

**MINUTES OF A COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
OF THE VILLAGE OF HARWOOD HEIGHTS
HELD ON WEDNESDAY, JUNE 3, 2009**

A. CALL TO ORDER at 7:07 pm by Mayor Arlene C. Jezierny

B. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

C. ROLL CALL

Mayor	Arlene C. Jezierny
Clerk	Marcia L. Pollowy
Trustees	Mark Dobrzycki Michael Gadzinski Demetrios Mougolias Therese Schuepfer Lawrence Steiner Lester Szlendak

D. AGENDA ITEMS

Motion by Trustee Mougolias, seconded by Trustee Gadzinski

Approval of Committee of the Whole Minutes of March 4 and May 7, 2009

A roll call vote to approve the Committee of the Whole minutes resulted as follows:

A YES: Trustee Dobrzycki, Gadzinski, Mougolias, Schuepfer, Steiner, Szlendak

NAYS:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT:

Motion Carried

Mayor's Report

Zee Builder – Extension

- Mr. Kawa asked the board due to a downturn in the economy for a 3-5 year building extension on the 4343 Newcastle property that he purchased last year. A lengthy discussion ensued among the board members and a consensus of the board members was to allow Mr. Kawa an extension on an annual basis. The future extensions will be reviewed and/or approved each year.

Township Bus Service

- Mayor Jezierny indicated that she and the Mayor of Norridge were contacted by the Township asking if the two villages would be willing to extend their village's bus service to unincorporated Norwood Township residents. Mayor Jezierny is looking into the cost involved with this expansion; a third bus driver would have to be hired to relieve our current drivers having to drive 7-days a week. She will update the board when she receives additional information.

Norridge Park District – Island in the City

- Mark DeSalvo, Director from the Norridge Park District gave a background of the participation regarding the annual "Island in the City" which was started in 2006. This is a community event for all residents of the Village of Norridge and Harwood Heights; each village picks a day to sponsor for their village residents. The shared contribution is \$2,500.00; the Mayor will place the motion on the June 11, 2009 board agenda for approval. The Mayor selected Sunday, July 12th to sponsor the "Harwood Heights Day."

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Red Speed Update

- The RedSpeed monitor going east bound on Lawrence at Harlem Avenue as of May 29th (from May 1st to May 29th), there were over 700 tickets that were issued. The ticket fine is \$100; under the agreement with RedSpeed, the village receives 40% of the collected fines.

WCMC Membership

- The village was previously a member of the West Central Municipal Conference, we originally joined them in 1980; but for the last few years the village joined the North West Municipal Conference. Mayor Jezierny stated that she has been in contact with the WCMC and that rejoining the WCMC would be more inline to the surrounding communities that surround Harwood Heights. Mayor Jezierny has met with some of the Mayor's and boards of the WCMC and that the annual fee is less than the North West Municipal's fee and she will place the resolution for membership and the \$5,000.00 membership fee on the June 11, 2009 agenda for board approval.

Website Updates

- As of May 20th no one responded with photo or bio updates for the website. The Mayor is requesting that the board members forward her that information as soon as possible so the website can be updated by the end of June.

Police Chief Update

- The Mayor has advertised for candidates to fill the Chief of Police position. This position is a key position for the village and rather than appointing someone, an ad was placed in the Pioneer Press and on the village website with a due date of the end of May. A number of applications have been received; they will be reviewed by the Police Committee and the Mayor and the selected individuals will be evaluated by their interviews and a rating process to pick the best candidate for that position.

Leyden/Norwood Park Township Quarterly Meetings

- This is a quarterly meeting that the Mayor is involved in with other Mayors and Township representatives. Wanted to inform the board regarding possible expenditures; each quarterly meeting is chaired/hosted by a different Mayor or Township.

Clerk's Report

Census Update

- Attended the 2010 Census kickoff at Brookfield Zoo last week with Trustee Gadzinski. Congressman Danny Davis stressed the importance that everyone in Cook County be counted; incomplete counts could cause the loss of districts and the amount of federal money for all infrastructure projects. We will work with St. Rosalie and Union Ridge School to promote this important United States 2010 Census endeavor and we will recruit volunteers who speak Polish, Greek and Italian to educate and assist residents. We will also include information and news updates will the water billings.

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Ordinance Committee

Rear Yard Open Space Requirements for Patios

- Trustee Schuepfer stated that there a number of residents who had, prior to the adoption of the Open Space Ordinance, solid concrete patios poured that are now in need of replacement. Due to the Open Space Ordinance they cannot replace it in the same form of solid concrete and a lengthy discussion ensued regarding alternative methods that would provide adequate drainage yet retain the area space that they previously had. Norridge has their residents place porous material down first and then brick pavers on top to allow for drainage. Trustee Schuepfer will prepare a draft ordinance for the trustees to review.

