

VILLAGE OF HOMEWOOD
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING
TUESDAY –FEBRUARY 10, 2015
VILLAGE HALL BOARD ROOM

CALL TO ORDER: Village President Hofeld called the regular meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. Approximately six people from the public were present. Two press representatives were in the audience.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Village President Hofeld led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL: Clerk Marilyn Thomas recorded the roll call. Those present were Village President Richard Hofeld, Trustee Barbara Dawkins, Trustee Lisa Purcell, Trustee Karen Washington, Trustee Jay Heiferman, Trustee Anne Colton and Trustee Ray Robertson.

INTRODUCTION OF STAFF: Village President Hofeld introduced staff members in attendance: Village Attorney Christopher Cummings, Village Manager Jim Marino, Director of Finance Dennis Bubenik, Director of Public Works John Schaefer, and Assistant Village Manager Michael Marzal.

MINUTES: There were no comments or corrections to the minutes of January 27, 2015. A motion was made by Trustee Purcell and seconded by Trustee Robertson to approve the minutes of January 27, 2015.

Roll Call: AYES – Trustees Dawkins, Purcell, Washington, Heiferman and Robertson. NAYS – None. ABSTAIN - Trustee Colton. Motion carried.

CLAIMS LIST: The Claims List of \$439,223.71 was reviewed. President Hofeld said approximately 57 percent of the expenses were attributed to \$184,706.54 for employees' health insurance premiums and \$66,405.19 for Thorn Creek Sanitary District.

A motion was made by Trustee Colton and seconded by Trustee Purcell for the Board to approve the February 10, 2015 Claims List in the amount of \$439,223.71.

Roll Call: AYES – Trustees Dawkins, Purcell, Washington, Colton, Heiferman and Robertson. NAYS – None. Motion carried.

APPOINTMENTS: The Board was asked to reappoint Tom Grant and Bill Woelfel to the Rail Committee. Terms will end January 18, 2018. The Board was asked to reappoint Paul Kramer to the TREE Committee. The term will end November 13, 2017.

A motion was made by Trustee Colton and seconded by Trustee Purcell to approve the reappointments of Tom Grant, Bill Woelfel and Paul Kramer.

Roll Call: AYES – Trustees Dawkins, Purcell, Washington, Colton, Heiferman and Robertson. NAYS – None. Motion carried.

HEAR FROM THE AUDIENCE: President Hofeld invited members of the audience to address any issues not on the agenda. No comments were offered.

OMNIBUS VOTE: Village Clerk Thomas read the following items:

- A. RESOLUTION R-2209 / APPROVAL OF EXECUTIVE SESSION MINUTES:
Pass a resolution approving Executive Session minutes from July through December 2014 and authorizing the destruction of Executive Session audio recordings from March 12, 2013 through June 25, 2013.
- B. RESOLUTION R-2210 / RELEASE OF EXECUTIVE SESSION MINUTES:
Pass a resolution determining which minutes or portions thereof from Executive Sessions no longer require confidential treatment.
- C. ANNUAL REPORT / TREE COMMITTEE: Accept the Annual Report for the TREE Committee.
- D. ANNUAL REPORT/ ETHICS COMMISSION: Accept the Annual Report for the Ethics Commission.
- E. ANNUAL REPORT / APPEARANCE COMMISSION: Accept the Annual Report of the Appearance Commission.
- F. RESOLUTION R-2211 / 2015 MFT STREET RESURFACING PROGRAM:
Pass a resolution for improvement by municipality under the Illinois Highway Code appropriating \$470,000 from the Motor Fuel Tax (MFT) fund for street resurfacing.

A motion was made by Trustee Colton and seconded by Trustee Washington to approve the Omnibus Report as presented.

Roll Call: AYES – Trustees Dawkins, Purcell, Washington, Colton, Heiferman and Robertson. NAYS – None. Motion carried.

OLD/NEW BUSINESS

BID AWARD / VILLAGE HALL RENOVATIONS: Village Manager Jim Marino explained that the Village solicited bids for the renovation of the second floor of the Village Hall and received 18 bids in mid-January. During a bid review on January 28, 2015, the winning bid of \$402,300 came from Frontier Construction. This bid is below the \$510,000 that had been budgeted for the project that will include: an expanded customer service center for those seeking building permits, special use permits and variance applications; converting the Community Development Department to an open

office area; installing security cameras and controlled access doors; creating additional office and meeting room spaces; and repainting and installing new carpeting on the second floor, as well as in the Board Room on the first floor. The Board Room will also get new blinds.

The staff will be working closely with architect, Chris Hansen, of Kluber Architects. Manager Marino said the Village will pay for the renovations by using \$230,000 from the 1998 bond issued for improvements to the Village Hall and \$280,000 from a surplus in our health insurance reserve. During the renovations, the staff will be working from the former Ryan Funeral Home building that the Village now owns. Manager Marino expects work to begin the first or second week of March.

