

VILLAGE OF HOMEWOOD
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 2012
VILLAGE HALL BOARD ROOM

CALL TO ORDER: Village President Richard Hofeld called the meeting to order at 7:32 p.m. There were fifteen 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 present and responding were Trustees Tom Kataras, Barbara Dawkins, Anne Colton, Jay Heiferman, Ray Robertson, and Village President Richard Hofeld. Trustee Lisa Purcell was absent.

INTRODUCTION OF STAFF: Village President Hofeld introduced the present staff members: Village Manager Ralph DeWitt, 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: Trustee Colton requested an addition to these minutes reflecting the discussion and concerns of Board members regarding the property at 900 Maple Avenue.

A motion was made by Trustee Colton, seconded by Trustee Kataras to approve the minutes of the Board of Trustees Regular Meeting held on Tuesday, February 14, 2012 with this amendment. **Roll Call: AYES: Trustees Kataras, Dawkins, Colton, Heiferman and Robertson. NAYS: None. ABSENT: Trustee Purcell. Motion carried.**

CLAIMS LIST: A motion was made by Trustee Colton, seconded by Trustee Dawkins, to approve the Claims List of Tuesday, February 28, 2012, in the amount of \$309,132.08. **Roll Call: AYES: Trustees Kataras, Dawkins, Colton, Heiferman and Robertson. NAYS: None. ABSENT: Trustee Purcell. Motion carried.**

APPOINTMENTS: A motion was made by Trustee Dawkins, seconded by Trustee Colton to approve the appointment of Karl Persons to the Tree Committee for a term ending November 13, 2015. **Roll Call: AYES: Trustees Kataras, Dawkins, Colton, Heiferman and Robertson. NAYS: None. ABSENT: Trustee Purcell. Motion carried.**

Village Clerk Campbell swore in Karl Persons, who was then welcomed by the Board.

MEET YOUR MERCHANTS: No one came forward.

PRESENTATIONS: RESOLUTION R-2113 / CLINT JOHNSON / 35 YEARS OF SERVICE / FIRE DEPARTMENT: A motion was made by Trustee Robertson, seconded by Trustee Dawkins to pass a resolution honoring Clint Johnson for 35 years of service to the Village of Homewood. **Roll Call: AYES: Trustees Kataras, Dawkins, Colton, Heiferman and Robertson. NAYS: None. ABSENT: Trustee Purcell. Motion carried.**

Village President Hofeld stated this resolution would be presented to Deputy Fire Chief Johnson at a later date.

HEAR FROM THE AUDIENCE: Marianne Reilly of 1611 187th Street read a letter expressing her concerns of a sewer problem at this address.

Robert Reilly of 1611 187th Street also addressed the Board and expressed his concerns.

Charles Derringer of Chicago Heights expressed his concerns of the restoration of a dam located at Sauk Trail Lake in Bloom Township and owned by the Cook County Forest Preserve and concerns of the City of Chicago's plans for the Thornton quarry.

OLD/NEW BUSINESS

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

- A. ANNUAL REPORT/PLAN COMMISSION: The 2011 Annual Report for the Plan Commission.
- B. BANKING SERVICES/BMO HARRIS: Approve the use of BMO Harris for banking services for the Village of Homewood.
- C. FIRE AND POLICE TESTING SERVICES: An agreement between the Village of Homewood and Stanard and Associates for fire and police testing services through May 1, 2013.
- D. RAFFLE LICENSE – PARISH OF ST. JOSEPH: Authorize the issuance of a raffle license to the Parish of St. Joseph for a single raffle; waive the fidelity bond requirement; waive the license fee of \$5.00; and allow for the sale of raffle tickets at \$25.00 each or 5 for \$100.00.
- E. RESOLUTION R-2114 / IDOT BIKE PLAN IMPLEMENTATION PROJECT: A Resolution for Improvement by Municipality Under the Illinois Highway Code appropriating \$48,000 of MFT funds for the removal of existing pavement markings, installation of bike lane pavement markings, bike racks, and bicycle route signing on existing poles or new posts.

Trustee Heiferman expressed his concerns of the service fees and not using a local bank. He requested item "B" be removed from the Omnibus Vote and considered separately.

After discussion and comments from the audience, a motion was made by Trustee Colton, seconded by Trustee Dawkins to pass, approve, accept or award the Omnibus Vote items “A”, and “C” through ”E” as presented. **Roll Call: AYES: Trustees Kataras, Dawkins, Colton, Heiferman and Robertson. NAYS: None. ABSENT: Trustee Purcell. Motion carried.**

Finance Director Bubenik reviewed the reasons for item “B” and the need to change banking services for the Village.

A representative from BMO Harris Bank elaborated on their capabilities and services they have available to the Village.

