

VILLAGE OF HOMEWOOD  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING  
TUESDAY, MAY 28, 2024  
VILLAGE HALL BOARD ROOM

CALL TO ORDER: President Hofeld called the meeting of the Board of Trustees to order at 7 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 Vivian Harris-Jones, Trustee Jay Heiferman, Trustee Phillip Mason, Trustee Lauren Roman and Trustee Allisa Opyd. Trustee Julie Willis was absent.

President Hofeld introduced staff present: Village Manager Napoleon Haney, Village Attorney Chris Cummings, Director of Finance Amy Zukowski, Public Works Director John Schaefer, Police Chief Denise McGrath and Assistant Village Manager Terence Acquah.

MINUTES: The minutes of the May 14, 2024, regular Village Board meeting were presented. There were no comments or corrections.

A motion was made by Trustee Opyd and seconded by Trustee Harris-Jones to approve the minutes as presented.

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

CLAIMS LIST: The Claims List in the amount of \$1,046,993.55 was presented. There were no questions from the Trustees.

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

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

President Hofeld said the Village's \$597,172.05 payment to the City of Chicago Heights for water totaled 57% of the total Claims List.

HEAR FROM THE AUDIENCE: Pastor Doyle Landry raised several issues about the treatment and discrimination of veterans. He went on to say there are unreported crimes in Homewood. He said he believes senior citizens don't report crime out of fear. He didn't cite any examples. He also believes the city will face an uptick in crime when the Wind Creek Casino opens in early 2025.

MEET THE MERCHANTS: Layla Kedjour represented Her Closet in Cherry Creek, a women's clothing boutique and consignment shop. She showed off several of the items available in the store.

APPOINTMENTS: President Hofeld nominated Eric Hampton, Ericka Powell, Jessica Matushek, Laura Bruni, Melissa Gonser, Robert Pascarella, and Chloe Harrison to the Events Committee for a three-year term ending on May 28, 2027.

Trustee Roman, the Board's representative to the committee, said members will work with Events Coordinator Marla Youngblood and Village staff to offer ideas for programming and assist at events.

A motion was made by Trustee Roman and seconded by Trustee Opyd to approve the appointments.

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

Clerk Thomas administered the oath of office to committee members who were present.

OMNIBUS VOTE: Consider a motion to pass, approve, authorize, accept, or award the following items:

- A. Agreement Renewal/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.
- B. Agreement Renewal/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.
- C. Ordinance M-2296/Lease Agreement Renewal/Homewood Arts Council/2010 Chestnut Road: Pass an ordinance authorizing the Village President to enter into a lease renewal agreement with the Homewood Arts Council for use of the Village's auditorium at 2010 Chestnut Road from July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025.
- D. Budget Amendment/Proposal Acceptance/Water Rate Study/Burns & McDonnell: Approve a budget amendment of \$34,587 to the Water/Sewer Fund; and, accept a proposal from Burns & McDonnell of Chicago, IL for professional services to conduct a comprehensive water rate study on a lump sum basis not to exceed \$34,587, to be invoiced on a percent-complete basis.
- E. Budget Amendment/Marlin Lane Water Project/M & J Underground: Approve a budget amendment in the amount of \$36,566.26 to the Capital – Water and Sewer Fund for the balance owed to M & J Underground of Monee, IL for the completion of the Marlin Lane Water Main Project.

President Hofeld asked Finance Director Zukowski to give information on the water rate study. Zukowski explained that because the Water and Sewer Fund is meant to be self-sustaining, the Village needs to consider how it will maintain the fund at proper levels. The plan will offer a water rate plan and will consider the expenses the Village will incur in the future, including replacing its lead water pipes. This long-range study will give Village officials the information they need to make sound decisions. She said the study should be completed by the fall.

Trustee Opyd thanked Director Zukowski for moving forward with the study. She is sure it will give solid information on which to base future decisions.

Trustee Jay Heiferman thanked the Homewood Arts Council for their continued efforts, and Trustee Opyd asked if there were any specific plans the arts council has given the Village. None were mentioned.

A motion was made by Trustee Roman and seconded by Trustee Opyd to approve the Consent Agenda as presented.

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

General Board Discussion: Trustee Harris-Jones reminded the public about the Art & Garden Fair this weekend.

Trustee Heiferman said he would be conducting his listening session from 5 to 6 p.m. at Bergstein's Deli on Monday, June 3.

Village Manager Haney reminded residents the deadline for vehicle stickers is Friday, May 31. A late charge of \$25 will be assessed for anyone purchasing stickers after the deadline. Stickers can be purchased online.

Trustee Roman asked if there was a way for the Village to do an autopay for the vehicle stickers. Director Zukowski said the Finance Department is switching to new software program for stickers and there may be a way to do autopay.

Trustee Roman also asked if there were others who showed interest in the property at 2018-2020 Ridge Road that the Village is selling. Manager Haney said several people had made suggestions online but there were no firm proposals. The Village has received a proposal for a restaurant in that location.

Trustee Opyd thanked volunteers who will serve on the Events Committee. She reminded the public about the upcoming Art & Garden Fair, and the June 7 Pride in the Park event sponsored by the Villages of Homewood and Flossmoor and the Homewood-Flossmoor Park District.

ADJOURN: A motion was made by Trustee Roman and seconded by Trustee Harris-Jones to adjourn the Village Board meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 7:23 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Marilyn Thomas  
Village Clerk