

VILLAGE OF HOMEWOOD
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING
TUESDAY—OCTOBER 24, 2017
VILLAGE HALL BOARD ROOM

CALL TO ORDER: Village President Hofeld called the regular meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. There were 4 people from the public present. Two 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 Karen Washington, Trustee Jay Heiferman and Trustee Larry Burnson. Trustee Lisa Purcell 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, Assistant Village Manager Napoleon Haney, and Director of Finance Dennis Bubenik.

MINUTES: The minutes of the meeting of October 10, 2017 were accepted. A motion was made by Trustee Dawkins and seconded by Trustee Washington to approve the minutes of the October 10, 2017, regular board meeting.

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

CLAIMS LIST: The Claims List of \$676,490.66 was reviewed. There were no questions from the Trustees.

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

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

President Hofeld said of that Claims List, three items totaled 78 percent: \$293,004.34 to the City of Chicago for Lake Michigan water; a quarterly payment of \$136,257.39 to E-COM for emergency dispatch services; \$96,677.18 to F.H. Paschen for improvements at the Homewood Science Center, including a new roof.

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

APPOINTMENT: President Hofeld recommended the appointment of Sheree Henry to the Veterans Committee. A motion was made by Trustee Dawkins and seconded by Trustee Burnson to approve the appointment of Sheree Henry. Her term will extend to October 24, 2020.

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

Clerk Thomas administered the oath of office to Ms. Henry.

OLD/NEW BUSINESS: President Hofeld said the matter of a liquor license change for Grape & Grain at 18031 Dixie Highway would be deferred because the license holder could not be present.

2017 REAL ESTATE TAX LEVY: Finance Director Bubenik came before the board to share information on the 2017 Real Estate Tax Levy set at \$6,324,211. Of that, \$2,496,290 will be for the general fund, \$3,221,920 for the pension fund, and \$606,001 for the debt service fund.

Director Bubenik said the Village's finances are strong and have remained so over the last 20 years. The Village did face difficult times during the 2008 recession and following years, and it did need to use 'rainy day' funds for some expenses, but the Village finances are strong again. His biggest future concern is pensions that continue to increase.

The Village has taken a number of cost-saving steps, including reducing salaries for incoming staff, switching health insurance carriers and using various methods to reduce purchasing costs.

Village residents pay only 10 percent of their taxes to the Village. For a homeowner paying a \$6,000 property tax bill, \$600 of that bill goes to the Village, with 75 percent of that \$600 going to police/fire/public works.

The tax levy will show a 4.9 percent increase set by the Consumer Price Index of 2.1 percent and an expected 2.8 percent increase in new construction. Director Bubenik said the Cook County Assessor's Office will finalize the levy number in summer 2018.

Manager Marino said that the Village made a significant cost-saving step 20 years ago when it ended retiree health insurance coverage for new hires. In addition, the Village participates in an insurance pool for employee health insurance that has reduced yearly increases from 20 percent to 7 percent.

He thanked Bubenik for the work on the levy and said the graphs in the presentation made it much easier to see how the Village is using its revenue. Trustees also thanked Bubenik for his work on the levy information. President Hofeld said residents receive great services for their tax dollars, and Trustees thanked staff for their work in helping to find innovative ways to save money.

MANAGER'S REPORT: None

GENERAL BOARD DISCUSSION: None

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

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

The meeting was adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Marilyn Thomas
Village Clerk