

VILLAGE OF HOMEWOOD
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2010
VILLAGE HALL BOARD ROOM

CALL TO ORDER: Village President Richard Hofeld called the meeting to order at 7:37 p.m. There were twenty-nine 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: Deputy Village Clerk Sandy Ruhlander recorded the Roll Call. Those present and responding were Trustees Glenn Tienstra, Tom Kataras, Barbara Dawkins, Joe Casella, Ray Robertson, and Village President Richard Hofeld. Trustee Anne Colton arrived at 7:58 p.m. Village Clerk Gayle Campbell 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 Paula Wallrich, Director of Public Works John Schaefer, and Assistant Village Manager Jim Marino.

MINUTES: A motion was made by Trustee Kataras, seconded by Trustee Robertson to approve the minutes of the Board of Trustees Regular Meeting held on Tuesday, November 23, 2010. **Roll Call: AYES: Trustees Tienstra, Kataras, Dawkins, Casella, and Robertson. NAYS: None. ABSENT: Trustee Colton. Motion carried.**

CLAIMS LIST: Following questions from the Board, which were answered by staff, a motion was made by Trustee Robertson, seconded by Trustee Casella, to approve the Claims List of Tuesday, December 14, 2010, in the amount of \$726,326.93. **Roll Call: AYES: Trustees Tienstra, Kataras, Dawkins, Casella, and Robertson. NAYS: None. ABSENT: Trustee Colton. Motion carried.**

MEET YOUR MERCHANTS: Tom Tomaszewski, a member of the Economic Development Committee, reminded the Board and audience of their mission to continue to encourage new business in the Village. He then introduced Dr. Dave Rompala, of the Sertoma Speech and Hearing Center, located in the Homewood-Flossmoor Racquetball and Health Club at 2920 183rd Street. Dr. Rompala stated they are a non-profit facility offering speech and hearing screening and services, with one of their three locations in Homewood. For more information, visit their website at: www.sertomacenter.org or call 708-957-7122.

Mr. Tomaszewski presented Dr. Rompala with a Certificate of Recognition for participating in this portion of the meeting.

PRESENTATIONS:

PROCLAMATION / DIANNA WIESSNER: Fire Chief Grabowski read a proclamation, issued by Village President Hofeld, commemorating Dianna Wiessner on her retirement from E-COM Joint Dispatch Center. The Board extended best wishes to Ms. Wiessner as she enters her retirement.

RESOLUTION R-2081 / BERNARD S. HOGANCAMP / RETIREMENT / POLICE DEPARTMENT: A motion was made by Trustee Tienstra, seconded by Trustee Kataras to pass a resolution honoring Bernard S. Hogancamp on his retirement. ***Roll Call: AYES: Trustees Tienstra, Kataras, Dawkins, Casella, and Robertson. NAYS: None. ABSENT: Trustee Colton. Motion carried.***

Police Chief Burnson then read the resolution honoring Bernard S. Hogancamp for over thirty years of dedicated service to the Village of Homewood in the Police Department. Mr. Hogancamp was congratulated by the Board and audience.

SWEARING-IN / POLICE OFFICER STEVEN BRANDENBURGER: Police Chief Burnson introduced newly hired Police Officer Steven Brandenburger to the Board and audience.

Deputy Village Clerk Ruhlander administered the oath of office to Steven Brandenburger as police officer for the Village of Homewood. Officer Brandenburger was welcomed by the Board.

HEAR FROM THE AUDIENCE: No one came forward.

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

- A. GO GREEN REWARD PROGRAM / 2000 RIDGE ROAD / HOMEWOOD MARATHON: An application by Mahmoud Mizyed, Marathon Oil, as part of the Go Green Reward Program for the property located at 2000 Ridge Road in an amount not to exceed \$1,600.00 and direction to staff to draft an incentive agreement with the property owner.
- B. RETAIL ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM / 2045 RIDGE ROAD / TOKYO RESTAURANT: An application by Bruce Wei for Tokyo Japanese Hibachi Grill and Sushi Bar as part of the Retail Enhancement Program for the property located at 2045 Ridge Road in an amount not to exceed \$10,000 and direction to staff to draft an incentive agreement with the property owner.
- C. LIMITED SCAVENGER LICENSE / TOTAL DISPOSAL: Approval of a Limited Scavenger License to Total Disposal, Gary, Indiana.

