

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
OF THE VILLAGE OF HARWOOD HEIGHTS
HELD ON THURSDAY, MARCH 23, 2006**

A. CALL TO ORDER at 7:30 pm by Mayor Margaret P. Fuller

B. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

C. ROLL CALL

Mayor	Margaret P. Fuller
Clerk	Dianne H. Larson
Deputy Clerk	Marcia Pollowy
Trustees	George Alex Mark Dobrzycki (Late 7:37pm.) Arlene Jezierny Demetrios Mougolias Roy Schmidt Lester Szlendak
Attorney	Howard Metz

D. PUBLIC COMMENT

Joan Krzywicki White, 7429 W. Winona: The real business portion of a board meeting is for passage of ordinances and approval of payments and expenditures. It is most interesting however, to watch this board formulate and to control reports and comments for all other events and then classify everything as a board meeting. The area of Public Comment for example is handled differently from meeting to meeting, possibly depending on who the speakers are or what questions were asked, if the Mayor or Trustees choose to let anyone in attendance hear the answers. At one meeting the Mayor might say, "This is only comment time, not question and answer period" and questions will be ignored. Another time they may answer a particular resident's question. At a recent meeting I questioned the propriety of an appointment of a particular attorney as village prosecutor because she was part of an advocacy group that presented the Mayor with a special award and then was hired by one of our mayoral candidates who Margaret Fuller backed a few years ago. The Mayor gave comment that "those accusations were the most ridiculous thing I ever heard in my life". And she then went on to bring in the name of the former Mayor and Trustee Jezierny, which had absolutely nothing to do with my concerns over this appointment. Our Trustees also seem to give interesting comments; they tend to offer response only to very superficial aspects of something mentioned. For example, when I brought up a very important matter about the \$1,400,000 outstanding public debt payments, which this village faces because of the street paving projects during the Ray Willas administration, one comment was offered by Trustee Schmidt, his concern about the tax levies was to the effect that he never called the bond issue for the village hall as "the Pabach Levy", and he wished that I would be specific and not use a general term like "this board" or "board members" when I say something like this. Now I guess I will be specific and ask you, Trustee Schmidt, "What plans do you approve for the handling of this \$1,400,000 bond debt?"

All residents who attend board meetings have to wonder what kind of choreography might be in place at board meetings when, as at the February 9th meeting, important matters like payment of bills and approval of minutes or committee reports took up about half of the meeting time, but the other half of the meeting time was given to other personal commentaries. And most of all, at this February 9th meeting one has to notice that Trustee Jezierny seemed to be attacked from all sides. Using well-chosen remarks, the Mayor brought up the name of Trustee Jezierny about 24 times and the Trustees then followed, giving their remarks about Trustee Jezierny at least 13 times more. And none of these remarks were either complementary or flattering. There would almost seem to be a special drive going on, to blame one Trustee for any occurrence of the past or even if this board could not come to a good conclusion on a current matter. Some actions, which over the years seemed to be acceptable even to some members of this board, are no longer tolerated if Trustee Jezierny does them.

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I really feel very displeased to see our paid elected officials handle open board meetings in this fashion. And I personally wonder what someone with a background in election campaign, political law and citizen advocacy might think when watching this board in action. Would that person possibly say that these board members are using their elected seats as "bully-pulpits" and that this certainly is not the best form for elected officials, or would that person just smile widely and say, "Good job. Next year's election campaign is in view and this will surely scare off any newcomer who chooses not to be on our team".

Resident, 4430 New England: Resident was upset with the Police Department because of the lack of presence of our Patrol Officers on our residential streets. Individual was upset because it took the officer 15-20 minutes to write a ticket for a stop sign violation that he felt was not warranted.

E. REPORTS OF MAYOR, TRUSTEES, CLERK AND ATTORNEY

Mayor's Report
Mayor Fuller

I have good news tonight. First, the advisory referendum that was on the ballot for the March 21st election, asking our state legislators to sponsor legislation so that Chicago would provide documentation for the sewer fees received huge support. The unofficial count according to voterinfonet.com as of today was 537 yes, and 64 no. This indicates an overwhelming 90% in favor. Thank you everyone who voted. The people have spoken and now the village can use this information to contact other legislators. I know I heard from a lot of people who had problems at the polls so lets hope all the votes were counted!

