

VILLAGE OF HOMEWOOD  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING  
TUESDAY—JULY 14, 2015  
VILLAGE HALL BOARD ROOM

CALL TO ORDER: Village President Richard Hofeld called the regular meeting to order at 7:45 p.m. Approximately 25 people from the public were present. One press representative was 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 Hofeld, Trustee Barbara Dawkins, Trustee Lisa Purcell, Trustee Anne Colton, Trustee Jay Heiferman and Trustee Ray Robertson. Trustee Karen Washington was absent.

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

MINUTES: The minutes of June 23, 2015 were presented. A motion was made by Trustee Colton and seconded by Trustee Purcell to approve the minutes of June 23, 2015.

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

CLAIMS LIST: The Claims List of \$1,189,806.82 was reviewed. President Hofeld said approximately 80 percent of the claims list was attributed to six major expenses: \$159,010.14 and \$171,538.88 to the City of Harvey for water; \$147,031.75 for E-COM, the dispatch center; \$158,420.82 to contractor FH Paschen for work on Martin Avenue reconstruction; \$76,131.16 to Frontier Construction Inc. for work remodeling the second floor of Village Hall; \$78, 253.77 to Thorn Creek Basin Sanitary District.

A motion was made by Trustee Purcell and seconded by Trustee Colton for the Board to approve the July 14, 2015 Claims List in the amount of \$1,189,806.82.

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

APPOINTMENTS: The Board was asked to approve the appointment of Patricia Skermont-Pohrte to the Appearance Commission. She will serve through July 31, 2017. The Board was also asked to approve the appointment of Craig Schmidt to the Economic Development Committee. He will serve through July 13, 2017. The Board also was asked to approve the reappointments of Marcia Nicholson, Deneen Sanders, Pamela Lau and

Tom Tomaszewski to the Economic Development Committee serving through July 13, 2017.

A motion was made by Trustee Colton and seconded by Trustee Purcell to approve the appointments of Patricia Skermont-Pohrte and Craig Schmidt and the reappointments of Marcia Nicholson, Deneen Sanders, Pamela Lau and Tom Tomaszewski.

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

Village Clerk Thomas administered the oath of office to Ms. Skermont-Pohrte and Mr. Schmidt.

PRESENTATIONS:

OATH OF OFFICE – DIRECTOR OF ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT / THOMAS VANDER WOUDE: Village Manager Marino introduced Thomas Vander Woude as the new Director of Economic and Community Development. Manager Marino said this position has been vacant for some time. The search committee twice conducted a search but did not find the right candidate through the traditional job advertisements and interviews. Manager Marino said he knew Mr. Vander Woude through his work at South Suburban Mayors and Managers Association where Mr. Vander Woude had the respect of his colleagues and has taken a lead role in major projects, including work on transportation issues. Manager Marino worked with Mr. Vander Woude on several South Suburban Mayors and Managers Association projects. He believes Mr. Vander Woude will be a great addition to the administrative staff.

Mr. Vander Woude has a bachelor's degree from Trinity Christian College and a master's degree in Urban Planning and Policy from the University of Illinois at Chicago.

Village Clerk Thomas administered the oath of office to Mr. Vander Woude.

RESOLUTION R-2224 / JASON PRESNAK / 20 YEARS OF SERVICE / FIRE DEPARTMENT: President Hofeld asked the Village Board to approve a resolution honoring Jason Presnak for his 20 years of service on the Fire Department.

A motion was made by Trustee Colton and seconded by Trustee Purcell to approve Resolution R-2224 honoring firefighter/paramedic Jason Presnak.

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

Fire Chief Grabowski read the resolution that lauded Firefighter/Paramedic Presnak for his outstanding work as a member of the Dive Team and Technical Rescue Team. He has certification for Rescue Diver, Ice Diver, Open Water and Advanced Open Water Diver, Trench Rescue, Technical Rescue Awareness, Vertical I, Structural Collapse Operations

and Confined Space Rescue. He is a certified Advanced Firefighter, Fire Officer I and II, Instructor I and II, Fire Apparatus Engineer, and Vehicle and Machinery Operations. Firefighter/Paramedic Presnak received a round of applause from the audience.

