

VILLAGE OF HOMEWOOD  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING  
TUESDAY—AUGUST 11, 2015  
VILLAGE HALL BOARD ROOM

CALL TO ORDER: Village President Hofeld called the regular meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. Approximately 40 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: Village Clerk Marilyn Thomas recorded the roll call. Those present were Village President Richard Hofeld, Trustee Barbara Dawkins, Trustee Lisa Purcell, Trustee Jay Heiferman, and Trustee Ray Robertson. Trustee Karen Washington and Trustee Anne Colton were 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, Director of Public Works John Schaefer, Director of Economic and Community Development Tom Vander Woude, Police Chief Larry Burnson, and Assistant Village Manager Michael Marzal.

MINUTES: There were no comments or corrections to the minutes of the regular meeting of July 28, 2015. A motion was made by Trustee Purcell and seconded by Trustee Dawkins to approve the minutes of July 28, 2015.

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

CLAIMS LIST: The Claims List of \$817,266.37 was reviewed.

A motion was made by Trustee Purcell and seconded by Trustee Heiferman for the Board to approve the August 11, 2015 Claims List in the amount of \$817,266.37.

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

President Hofeld said five items total 75 percent of the claims list: \$128,515.99 to GA Paving LLC for street work; \$177,280.95 for employee insurance for the month of August; \$92,860.64 to Motorola Solutions, Inc. for new Fire Department radios; \$124,527.55 to Redzone Robotics, Inc. for televising Homewood sewers; and \$68,156.42 to Thorn Creek Sanitary District.

APPOINTMENT: The Board was asked to approve the appointment of Sean Nettle to the Beautification Committee. He will serve through September 30, 2019.

A motion was made by Trustee Purcell and seconded by Trustee Robertson for approval of the appointment of Sean Nettle to the Beautification Committee.

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

Clerk Thomas administered the oath of office to Mr. Nettle.

PRESENTATIONS: Public Works Director Schaefer introduced two new staff members to the Board. Steven Kramer has been hired as Landscape and Maintenance Division maintenance worker. He has a bachelor's degree in forestry and is a certified arborist with an Illinois pesticide applicator's license. Christopher Kleckner has been hired as Street Division maintenance worker. He has a bachelor's degree in communication and media studies, a Firefighter 2 certification, and an engineering background in water.

Clerk Thomas administered the oath of office to Mr. Kramer and Mr. Kleckner.

Police Chief Burnson informed the Board that Officer Patrick Siensen has been promoted to Sergeant on the Homewood Police Department. He has been on the force since 1993. He is a U.S. Army veteran who earned bachelor and master degrees from Governors State University. He was a part-time police officer in Tinley Park before joining the Homewood Police Department. Sgt. Siensen has handled field training and rapid deployment. He has received numerous commendations.

Clerk Thomas administered the oath of office to Sgt. Siensen.

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-2227 / APPROVAL OF EXECUTIVE SESSION MINUTES: Pass a resolution approving Executive Session minutes from January through June 2015 and authorizing the destruction of Executive Session audio recordings from August 13, 2013 through January 28, 2014.
- B. RESOLUTION R-2228 / RELEASE OF EXECUTIVE SESSION MINUTES: Pass a resolution determining which minutes or portions thereof from Executive Sessions no longer require confidential treatment.
- C. TAX INCREMENT FINANCING (TIF) INCENTIVE REQUEST / WILLIAM A. LAU & CO., LTD. AND TRES CHIC SALON AND SPA / 18825 AND 18831 DIXIE HIGHWAY: Amend the TIF incentive agreements executed with William Lau and Toyia Stephens on October 8, 2013 to allow \$3,637.50 each in additional financial assistance for the paving of a shared parking lot at 18825/18831 Dixie Highway in the Southgate TIF District.

- D. REDEVELOPMENT AGREEMENT / PORTILLO'S HOT DOGS, LLC: Authorize the Village President to enter into a redevelopment agreement with Portillo's Hot Dogs to rebate one year of the Village's Places for Eating Tax.
- E. BID AWARD / NORTH VIADUCT LED LIGHTING: Award the bid for LED lighting at the north viaduct to Helsel Jepperson Electrical, Inc., the lowest responsible bidder, in an amount not to exceed \$10,732.30.
- F. BID AWARD / FIRE DEPARTMENT APPARATUS FLOOR RESURFACING: Award the bid for the resurfacing of the apparatus floor at the Fire Department to Matrix Coating Solutions, Inc., the lowest responsible bidder, in an amount not to exceed \$30,854.40.
- G. CONTRACT RENEWAL / STICKER FREE LEAF PICKUP PROGRAM: Renew the Sticker Free Leaf Pickup contract with Homewood Disposal Service, Inc. in an amount not to exceed \$20,604.50.
- H. 183rd STREET RESURFACING:
- i. REVISED INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT: Authorize the Village President to enter into a revised Intergovernmental Agreement between the Village of Homewood and the Village of Hazel Crest for the resurfacing of 183rd Street from Crawford Avenue/Pulaski Road to Kedzie Avenue.
  - ii. BUDGET AMENDMENT: Approve a budget amendment adding \$12,800 to the 183rd Street & Kedzie Local Agency Functional Overlay (LAFO) account.
  - iii. RESOLUTION R-2229 / 183RD STREET RESURFACING: Pass a Resolution for Improvement by Municipality under the Illinois Highway Code for proposed improvements to 183rd Street from Sacramento Avenue to Crawford Avenue/Pulaski Road.

