

VILLAGE OF HOMEWOOD  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING  
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 2011  
VILLAGE HALL BOARD ROOM

CALL TO ORDER: Village President Richard Hofeld called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. There were six 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 present and responding were Trustees Tom Kataras, Barbara Dawkins, Lisa Purcell, Anne Colton, Jay Heiferman, and Village President Richard Hofeld. Trustee Robertson was absent.

INTRODUCTION OF STAFF: Village President Hofeld introduced the present staff members: Acting Village Manager Jim Marino, Attorney Chris Cummings, Director of Finance Dennis Bubenik, Director of Community Development Paula Wallrich, and Director of Public Works John Schaefer.

MINUTES: A motion was made by Trustee Colton, seconded by Trustee Purcell to approve the minutes of the Board of Trustees Regular Meeting held on Tuesday, August 23, 2011. **Roll Call: AYES: Trustees Kataras, Dawkins, Purcell, Colton, and Heiferman. NAYS: None. ABSENT: Trustee Robertson. Motion carried.**

CLAIMS LIST: A motion was made by Trustee Colton, seconded by Trustee Purcell, to approve the Claims List of Tuesday, September 13, 2011, in the amount of \$907,887.28. **Roll Call: AYES: Trustees Kataras, Dawkins, Purcell, Colton, and Heiferman. NAYS: None. ABSENT: Trustee Robertson. Motion carried.**

APPOINTMENTS: A motion was made by Trustee Kataras, seconded by Trustee Colton to approve the appointment of Nancy Spaniak to the Community Relations Commission for a term ending 8/31/2014 and the reappointments of Kathi Knight and Kelly Feminella to the Community Relations Commission for terms ending 8/31/2014. **Roll Call: AYES: Trustees Kataras, Dawkins, Purcell, Colton, and Heiferman. NAYS: None. ABSENT: Trustee Robertson. Motion carried.**

Village Clerk Campbell swore in Nancy Spaniak, who was then welcomed by the Board.

MEET YOUR MERCHANTS: No one came forward.

HEAR FROM THE AUDIENCE: Allisa Opyd informed the Board and audience of several upcoming events taking place in Homewood.

Global Fusion, located at the corner of Ridge Road and Dixie Highway, will be hosting their Grand Opening on September 16, 2011 from 5:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m.

On Saturday, September 17, 2011, Fall Fest, featuring a petting zoo, pony rides, magic show, face painting, a pumpkin patch, horse drawn wagon, music and more, will be held from 11:00 a.m. until 10:00 p.m. on Hickory Road, between Dixie Highway and Harwood Avenue. The Annual Chili Cook-Off starts at 2:30 p.m., with open tasting beginning at 3:30 p.m. All are invited to attend this family friendly event.

Also on September 17, 2011, everyone is invited to meet and greet Mr. Richard Haas, designer of the murals located in the Village. This event will take place by Melody Mart, 18062 Dixie Highway, from 3:00 p.m. until 6:30 p.m., where Mr. Haas will be finalizing the last of his murals.

The Foundation 153 Fun Race and Dash will be held on Sunday, September 25, 2011, benefiting the school district. Registration begins at 8:00 a.m., with the event ending by 12:00 noon.

OMNIBUS VOTE: Village President stated Item "A" would be voted on separately due to Trustee Purcell's interest.

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

- B. ORDINANCE M-1840/175<sup>TH</sup> STREET TIF ESTABLISHMENT/ SETTING PUBLIC HEARING: An ordinance proposing designation of the 175<sup>th</sup> Street TIF Redevelopment Project Area, establishment of a Redevelopment Plan and Project for the 175<sup>th</sup> Street TIF Redevelopment Project Area, and confirmation of tax increment allocation financing therefore; convening a Joint Review Board; and calling a public hearing in connection therewith.
- C. 2053 RIDGE ROAD/GO GREEN REWARD PROGRAM: An application for the Go Green Reward Program by Nielsen's Bakery, Inc., for the purchase of a high efficiency semi hermetic condensing roof top unit and compressor to operate the walk-in freezer located at 2053 Ridge Road (the future site of Twisted Q BBQ and Bakery) with direction to staff to draft an incentive agreement with the property owner in an amount not to exceed \$2,500.00.