Trustee Dawkins applauded staff for their work on the redesign saying the renovation will offer better work spaces. She also offered congratulations to staff for their efforts to undertake a major renovation project with surplus funding in-hand, while neighboring communities are spending millions on renovation projects. Her fellow Trustees concurred with her assessments.

A motion was made by Trustee Colton and seconded by Trustee Purcell to authorize the Village Manager to execute a contract with Frontier Construction, the lowest responsible bidder, for renovations to the Village Hall in an amount not to exceed \$402,300 pending final review of the contract by the Village Attorney.

Roll Call: AYES – Trustees Dawkins, Purcell, Washington, Colton, Heiferman and Robertson. NAYS – None. Motion carried.

BUDGET AMENDMENT / EXPLORATORIUM SERVICE AGREEMENT: Manager Marino asked the Board to consider an agreement with the Exploratorium of California to develop a conceptual plan for the proposed community science center. The Board had discussed the proposal in December when it was considering the purchase of Ryan’s Funeral Home as a possible site for the science center.

Manager Marino said under the proposal, Global Studios, part of the Exploratorium, will give Homewood guidance first for a Conceptual Plan and if appropriate will begin a second phase study for securing funds and selecting a science center operator.

The Village will begin Phase One with the approval of an \$80,000 contract (including travel expenses). The work will include meetings in Homewood with stakeholders, Village staff and public meetings. Manager Marino said if the final report from Global Studios shows the science center is viable, the Trustees will be asked to approve Phase Two.

President Hofeld asked for comments from the audience. Elizabeth Soehren-Jones, 1555 Terrace Road., came forward to urge the Board to act on developing a science center. She said she is passionate about STEM programs (science, technology, engineering and math) and has been directly involved in the Northwestern University Center for Talent

Development because her son has been a student there. She said there are only a limited number of opportunities, and she got Northwestern to bring its program to Marian Catholic High School in the fall. The program drew students from as far away as Michigan, as well as the south, west and northern suburbs of Chicago.

She spoke of the SciTech Museum in Aurora developed by Fermi Labs and its STEM pre-school programs. Ms. Soehren-Jones asked the Board to look beyond a museum per se, and think about what else is possible at a science center.

Trustee Dawkins said she was enthusiastically endorsing the proposal saying it will “solidify us as the diamond of the South Suburbs.” Trustee Purcell agreed that a science center gives the community many options and the possibility of additions through various programs. Trustee Washington said the science center should be something for *all* children, not just gifted students.

Trustee Colton said she loves the “ripple effect” the center can stimulate and urged her fellow Trustees to keep their minds open to the possibilities. She thanked staff for the tremendous amount of work they put in to developing the idea of a science center. Trustee Heiferman said so many resources go into sports, he is glad the Trustees and the community are looking at science. Trustee Robertson acknowledged that he has not been in favor of the land purchase but said he hopes the conceptual plan for a science center works and that it will help stimulate the Village’s downtown area.

President Hofeld thanked Rachael Jones, the former Public Relations & Event Manager, who brought the idea to his attention. Ms. Jones, who is now working as a consultant to the Village, said she looked for what was trending outside of the area and learned about the development of science centers. She believed the concept would be right for Homewood because residents are educated, progressive thinkers. She said the idea flourished because of support from staff, and added it was a good discovery, but it would not have been if the Board had not agreed to pursue it.

A motion was made by Trustee Colton and seconded by Trustee Dawkins to approve a budget amendment to increase the contracting/consulting services line item in the manager’s office budget by \$80,000.

Roll Call: AYES – Trustees Dawkins, Purcell, Washington, Colton, Heiferman and Robertson. NAYS – None. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Trustee Colton and seconded by Trustee Purcell authorizing the Village Manager to execute a service agreement with the Exploratorium for the development of a conceptual plan for a community science center in an amount not to exceed \$80,000.

Roll Call: AYES – Trustees Dawkins, Purcell, Washington, Colton, Heiferman and Robertson. NAYS – None. Motion carried.

MANAGER'S REPORT: None

GENERAL BOARD DISCUSSION: Trustee Dawkins invited the community to Chocolate Fest on February 21, 2015 in the auditorium.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: Inasmuch as updated information was not available, President Hofeld stated that the Executive Session will be deferred.

A motion was made by Trustee Colton and seconded by Trustee Heiferman to adjourn the regular meeting of the Board of Trustees at 7:50 p.m.

Roll Call: AYES – Trustees Dawkins, Purcell, Washington, Colton, Heiferman and Robertson. NAYS – None. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Marilyn Thomas
Village Clerk