

VILLAGE OF HOMEWOOD  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING  
TUESDAY APRIL 8, 2025  
VILLAGE HALL BOARD ROOM

CALL TO ORDER: President Hofeld called the meeting of the Board of Trustees to order at 7:10 p.m.

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

ROLL CALL: Clerk Marilyn Thomas called the roll. Those present were Village President Richard Hofeld, Trustee Julie Willis, Trustee Vivian Harris-Jones, Trustee Jay Heiferman, Trustee Phillip Mason, Trustee Lauren Roman, and Trustee Allisa Opyd.

President Hofeld introduced staff present: Village Manager Napoleon Haney, Village Attorney Chris Cummings, Director of Community and Economic Development Angela Mesaros, Director of Public Works Josh Burman, Police Chief Denise McGrath and Assistant Village Manager Terence Acquah.

MINUTES: The minutes of the regular board meeting on March 25, 2025, and the public hearing on the proposed Harwood TOD TIF on March 25, 2025, were presented. There were no comments or corrections.

A motion was made by Trustee Mason and seconded by Trustee Roman to approve the minutes as presented.

**Roll Call: AYES --Trustees Willis, Harris-Jones, Heiferman, Mason, Roman and Opyd. NAYS – None. Motion carried.**

CLAIMS LIST: The Claims List in the amount of \$543,690.27 was presented. There were no questions from the Trustees.

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

**Roll Call: AYES --Trustees Willis, Harris-Jones, Heiferman, Mason, Roman and Opyd. NAYS – None. Motion carried.**

President Hofeld said one item totaled 47 percent of the Claims List: \$256,399.52 for April payment of employee health insurance.

HEAR FROM THE AUDIENCE: Resident Amy Crump addressed the board on the need to defend institutions. She stressed that institutions can fall unless the public realizes their value and works to keep them viable.

Liz Varnecky read a statement asking why the Village has not acted after receiving responses to the request for proposals it issued for testing water in the Prairie Lakes stormwater detention area that she believes is polluted. She argued the Village has done a poor job of monitoring the water quality and has been slow to act when dealing with the Homewood Izaak Walton Preserve board that leases the property from the Village. She questioned why the Village budgeted money for to

remediate soil on adjacent property for a proposed business but has not spent these funds to address water quality in the stormwater detention area.

Rev. Doyle reminded the public that future graduates of Homewood-Flossmoor High School need employment when they graduate in June. He said many have never worked before.

**APPOINTMENT:** The board was asked to consider the appointment of Melinda Conner to the Events Committee for a three-year term ending on April 8, 2028.

A motion was made by Trustee Roman and seconded by Trustee Mason to approve the appointment of Melinda Conner to the Events Committee.

**Roll Call:** *AYES --Trustees Willis, Harris-Jones, Heiferman, Mason, Roman and Opyd. NAYS – None. Motion carried.*

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

**PRESENTATION:** Edie Dobrez, executive director at the Homewood Science Center, gave her annual report to the Village Board. She highlighted that participation has doubled for its field trips and STEM programs, and participation in STEM Saturdays more than doubled. Dobrez said more than half of the Saturday guests are from outside the Homewood-Flossmoor area.

For 2025, the center's staff is emphasizing math, especially through its Math Magic area. It is meant to encourage children to learn and enjoy math, especially in preparation for school. Several new programs that are drawing attention are Grandparents Day and STEAM Play Day. The center also have a sensory sensitive day for children with special needs.

Using a grant the staff will be recreating the outside space revamping its gardens. Learning Landscape is assisting with this project.

Dobrez thanked the trustees for their support and the continuous work by staff to assist with the center's needs. She also congratulated the center's board of directors, including Trustee Heiferman, for their continued work on behalf of the center.

**OMNIBUS VOTE:** Consider a motion to pass, approve, authorize, accept, or award the following item(s):

A. 2024 Annual Report/Appealance Commission: Accept the 2024 annual report of the Appearance Commission.

B. 2024 Annual Report/Planning and Zoning Commission: Accept the 2024 annual report of the Planning and Zoning Commission.

C. Agreement/Plan Review and Inspection Services/TPI Building Code Consultants Inc.: Approve the renewal of an agreement for plan review and inspection services with TPI Building Code Consultants Inc. of South Elgin Illinois, IL for Fiscal Year 2025-2026.

D. Agreement/Plan Review and Inspection Services/HR Green LLC: Approve the renewal of an agreement for plan review and inspection services with HR Green LLC of New Lenox, IL for Fiscal Year 2025-2026.

E. Bid Award/Water Distribution System Leak Survey Project/M.E. Simpson Company, Inc.: Award a bid to M.E. Simpson Company, Inc. of Valparaiso, Indiana, the lowest responsible bidder, to perform the annual Water Distribution System Leak Survey Project, in an amount not to exceed \$31,075.