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

Village President Hofeld presented item "A":

- A. ORDINANCE M-1839/EAST CBD TIF ESTABLISHMENTS/SETTING PUBLIC HEARING: An ordinance proposing designation of the East CBD TIF Redevelopment Project Area, establishment of a Redevelopment Plan and Project for the East CBD TIF

Redevelopment Project Area, and confirmation of tax increment allocation financing therefore; convening a Joint Review Board; and calling a public hearing in connection therewith.

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

## OLD/NEW BUSINESS

WATER/SEWER BILLING PROCEDURES: Finance Director Bubenik led in the discussion regarding procedures to increase water billing efficiency, improve maintenance of the water/sewer infrastructure system, and establish an equitable fee structure for special services.

The Village overwhelmingly passed a referendum in the 1980's to receive Lake Michigan water from the City of Chicago through the City of Harvey. In the 1990's the Village turned over the sewer processing function to Thorn Creek Sanitary Basin district. The end result was the Village of Homewood got out of the business of pumping water from wells and treating sewage, but continued maintaining the sewer and water lines and billing for sewer and water.

He then presented two charts. The first one showed statistics of a decline of 13% in gallons billed fiscal year April 30, 2007 compared to April 30, 2011. This can be attributed to conservation measures, foreclosures and aging meters.

The second chart represented a historical trend showing the majority of our accounts, approximately 80%, pay in a timely fashion. A bigger jump was seen in those paying at the last minute right before disconnection of service. This group monopolizes the time of the Public Works staff and the Finance staff.

Director Bubenik then highlighted the areas of concern and the proposed changes to procedures and fees. These areas included temporary turn on/off fee, shut off for multiple no shows for appointments, a water set-up fee, blue tag fee, after hours turn on fee, heat of procedure, property managers responsibility, responsible adult at location of water turn on, credit card phone in fee, a change to language regarding non-sufficient funds and no partial payments plans.

The changes to these items will help assist in the burden to those that pay on time while increasing Village efficiency, help maintain sewer/water infrastructure and put fees for special services upon the group requesting those services.

Attorney Cummings added staff had been working on these items for a long time, making them a high priority.

Trustee Kataras stated he would like to give those who do pay on time some type of an incentive or discount to encourage the cash flow of the Village.

Trustee Dawkins stated that once the residents are billed for water used the Village has already paid for this water. This would limit the Village as to what benefits could be given.

The Board was in agreement these changes needed to be made and thanked Mr. Bubenik for his presentation.

**DIRECTION:** A motion was made by Trustee Kataras, seconded by Trustee Purcell directing staff to prepare an ordinance to implement the new water/sewer billing procedures. ***Roll Call: AYES: Trustees Kataras, Dawkins, Purcell, Colton, and Heiferman. NAYS: None. ABSENT: Trustee Robertson. Motion carried.***

**MANAGER'S REPORT:** Acting Village Manager Marino had nothing further to report.

**GENERAL BOARD DISCUSSION:**

The Board encouraged everyone to attend the Fall Fest and Chili Cook-Off on Saturday, September 17, 2011.

Trustee Heiferman complimented the Homewood-Flossmoor Park District and Fire Department on the 9-11 ceremony. He also reminded everyone of the Tree Share Program being offered now. Visit the Village's website at [www.homesweethomewood.com](http://www.homesweethomewood.com) for tree selection.

Public Works Director Schaefer stated residents may bring their tree branches to Public Works on Saturday, October 1, 2011 from 8:00 a.m. until 12:00 noon. No evergreen type branches will be accepted.

**ADJOURN:** A motion to adjourn was made by Trustee Kataras, seconded by Trustee Colton. ***Roll Call: AYES: Trustees Kataras, Dawkins, Purcell, Colton, and Heiferman. NAYS: None. ABSENT: Trustee Robertson. Motion carried.*** The meeting adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

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Village Clerk