The Village did not receive any objections to the Lawrence Avenue Special Service Area; therefore the board will have the opportunity to vote on the finalization of the SSA in the near future. The Lawrence Avenue Streetscape improvement project is on it's way to becoming a reality.

I meet with the village's department heads regularly in staff meetings, therefore have a lot of information to report.

More good News ---CDBG Grant Fund Recovery

The 2002 CDBG project which included the reconstruction of the alleys between Sayre and Newland from Carl Cassata to the "T" at Leland, and the "T" North of Gunnison between New England and Sayre, was constructed by Chicagoland Paving in 2003. The project was completed and the contractor was paid, but the reimbursement from Cook County was never applied for by the previous engineer. Through Paul May's and my conversations with Cook County, they are going to allow us to collect this funding even though we are well outside of the grant period. I am hopeful that we will receive the reimbursement check within the next 30 days. **That 's 2002 CDBG Grant (\$114,700)**

The time period for the 2003 CDBG Grant (paving projects) has expired, however we have requested and received an extension for the \$67,500 appropriation. The Engineering for this project has been completed by Clark-Dietz and is presently being reviewed by the Village Engineer. The project is to include the reconstruction of Newland from Leland to Gunnison, and the reconstruction of Newland and Sayre from Gunnison to the North Village Boundary. **This project will be bid and constructed by the end of summer, 2006. 2003 CDBG Grant (\$67,500):**

The time period for the 2004 CDBG Grant has (Gunnison Sewer) has expired, however we have requested and received an extension for the \$70,000 appropriation. We will solicit a proposal from the slate of pre-qualified Consulting Engineers and the **construction will be completed by the end of summer, 2006. 2004 CDBG Grant (\$70,000):**

With the help of having a full time engineer, the TOTAL RECOVERED FUNDS is \$252,000

Last night, the Plan Commission approved their findings of fact for the new Library planned development; the village trustees will soon be reviewing the documents for future board approval.

Pursuant to a presentation from our engineer and discussion at the last Committee of the Whole Meeting, on the agenda tonight is a motion I 9, for board approval for the purchase of replacement water meters. Since public works needs to order more meters anyway, 78 replacement meters with the radio read capabilities, and the new software that will allow

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the meters to be read without entering any homes will be purchased after board approval. The purchase will get us started with the radio read meters and the village can gradually get all the meters changed over the years.

Public works attended to another water break, on Oconto, which they fixed and then it broke again in another place. Our engineer is working on a long-term plan for infrastructure improvements so that we can include annual maintenance and upgrade work annually in the appropriation budget.

Working together with the village collector, the staff have been reading water meters that have not been read in several years and a collection process has begun.

Our SBC Internet services provided an Upgrade from Windows Server 2000 to Windows Server 2003 and our new web hosting company has been notified of the changes. Our contract with SBC is up in August. Village Staff is working to get all of the quotes together for the board, but the estimates will be more accurate closer to the August date; the board will probably need to make a decision by May or June. I thank Trustee Szlendak for staying on top of these technical services.

The Supt. of Public Works and the Water Commissioner attended a Water seminar and Conference in Springfield last week, where they received the latest information regarding water and distribution. They also saw the havoc that the storm did in Springfield, including two semis and a school bus turned over and Power poles twisted.

For board approval is the annual service agreement for the water storage tank cathodic protection control system, this is for corrosion control, and includes light bulb replacement for the aviation lights.

Recent reports from the police truck enforcement show over \$11,000 in fines and 82,000 lbs removed from our roadways. This is important information as we prepare the budget for the coming year.

Chief Podosek attended A Homeland Security Contracting Forum last week through the College of Dupage. The Chief also obtained another grant for \$11,500 for the bulletproof vest program for replacement vests. We appreciate the Chiefs efforts in finding funds.

The village attorney gave a report of their activities at the last meeting to explain the bill on tonights agenda.

I will be scheduling a meeting with local businesses and local residents regarding Cook County's adoption of the smoking ban. I had previously informed the local restaurants and the bars that this was coming so I think everyone is aware of the changes that will take place.