F. Contract Renewal/Street Sweeping Services/Advance Sweeping Services, Inc.: Authorize the Village Manager to renew the contract with Advance Sweeping Services, Inc. for street sweeping services for five (5) residential and fifteen (15) commercial sweeps between May 1, 2025 and April 30, 2026, in an amount not-to-exceed \$8,692.96 per residential sweep and \$865.83 per commercial sweep.

G. Bid Award/2025 General Maintenance Pavement Patching Program/D. Construction: Award a bid for the 2025 MFT General Maintenance Pavement Patching Program bid to D. Construction, Inc. of Coal City, IL, the lowest responsible bidder, for a contract amount not to exceed \$642,000.

H. Contract Renewal/Leaf Pickup Services/Homewood Disposal, Inc.: Renew the contract for leaf pickup services with Homewood Disposal, Inc. in the amount of \$30,561.29 for the dates of November 12, 19, and 26, 2025.

I. Contract Renewals/Tree Work/Homer Tree Care/Winkler's Tree Service: Authorize the Village Manager to renew the tree work contract for tree removal, stump removal, spot trimming, and emergency tree removal services with Homer Tree Care of Lockport, IL, the lowest responsible bidder; and, approve the renewal of the tree work contract for sectional tree trimming with Winkler's Tree Service of LaGrange Park, IL, the lowest responsible bidder; for a total amount not to exceed \$264,000.

J. Bid Award/Bituminous Mixes/D. Construction: Award the bid for Bituminous Mixes to D. Construction, Inc. of Coal City, IL, the lowest responsible bidder, at the prices of \$67.00/ton for surface mix, \$64.00/ton for binder mix, and \$140.00/ton for cold patch mix in an amount not to exceed \$49,000.

K. Bid Award/Crushed Limestone/Brites Cartage: Award the bid for crushed limestone to Brites Cartage of South Holland, IL, the lowest responsible bidder, at a cost of \$19.45 for CA6, \$27.50 for 1" stone and \$26.45 for 2" stone, in an amount not to exceed \$49,500.

L. Bid Award/Concrete Flatwork/Strada Construction Company: Award a bid for concrete flatwork to Strada Construction Company of Addison, IL, the lowest responsible bidder, based on the unit prices submitted as part of the joint/cooperative bid collaboratively submitted by the Villages of Homewood, Alsip, and South Holland in an amount not to exceed \$185,500 for the Village of Homewood quantities.

M. M-2351/Second Amendment to Restated Redevelopment Agreement/HCF Homewood LLC: Pass an ordinance approving a second amendment to the restated redevelopment agreement between HCF Homewood, LLC and the Village of Homewood removing language obligating Village to guarantee a minimum return on cost for the development.

N. M-2352/Raffle License/Open Access: Pass an ordinance temporarily suspending the maximum prize and sale date limitations in the Homewood Municipal code for the Queen of Hearts raffle conducted by Open Access of Homewood, subject to an approved background check.

Trustee Willis asked for clarification on Item M. Attorney Cummings said the property is being refinanced and the new lender agreed to removal of the language in question. It was there originally because the project was considered a risk and the previous lender wanted assurances that there would be sufficient funds to service the loan. Now that the project has been a financial success, the new lender has agreed to drop this requirement. Cummings said removing this language benefits the Village since it shifts financial responsibility for the development solely to the developer.

Trustee Heiferman offered his thanks to those who prepared the annual reports. It was easy to read and follow the changes. He also acknowledged the work being done by the Public Works staff on all the bids that were part of the Omnibus Report. He said people do not realize how much time it takes to draw up specifications, advertise the projects, receive and review bids and then present them to the board for approval.

President Hofeld said Public Works does a good job and each of those projects is paid for from the regular budget.

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

**Roll Call: AYES --Trustees Willis, Harris-Jones, Heiferman, Mason, Roman and Opyd. NAYS – None. Motion carried.**

General Board Discussion: Each of the trustees congratulated Homewood Science Center Executive Director Dobrez for her report and the work she and staff are doing. Trustee Heiferman reminded the public that the science center's fundraiser will be July 17.

Trustee Mason acknowledged members of the Greener Homewood Party in the audience and thanked them for the thoughtful conversations before the April 1 election. He told them that their messages were heard and will be seriously considered.

Trustee Opyd reminded the public that the Village's annual clean-up project will be April 19 from 8:30 a.m. until noon.

Adjourn: A motion was made by Trustee Roman and seconded by Trustee Opyd to adjourn the regular session of the Board of Trustees.

**Roll Call: AYES --Trustees Willis, Harris-Jones, Heiferman, Mason, Roman and Opyd. NAYS – None. Motion carried.**

Respectfully submitted,

Marilyn Thomas  
Village Clerk