- D. RESOLUTION R-2082 / 2011 ROAD IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM: A resolution for improvement by municipality under the Illinois Highway Code for various street improvement projects.
- E. RESOLUTION R-2083 / LANCE L. VLCEK / 25 YEARS OF SERVICE / POLICE DEPARTMENT: A resolution honoring Lance L. Vlcek for 25 years of service to the Village of Homewood.
- F. 2010 REAL ESTATE TAX LEVY ORDINANCES
- a) ORDINANCE M-1825 / LEVYING TAXES: An ordinance levying taxes for corporate purposes and for special funds for the fiscal year commencing on the first day of May 2011 and ending on the thirtieth day of April, 2012 for the Village of Homewood, Illinois.
 - b) ORDINANCE M-1826 / 2010 STREET AND BRIDGE TAX LEVY: An ordinance increasing the 2010 Street and Bridge Tax Levy in the Village of Homewood, Cook County, Illinois.
 - c) ORDINANCE M-1827 / AUTHORIZATION OF TAX LEVY REDUCTION IF NECESSARY: An ordinance directing the Cook County Clerk to reduce the Village of Homewood's 2010 Levy, if necessary, to comply with the Property Tax Extension Limitation Law.
- G. ORDINANCE M-1828 / PUD AMENDMENT / MANOR CARE NURSING HOME / 940 MAPLE AVENUE: An ordinance amending the Planned Unit Development for the HCR Manor Care Nursing Home located at 940 Maple Avenue, Homewood, Cook County, Illinois.
- H. RESOLUTION R-2084 / HOMEWOOD BUSINESS PARK LLC / 17771-17835 BRETZ DRIVE / RELEASE OF LETTER OF CREDIT: A resolution approving release of the Letter of Credit posted by Homewood Business Park LLC to guarantee completion of the project located at 17771-17835 Bretz Drive, Homewood, Illinois.

Trustee Tienstra expressed his concerns regarding item "H" and asked for further explanation. Mr. Steinmarch, the developer of this project, commented on the status and progress of his development.

Village Manager Franz and Fire Chief Grabowski reviewed the process of approval needed for the release of a letter of credit.

Trustee Colton arrived at 7:58 p.m.

Trustee Tienstra expressed his concerns regarding item "F" and asked it be removed from the Omnibus Vote to be considered separately.

Trustee Dawkins stated this is a .08 percent tax increase and is necessary because of the bond issue. Staff is very responsible with respect to expenditures.

Village Manager Franz added all taxing bodies must stay within and abide by tax caps.

Trustee Casella commented on Mr. Steinmarch's buildings stating that they enhance our community. He also agrees with staff's recommendation regarding the tax levy.

Trustee Colton stated, though she understands Trustee Tienstra's concerns, taxes have decreased by about thirty percent in the last ten years.

Trustee Robertson pointed out this is only a percentage of the overall tax bill.

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

A motion was made by Trustee Robertson, seconded by Trustee Dawkins to approve item "F (a)" 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 approve item "F (b)" 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 Dawkins to approve item "F (c)" as presented. **Roll Call: AYES: Trustees Kataras, Dawkins, Casella, Colton and Robertson. NAYS: Trustee Tienstra. Motion carried.**

PRAIRIE LAKES WETLAND RESORATION PROJECT: Director Schaefer led in the discussion of moving forward with the wetland restoration and pond creation project in the western portion of the Prairie Lakes Business Center site located south of 175th Street, east of Ashland Avenue, and west of Halsted Street.

At the November 23, 2010 Village Board meeting, bid results were presented for this project. At that meeting the Board asked if this project could be reduced in some way.

After reviewing the project for any elements or scope of work that could be changed, it was determined that if the scope of work was changed significantly, the project would be required to be resubmitted as a new project to the Army Corp of Engineers, which could take up to a year for permitting. Currently, we are still in the process of obtaining the permit from them. Based on discussions with Village Attorney Cummings, the permit must be received before the Washington Park TIF is terminated.

Staffs worked with the low bidder, EarthWerks, on the project and was able to reduce the low bid amount from \$589,062 to \$489,766.