I received a hearty thank you from the resident who requested the "Stop Means Stop" signs on the corner of Sayre and Carl Cassata drive... , the homeowners thanked me for listening to the request, and to the police dept for researching the option. The signs have been installed by Public Works.

The village has some new information in the hall lobby regarding the bird flu and West Nile Virus, be sure and pick up the information or contact our Health Inspector or the Cook County Board of Health for more information.

With the new recycling bins, Recycling continues to increase from previous years. This is good news for our environment. This spring we will be offering the old recycling containers for sale at \$1.00 each, we have about \$800 of them stored, they make great storage containers for the garage, attic, or for moving colleges students to and from their dorms.

The St. Patricks Day roadside Safety Check on March 17th-18th, checked a total of 296 vehicles, made 2 DUI arrests, 4 license offenses, 15 equipment and 15 seat belt violations, and another 11 violations. 48 citations were written, and 6 warnings. On behalf of the Village, I'd like to thank the Police Dept. for their continual efforts in protecting the lives of all our citizens. And I thank Trustee Mougolias for taking the time to observe the safety check, it's hard for me to say awake that late.

The 3-day Operation Safe Passage results were very successful it was from March 16th through March 18th with a total of 97 citations issued:

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- **Registration Offenses - (3) citations**
- **Driver's License Offenses - (5) citations**
- **Equipment Offenses - (24) citations**
- **Occupant Restraint Offenses - (23) citations**
- **Driving While Intoxicated Offenses - (1) arrested**
- **Other Alcohol Related Offenses - (1) citation**
- **Other Illinois Vehicle Code Offenses - (39) citations**

Community Pride is sponsoring a Town Hall Meeting, Tuesday March 28th, 2006 at the Library, to address the problems of underage drinking. They encourage parents, Jr. high and high school students to attend. Chief Podosek will be attending and speaking on behalf of the Village.

I will be entertaining a motion to enter into executive session tonight as posted on the agenda.

Our free computer training class will hold another special event on Wed. May 24th, at 10 a.m. with a presentation from Parkway Bank with training for on online banking, automatic deposit and automatic pill paying.

Street Sweeping begins on April 3rd, so please remember to move your cars.

Don't forget to save the date for the Annual Block Party for Sat. August 19th. More info to come.

Finance
Trustee Alex

At the Committee Meeting of March 14th, the board went over the Police budget for the fiscal year ending April 30, 2007. Trustee Dobrzycki and myself and many of the board members are concerned, as are the residents that we might have had our police pulled off the street too much. The common complaint is that we don't have as much police presence on the street as we use to have. I think a lot of that might be attributed to the fact that a lot of our policemen are being pulled off for nuisances. At the budget meeting, the Chief recommended that two additional officers be placed on the street so that we could meet that level of safety that our residents request. Also, included in this year's budget are funds to initiate the commission on the accreditation of law enforcement agency recognition. It's no good to have additional police on the street if we don't have a professional department. Our Chief has gone off and worked very hard to try to raise the level of our police officers so that they're professional and courteous. The program will serve as a stepping-stone for our police department in receiving a professional, credentialing new evaluation. The CALEA recognition program identifies 97 standards from the fourth edition of standards for law enforcement agencies manual. The recognition provides subjective evidence of an agencies commitment to improve resource management and their service delivery. Thus, there's more confidence in the departments' ability to operate efficiently and to meet community needs, it's very important. Recognized departments are better able to defend themselves against allegations of misconduct and law suits; recognized police departments show professional accomplishments by addressing high liability and critical organizational issues. In doing so, the village also may be eligible for reductions of cost in liability insurance. I think the Chief has begun with the Mission Statement, has done a lot of work to get the ball rolling to raise the professionalism of this department so that we can be head and shoulders above other departments in the area. We have a state of the art 911 system; we have a modern efficient garbage disposal system now. And when the Chief secures this CALEA recognition, and he will, I have great confidence in him; we'll have the best and most professional department in Northern Illinois, maybe in the State. Very few departments will receive that recognition. We'll continue to strive for excellence too in other areas, including the Public Works and infrastructure. If all those nay Sayers in the audience and throughout the village, I tell you, you're wrong; we can have a better village. Today, I spoke with our village engineer about projects that we'll be working on and how we're going to pay for them, at the end of our conversation he told me that our village was or would be as good as Norridge; I told him that we're better than Norridge and if he didn't see to it that we're better than Norridge, I wouldn't think that he was doing his job. Harwood Heights is a great little village, it's best days lie ahead and I don't listen to people who tell me we can't do it or good enough is just good enough; with our Police Department, with our garbage pickup, with our infrastructure. I don't listen to those people and you shouldn't listen to those people either and I feel strongly about that and I also want to let you guys know that our next budget meeting, we

