

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
OF THE VILLAGE OF HARWOOD HEIGHTS
HELD ON TUESDAY, APRIL 14, 2009**

- A. CALL TO ORDER** at 7:30 pm by Deputy Clerk Marcia L. Pollowy
- B. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**
- C. ROLL CALL**

Mayor	Margaret P. Fuller (Absent)
Clerk	
Deputy Clerk	Marcia Pollowy
Trustees	Mark Dobrzycki Michael Gadzinski Arlene Jezierny Demetrios Mougolias Therese Schuepfer Lester Szlendak
Attorney	Brett Harvey

In the absence of Mayor Fuller, Deputy Clerk Pollowy requested a nomination for a Temporary Chair for tonight's meeting. Trustee Schuepfer nominated Trustee Jezierny as acting chair, seconded by Trustee Gadzinski; on a voice vote, all in favor.

D. PUBLIC COMMENT - Upon recognition to speak by the village president or acting chairperson, the person shall rise and state his or her name and address. An individual may speak for himself or herself or as a representative of a community group. No person shall speak longer than three minutes unless specifically authorized to do so by a majority vote of the board of trustees. The three minute time limit will be measured by a person selected by the village board. Thirty (30) minutes of meeting time will be the maximum time allowed for public comment. This according to Village Code, Section 2.12.090, Section D.

Jennifer Palacz, Schaumburg: Good Evening, I am Jennifer Palacz of Schaumburg, my husband Al Palacz has been a member of the Police Department of Harwood Heights since 1981. First I want to congratulate the incoming administration and hope they can fix the disgraceful way the village and Police Department has been run. Since the appointment of Acting Police Command staff, Chief Biagi and Capt. Maraviglia, the morale in the department has made a complete turnaround, and I hope it doesn't change, for the sake of the department.

My husband is unaware I'm here, but he'll find out after the meeting tonight. I wanted to speak at a Village Meeting for some time but was unable, since Chief Podosek ordered my husband to speak to no one about the problems at the Police Department other than behind closed doors at home. Now that half of the problem administration is gone and the other half on the way out, I do not fear for any more retaliation against my husband. The former Chief accused him of bringing down morale and telling him if he did not keep quiet and follow this order, he could be brought up on charges.

I am here to speak about the wasting, misuse of funds and failure of the Village to use the resources available to them to generate revenue; while all along crying "poor." Specifically, asking for funds to dismantle the K9 car. The K9 program Chief Podosek implemented, asking my husband to take on this assignment and responsibility. The Chief told my husband "failure was not an option." The village received a \$10,000 grant for the K9 unit with the assistance of Senator De Leo and Rocco Terranova, as well as the Boy Scouts raising \$550, by making and selling dog biscuits for the K9 program. The Chief hampered the training of the dog by cutting back on training days and not getting the tools required to continue training. My husband and I have never stopped training the K9, not even to this day; this is what she was taken on to do, be a police K9. My husband and our family did not agree to take on this responsibility to gain another "pet," we already had 2 dogs. Don't get me wrong, Selene is a member of our family; but the K9 was my husband's job. The Chief forced my husband to sign a release of liability for the K9 and sold it to him for \$1. 00. This was not the village's K9 to sell, the breeder Tom Hockett is the owner by contract.

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The Chief has been asked what the money was spent on and he could only answer it was spent. Where did the money go? When the K9 unit was first implemented, the Chief stated the grant money would last for at least 5-years. I did not fill out a Freedom of Information form requesting this, since I read past meeting minutes and see the Mayor feels the law does not apply to the Village of Harwood Heights. The Chief disbanded the K9 unit before he left stating the village had no money; that was his only explanation.

Some facts:

- \$10,000.00 grant money for the K9 unit.
- \$550.00 raised by the Boy Scouts.
- Dog was donated free of charge.
- We received the K9 when she was 8 weeks old; the breed was chosen by the Chief. These dogs take time to mature. My husband's job was to care for and train this dog; this is a 24/7 job.
- Training was provided free of charge by Cook County Sheriff Department.
- Dog Armor vest was donated by Lee Harrison of the Illinois Vest a Dog.
- The K9 car was an unmarked squad from the detective's division/paint and decals as well as the crate for the K9 squad were added.
- The majority of the training equipment was either paid for by us personally or donated by one of the Cook County Trainers.
- The cost of dog food for the K9 is a mere \$12.00 per week.
- Annual vet checkup and shots as needed.

The benefits far outweigh the cost. The K9 could be utilized for vehicle, home, school searches, tracking missing people and criminal activities. Revenue could be generated from property seizures, not only within the Village, but assisting outside agencies, since a percentage of the proceeds would go to the Village.

