

VILLAGE OF HOMEWOOD
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING
TUESDAY, AUGUST 12, 2025
VILLAGE HALL BOARD ROOM

CALL TO ORDER: President Hofeld called the meeting of the Board of Trustees to order at 7:04 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: President Hofeld led trustees in the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL: Clerk Nakina Flores called the roll. Those present were Trustee Vivian Harris-Jones, Trustee Julie Willis, Trustee Jay Heiferman, Trustee Patrick Siemsen, Trustee Phillip Mason, Trustee Lauren Roman, and Village President Richard Hofeld.

President Hofeld introduced staff present: Village Manager Napoleon Haney, Village Attorney Chris Cummings, Police Chief Denise McGrath, Economic Development Angela Mesaros, Director of Public Works Joshua Burman, and Assistant Village Manager Terence Acquah.

MINUTES: The minutes of July 22, 2025 were presented. There were no comments or corrections.

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

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

CLAIMS LIST: The Claims List in the amount of \$1,608,871.76 was presented. There were no questions from the Trustees.

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

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

President Hofeld explained that three items made up 72 percent of the Claims List: \$450,000 to the State of Illinois for their share of the GEMT ambulance revenue; \$294,000 for one month of employee health insurance; and \$408,000 for upgrades at Water Plant #1.

HEAR FROM THE AUDIENCE: Doyle Landry expressed his adamant call to action for local businesses to hire young black males which he states, “effectively lessens their propensity to commit crimes.” He affirmed the statements by sharing his tag line “employed young black men don’t pull triggers.”

There were a number of residents that shared their support for the Village to consider implementing a road diet along 183rd Street. There were a couple of residents from nearby neighborhoods that also requested that 183rd Street be turned into three lanes to remedy the speeding, accidents, and danger to the pedestrians. Many of the residents on this street are fearful of getting hit by speeding vehicles. The residents are also concerned with the fatal accidents that have occurred on this street. Some residents shared their experiences of “near accidents” just

trying to pull out of the driveway. One of the speakers believed that speeding behavior has been worse since 2020. According to the speaker, people cannot even walk on the sidewalk because the wind of the speeding trucks that sway them. The speaker said that when the pilot for the road diet was in place, the flow of traffic was slower and there was a nice vehicular pace. One of the speakers, a resident that lives near 183rd Street, shared some statistics from other communities that had converted roadways from four lanes to three lanes. There was one resident that spoke during public comments who did not support the idea of reducing 183rd Street to three lanes.

Resident Dr. Kristine Condon shared that gunfire on Olive Road should not only be a cause for concern, but it is also an opportunity to engage with Village residents in a solution-oriented Town Hall meeting. She asked the Village to consider that 50 residents convened at James Hart School for a neighborhood watch meeting on the heels of this latest shooting and there is an untapped, community-oriented policing resource: a neighborhood that wishes to partner with Village government, law enforcement, and other neighborhoods to keep Homewood safe for everyone.

Resident Tabitha Edward shared her speeding and noise concerns regarding Dixie Highway. She explained that she has observed many cars drag racing on this street and the noise of the engines disrupts the sleeping toddlers and children at the Homewood Children's Center daycare located just south of 183rd Street on Dixie Highway.

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

- A. Reappointment/Economic Development Committee/Phillip Kosanovich: Approve the reappointment of Phillip Kosanovich to the Economic Development Committee for a two-year term ending on August 12, 2027.
- B. R-3231/Cook County Class 8 Real Estate Tax Classification/17911 Harwood Avenue/The Spearman Firm LLC: Pass a resolution supporting a Class 8 Cook County real estate tax classification for the property at 17911 Harwood Avenue owned by Beverly Spearman (The Spearman Firm LLC).

Before the vote, President Hofeld invited comments. There were no comments.

