

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 Ancw, 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



**PUBLIC COMMENTS –
for the Tuesday, February 11, 2025 Board Meeting**

Mayor Hofeld and Homewood Trustees,

I'm a Homewood resident since March of 2023. My wife and 6 yr old son were relocating for work and family needs, and found Homewood to be well suited for our family - great value for housing compared to most other suburban towns, ultra convenient train trips to Chicago for work and fun, and great schools with walkable amenities. Most surprising to us has been the incredible neighbors and residents we've met - it's the first home I've ever lived in where neighbors will text one another, join for pizza, and share Christmas gifts and cards. Purchasing our home on Olive has been one of the best decisions we have made.

The development work to help young families like ours move to Homewood should be commended. The new apartments built and recently proposed are great uses of the vacant space to let more residents join the sweet community of Homewood. I for one would love more neighbors - new friends to meet at the Farmer's Market, join for Holiday Lights, etc.

I especially support the new parking plan proposed in November. Each recommendation is thoughtful, considers tradeoffs, and is looking to make the most of the infrastructure and assets the Village already has. That type of approach will help keep our taxes from rising further from infrastructure bloat. More importantly than money - working with orgs like St John Neumann to right size parking for the whole community actually *strengthens* our communities ties.

One comment: crossing Dixie to utilize Neumann's parking lot will require additional safety and pedestrian friendly efforts. Signage won't be enough to give pedestrians the confidence they need to park at Neumann and get to their downtown destination, especially during busy rush hours at night.

Kudos to you all for the momentum present in Homewood!

Jason Kircher

Good Afternoon!

My name is Jake Ter Haar, I'm the owner of State Street Repair in South Holland where we specialize in Outdoor Power Equipment sales and repair. I'm also soon to be a resident of Homewood as my fiance and I are in the final stages of purchasing a home.

Currently I live in South Holland and sit on the village's Economic Development Commission and as I am leaving here soon I was wondering if there are any positions like that with

Homewood? I have very much appreciated my time on South Holland's board and I would absolutely love to continue to be a positive source for growth in my new home town!

If this is possible could you let me know the best ways to get involved or to submit my name for any future board openings or whom I should reach out to/connect with to do so?

Thanks so much and I look forward to hearing from you!

Greetings,

I am writing to express my concern regarding the intersection of Pine Ave Park and Dixie Hwy. I have observed several near-miss accidents at this location, and I believe the lack of a stop sign in all directions is contributing to this safety issue.

While I understand that installing a traffic light may be costly, I strongly feel that a stop sign at this intersection could help prevent accidents and improve safety for drivers and pedestrians alike. Given the frequency of close calls I've witnessed, I urge you to assess the situation and consider implementing this simple yet effective solution.

Thank you for your time and attention to this matter. I look forward to seeing the change for the community.

Sincerely,
La Shonda
