Dr. Helicser, Project Medical Director at Ingalls Hospital, honoring two members of the Homewood Fire Department. Fire Chief Grabowski presented Certificates of Honor to Matthew Moran and Michael Bell for their role in the

resuscitation of a cardiac patient on October 6, 2009, who were then congratulated by the Board and audience.

HEAR FROM THE AUDIENCE: No one came forward.

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

- A. ORDINANCE MC-822/STOP SIGN REQUESTS - MAY AVENUE AT MORGAN AVENUE, LOOMIS AVENUE AT 191ST STREET, AND EVERGREEN ROAD AT HOMEWOOD AVENUE: An ordinance amending Chapter 106 of the Homewood Municipal Code authorizing the installation of stop signs.
- B. BID WAIVER/PURCHASE OF SQUAD CAR VIDEO CAMERA SYSTEMS: Waive the competitive bidding requirements due to sole supplier and purchase four (4) in-car digital camera systems from ICOP Digital, Inc. in an amount not to exceed \$20,194.11.
- C. RESOLUTION R-2050/NORTHERN ILLINOIS MUNICIPAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE (NIMEC) POOL – ELECTRICITY PURCHASE: A resolution authorizing the Village Manager to contract for the purchase of electricity.
- D. RESOLUTION R-2051/187TH STREET RESURFACING: A resolution for improvement by municipality under the Illinois Highway Code for 187th Street improvements.
- E. RESOLUTION R-2052/2010 ROAD IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM: A resolution for improvement by municipality under the Illinois Highway Code for various street improvement projects.
- F. RESOLUTION R-2053/2010 HOMEWOOD DAYS ROAD CLOSURES: A resolution requesting the Illinois Department of Transportation, Division of Highways, to approve the closing of a portion of Dixie Highway and a portion of Ridge Road on July 8, 9, 10 and 11, 2010.

Trustee Robertson stated he felt the Board should support the recommendation of staff and requested Item "A" be removed from the Omnibus Vote to be considered separately.

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

A motion was made by Trustee Tienstra, seconded by Trustee Casella to approve Item “A” as presented. **Roll Call: AYES: Trustees Tienstra, Kataras, Dawkins, Casella, and Colton. NAYS: Trustee Robertson. Motion carried.**

OLD BUSINESS

ORDINANCE MC-823/LIMITED SCAVENGER LICENSES: Community Development Director Ernat led in the discussion to amend the Municipal Code to redefine the “limited scavenger license” to allow licensees to deliver and remove roll-off dumpsters and their contents from private property. The number of licenses to be issued would be restricted to five. The Board had also recommended that a penalty clause be established in the Municipal Code and asked that license fees also be modified. The annual fee proposed for a scavenger license would be \$500.00, with the annual fee for a limited scavenger license of \$300.00.

Trustee Kataras asked if the Village was regulated by the State to license waste haulers to which Attorney Cummings replied yes. He also asked what justifies raising the scavenger license by \$200.00. Village Manager Franz stated this is one of the fees that are reviewed periodically. It has not been increased in many years and, given some of the discussion at a previous Board meeting, staff felt it was appropriate to recommend the increase.

Trustee Kataras also expressed his concerns of the enforcement provision and asked who would be responsible for ticketing. Director of Community Development Ernat answered that a warning would be given to the hauler by the building inspector prior to fining them.

Trustee Casella questioned why the unlicensed hauler who had a dumpster on Loomis Avenue was not going to be fined. Mr. Ernat responded that at this point proof must be submitted for a ticket to be issued. Village Manager Franz added the Village is in a better position now with the adjudication system to move forward with the ticketing process.

ORDINANCE MC-823/LIMITED SCAVENGER LICENSES: A motion was made by Trustee Tienstra, seconded by Trustee Colton to pass an ordinance amending Sections 90-52 and 90-58 of the Homewood Municipal Code concerning Limited Scavenger Licenses. **Roll Call: AYES: Trustees Tienstra, Kataras, Dawkins, Casella, Colton and Robertson. NAYS: None. Motion carried.**

NEW BUSINESS

FAÇADE AND PROPERTY IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM/17635 HOFFMAN WAY: Director Ernat presented a request from Ed Artuso, Vice President and General Manager of Bolzoni Auramo, Inc., for assistance through the Façade and Property Improvement Program to install security cameras on the exterior of the building located at 17635 Hoffman Way.