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going to address the Public Works section of the budget. We don't have a confirmed date yet, but when we get a confirmed date and time for the meeting, it will be posted.

Ordinance/License
Trustee Dobrzycki

First of all, I apologize for being late; a meeting that went a little bit long. The report of the Ordinance & License Committee, basically at this point in juncture we have no new information concerning issues that we've spoken about in the past about updating our zoning and building department codes and ordinances, that will be shortly addressed and hopefully will bring some new information to the table.

Also, I would like to bring out a couple memos that I received through the village engineer, of which I'm happy to say that the 2 issues that I brought to his attention will soon be addressed with the Illinois Department of Transportation, IDOT, making improvements along Nagle Avenue. And if there will be any requirements of changing ordinances to address those issues, we'll bring those to the forefront.

Public Works
Trustee Jezierny

This is a report for the Public Works Department, which is already being done by a member of this board, but I do want to add that as we do get construction projects taking place with the alleys and streets and sidewalks, there will be notification to the people in those homes. However, I do want to caution the other people in the neighborhood to also drive carefully through those areas and to watch for the signs. You may not get the direct notification as the people on the blocks will, but I just want to make sure that you're careful with that. And as another reminder, make sure that you abide by the street sweeping rules; they will go into effect very soon, April 3rd.

Public Health & Safety
Trustee Mougolias

I would like to remind everybody that the Big Garbage Pickup Week will be coming up on the last week of April the 24th through the 28th. Some of the materials that will not be accepted are used tires, appliances and hazardous materials such as oil-based paints, used motor oil, gasoline, car batteries or pool chemicals. Also, if you're throwing out anything that has a gasoline engine, you should make sure that all the gasoline is drained out of it before you put it in the garbage. There are flyers also available in the village hall that will tell you what is not going to be picked up.

I would also like to thank the Chief and all the police officers; I did have an opportunity to stop by the Roadside Safety Check. It was a very cold night and I think that's where I may have caught this cold, but they did a very good job that night and I would like to commend them for staying out there and braving the cold to take care of the village and trying to do a good job for this village.

Forestry/Recreation
Trustee Schmidt

For the Forestry Committee, I have finally started to receive invoices from the company that does our forestry work. The costs were approved at a previous meeting, therefore, I would like to remove the one item from the agenda, which is I 7; the Clerk was nice enough to let me know that it had been approved before.

In regards to the Recreation Committee, we have added and make some changes to the enrollment forms for the Harwood Heights Youth Commission activities. They have been changed to accommodate a changing world and the differences in all of us. The attorneys reviewed the liability statement on the forms and suggested some changes. They have been incorporated onto one form with other information needed by the Youth Commission. We are adding a Code of Conduct form for parents to sign; this will let the parents know what is expected of them and their children. We hope this will make it easier for the leaders of the programs to work with the participants. We have also created a form for the leaders to fill out if ever a conduct issue arises. This again will help the leaders know how to handle a situation and put something down on paper in case there's a problem with a participant. All of this helps the village in creating some type

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of standard for anyone involved with Youth Commission programs. The WSSRA has been a great help in designing the forms, they've given us their input after going through difficult situations along with other villages or park districts.

Sewer & Water
Information & Technology
Trustee Szlendak

On the Water/Sewer Committee, I would just like to clarify item I 9, the \$19,000 dollars, almost \$20,000 for the meters, a very small portion of it is for the meters themselves. The vast majority of it is for the reading equipment and software and it is a one-time charge. Unfortunately, we have to get it before meters are installed. Also, at the next Committee of the Whole, I would like to work with the rest of the Trustees to move the water meter replacement program a little faster than it's currently going.