Parking Fines

- The Ordinance Committee will review the current ordinance regarding all parking fines. Parking fines in “Resident Only” areas are being considered, especially to non-resident parkers, to be increased to \$75.00. Street sweeping and snow ban fines will also be reviewed for possible increases. Discussion ensued regarding cars that are parked on “Resident Only” areas where cars are left for days and weeks without being moved. The street signs on those blocks will be replaced with colored signs that are more visible to drivers and the permit passes will be changed to include some kind of an expiration date and the residents address.

Sayre Parking

- The original ordinance that was written for “No Parking” on the 4700 block of Sayre was 41-years ago. This parking issue has been addressed in the past and in the last 41-years most families now have more than one car, some 3, 4, or 5. The board has been approached repeatedly by the residents on Leland and the adjacent streets which have been absorbing the parking from Sayre, since there is no parking allowed on the 4700 block of Sayre. The Police Department did a study and found that the cars parking on Leland were resident parkers. A lengthy discussion ensued with a number of residents from the 4700 block of Sayre who were in attendance and expressed their concerns and reasons for leaving Sayre as “No Parking.” Trustee Schuepfer asked for additional ideas for possible solutions to the parking problem, not only at the 4700 block of Sayre but also in other areas of the village that are experiencing the same problems.

Public Works/ Water & Sewer

Water Billing Collection Process

30-day Moratorium on penalties

Water-shut off on abandon Homes/Factories

- Trustee Steiner indicated that he discussed the water billing collection process with the water billing clerk and the Village Collector and that there are a number of customers who are delinquent on their water bills causing a burden on the village’s finances. As of the last late billing run, late bills 60-days and over are totaling about \$53,000 and the total outstanding late bills is about \$88,000. A letter will be prepared to those customers offering them an amnesty program if they pay their bills upfront; all fees and penalties will be waived.
- Trustee Sziendak has spoken to the Code Enforcement officers to go out and do inspections on the abandon/foreclosed properties to shut-off the water. Trustee Sziendak would like to place on either the next board meeting or the following a motion for a 30-day moratorium. The board also needs to discuss what actions are needed to start collecting the money; possibly a lien on the property.

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Temporary Speed Bumps – Alleys along 7500 blocks

- Temporary speed bumps would be placed in the alleys along the 7500 block from Winona to Argyle and also an alley off of Nagle by the McDonalds. If the speed bumps reduce and slowdown traffic on the alleys, the board may consider placing some on the streets, especially the 4200 block of Newland, the 4300 block of Sayre. To monitor those streets, Trustee Mougolias will order a speed monitor to clock travel speeds and the amount of traffic.

Public Comment

Peter Magnelli: Thanked the board for looking into the issue of parking passes. Asked how many water meter readers we have and wondered if there was a way to have electronic readings to avoid the inaccurate readings that Trustee Szlendak had reported at various board meetings. Stated that he understood that the apartment landlords on the 4700 block of Sayre charge their tenants to park in the apartment building lot? Encouraged the board or inspectors to work with the apartment building owners to hopefully remedy the parking situation; each tenant should have at least one space included in their rental agreement.

Mayor Jezierny: Stated that she has applied for a stimulus grant regarding the water meter issue and met with the engineer regarding changing over all of the water meters to have a more uniform reading of water usage throughout the village to reduce or eliminate the incorrect water readings that we're currently experiencing. Also, indicated that the Ordinance & License Committee is also trying to find remedies pertaining to "truck parking" on village streets; encouraged suggestions and ideas from residents.

Gwen Gialo: Suggested some sort of constant follow-up program for the late water bill problems. Said she will work with Bridgette and Trustee Steiner to develop a payment program for residents who can't pay their bill, minus all penalty fees, during the 30-day moratorium.

Trustee Szlendak: Stated that for the last few years the village only allocated \$14,000 a year for new meters; wants to apply for a no interest loan or a grant to speed up the installation process, by possibly hiring an independent contractor to do all the installations. He will place a water billing collection process for overdue bills on the meeting for consensus by the board.

Trustee Dobrzycki: Indicated that the process on foreclosures should be same across the board, no matter who owns the home; bank owned, individual resident, owner who rents out the home and does not live there. He will contact other communities in the area to get a copy of their ordinance regarding foreclosures.

Trustee Mougolias: Met with the Building staff and they have started this week to enforce the ordinance that was past a few months ago, the Vacant Building Ordinance, by contacting the banks and having them get on the registry which covers a number of the issues that were discussed tonight; water, electric, boarding up, etc. There is a \$200 registration fee plus a \$500 inspection fee.

Mr. Kawa: Stated that AT&T never fixed the parkway where they removed the 2 boxes from 4343 N. Newcastle; felt it could be a safety hazard for children playing in the area.

Adjournment

Motion by Trustee Gadzinski, seconded by Trustee Szlendak 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 Arlene C. Jezierny on Wednesday, June 3, 2009 at 9:30pm.

Respectfully submitted,


Marcia N. Polowy, Village Clerk