The Mayor and the former Chief have not only thrown money and time away that was used for this unit; it is denying the revenue resource by utilizing this tool. Another example of wasting money and getting rid of a revenue resource, the Chief disbanded truck enforcement. There sits a scale unused, the truck enforcement is a huge revenue-generating tool for the village, yet the potential is cast aside.

The excuses heard were "short of manpower," that is what it is, an excuse. The K9 unit, as well as truck enforcement officers can still do the job as all other officers, these titles just happen to be their specialties; no different that a Juvenile officer, they do not only handle calls relating to juveniles, they do the everyday duties of a police officer.

Fortunately Chief Podosek is gone. The way he left raises questions. He told no one, cleaned out his desk and left at 4:00am, three days prior to be sworn in as Chief of Marengo. The disbandment of these units were due to the Chief taking away things and causing problems with anyone that he thought questioned him in anyway. This was NOT for the best interest of the Police Department and the Village of Harwood Heights. The Mayor and former Chief Podosek have made this Village and Police Department a laughing stock throughout the communities; I have firsthand knowledge of this due to my encounters with my job.

Unfortunately, the Village will be wasting more money for the pending litigation by the breeder that donated the dog for violating the contract signed by the Village and many other issues regarding my husband's civil rights and EEOC violations, which are separate issues from what I have talked about.

I hope the next administration can see through the smoke and do what is best for the Village and its residents. Please reconsider the value of the K9 unit, Truck Enforcement, every specialized assignment and every other member of this Police Department, due to the disgrace of the 2 highest ranking members of the village that have caused so such turmoil.

Addie Squires, 4718 N. Oconto: I want to congratulate you Arlene and your United T.E.A.M. Party. You ran a campaign you can be proud of in spite of the anonymous slanderous letters, circulars and outrageous propaganda that was being spread about you and your team. If what the propagandas were spreading was true they won't be hiding behind the cloak of anonymity. Who are these character assassins?

Once again, congratulations, good luck and God bless you and your team.

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Camille Paul, 4236 N. New England: And I just have a short, short request. I read in the paper about the two running Village Clerk's and how they each felt about the minutes that were presented at the meeting. I believe one wanted to keep them as they are, which is full minutes and the other one wanted to summarize them. I would just like to make a request to the board to retain the minutes from the board meetings as spoken on our website and not in a summarized revision for those of us who can't always make the meetings; I would appreciate that.

Roy Schmidt, 4336 N. Rutherford: I may need more than three minutes, if I can?

Motion by Trustee Dobrzycki, seconded by Trustee Gadzinski; all in favor.

Roy Schmidt: Some of this obviously I was going to speak at the last meeting, unfortunately that wasn't held and I couldn't make the 9 o'clock in the morning meeting, I was working. I did want to, as you know at other meetings I've mentioned the history of the village and what I knew about it. I did want to make sure I understood, I know the Mayor mentioned about she had written a memo saying all projects should go through her and there was much discussion from the board about that doesn't seem fair and she mentioned at the last meeting that in fact the previous Mayor did the same thing and Trustee Jezierny being the only one on the board did not make any concerns about it then. The other thing I know she mentioned was, or the board had concerns when she was making an appointment that was going to go beyond her term and once again she had reminded us that it was done by the previous Mayor and in fact it was voted on by the person that was being appointed and I happened to remember that because it was like well, is there a conflict of interest there. If I remember it was even the Mayor who broke the veto and again is there a conflict of interest here? But then, as you know Trustee Schuepfer wouldn't care about conflicts of interest; we would just vote the way we want to.

The other thing I want to talk about is I had talked about; I was talking at many meetings about the Olcott/Wilson project and the last time I had talked to Trustee Jezierny she had mentioned that we would get together April 16th, basically after the tax filing date. So, I hope you can let me know what time we can meet so we can go over that. I will tell you that the stuff I have received I have been able to see that we did a couple of change orders. My main question originally was why we overpaid the engineer and the contractor. Looking at the information I was able to get, I see we have changeable orders for, two of which were for FCL Graphics and as you know I keep saying that FCL Graphics is one of the contributors. And it was sort of interesting because I look at these change orders and they're dated February and right around the time that the campaign was getting a \$1,000, a \$1,000, \$2,000; it's a rather interesting history of that.

