

VILLAGE OF HOMEWOOD
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING
TUESDAY—JANUARY 10, 2017
VILLAGE HALL BOARD ROOM

CALL TO ORDER: Village President Hofeld called the regular meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. There were approximately 20 people from the public present. Four press representatives were in attendance.

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

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

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

MINUTES: The minutes of the meeting of December 13, 2016 were accepted. A motion was made by Trustee Colton and seconded by Trustee Purcell to approve the minutes of the December 13, 2016, regular board meeting.

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

CLAIMS LIST: The Claims List of \$1,349,207.65 was reviewed. There were no questions from the Trustees.

A motion was made by Trustee Colton and seconded by Trustee Purcell to approve the Claims List as presented.

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

President Hofeld said four items on the Claims List totaled 86 percent of the expenses: payments of \$171,444.60 and \$163,264.49 to the City of Harvey for water; \$196,667.96 for employee health insurance for January 2017, and \$562,766 to IRMA (Intergovernmental Risk Management Agency, a municipal risk pool) for the 2017 insurance premium.

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

PRESENTATION: OATH OF OFFICE: Clerk Thomas administered the oath of office to Eric Bujak who joined the Police Department Jan. 9, 2017. He is a graduate of Elmhurst

College. Bujak is completing his 400 hours of basic recruit training.

OMNIBUS VOTE: Clerk Thomas presented the Omnibus Vote:

- A. ORDINANCE MC- 971 /NEW LIQUOR LICENSE CLASS: Pass an ordinance amending Chapter 10 of the Municipal Code of the Village of Homewood, Cook County, Illinois, creating a Class 16 brew pub liquor license allowing for one license holder.
- B. BID AWARD / WINTER TREE TRIMMING: Award the bid for the sectional tree trimming program to The Davey Tree Expert Company, Mokena, IL, the lowest responsible bidder, in the amount of \$48.00 per tree, not to exceed \$109,000.00.
- C. BUDGET AMENDMENT / LYN COURT WATER MAIN PROJECT: Approve a budget amendment to increase the non-budgeted Water/Sewer Fund surplus (13-3-337-55-8330) by \$47,000 to cover the remaining costs of the Lyn Court Water Main Replacement Project.
- D. LOBBYING SERVICES AGREEMENT /ALFRED G. RONAN, LTD: Authorize the Village President to execute a Lobbying Services Agreement with Alfred G. Ronan, Ltd. for a period of one year effective January 1, 2017 through December 31, 2017.
- E. ORDINANCE MC-972 /REGISTRATION AND BONDING CONTRACTORS: Approve an ordinance amending Article I of Chapter 22 of the Municipal Code of the Village of Homewood, Cook County, Illinois, concerning the registration and bonding of contractors.
- F. ORDINANCE M-2017 / ILLINOIS PUBLIC WORKS MUTUAL AID AGREEMENT: Approve an ordinance authorizing the Village President to execute the intergovernmental agreement for participation in the Illinois Public Works Mutual Aid Network.

Trustee Burnson thanked Public Works Director John Schaefer for working for membership in the Illinois Public Works Mutual Aid Agreement. He said it will be a great addition for Homewood's preparedness.

A motion was made by Trustee Colton and seconded by Trustee Purcell to pass, award, authorize, approve, and accept the Omnibus Vote Items A through F.

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

OLD/NEW BUSINESS:

R-2267 / Regional Water Supply: Village Manager Marino outlined for the board a request for approval of an Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) with surrounding communities to consider establishing the Southland Water Commission Study Group. This coalition would investigate the possibility of providing Lake Michigan water drawn at and delivered through Hammond, Indiana, to Illinois for distribution to its residents.

The purpose for this agreement is to investigate whether it is feasible to establish the link with Indiana as a way to provide clean, safe and less costly Lake Michigan water. Marino said the City of Chicago, which provides water to Homewood via Harvey, has raised rates substantially and there is no guarantee Homewood won't see additional increases in the future.

Marino said decisions in the study group will require a majority vote of the communities involved. Communities can drop out at any time without further obligations.

Under the proposal, Hammond, Indiana, would provide right-of-way for piping that would bring Lake Michigan water to the state line and then on to Illinois communities. Under the IGA, Homewood will provide \$10,000 to the Village of Olympia Fields – acting as the lead agency for the study group – to help cover the expense incurred for a study to be done by Robinson Engineering and the law firm of Ice Miller. The study will help communities determine if the project is financially feasible and if it will ultimately lead to a cheaper cost for water than what Homewood is now paying.

Preliminary discussion is that a new system will cost \$350 million and take five years to develop.

President Hofeld asked for comments or questions from the audience. Resident Daniel Injerd, director of the Office of Water Resources for the Illinois Department of Natural Resources, said his agency has been responsible for Lake Michigan water allocations for the past 40 years. He commended the board for undertaking the study and said making a decision will come only after a very long and challenging process.

He said he didn't think getting water from the Indiana side into Illinois would be a problem, but under the Great Lakes Compact the other partners may question whether the allocation should be approved.

President Hofeld said Homewood is looking for a safe and reliable source of water because the Village is at the mercy of Chicago now. At the same time, he wondered if the other communities in the study group (Calumet Park, Country Club Hills, East Hazel Crest, Flossmoor, Hazel Crest, Markham, Matteson, Olympia Fields, South Holland and Thornton) are financially able to undertake a project like this.

Trustee Washington voiced her concerns about the project. She doesn't believe the \$350 million is an accurate figure for a project of this size and scope. She also questioned the five-year timeframe for an inter-state agreement, which she believes is very short.

Trustees Heiferman and Burnson also said they had concerns about the costs and the timeframe. Trustee Heiferman said he thinks the \$350 million figure should at least be

doubled, and Trustee Burnson asked why Robinson Engineering was selected. Manager Marino said the group is working with Robinson because it is the village engineer for Olympia Fields but he was certain that if the project moves forward other engineering firms will be used.

Trustees Dawkins, Purcell, Colton, Heiferman and Burnson agreed to the IGA and the \$10,000 expense saying the Village needs to examine its options and a study will give them information on which to base future decisions.

A motion was made by Trustee Colton and seconded by Trustee Purcell to approve the Intergovernmental Agreement for the Southland Water Commission Study Group and allocate \$10,000 to cover initial expenses on a study of the feasibility of drawing Lake Michigan water from Indiana and delivering it to the South Suburbs.

Roll Call: AYES – Trustees Dawkins, Purcell, Colton, Heiferman and Burnson. NAYS – Trustee Washington. Motion carried.

MANAGER’S REPORT: None.

GENERAL BOARD DISCUSSION: Trustee Washington invited the community to the Indoor Farmers Market from 8 a.m. to noon on Saturday, Jan. 28, at the Irwin Center.

Trustee Heiferman said the Homewood Science Center received a \$15,000 gift from the Wexler family in memory of Michael Wexler who was killed in a traffic accident in 2015.

Trustee Burnson welcomed Krispy Kreme to the Village. The business on Halsted Street opened on Tuesday, Jan. 10.

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

Adjournment was by voice vote.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Marilyn Thomas
Village Clerk