

VILLAGE OF HOMEWOOD  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING  
TUESDAY, JANUARY 14, 2025  
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 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,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Marilyn Thomas". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Marilyn Thomas

Village Clerk



PUBLIC COMMENTS –  
for the Tuesday, January 14, 2025 Board Meeting

From: LJ  
Sent: Tuesday, January 14, 2025 9:42 AM  
To: PublicComments  
Subject: Geese at James Hart at Elder and Aberdeen

Hello. I have written a few times about this issue. The homeowner at the northwest corner of Elder and Aberdeen feeds the geese so there is often a flock of at least 25 geese hanging around the area. The sidewalks and streets are coated with goose excrement which makes it disgusting to walk or ride bikes in the area. The geese also hang out on the grounds of James Hart School which makes it even more of a health issue for the students and staff. I have counted as many as 100 geese at James Hart and westward on Elder Road on many lawns, not just on the lawn of the northwest corner house whose owner feeds them. For several years I have written (anonymously to avoid neighborhood disputes) about my concern for the health of the students who walk through this area to get to school. There should be a village ordinance preventing feeding wildlife in our town and especially in school zones. At the very least, the homeowner/feeder should be asked to stop feeding the geese as a goodwill gesture for his neighbors and fellow citizens. I wrote anonymously to him a couple years ago but was ignored. Now with avian flu a serious issue in our country (and globally) they are requesting that people NOT feed or have contact with waterfowl. Will the Village of Homewood FINALLY take some action on this matter please?

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From: John Sulek  
Sent: Tuesday, December 31, 2024 2:48 PM  
To: PublicComments

The cars are going by right now, and have been for days, at about 50 miles an hour. It's raining, most have no headlights on. We haven't seen a homewood police officer in days. Why aren't you sound anything about this?

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From: John Sulek  
Sent: Monday, December 23, 2024 7:41 PM  
To: PublicComments

This is regarding the rampant speeding in our town. It is absolutely appalling that our streets have become a danger zone for residents, and your failure to address this issue is nothing short of negligence.

I was nearly hit by a speeding car while crossing the street at Highland and 187th Street. This close call is just one of many instances that highlight the reckless behavior that has been allowed to thrive in our community. The lack of action from local authorities to implement effective measures, such as roundabouts, speed bumps and speed cameras, is a blatant disregard for the safety of your citizens. The police seem too busy to enforce the driving laws. They ignore the speeding cars.

This town has failed its residents by ignoring the urgent need for infrastructure that promotes safety. Roundabouts would effectively reduce speeding at critical intersections, speed bumps would slow the cars down, and speed cameras would hold reckless drivers accountable. Yet, we see no progress, no commitment to making our streets safe.

It is unacceptable that we have to live in fear of being injured or killed by a speeding vehicle. We deserve better, and it is your responsibility to ensure the safety of our community.

John Sulek

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From: Bob Robertson  
Sent: Monday, December 23, 2024 6:56 PM  
To: PublicComments  
Subject: Re: Speeding Questions

A black sedan just drove by at over 40mph with no lights on. Just before that 3 cars flew by at over 40. No one is doing anything.

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From: Bob Robertson  
Sent: Monday, December 23, 2024 2:28 PM  
To: PublicComments  
Subject: Re: Speeding Questions

They are driving by right now like maniacs. I called 911 a little while ago and NOTHING had changed!

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From: John Sulek  
Sent: Monday, December 23, 2024 1:36 PM  
To: PublicComments  
Subject: 187th Street

Cars are flying by on 187th Street. This is completely excessive, and frankly unacceptable. Why is nothing being done about this? Where have the Homewood Police been? They used to patrol this area. Someone is going to be fatally injured again and we don't want it happening on our street.

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From: Bob Robertson  
Sent: Tuesday, December 17, 2024 8:24 PM  
To: PublicComments  
Subject: Re: Speeding Questions

I don't think you understand the frustration at all actually. I live on a residential street that is being treated like a highway by common criminals. This has been going on for years, and we have been asking for help about it for years.

A few cars just flew by at about 50 mph in a 25 mph zone. By the time we call 911, the cars are long gone. 911 is sick of hearing from us and has made that abundantly clear. You conducted a large speeding initiative around Thanksgiving on 187th Street, but we haven't seen any enforcement efforts since that weekend.

Why is the Village not taking action on this? We need speed bumps, lower speed limits, and proactive measures to address this ongoing issue. This message is not solely directed at Sgt. Chmielewski but also at Mr. Harris, President Hofeld and the Board of Trustees, who share responsibility for ensuring the safety of our community.

There are no sidewalks, streetlights, or bike lanes on this street, or on many streets in our town. A recent study by the IIHS highlighted that 25 mph is still too fast in certain areas. If you haven't read it, here's the link:

<https://www.iihs.org/news/detail/vehicle-height-compounds-dangers-of-speed-for-pedestrians>

The lack of action by the Village on this issue is deeply concerning. The Village of Homewood is failing its residents by not enforcing the laws already in place.

We need speed cameras, increased police presence, and real solutions. We've been urging you for far too long. Residents are calling for speed signs that display drivers' speeds, roundabouts, additional stop signs, additional speed limit signs, bike lanes, lower speed limits, crosswalks, and proper lighting. We deserve a safer place to live.

We pay significant taxes and are not seeing the return in safety measures that we should. Many residents of 187th Street are ready to move elsewhere. We've been begging and pleading for action, yet so little has been done. Whenever we reach out for help, you ask for a conversation or offer excuses. We need action. You have taken none.

The speed limit is 25 mph. Enforce it. People live here, and their safety should be your priority. We need the Village to step up and show that it cares about its residents.

Until this issue is addressed, I will no longer support local businesses through additional taxes, and I will encourage others to do the same. The time for action was years ago.

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