Clerk's Report
Clerk Larson

A reminder that there's a change in the meeting date, the regularly scheduled village board meeting for April 13th has been rescheduled to Tuesday, April 11th, 2006 at 7:30pm.

Also, on a sad note, Reverend Paul Munsen, the former Police Protestant Chaplin of Harwood Heights and the Harwood Heights Youth Commission Director in the 60's has passed. Our deepest sympathy to his wife Joan and his family.

Attorney's Report

No Report

F. TRUSTEE COMMENTS

Trustee Dobrzycki: I just want to say that this upcoming Saturday will be the 35th consecutive monthly "Meet with Mark". Since I've joined the board I have not let a month go by with a promise I made and I very happy to report this will be the 35th consecutive one. So I ask anyone who will be out that Saturday morning, if you would like to stop by to just say hello, other than hearing all the complaints, it's always nice to hear and it will be at Rich's Deli, 4747 N. Harlem.

Trustee Alex: My question is for Trustee Schmidt. When are they going to get rid of that stump on the 4400 block of New England? I'm getting tired of looking at it Roy! Has Hendrickson gotten to it yet?

Trustee Schmidt: I haven't received anything yet, I just wrote them again. Like I said, they just started sending us bills that were completed. Most of the trees have been cut but unfortunately the stumps were not pulled out yet and he does not want to send a bill before the work is complete, because the bill is based upon the work being completed. Now, every time I send him an email, I keep getting "well the weather was bad" or something else. All I can tell you is just the other day I sent him another email and I said I need to get some more work done and invoices in.

G. SPECIAL COMMITTEE REPORTS

Trustee Schmidt: The Youth Commission will be holding an Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday, April 8th, 2006 at 2:00pm to 4:00pm in the village hall. Children from ages 1 to 9 are welcome. Cookies and juice will be served and you must sign up at the village hall.

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H. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Trustee Szlendak, seconded by Trustee Mougolias

Regular Board Meeting held Thursday March 9, 2006

A roll call vote resulted as follows:

A YES: Trustee Alex, Dobrzycki, Jeziorny, Mougolias, Schmidt, Szlendak

NAYS:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT:

Motion Carried

I. CONSENT AGENDA

Item I 7 pulled by Trustee Schmidt, expenditure already approved at a previous board meeting.

Motion by Trustee Mougolias, seconded by Trustee Szlendak on Consent Agenda items I 1- I 6 and I 8 – I 10.

Motion Amended at the April 11, 2006 Board Meeting to read:

Motion by Trustee Mougolias, seconded by Trustee Szlendak on Consent Agenda items I 1- I 6 and I 8 – I 11.

1. To approve expenditure, not to exceed **\$2,561.96**, payable to Calumet Photographic, Inc. for camera for Police Department.
2. To approve expenditure, not to exceed **\$3,349.37**, payable to American Speedy Printing Center for 75 General Orders Binders and inside copies for Police Department.
3. To approve expenditure, not to exceed **\$2,627.45**, payable to Northern Illinois Police Alarm System for mandatory uniform/equipment for Officer Greg Hauptman.
4. To approve expenditure, not to exceed **\$1,085.00**, payable to Corrpro Waterworks for cathodic protection control system for water tower, 5/1/06 to 4/30/07. (Service for year \$970.00 and \$115.00 to change the aviation lights).
5. To approve expenditure, not to exceed **\$10, 326.17**, payable to Robbins Schwartz Nicholas Lifton & Taylor, Ltd. for revised billing through 1/31/06, which includes retainer fee of \$1,000.00.
6. To approve expenditure, not to exceed **\$2,090.00**, payable to Robbins Schwartz Nicholas Lifton & Taylor, Ltd. for billing through 2/28/06 to be reimbursed back to the Village by Newport Development.
8. To approve expenditure, not to exceed **\$304.83**, reimbursed to Scott Rein for HHYC Dodgeball program tournament expenses.
9. To approve expenditure, not to exceed **\$19,936.10**, payable to National Waterworks for the purchase of Sensus brand replacement water meters, with radio read system, new housing meters and reading equipment and software.
10. To concur with the Mayor and Police Chief Podosek's recommendation to hire Kamila Szczepek for the full time position of Harwood Heights Police Department Communications Dispatcher. Kamila Szczepek will be placed on a twelve-month probationary period and starting salary will be **\$34,696.00**.
11. To approve handicapped parking at the address commonly known as 4431 North Natchez and to instruct Public Works to erect the sign in a timely manner.

