

VILLAGE OF HOMEWOOD
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING
TUESDAY MARCH 25, 2025
VILLAGE HALL BOARD ROOM

CALL TO ORDER: President Hofeld called the meeting of the Board of Trustees to order at 7:00 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, Assistant Director of Community and Economic Development Noah Schumerth, Director of Public Works Josh Burman, Director of Finance Amy Zukowski and Assistant Village Manager Terence Acquah.

MINUTES: The minutes of the March 11, 2025, regular Village Board meeting, the FY 2025-26 budget public hearing on March 11, 2025 and the public hearing on the proposed Harwood TOD Tax Increment Financing District were presented. There were no comments or corrections.

A motion was made by Trustee Roman and seconded by Trustee Willis to approve the minutes as presented.

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

CLAIMS LIST: The Claims List in the amount of \$806,903.16 was presented. There were no questions from the Trustees.

A motion was made by Trustee Opyd and seconded by Trustee Harris-Jones 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 51 percent of the Claims List: \$321,600.10 to the City of Chicago Heights for water; \$90,233.64 to Thorn Creek Sanitary District.

HEAR FROM THE AUDIENCE: Resident Amy Crump addressed the board on authoritarianism and how anticipatory obedience leads to people making poor choices.

Numerous members of the public came forward to address what they believe is pollution in a stormwater detention pond at northwest corner of the Izaak Walton Preserve south of the Homewood Disposal corporate headquarters. Several claimed the Village was not willing to hear their complaints or take them seriously. Members of the public acknowledged that the Village has done testing, but they believe it's not enough and consequently the Village has allowed hazardous water to remain in the pond.

Village Manager Haney addressed their concerns saying the issue is not one-sided. The Village is not against the residents and the Village is trying to address their concerns. He believed going to the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency for guidance was the right thing to do. The Village would be hiring another consultant this week. The Village anticipates a comprehensive study will be done by the consultant and the Village, with the board of the Izaak Walton Preserve, will address whatever issues come from that report.

A resident asked if his neighborhood to the west of the White Castle on Halsted Street would be impacted by the removal of lead pipes. He was directed to the Village's website for more information.

Another resident asked if the fence that used to border 183rd Street west of Culver's could be replaced. The fence was taken down by the Public Works Department because it was in poor condition. Manager Haney said the Village has budgeted funds to replace the fence.

Rev. Doyle Landry raised his concerns about lack of jobs for Black youth.

Omnibus Vote: Consider a motion to pass, approve, authorize, accept, or award the following item(s):

- A. R-3215/Executive Session Minutes/Approval/Destruction: Pass a resolution approving executive session minutes from June 11, 2024 to November 26, 2024, and authorizing the destruction of executive session audio recordings from February 7, 2023 through July 25, 2023.
- B. R-3216/Release of Executive Session Minutes: Pass a resolution determining minutes or portions thereof from executive sessions no longer requiring confidential treatment.
- C. M-2348/Multiple Raffle License/The Tim Early Foundation: Pass an ordinance temporarily suspending the multiple raffle license sale date limitations in the Homewood Municipal code for The Tim Early Foundation for the split the pot raffles to be held at 18436 Governors Highway between April 26, 2025 and June 8, 2025.
- D. R-3217/Cook County Tax Incentive/2207 183rd Street: Pass a resolution supporting a Class 8 status under the Cook County Real Property Assessment Classification for real estate located at 2207 183rd Street.
- E. M-2349/Adoption of Fiscal Year 2025-2026 Budget: Pass an ordinance adopting the annual budget for the fiscal year beginning May 1, 2025 and ending April 30, 2026.
- F. M-2350/Adoption of 2025 Official Zoning Map: Pass an ordinance adopting the official zoning map for calendar year 2025 reflecting amendments which were approved by the Board of Trustees in 2024.
- G. Agreement/General Retainer/Legal Services/Christopher J. Cummings, P.C.: Approve the renewal of a General Retainer Agreement for legal services with Christopher J. Cummings, P.C. of Homewood, IL for a minimum of two (2) years (May 1, 2025 through April 30, 2027); and, authorize the Village Manager to execute the General Retainer Agreement.
- H. R-3218/Appointment of Representative/ECOM/SOUTHCOR Joint Emergency Telephone Board: Pass a resolution authorizing and approving the appointment of Village Manager Napoleon Haney as representative and Fire Chief Robert Grabowski as alternate delegate to the ECOM/SOUTHCOR Joint Emergency Telephone System Board.

President Hofeld called Laura Hall of Fido's Landing (Item D) to the podium to offer information on the organization's work. She said Fido's Landing adopts and rescues dogs, does outreach with therapy dogs and works with kids with autism. It will offer veterinary care for dogs adopted out and do dog training. Trustees wished the group success at their Homewood location.

A motion was made by Trustee Heiferman and seconded by Trustee Mason to approve the Omnibus Report.