Mr. Ed Artuso, Vice President and General Manager of Bolzoni Auramo, Inc. was present to answer questions from the Board.

Following questions and concerns from the Board regarding the TIF, this item was deferred until the other taxing bodies are consulted and clarification was received.

AMBULANCE BILLING: Fire Chief Grabowski led in the discussion of increasing billing rates for ambulance service and various medical reimbursement charges and entering into a three year contract with Medical Reimbursement Services, Inc. for our ambulance billing. In April, 2007 the Board passed an ordinance that increased the charge for paramedic transportation. He noted that at this time the Village is not billing the current Medicare reimbursement rate. Chief Grabowski also stated the current ordinance states the Village Manager or his designee may waive the resident's fee if a hardship case exists and this should remain as is. He further recommended a three year contract be approved to allow Medical Reimbursement Services, Inc. to remain as the billing company for our ambulance billing at a rate of eight percent. The current contract bills at a rate of nine percent.

Trustee Tienstra expressed his concern of residents paying more and would prefer other areas of the budget are looked at.

Fire Chief Grabowski added Medicare reimbursement rate is now approximately \$400.00 and the Village is currently billing them at \$350.00. This fee could be increased and it would not be a burden to seniors.

Trustee Kataras stated he also did not want to charge residents more and questioned if the Village is billing everything that Medicare and insurances reimburses for. Chief Grabowski answered there are other items that can be billed and it is an option that can be considered.

Trustee Dawkins stated these fees put the Village in line with other communities, and it would not be a detriment to our residents. The Village would be reimbursed the amount Medicare and the insurance companies will pay.

Trustee Casella noted he wanted residents to know the billing service sends out bills to the insurance companies or Medicare and not to the residents. He did not want residents to be afraid to call for an ambulance.

Trustee Colton stated that this was discussed at a Strategic Planning meeting, and it is clear the Board does not want to cause any burden to the residents.

Trustee Robertson stated the provision allowing the Village Manager and Fire Chief to deal with hardship cases is important.

The Board thanked Fire Chief Grabowski for his report.

A motion was made by Trustee Kataras, seconded by Trustee Casella to increase the rates for ambulance services and medical reimbursement charges as presented and direct staff to prepare an ordinance. ***Roll Call: AYES: Trustees Kataras, Dawkins, Casella, Colton and Robertson. NAYS: Trustee Tienstra. Motion carried.***

Attorney Cummings suggested the contract renewal be amended to allow the Village to opt out at the end of each year so that we are in compliance with State Statues in terms of limiting the duration of the contract.

A motion was made by Trustee Kataras, seconded by Trustee Colton to enter into a three-year contract with Medical Reimbursement Services, Inc. for ambulance billing at a rate of 8% contingent upon attorney review. ***Roll Call: AYES: Trustees Kataras, Dawkins, Casella, Colton and Robertson. NAYS: Trustee Tienstra. Motion carried.***

BOND ISSUE FOR THE PURPOSE OF PAYING THE COSTS OF CONSTRUCTING PUBLIC CAPITAL INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENTS AND ACQUIRING CAPITAL EQUIPMENT IN AND FOR THE VILLAGE: Finance Director Bubenik led in the discussion regarding the funding of capital projects through the issuance of \$2,200,000 General Obligation Limited Tax Bonds. He stated each year during the Budget process the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) is discussed. The CIP represents expenses on infrastructure. While the infrastructure needs in an older community such as Homewood are many, finding the funding to pay is difficult.

Currently, MFT is used for some road work and grants will continue to be pursued where available. Water/Sewer revenues are used for water and sewer type projects, and the Village has also used our share of the TIF surplus revenues for infrastructure. Another way to fund infrastructure is through the issuance of General Obligation (GO) Bonds.

Property tax cap laws went into effect in 1994 restricting the allowed growth in property tax bills for residents in non-home rule communities to issue limited non-referendum GO Bonds. The non-referendum debt is limited to one-half of one percent of the Equalized Assessed Value plus the total debt for the year and cannot exceed the debt level on the books in 1994. This would allow the Village to issue up to \$2.2 million GO Bonds this year, with repayment to be completed in four or five years, at a very low interest.