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A roll call vote on Consent Agenda items I 1- I 6 and I 8 – I 10 resulted as follows:

A YES: Trustee Alex, Dobrzycki, Jeziorny, Mougolias, Schmidt, Szlendak

NAYS:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT:

Motion Carried

J. NEW BUSINESS

PAYMENT OF CURRENT BILLS

Motion by Trustee Dobrzycki, seconded by Trustee Mougolias

1. To void check #40390 in the amount of \$12,096.17.

A roll call vote resulted as follows:

A YES: Trustee Alex, Dobrzycki, Jeziorny, Mougolias, Schmidt, Szlendak

NAYS:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT:

Motion Carried

Motion by Trustee Dobrzycki, seconded by Trustee Szlendak

2. Payment of current approved bills in the amount of \$127, 181.19, as they appear on check register #40425 thru #40511.

A roll call vote resulted as follows:

A YES: Trustee Alex, Dobrzycki, Jeziorny, Mougolias, Schmidt, Szlendak

NAYS:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT:

Motion Carried

Motion by Trustee Dobrzycki, seconded by Trustee Schmidt

3. Transfer from Parkway General Savings Account in the amount of \$133,035.11 to Parkway Bank Payroll Account.

A roll call vote resulted as follows:

A YES: Trustee Alex, Dobrzycki, Jeziorny, Mougolias, Schmidt, Szlendak

NAYS:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT:

Motion Carried

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K. OLD BUSINESS
None

L. CORRESPONDENCE
None

M. OTHER NEW BUSINESS
None

N. TRUSTEE COMMENTS

Trustee Dobrzycki: I just wanted to add that when people stop by that it's just not only complaints, that many people stop by offering suggestions which this board has taken on and with your leadership which provided many changes and improvements and done work for benefiting the village as well as making comments about the good work that we've done so far.

Trustee Szlendak: I just received the 2005 Cook County Taxpayer Exemption booklet from our County Assessor. Only part of it is in Polish, English and Spanish; if anybody requires assistance with it, you're very welcome to call me at home; my home phone number is 708-867-3197 and I will gladly help out in filling it out, it is due on April 12th.

Trustee Alex: Roy, that Easter Egg thing, is there cap on how old you can be to be involved in that?

Trustee Schmidt: Ages 1 through 9.

O. EXECUTIVE SESSION (IF NEEDED)

Motion to enter into Executive Session, Pursuant to (SILCS 120/2) Sec. 2, Open meetings. subsection (c) Exceptions: A public body may hold closed meetings to consider the following subjects: The appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees of the public body or legal counsel for the public body, including hearing testimony on a complaint lodged against an employee of the public body or against legal counsel for the public body to determine its validity.

(6) The setting of a price for sale or lease of property owned by the public body

Motion by Trustee Dobrzycki, seconded by Trustee Szlendak at 8:10pm.

A roll call vote resulted as follows:

A YES: Trustee Alex, Dobrzycki, Jeziorny, Mougolias, Schmidt, Szlendak

NAYS:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT:

Motion Carried

Motion to Close Executive Session by Trustee Dobrzycki, seconded by Trustee Szlendak: all in favor 8:45pm.

Motion to Re-open the Board Meeting by Trustee Dobrzycki, seconded by Trustee Schmidt, at 8:46pm.

P. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Trustee Dobrzycki, seconded by Trustee Schmidt to adjourn. On a voice vote, all being in favor, the motion carried and the Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Village of Harwood Heights was adjourned by Mayor Margaret P. Fuller on Thursday, March 23, 2006 at 8:47pm.

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Respectfully submitted,

Dianne H. Larson, Village Clerk