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. PARKING LOT AGREEMENT / PORTILLO'S HOT DOGS – 17500 HALSTED STREET: Authorize the Village President to enter into a parking lot agreement with Portillo's Hot Dogs to allow the Homewood Police Department to enforce parking and traffic laws in the parking lot located at 17500 Halsted Street.
- B. PUBLIC WORKS HVAC SYSTEM REPLACEMENT CONTRACT: Award the contract to Southwest Town Mechanical of Orland Park, IL, the lowest responsible bidder, for the replacement of the existing 20 ton electric heat roof top unit with a new natural gas 20 ton RTU and the installation of a new gas fired 7.5 ton RTU for the mechanic garage area at the Homewood Municipal Service Center located at 17755 Ashland Avenue, in an amount not to exceed \$131,900.00.
- C. EASEMENT AGREEMENT / IZAAK WALTON: Approve a final easement agreement between the Village of Homewood and Izaak Walton.
- D. ORDINANCE MC-931 / CHAPTER 10 – SUNDAY LIQUOR SALES: Pass an ordinance amending Section 10-7 of the Municipal Code of the Village of Homewood, Cook County, Illinois, concerning Sunday liquor sales.
- E. ORDINANCE M-1969 / SECOND AMENDMENT TO LEASE AGREEMENT – TOWERCO /1023 W. 191<sup>ST</sup> STREET: Pass an ordinance approving the Second Amendment to the Lease Agreement between the Village of Homewood as Lessor and TowerCo 2013, LLC as Lessee to allow Verizon Wireless to locate cellular equipment on the tower.

Trustee Heiferman said he was glad to see the Village moving forward on the change of liquor license making certain restaurants eligible to serve drinks with their brunch service.

A motion was made by Trustee Purcell and seconded by Trustee Colton to pass, approve, accept, or award the Omnibus Report as presented.

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

#### OLD & NEW BUSINESS

RESOLUTION R-2225 / 17759 – 17859 BRETZ DRIVE / CLASS 8 PROPERTY TAX DESIGNATION: Owner James “Mack” McClelland of MACK Companies, and his attorney, Bill Sandrick, came before the Board petitioning for Class 8 Property approval.

The property values have dropped on the industrial condominium building; but because the tax rate remains high, the property is unmarketable. One condo has sold, but it has received the Class 8 tax status. The condos that Mr. McClellan holds do not have that designation. Mr. McClellan said his property is good for any business that doesn't need commercial frontage, and he told the Board that with the tax change he is certain he will be able to market the property.

A motion was made by Trustee Purcell and seconded by Trustee Dawkins to pass Resolution R-2225 supporting Class 8 status pursuant to the Cook County Real Property Classification Ordinance for real estate located in the Homewood Business Park condominium on Bretz Drive, Homewood, Cook County, Illinois.

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

**MANAGER'S REPORT:** Village Manager Marino reported the remodeling work on the second floor of Village Hall is complete, and all staff returned to the Village Hall from the Ryan Building.

**BOARD DISCUSSION:** Trustee Robertson said he was not happy with how the hiring of Thomas Vander Woude was handled. He said Mr. Vander Woude does not come to the position with economic development experience, and he questioned why Village Manager Marino did not go through the traditional search process, as it had twice earlier this year interviewed candidates to fill the job. He said the Village is using a consultant to fill the Director of Economic and Community Development position so, he argued, there was no rush. Trustee Robertson said a Homewood resident may have wanted to apply for the position.

Trustee Robertson said he brought his concerns to both President Hofeld and Manager Marino, and noted that he filed a Freedom of Information Act request to get the job description. He said Mr. Vander Woude has planning experience, but because Homewood plans to reorganize its Planning and Zoning Committees into one unit, Mr. Vander Woude's workload will be lighter than it is now with two committees.

Trustee Robertson repeated that the job description called for economic development experience, but recognized that Manager Marino does have responsibility for hiring, and he said he was sure the other trustees were going to be supporting Manager Marino's choice.

Trustees Heiferman, Colton, Purcell and Dawkins did all agree with the choice of Mr. Vander Woude.

Trustee Heiferman said he believes Mr. Vander Woude has the qualifications that will work for the job, especially with the emphasis on improvements to the Metra and Amtrak stations in Homewood. He said he appreciates Trustee Robertson voicing his concerns.

Trustee Colton said the council/manager form of government in Homewood gives Manager Marino the power to hire administrative staff, and she has faith in his judgments. Trustee Colton said she is not interested in the process, but interested in the results.

Trustee Purcell said she was a member of the hiring committee for the position. Despite two attempts to fill the position, there was not a candidate that proved worthy of hiring. She too said she trusted Manager Marino's decisions and believed that Mr. Vander Woude's background will be a benefit to Homewood.

Trustee Dawkins said she considered Mr. Vander Woude a good fit for the position. He has experience working on large projects and on transportation issues. She commended President Hofeld and Manager Marino for doing a phenomenal job promoting the Village to prospective businesses, and believed they will continue to do their best at those efforts. Mr. Vander Woude will be a fresh face for Homewood and Trustee Dawkins said she believes the Village administration is headed in the right direction.

President Hofeld said with the council/manager form of government, hiring is the manager's responsibility. He believes Mr. Vander Woude will do a great job.

A motion to adjourn was made by Trustee Colton and seconded by Trustee Purcell.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Marilyn Thomas  
Village Clerk