

VILLAGE OF HOMEWOOD
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING
TUESDAY FEBRUARY 11, 2025
VILLAGE HALL BOARD ROOM

CALL TO ORDER: President Hofeld called the meeting of the Board of Trustees to order at 7:30 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, and Assistant Village Manager Terence Acquah.

MINUTES: The minutes of January 28, 2025, were presented. There were no comments or corrections.

A motion was made by Trustee Mason and seconded by Trustee Opyd to approve the 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 \$881,059.04 was presented. There were no questions from the Trustees.

A motion was made by Trustee Willis and seconded by Trustee Opyd 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 two items totaled nearly two-thirds of the Claims List: \$311,104.75 to the City of Chicago Heights for water; \$256,698.41 for employee health insurance for February.

HEAR FROM THE AUDIENCE: Resident Amy Crump addressed the board on what she said was disinformation spreading at all levels of society. She said the approach is don't lie, polarize; give a sense of distrust. She listed claims from President Trump that could be proven false but are difficult to counter once they have been spoken and repeated on social media.

PRESENTATIONS: Village Manager Haney gave an update on the work staff is doing on various policies. Past and historic administrative ordinances are being updated. The rules were created by staff for staff and used over the last 15 years; some have become antiquated. He gave several examples, such as how to request a stop sign and the procedure used to decide if a stop sign is warranted, salary overtime recovery usually paid after an event, reimbursement for personal cell phone use for Village business.

OATH OF OFFICE: Clerk Thomas administered the oath of office to Randall Long as the new Landscape and Maintenance worker with the Department of Public Works. He is an AT&T retiree.

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

- A. Reappointment/Police Pension Board/Gregory Knoll: Approve the reappointment of Gregory Knoll to the Police Pension Board for a two-year term ending on February 11, 2027.
- B. M-2337/Special Use Permit/18240 Harwood Avenue: Pass an ordinance to allow a 15-unit multiple family dwelling at 18240 Harwood Avenue on application by Mahmoud Essa in the B- 2 Downtown Transition zoning district.
- C. Purchase Approval/Truck Replacement/Ford F-550 Chassis: Waive competitive bidding and approve the purchase of one (1) Ford F-550 Chassis from Homewood Ford; and, approve the purchase and installation of lighting, accessories, and equipment (dump truck body) in a total amount not to exceed \$90,000.

President Hofeld invited developer Amrou Said to address the board on the Spornett project converting a warehouse building for apartments (Item B). Amrou said the shell will be the Spornett Building, but the interior will be transformed into 15 two-bedroom units. Trustee Mason said the plans looked great, and he thanked Amrou for making the necessary changes to get the plans approved. Trustee Roman said housing is needed in the Village. She thanked him for taking on the project. Trustee Opyd asked how the project will counter the noise from the trains. Amrou said construction includes triple pane glass and vegetation will be planted to dampen the noise.

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

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

GENERAL BOARD DISCUSSION: Trustee Willis reminded residents to stay safe as the winter storm approaches. Trustee Harris-Jones said she was sure Public Works would do its best to keep streets clear. Trustee Opyd wanted to alert the public to February as Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month. She said Anew, based in Homewood, has information on programs on how to keep teens safe.

President Hofeld announced the passing of former Village Trustee Tom Kataras, a long-time business owner in the Village. He extended condolences to the Kataras family.

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

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

The meeting adjourned at 7:52 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Marilyn Thomas

Village Clerk