A motion was made by Trustee Kataras, seconded by Trustee Dawkins to award the bid for the Prairie Lakes Pond and Wetland Complex Project to EarthWerks of Batavia, Illinois, the lowest responsible bidder, for the revised bid amount of \$489,766.00, contingent upon receiving the permit before January 11, 2011. **Roll Call: AYES: Trustees Tienstra, Kataras, Dawkins, Casella, Colton and Robertson. NAYS: None. Motion carried.**

Bob Ahlf thanked the Board and Director Schaefer for supporting the Izaak Walton Preserve and addressing this issue that has been a major problem for decades.

TELEPHONE AND VOICEMAIL SYSTEM UPGRADE: Assistant Village Manager Marino led in the discussion of upgrading or possibly replacing the Village's telephone and voicemail system.

A few months ago the Village was experiencing a problem with the computer that runs our voicemail software. The computer kept rebooting, causing our voicemail system to go down. When voicemail is down, callers cannot reach the departments' main numbers because the auto attendant greeting operates through the voicemail system. In addition, callers cannot leave voice messages for staff and staff cannot access their voice messages.

As a result of this recurring problem, staff evaluated both short term and long term solutions. After discussing the problem with our phone system provider, Telecom Innovations Group (TIG), some adjustments were made to the equipment that reduced the frequency of the system rebooting. Due to these recent problems, and the age of the system, staff took a closer look at options for replacing the system as a long term solution.

Assistant Village Manager Marino gave a summary of the telephone and voicemail systems, and highlighted six options presented by staff, including doing nothing at this time to replacing the current voicemail system and upgrading our private branch exchange (PBX) telephone system hardware at a cost of \$25,000.

The 2007/08 budget included \$23,000 to upgrade the Mitel PBX, which the Board decided not to purchase at that time. It was intended to be included in the CIP for this fiscal year, but was inadvertently omitted. Since replacement of the voicemail system was not budgeted in this fiscal year, purchasing the system would require a budget amendment. The funds for this purchase can come from money remaining in the Village Hall bond.

A representative from TIG was present to answer questions from the Board.

IT Manager Tim Stinnett added the current system is unsupported and has issues on a weekly basis, with no warning or indication that it is down and not working.

Trustee Tienstra asked if the system could survive until the next budget to which Assistant Village Manager Marino answered it would be money better spent in a controlled situation instead of waiting for it to fail and create a more costly emergency.

Village Manager Franz added staff had determined this project needs to take precedence over the other budgeted projects.

Trustee Kataras expressed his concerns of the lack of support and service for the current system and this being an unbudgeted item.

Assistant Village Manager Marino stated the voicemail system is one part of the entire phone system.

Trustee Dawkins also expressed concerns, adding this system is a function of the Village needed to service residents, and this is the most reasonable choice presented.

Trustee Casella stated he has experienced this issue with the voicemail system personally. He further stated he would also like to see more use of E-Com as a resource.

Trustee Colton expressed her concerns of this purchase not being a budgeted item, but further stated this is too important to take lightly and it is needed for the Village to be effective.

Trustee Robertson asked where the new system was in its life span, to which the representative from TIG answered the voicemail system came out in 2008.

After discussion, a motion was made by Trustee Robertson, seconded by Trustee Kataras to approve a budget amendment to add the purchase of new telephone PBX and voicemail systems in the amount of \$25,000 and authorize the purchase of a telephone PBX and voicemail system from Telecom Innovations Group in the amount of \$25,000.
Roll Call: AYES: Trustees Tienstra, Kataras, Dawkins, Casella, Colton and Robertson. NAYS: None. Motion carried.

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

GENERAL BOARD DISCUSSION:

Trustee Dawkins extended an invitation for the New Year's Eve Day celebration on December 31, 2010 in the H-F Park District Auditorium next to the Village Hall, 11:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. This event will feature hula dancers, with light refreshments being served, and the balloon drop at the stroke of 12:00 noon.

The Board wished everyone a safe and happy holiday and also thanked Director Schaefer and his department for their efforts during the recent snow storm.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: A motion was made by Trustee Colton, seconded by Trustee Casella, to enter into Executive Session to discuss probable litigation at 8:50 p.m. ***Roll Call: AYES: Trustees Tienstra, Kataras, Dawkins, Casella, Colton and Robertson. NAYS: None. Motion carried.***

The Board took a short recess at 8:50 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 Robertson, seconded by Trustee Dawkins. ***Roll Call: AYES: Trustees Tienstra, Kataras, Dawkins, Casella, Colton and Robertson. NAYS: None. Motion carried.*** The meeting adjourned at 10:05 p.m. There was no one in the audience.

Village Clerk