Finance Director Bubenik stated one of the strategic planning objectives discussed was the importance of an older community such as Homewood, finding funding and staying on top of its infrastructure. The capital needs of the Village well exceeds the \$2.2 million we would be able to borrow in this non-referendum debt, but it does allow the Village to address the most pressing CIP needs similar to what was done in 2002 and 2006.

Older communities must invest in their infrastructure to maintain their stability and to effectively plan for the future. Municipal governments across the country are facing extremely tight operating budgets, and deferring capital projects is a short term strategy. Our auditor has shared with the Board the fact that Homewood has little to no debt on the

books. This is a positive thing but could be dangerous if we are not effectively planning for the future.

The four categories proposed for a 2010 non-referendum GO Bond are: vehicles, building/technology improvements, reforestation/landscape improvements, and streets and sidewalks.

The first step in issuing this GO debt was to find a Financial Advisor to assist in the process. A Financial Advisor Request for Quotation (RFQ) was mailed in October, 2009. The Village Manager, Finance Director and Senior Accountant evaluated the two finalists and chose Ehlers based on experience in this field.

Mr. John Miller of Ehlers was present to answer questions from the Board. Mr. Miller stated interest rates are very low now, so it is a good time to borrow. State Statues require a public hearing be held as the next step in the process of the GO Bonds.

The potential bond projects were then reviewed by staff.

The Board agreed that although the Village is issuing GO Bonds, they are not committed to any one of the projects discussed, and each project will be brought before the Board for approval.

Board members thanked Finance Director Bubenik for his report.

Village President Hofeld asked to have an emergency water connection with the City of Chicago Heights added to the list of projects. He reiterated that everything will come before the Board for consideration.

RESOLUTION NO. R-2054/GENERAL OBLIGATION LIMITED TAX BONDS: At the conclusion of the above discussion, and after recitation and review of the attached Resolution R-2054, which was available to any person in attendance who requested a copy, the Village President asked for a motion to approve Resolution No. R-2054 calling for a public hearing as required by the Bond Issue Notification Act. A motion was made by Trustee Robertson, seconded by Trustee Kataras to pass Resolution R-2054 calling for a public hearing in connection with the Village's planned sale of general obligation limited tax bonds in the amount of not to exceed \$2,200,000 for the purpose of paying the costs of constructing public capital infrastructure improvements and acquiring capital equipment within the Village. ***Roll Call: AYES: Trustees Tienstra, Kataras, Dawkins, Casella, Colton and Robertson. NAYS: None. Motion carried***

MANAGER'S REPORT: Public Works Director Schaefer informed the Board that over the last month there were twenty-eight call-outs due to the weather. The last snowstorm, which was the thirteenth snow event of the season, started on January 7, 2010 and continued through January 8, 2010. All the streets were plowed and salted curb to curb, using all equipment available to the Village. A total of nine inches of snow fell during

this storm, with one hundred ninety-seven tons of salt used. The total cost incurred is approximately \$35,000.00.

GENERAL BOARD DISCUSSION:

Trustee Tienstra asked when the Board would be receiving the budget information to which Village Manager Franz stated the budget information will be given out late January to early February, with a series of meetings to follow.

Trustee Tienstra also asked for TIF information from Finance Director Bubenik, a copy of the Village Ordinances, the expenditures for last year's Homewood Days, and a copy of Thorn Creek Basin's unfunded mandate.

Trustee Kataras asked if the Board could get the budget information sooner.

Trustee Dawkins encouraged everyone to participate in all of the Village events.

Trustee Casella thanked Village Manager Franz for re-evaluating the dress code for staff.

The members of the Board thanked Public Works, the Fire Department and Police Department for the great job they do for the Village.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: A motion was made by Trustee Colton, seconded by Trustee Casella to enter into Executive Session to discuss collective negotiation matters at 9:07 p.m. **Roll Call: AYES: Trustees Tienstra, Kataras, Dawkins, Casella, Colton and Robertson. NAYS: None. Motion carried.**

The Board returned to open session at 10:32 p.m.

ADJOURN: A motion to adjourn was made by Trustee Kataras, seconded by Trustee Casella. **Roll Call: AYES: Trustees Tienstra, Kataras, Dawkins, Casella, Colton and Robertson. NAYS: None. Motion carried.** The meeting adjourned at 10:33 p.m. There was no one in the audience.

Village Clerk