Following discussion, a motion was made by Trustee Kataras, seconded by Trustee Colton to approve the Omnibus Vote item “B” as presented. **Roll Call: AYES: Trustees Kataras, Dawkins, Colton and Robertson. NAYS: Trustee Heiferman. ABSENT: Trustee Purcell. Motion carried.**

GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SYSTEM (GIS): Assistant Village Manager Marino led in the discussion of participating in the South Suburban Mayors and Managers Associations (SSMMA) Geographic Information System (GIS) Consortium which would allow staff to access and analyze information from different software applications and data from other public entities in a single web-based system.

This item has been included in the budget for several years but kept being deferred by staff due to the high cost and lack of funds. With prices ranging from \$40,000 to \$90,000, participating with SSMMA would be the best solution and most cost effective for the Village. The annual cost to participate in the GIS program would be \$9,216.

The GIS program would allow each department to access data, most of which the Village currently has in different software applications. Other data sources could also be accessed, such a Cook County.

Dennis Latto from SSMMA gave a presentation highlighted how the GIS program would benefit participating municipalities, showing many components of the system.

An executive committee will be established with representatives from each participating municipality to discuss problems and successes and give additional training. SSMMA can also perform input information if needed.

The Board thanked Mr. Latto for his presentation.

Village President Hofeld stated the Village attorney will review the contract. Upon his review this matter will be brought back before the Board for consideration.

HOMEWOOD DAYS: Village Manager DeWitt stated after last year's Homewood Days a number of issues became concerns of Village staff and the Homewood Area Chamber of Commerce.

Over the past months Village staff and members of the Chamber have been working to develop a new proposal to address these concerns.

Debbie Lucia, President-Elect of the Homewood Area Chamber of Commerce, addressed the Board regarding their key strategies and proposed changes to the overall operation of Homewood Days, tentatively scheduled for July 12, 13 and 14, 2012.

Joey Rega owner of Joey Rega Tours and Events, a management company for the Homewood Area Chamber of Commerce, was present to answer questions from the Board.

Trustee Kataras expressed his concerns of the Village's suggestion to suspend the event for 2012 as Homewood Days is a major fundraiser for the Chamber. Also, the responsibility of the issues raised should be shared equally with the Village and the Chamber.

Trustee Dawkins stated the \$5 entrance fee was implemented to assist with Village costs and lessen loitering. She asked Ms. Lucia if there is a reason why Homewood is the only community that hosts this event.

Ms. Lucia answered that not only because of the name, but Homewood is the focus of the event and the largest of the three communities of the Chamber, which is Homewood, Flossmoor and Glenwood. She added the entrance fee was a mutual decision from Homewood and the Chamber.

Trustee Colton stated she was glad last year's issues were being addressed but the proposed changes do not deal with these issues or reflect what Homewood is about.

Trustee Robertson expressed his concerns of the proposed lay out using the Village Hall parking lot where the French Market is held and commuters have paid for parking spaces. He further stated the Village should support this event but certain concerns need to be addressed.

Following more discussion, the consensus of the majority of the Board was not to support the proposal as presented.

Village President Hofeld invited the Chamber to come back before the Board after they have spoken to the private property owners involved in their proposal and the concerns of the Board are addressed.

2012/2013 FISCAL YEAR BUDGET: Finance Director Bubenik continued the discussion of the Draft 2012-2013 Fiscal Year Budget the proposed Fire, Police and Public Works Departments' operating budgets.

He highlighted some accomplishments, plans for the up coming year, strategic issues and operating budgets for these three departments.

Public Works Director Schaefer commented on the service agencies Public Works participates in where they respond to events throughout the area.

Trustee Kataras requested a copy of the staffing changes made in the Fire Department and the reflected cost of the new re-organization.

The Board thanked Director Bubenik for his presentation.

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

GENERAL BOARD DISCUSSION:

Trustee Kataras requested an executive session be scheduled to discuss a flooding issue. He encouraged the Board to support the Chamber in Homewood Days. He would like to see the Village make a monetary contribution to the Chamber if this event does not take place.

Trustee Dawkins thanked the volunteers of the Community Relations Commission, Village staff and all who attended this year's Chocolate Fest.

Trustee Heiferman stated one of the goals of the Bike Plan Project is to establish a bicycle programming committee. He volunteered to put together a task force to address the needs of residents and encourage the use of active transportation in the Village and see that the plan is expanded to pedestrians and commuters.

ADJOURN: A motion to adjourn was made by Trustee Colton, seconded by Trustee Heiferman. **Roll Call: AYES: Trustees Kataras, Dawkins, Colton, Heiferman and Robertson. NAYS: None. ABSENT: Trustee Purcell. Motion carried.** The meeting adjourned at 9:12 p.m.

Village Clerk