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

General Board Discussion: Trustees thanked residents for coming and sharing their opinions with the board. Trustee Roman told the audience that the issue should not be that the Trustees don't care about the pond issue, but rather recognize that every decision takes time and that the Village is moving forward with another consultant.

Trustee Opyd said the Village should consider developing a Green Committee. She also said she felt a Committee of the Whole meeting would give the public more time to comment on their concerns.

President Hofeld said he's been a member of the Izaak Walton Preserve for 50 years. He walks his dogs through the preserve every morning. He is an advocate of the work of Izaak Walton Preserve and those who say he doesn't care about the pond issue and the health of Izaak Walton are mistaken.

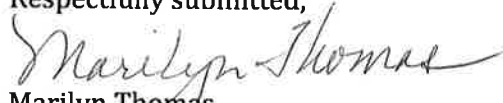
President Hofeld announced progress on two new restaurants: Mongolian BBQ plans have been approved, and Tequila Raizes now owns the property (the former Savoia's T'Go site). The Village is working on another new restaurant in the old Brunswick Bowling Alley site.

Adjourn: A motion was made by Trustee Opyd and seconded by Trustee Willis to adjourn the regular meeting of the Board of Trustees.

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

The meeting adjourned at 8:53 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,


Marilyn Thomas
Village Clerk



**PUBLIC COMMENTS –
for the Tuesday, March 25, 2025 Board Meeting**

On Mon 3/24/2025, 5:56 PM Bob Robertson wrote:

Dear Sheriff,

I hope this letter finds you well. I am writing to bring to your attention a critical issue that has become increasingly dangerous for the residents of Homewood, specifically concerning the speeding problem on 187th Street.

The speed limit on 187th Street is 25 mph, but it is a regular occurrence that drivers travel at speeds of 50 mph or even higher on this residential road. This creates a hazardous environment for pedestrians, children, and other drivers, and has resulted in heightened concerns for public safety in our community.

Despite repeated requests to the Village of Homewood for action, including suggestions for increased patrols or traffic calming measures, the village has been unwilling to take any meaningful steps to address the problem. Unfortunately, the local police department has cited a lack of manpower as the reason for their inability to address the issue, leaving us with no recourse at the local level.

Given the serious nature of this issue, I respectfully ask that your office take immediate action to help ensure the safety of our residents. Whether through additional patrols, enforcement of speed limits, or working with the village to implement traffic management solutions, it is crucial that something be done before a serious accident occurs.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. I look forward to your response and hope for a swift resolution to the speeding concerns on 187th Street.

Sincerely,
Bob Robertson

On Mon, Mar 24, 2025, 5:56 PM Bob Robertson wrote:

Hello?

From: Bob Robertson
Sent: Saturday, March 22, 2025 6:52 PM
To: PublicComments
Subject: Re: Speeding on 187th Street

White challenger 50, eastbound.

On Sat, Mar 22, 2025, 6:46 PM Bob Robertson wrote:

Blue Ford sedan 55 east bound

On Sat, Mar 22, 2025, 5:39 PM Bob Robertson wrote:

Brown caddillac suv 45 east bound.

White escape westbound, about 40, driver holding a phone in front of her face.

On Sat, Mar 22, 2025, 5:37 PM Bob Robertson wrote:

Trustees? President? Hello?

The cars are [REDACTED] flying by
right now. Dodge truck, silver at
about 40, eastbound.

On Sat, Mar 22, 2025, 3:21 PM Bob Robertson wrote:

Thanks Sgt. Chmielewski,

Besides Sgt. Chmielewski, is anyone else going to respond to this? It's not a rhetorical question. The one officer at Gladville isn't doing [REDACTED] right now. Every car going by is going too fast. This can't continue. This has been going on for years now. Again, it's not rhetorical, answer the [REDACTED] question, ARE YOU GOING TO DO ANYTHING ABOUT THE [REDACTED] SPEEDING? We can't have this anymore. You've ruined this town by allowing the cars to take over.

Sincerely,
Bob

On Sat, Mar 22, 2025, 2:56 PM Chmielewski, Sgt. wrote:

As of the time you sent this, There is an officer currently in the area conducting traffic enforcement. He is positioned at 187th and Gladville so it may be difficult to see from your residence.

Thank you for reporting your concerns.

-Sgt. Chmielewski

On Mar 22, 2025, at 14:44, Bob Robertson wrote:

Hey,

Are you ever going to do anything about the cars that are drag racing on this residential street? This is ridiculous. The cars have been going by at speeds well over 40 all day. Are the police hanging out at target again? There needs to be a stop sign at Ashand Avenue. There needs to be crosswalk signals at Regiel Road. Put in speed bumps, speed cameras, anything!

Bob Robertson

On Sat, Mar 22, 2025, 2:44 PM Bob Robertson wrote:

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Are you ever going to do anything about the cars that are drag racing on this residential street? This is ridiculous. The cars have been going by at speeds well over 40 all day. Are the police hanging out at target again? There needs to be a stop sign at Ashand Avenue. There needs to be crosswalk signals at Regiel Road. Put in speed bumps, speed cameras, anything!

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