

VILLAGE OF HOMEWOOD  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING  
TUESDAY, JANUARY 14, 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 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 Economic and Community Development Angela Mesaros, Fire Chief Bob Grabowski, Police Chief Denise McGrath, Director of Public Works Josh Burman, and Assistant Village Manager Terence Acquah.

MINUTES: The minutes of December 10, 2024, and minutes from the 2024 Truth in Taxation public hearing on December 10, 2024, were presented. There were no comments or corrections.

A motion was made by Trustee Opyd and seconded by Trustee Mason to approve the two sets of minutes as presented.

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

CLAIMS LIST: The Claims List in the amount of \$1,123,919.41 was presented. There were no questions from the Trustees.

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

President Hofeld said three items totaled nearly 60 percent of the Claims List: \$251,041.50 for January employees health insurance, \$284,988.50 to the City of Chicago Heights for Lake Michigan water, and \$131,004.82 to BMO Bank for a leasing agreement for Public Works vehicles.

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

RESOLUTION: A motion was made by Trustee Mason and seconded by Trustee Harris-Jones to approve Resolution R-3209 honoring Sgt. Craig Sline as he retires from the Police Department.

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

Clerk Thomas read the resolution. Sgt. Sline said over his 30-plus years, the Police Department and his colleagues became like family. It was a warm and collegial atmosphere in which to work. He thanked the Village Boards, present and past, for their continued support of the Police Department.

OATHS OF OFFICE: Clerk Thomas administered the oath of office to four new police officers: Luis Acosta, Seth Bell, Anthony Burton and Kenneth Norbut.

HEAR FROM THE AUDIENCE: Resident Amy Crump addressed the board on what she said was “a tidal wave” of misinformation and reality denial. She asked the board to remain vigilant to misinformation, especially on social media, and address it before it disrupts the community.

OMNIBUS VOTE: The board was asked to pass, approve, authorize, accept, or award the following item(s):

- A. R-3205/Illinois Department of Transportation/Rights-of-Way: Pass a resolution for the Village to obtain permits from the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) to perform work within IDOT rights-of-way during the calendar years 2025 and 2026 in accordance with State requirements.
- B. R-3206/Motor Fuel Tax Funds/Rock Salt: Pass a resolution appropriating \$100,000 of Motor Fuel Tax funds for the purpose of maintaining streets and highways under the applicable provisions of the Illinois Highway Code for the purchase of rock salt.
- C. Stormwater Station 1 Upgrades/Metropolitan Industries, Inc.: Waive competitive bidding for Programmable Logic Controller and Communication Upgrades at Stormwater Station 1 due to the utilization of a vendor currently under contract or that serves as the Village designated vendor for system maintenance; and, approve the replacement of a Programmable Logic Controller (PLC), Cellular Communication Upgrade, and adjustment of float switches for Stormwater Station 1 by Metropolitan Industries, Inc. of Romeoville, IL in an amount not to exceed \$56,139.
- D. Redevelopment Agreement/Joaquin Anguiano/18134-18138 Dixie Highway: Authorize the Village President to enter into a redevelopment agreement with Joaquin Anguiano at 18134- 18138 Dixie Highway.
- E. M-2324/Purchase and Sale Agreement/18134-18138 Dixie Highway: Pass an ordinance approving a purchase and sale agreement between the Village of Homewood and Joaquin Anguiano for the property located at 18134-18138 Dixie Highway.
- F. R-3207/Cook County Class 8 Incentive/18134-18138 Dixie Highway: Pass a resolution supporting Class 8 status under the Cook County Real Property Assessment classification ordinance for real estate located at 18134-18138 Dixie Highway.
- G. R-3208/Redevelopment Plan and Project/Proposed Harwood TOD Redevelopment Project Area: Pass a resolution that makes available for public inspection, the redevelopment plan and project and the qualification report for the proposed Harwood TOD Redevelopment Project Area.
- H. M-2325/Termination of 187th Street/Dixie Highway Redevelopment Project Area: Approve an ordinance terminating the 187th Street/Dixie Highway Redevelopment Project area.
- I. M-2326/Proposed North Halsted Tax Increment Financing: Approve an ordinance convening a joint review board and calling a public hearing for the proposed North Halsted TIF Redevelopment Project Area Plan, the designation of the North Halsted TIF Redevelopment Project Area, and the adoption of tax increment allocation funding.
- J. M-2327/2024 Real Estate Tax Levy: Pass an ordinance levying taxes for corporate purposes and for special funds for the fiscal year commencing on the first day of May 2025 and ending on the thirtieth day of April 2026 for the Village of Homewood.

- K. M-2328/2024 Real Estate Tax Levy: Pass an ordinance increasing the 2024 Street and Bridge tax levy in the Village of Homewood.
- L. M-2329/2024 Real Estate Tax Levy: Pass an ordinance directing the Cook County Clerk to reduce the Village of Homewood's 2024 levy, if necessary, to comply with the property tax extension limitation law.

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

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

**NEW BUSINESS:** Fire Chief Bob Grabowski asked the Village Board to approve Ordinance M-2335 waiving competitive bidding for a new Pierce Enforcer Fire Engine in the amount of \$1,385,000 purchased through the Houston-Galveston Area Council Consortium. The truck will be delivered in 2029.

A motion was made by Trustee Willis and seconded by Trustee Opyd to approve Ordinance M-2335 for the purchase of a new fire truck.

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

Chief Grabowski told Trustees the last time the Village Board approved the purchase of a new truck was 2017. It was delivered in 2019 at a cost of \$600,000. The cost has gone up 20 percent every year, and the delivery time is also doubled to four years. The fire chief told Trustees purchasing the vehicle now will lock in the price, and will satisfy the vehicle rotation schedule for fire department equipment. The new engine will replace a 2004 engine.

Chief Grabowski said the Village has a \$200,000 grant from the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity that will help reduce the cost to the village. He anticipates a future sale of general obligation bonds will help underwrite the rest of the expense.

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

**GENERAL BOARD DISCUSSION:** Trustees sent New Year's greetings to residents.

Trustee Mason reminded residents to be neighborly and check on those around you as the cold weather forces more people inside.

Trustee Opyd said the Board asked a review of the Hartford Building and a she appreciates the review.

**ADJOURN:** A motion was made by Trustee Roman and seconded by Trustee Mason to adjourn the regular meeting of the Board of Trustees.

The meeting adjourned at 7:42 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Marilyn Thomas

Village Clerk