The other thing I want to talk about is that at the other meeting Mrs. White brought up Trustee Dobrzycki's taxes. Well, I'm not sure if she only looked at Trustee Dobrzycki or at all the trustees or if she looked at everybody in the village including employees or just Trustee Dobrzycki's. But anyway, again, it made me interested in seeing about the taxes. I did see that the house that Trustee Jezierny is living in has a senior freeze on it. Now, I have asked the assessor's office about a senior freeze; it says for the year 2007 your household income could be no more than \$55,000. Which means in six years when I'm 65, I have to ask my kids, my wife, my uncle Billy Bob, whoseever living with me, how much their income is to see if I can be eligible for a senior freeze. The year before that was \$50,000, I think the year before that it was \$45,000; so when talking to the assessor's office I asked well how do you find this out, because I certainly know people who are making money in the village for \$55,000 and \$12,000 for trustee salaries that leaves like \$40,000 whatever. So, I'm hoping to find out more about that because it seems rather strange that I wouldn't go around and accuse anybody or be ignorant like the board was in saying you're stealing or anything like that; but I would suggest that \$55,000, this is something for seniors who have low income. It's not for people to live off of at their parent's home.

And the last thing I'd like to mention is I did go to the WSSRA Bunny Hop and it was a great time. They had one of the biggest group of people there; they said it was a lot of fun.

E. REPORTS OF MAYOR, TRUSTEES, CLERK AND ATTORNEY

Mayor's Report
Mayor Fuller

No Report - Absent

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Information/Technology
Trustee Dobrzycki

No Report

Forestry/Recreation
Trustee Gadzinski

No Report

Public Works
Trustee Jezierny

I have a short report as Chairman of Public Works. Public Works is out there always striving to do a good job representing the village and doing the best they can, Now that the snow is gone and the rain is coming, the crew has been basically working on the maintenance of the pump house, as well as maintaining all the winter equipment, putting it away for next year.

The catch basin at Leland and Sayre has been repaired and others will soon follow based on the weather, making sure that the rain holds off for now until we get that concrete to cure; and it would be in the areas of Leland and Newcastle, Ronald and Wilson, Wilson and Oketo and also on the 7400 block of Winnemac.

And, just as a reminder everyone, please, please obey the "No Parking" signs on your block. We don't want you to get a ticket and remember street sweeping began April 1st and will continue through the summer; so, it's not only street sweeping but sometimes when they have to repair a catch basin or something, this gives them that opportunity. So again, just be careful so you don't get a ticket and remember to move your cars.

Public Health & Safety
Trustee Mougolias

Tonight on the agenda is item I 3, which is an expenditure to American Speedy for 12 field training manuals. This is pertaining to manuals that help the officers train new officers, as most of you may know, we hired two new officers this year and they needed these manuals updated and reprinted for the people who are training them; so I would recommend that we approve this.

The next item, I 4, is an expenditure of \$2,991.71 to Miner Electronics for battery savers for the 15 squad cars. The squad cars, some of them are not used all the time, so winter time and even in summertime if we don't use the trucks for a while the batteries die; every time they die we pay \$100 to have them come out here and jump the car and get it started again. Also, we have the risk of some of the electronics in the cars going bad when they're jumping them and when they're died for a long time so I'm recommending we buy these battery savers; they'll be plugging them in at night and the cars will keep charging even in the winter months when it's very cold, we'll save a lot of money in the long run. So I recommend approving that.

I 5, I will probably recommend tabling this for some discussion. The board was not informed that the dog had been sold to tell you the truth....

Jennifer Palacz: There's a lot you guys don't know.

Trustee Mougolias: We didn't even know that the dog was gone. So I would recommend tabling it until we know what's going on with the dog; talk to the trainer, talk to the person who donated the dog, who actually is the owner and if I recall he said if we didn't want the dog he would take it back, so I would....

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Jennifer Palacz: I can answer. I was there from the signing of the contract and everything. I've been involved totally with this dog. The contract states, if my husband retires, the dog stays with the handler, period; that's all. But, it states in the contract it's utilized as a police canine, I believe it's a minimum of 3-years.

Trustee Mougolias: So I would recommend.....

Temporary Chair trustee Jezierny: We don't want to get off our agenda and I appreciate your input and that's something that we have to look into closely.

Trustee Mougolias: I would recommend we table it until we talk about what's going on and what we're going to do with this dog before we remove the canine equipment.

**Ordinance/License
Trustee Schuepfer**

No Report

**Finance
Sewer & Water
Trustee Szlendak**

No Report

Clerk's Report

We received a notice from Triton College that they'll be having an Electronics Collection, April 24th and 25th from 9:00am to 3:00pm in the Northwest Student Parking Lot. This collection will be for Computer Equipment, Printers, Telephones, Answering Machines, Cellular Phones, Fax Machines, TV's and VCR's, Stereo Equipment, Software, Disks, CD's and Tapes. There will be a Co-Pay of \$5.00 for each TV and Monitor.