A motion was made by Trustee Purcell and seconded by Trustee Robertson to pass, approve, accept or award the Omnibus Report as presented. There were no questions from the Trustees. Attorney Cummings made note that contracts were awarded to the lowest bidder.

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

President Hofeld did make note for the public that the free leaf pick-up service will be over three weekly garbage collections: November 11, 18 and 25.

OLD/NEW BUSINESS

MONTHLY WATER/SEWER BILLS: Director of Finance Bubenik gave the Board information on how his office, working in conjunction with several other offices in the Village, has come to a plan to switch water billing from quarterly to monthly. He said he will be bringing language changes for the Village Municipal Code before the Board at the August 25, 2015 meeting.

Residents have been paying higher bills every year since 2008 as the City of Chicago, which supplies the water, has increased its water rate each year. The average quarterly water bill for a household of four is \$455. Changing the billing to monthly will make it much easier for residents to budget this expense. Director Bubenik said generally 80 percent of residents do pay the bill on time.

He is proposing billing on the first of the month and making payment due on the 15th of the month. It currently is due on the 20th of the month. If payment is not made by the due date, the homeowner will be given a written notice on the 16th of the month, and have until the last day of the month to pay. A late fee will be imposed. Currently, homeowners get four notices before shutoff. The reconnect fee will be changed to a flat \$75, from the current \$50-\$75-\$100 depending on timing.

Printing and mailing of water bills has been outsourced. Homewood was sending 28,000 water bills each month. Bills were staggered. Under the new monthly system, Homewood will be sending 84,000 bills each month. Bills can be paid by check, cash, online billing, through the Village drop box in front of Village Hall, or by bank debit (after a resident fills out the appropriate form).

Trustee Heiferman asked if the cutoff date could be longer. He said it seemed harsh to turn off a resident's water after just 30 days. Trustee Robertson agreed with Trustee Heiferman, who suggested adding an additional 10 days as an option. Director Bubenik said he hoped the timeframe would be an incentive for people to use automatic billing so missing a payment could be avoided.

Trustee Heiferman also questioned why residents were going to be expected to pay the bill, a late fee and a fee to have water turned on after a shutoff, but realtors and others were expected to pay only \$100.

Village Attorney Cummings said typically the realtor asks for the water to be turned on because the house is vacant. To approve a property sale, utilities must be checked, which is why the water is turned on. He said the Village wants to assist in home sales, rather than leaving homes empty, and he assured Trustee Heiferman that a lien is on the property so that the Village does get any past-due water bills paid at closing.

Trustee Robertson asked how the billing system was working because he had tried to pay online but had difficulties. Director Bubenik acknowledged that there had been problems, but that the Village was working with the firm to correct the issues.

Manager Marino explained that because of quarterly billing, the Village has been divided

into three and bills rotate. Under the transition, the first set of monthly bills will be out in October, the second in November and the third in December. That will put all water users on the monthly system.

Residents will be notified through email, the Village's e-newsletter and its printed Village Key newsletter, a direct mailing, social media and the electronic sign on Dixie Highway.

Public Works Director Schaefer was asked to explain how the new water meters are working. He said with the old mechanical meters, a Village employee walked the entire Village in a three-month period to register water usage. With the electronic meters, the water usage is measured down to one-tenth of a gallon.

One of the reasons the Village switched to an electronic meter was accuracy, but Director Schaefer said the State of Illinois also requires communities to reduce water loss and prove efficiency. The new electronic system helps Homewood meet these requirements. He said the Department of Public Works has done periodic testing on the meters for accuracy and has found that random testing of already installed meters, as well as the Village's additional supply, all have a 99.98 percent accuracy reading.

A motion was made by Trustee Dawkins and seconded by Trustee Purcell to direct staff to prepare the changes for the Municipal Code as they relate to water/sewer bills.

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

MANAGER'S REPORT: None

GENERAL BOARD DISCUSSION: Trustee Dawkins urged the community to come out to the Village's "Block Party" on Saturday. The Homewood Block Party celebration will be from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. on Hickory Road off of Dixie Highway.

A motion was made by Trustee Purcell and seconded by Trustee Dawkins to adjourn the regular meeting of the Board of Trustees.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Marilyn Thomas  
Village Clerk