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

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

GENERAL BOARD DISCUSSION: Trustees thanked the residents for attending the meeting and voicing their concerns and comments about moving forward with the road diet on 183rd Street. The Board expressed the desire to find a solution to make it safer to live, walk, and ride bikes along and across 183rd Street and other streets like it. The Board understands that this is a priority and will review all of the information to determine a solution. Trustee Roman asked Village Manager Napoleon Haney for an update on this subject and his response was that the road diet, in its current iteration is listed in the 5-year capital plan, but the 5-year capital plan has not been funded. He continued that staff is re-sorting and re-evaluating all of the data and plans to present some recommendations to the Board at the second meeting in September. President Hofeld thanked the residents for their comments and shared that the comments and dialogue was very eye opening.

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

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

The meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Nakina Flores', written in a cursive style.

Nakina Flores
Village Clerk



**PUBLIC COMMENTS –
for the Tuesday, August 12, 2025 Board Meeting**

From: Kris Condon

Sent: Monday, August 4, 2025 9:22 AM

To: Haney, Napoleon; PublicComments

Subject: Re: Olive Road, Problems and Solutions

Many thanks, and apologies for the misprint on the meeting date. I was incorrectly thinking every other Tuesday, not second and fourth Tuesdays. –kmc

From: Haney, Napoleon

<nhaney@homewoodil.gov> Sent:

Monday, August 4, 2025 8:36 AM

To: 'Kris Condon'; PublicComments

<comments@homewoodil.gov> Subject: RE: Olive Road,
Problems and Solutions

Kris:

Your email, in its entirety, will be included in the Board's Public Comments. Thank you for sharing.

From: Kris Condon

Sent: Saturday, August 2, 2025 6:27 AM

To: PublicComments

<comments@homewoodil.gov> Subject:
Olive Road, Problems and Solutions

Good Morning:

Please include the enclosed public comment in the record for the August 5 Board of Trustees meeting. Thank
you--Kris

An open letter to the Village of Homewood President and Members of the Board of Trustees:

The most recent spate of gunfire on Olive Road, which resulted in public comment for your consideration at the July 22 Village Board meeting, should not only be a cause for concern. It is an opportunity for you to engage with Village residents in a solution-oriented Town Hall meeting and to provide for a standing Board agenda item on our progress, which can be done without compromising any pending criminal investigation.

Yes, I am once again advocating that you host a Town Hall meeting, a Committee of the Whole, a Listening Tour, a Pop-up Forum—the issue is not how you name it. It's that you do it.

I was at the July 22 Village Board meeting, and I am grateful to hear the Village President's statement that the Chief of Police will receive any and all support she needs. I'm also grateful to hear that trustees were unified in their support of law enforcement to address what is clearly a growing problem.

I ask you to consider that when 50 residents convene at James Hart School for a neighborhood watch meeting on the heels of this latest shooting, you have an untapped, community-oriented policing resource: A neighborhood that wishes to partner with village government, law enforcement, and other neighborhoods to keep Homewood safe for everyone.

Contrary to the opinions of some, a town hall meeting can be a constructive, solution-oriented approach to a problem that affects us all. One Society of Human Resource Management study found respondents believe town hall face-to-face communications build high trust (90%), are more personal than using strictly electronic communication (87%), and reduce confusion and misunderstanding (81%). Additionally, a Center for Effective Lawmaking study of town hall meeting efficacy reflects that legislative offices were twice as likely to positively respond to town hall events if the event focuses on learning from constituents instead of justifying the administration's position.

The Village of Homewood has surveyed residents on topics of interest for future "Pop-up Forums." Again, what you call it is not the issue; that you hold it is the issue. Now is the time for this body to support and enhance community-oriented policing strategies. Even a fully-staffed law enforcement team cannot be everywhere at once, and we only make progress if we all support the Police Department in their efforts. You have a community of engaged and concerned residents who are ready and willing to help keep Homewood the safe, vibrant, secure community that brought us here in the first place. Please help us to help you continue that effort.

Dr. Kristine M. (Kris) Condon
Homewood, IL 60430