Items not collected will be: Refrigerators, Stoves, Dishwashers, Washing Machines, Dryers, Air Conditioners, Microwaves and Oversized Copiers.

And again, that's April 24th and 25th from 9:00am to 3:00pm in the Northwest Student Parking Lot at Triton College.

Attorney's Report

No Report

F. TRUSTEE COMMENTS

No Trustee Comments

G. SPECIAL COMMITTEE REPORTS

H. APPOINTMENTS/REAPPOINTMENTS

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I CONSENT AGENDA

**Motion by Trustee Dobrzycki, seconded by Trustee Mougolias on Consent Agenda items I 1 thru I 11:
Trustee Mougolias pulled motion I 5 for a separate vote.**

Motion by Trustee Dobrzycki, seconded by Trustee Gadzinski on Consent Agenda items I 1-4 & I 6-11:

1. To approve the minutes of the Special Board of Trustees meeting held March 30, 2009.
2. To ratify an emergency expenditure, not to exceed \$1,240.00, payable to National Power Rodding Corp. for emergency sewer rodding on the 6900 block of Gunnison expensed to line item 22-00-00-7036 – Water & Sewer.
3. To approve expenditure, not to exceed \$1,178.20, payable to American Speedy for 12 Field Training Manuals and format redesign expensed to line item 11-05-00-7022 – Printing – Police.
4. To approve expenditure, not to exceed \$2,991.71, payable to Miner Electronics for battery savers & installation for 15 squad cars expensed to line item 11-05-00-7044 – Repairs – Police.
6. To approve expenditure, not to exceed \$13,959.19, payable to Robbins, Schwartz, Nicholas, Lifton & Taylor, Ltd., for invoice 222437 billing through 1-31-2009; \$1,200.00 expensed to line item 11-02-00-7050 retainer; \$5,648.01 expensed to line item 11-02-00-7051 Legal; \$1,839.56 expensed to line item 11-05-00-7031 Police Legal; \$1,216.35 expensed to line item 11-07-00-7036 Bldg. Legal; \$3,530.27 expensed to line item 11-02-00-7055 Liability Claims; \$525.00 expensed to line item 22-00-00-7022 Water Legal - FY08/09.
7. To approve expenditure, not to exceed \$8,044.96, payable to Robbins, Schwartz, Nicholas, Lifton & Taylor, Ltd., for invoice 222762 billing through 2-28-2009; \$1,200.00 expensed to line item 11-02-00-7050 retainer; \$5,145.06 expensed to line item 11-02-00-7051 Legal; \$474.90 expensed to line item 11-07-00-7036 Bldg. Legal; \$875.00 expensed to line item 11-05-00-7031 Police Legal; \$350.00 expensed to line item 22-00-00-7022 Water Legal - FY08/09.
8. To approve the Employee Assistance Program Intergovernmental Agreement through the Northwest Municipal Conference to renew participation in the NWMC Employee Assistance Program and direct the Mayor to execute the agreement.
9. Transfer from Parkway General Savings Account in the amount of \$122,657.63 as they appear on check register #46200 thru #46262.
10. Transfer from Parkway General Savings Account in the amount of \$128,613.97 to Parkway Bank Payroll Account.
11. Electronic transfer from Parkway General Savings Account in the amount of \$9,666.68 for March 2009 IMRF Pension Fund.

A roll call vote on Consent Agenda items I 1-4 & I 6-11 resulted as follows:

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

NAYS:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT:

Motion Carried

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ITEMS PULLED FROM THE CONSENT AGENDA

Motion by Trustee Mougolias, seconded by Trustee Dobrzycki on Consent Agenda item I 5:

Trustee Mougolias: I would like to table it pending discussion about what's going to happen with the canine unit and what we're going to do with the dog.

Motion to Table by Trustee Mougolias, seconded by Trustee Dobrzycki on Consent Agenda item I 5:

5. To approve expenditure, not to exceed **\$1,500.12**, payable to Miner Electronics for removal of K9 equipment and installing police package for line squad use expensed to line item 11-05-00-7044 – Repairs – Police.

A roll call vote to Table Consent Agenda item I 5 resulted as follows:

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

NAYS:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT:

Motion Carried

J. NEW BUSINESS

None

K. OLD BUSINESS

None

L. CORRESPONDENCE

None

M. OTHER NEW BUSINESS

None

N. TRUSTEE COMMENTS

None

O. EXECUTIVE SESSION

P. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Trustee Mougolias, 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 Temporary Chair Trustee Arlene Jezierny on Tuesday, April 14, 2009 at 7:52pm.

Respectfully submitted,


Marcia L. Polowy, Village Deputy Clerk