

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
OF THE VILLAGE OF HARWOOD HEIGHTS  
HELD ON THURSDAY, MARCH 8, 2007**

**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 Arlene Jezierny Demetrios Mougolias Roy Schmidt Lester Szlendak
Attorney	Mat Delort

**D. PUBLIC COMMENT**

**Joan Krzywicki White, 7429 W. Winona:** Trustee Alex, at board meetings, has given his personal commentary, but not facts, about my questions and remarks concerning matters of village finance, which I have brought to the attention of the board at the lawful meetings. Trustee Alex apparently would like all of you to believe that I come here only to point a finger at him personally and to distract from the fact that the propriety of numbers, accounting procedures and systems all really fall under his guidance as Finance Chairman. In our United States Government we've just seen a General replaced because something went wrong under his watch, even though he did not personally walk the corridors of Walter Reed Hospital.

So, at this time I want to make one point clear; I would address the same questions and comments to any one of you board members if you were the Finance Chairman and if you totally understood the questions which I had addressed respectfully to the only board member who is a C.P.A. In truth, I would come before you to address any trustee if I thought his or her actions appeared to be some sort of detriment to the functioning of his or her department.

That being said, I'll go on to my subject. At the last board meeting I presented very detailed data taken from your own audit and reports and pointed out that two data pages were definitely not true. One page, the title read incorrectly, Village of Hawthorne, not our town; also, the audit report has a page that reads that this board every year before April 30<sup>th</sup> passes a budget and an Appropriation Ordinance. Truth is that when we were on the budget system for a few years, we did pass the budget before April 30<sup>th</sup> of each year, but for over 50-years that this village has been in existence, the last 10-years included, this village has passed an Appropriation Ordinance only and this was done after May 1<sup>st</sup> of each year, this includes last year and the year before, the year that was audited in this report too. This also includes all the years that Trustee Alex was involved either as Treasurer, Clerk or Trustee.

It seems to me that the real problem in this situation is that your auditors did not do their job thoroughly. When I worked as Comptroller and before that as Accountant, I had to provide the village auditor proof of what we did each year, copy of the notice which appeared in the newspaper, copy of the minutes of the Special Public Hearing before the Appropriation Ordinance was passed and even copy of the receipt from the County Clerk's office showing that the audit was properly filed. Apparently, your current auditor took the word of some employee for the information they presented on that page.

One other matter, last Thursday, March 1<sup>st</sup>, a Committee of the Whole meeting was held. I attended this meeting because I saw posted on the bulletin board that the agenda included questions about the audit report. At that meeting of March 1<sup>st</sup>, there were no audit questions discussed, but the Mayor did say arrangements would be made to have the Village

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Accountant present to answer any questions the trustees might have. I came to the Village Hall yesterday at around 4:00pm and read the notice posted on the bulletin board showing that there would be another Committee of the Whole meeting yesterday at 7:00pm, but the only item on the agenda was "Police Department Appropriation". Today, however, I learned that at this meeting last night, the Village Accountant stayed later, after regular office hours, to review the audit report with the trustees and to answer any of their questions. Had the agenda read properly in that posting, I would have been present at that meeting to find out if any items which I brought up at the last meeting were explained or clarified in any way.

In all fairness to me, an interested resident, I'm asking that the village provide me with the entire tape of the meeting so I might hear everything that was discussed and not just a short summary, as is usually presented by the Clerk after these Committee of the Whole meetings. I do believe I am entitled to this courtesy.

I have one other point to bring out. At the Committee of the Whole meeting last Thursday, March 1<sup>st</sup>, trustees touched upon the subject of snow plowing. The Public Works Superintendent was there to answer questions of board members. Discussion began, but at one point, I could not believe the comments that were made by Trustee Alex about disappointing remarks that he heard from residents regarding the snow plowing. I personally thought the Public Works crew did one fantastic job in plowing our streets on the days before March 1<sup>st</sup>; they plowed all the way to the curb on every street where I traveled.

Trustee Alex made the remark that he knew of certain streets, which had not been plowed for at least four years and he then said that he heard other comments, which he wanted to discuss in closed session, not in public session like this one. I, for one, would like to hear the names of the streets which had not been plowed for at least four years. Also, I wonder why it took four years for Trustee Alex to bring this matter up for discussion.

After all the glowing praise and complimentary remarks made by the trustees at the last board meeting about Public Works Superintendent, Tom Schroeder, I can only wonder and I have to ask this question, "Is there possibly some kind of a witch hunt in progress?"

I just have one more question to ask; I did get a whole stack of papers under FOIA and I asked for the name, title and base salary for all the village employees, as well as the village budget account numbers where the base salary is charged. Two of the reports that I received do not show any of the trustees or the Mayor as being on the payroll. Are they being paid from General Fund checks instead of payroll checks? These reports still show as village employees: Michael Altschul, William Bagnole, Larry Bilek, Shirley Boesch, Eugene Brutto (Treasurer), Eugene Brutto (License Inspector), James Cieslinski, Edward Davis, Mitch Drozd, James Gonio, Don McCormick, Anthony McMahan, Norb Pabich, Fulvio Ruzzier and a half dozen others that I haven't copied down. However, I did notice that Joe Scott's name had been removed completely; it wasn't there. It just makes me wonder why wasn't the maintenance performed, why wasn't it updated? I would like to find out how I can get the balance of the information that I originally requested.

**E. REPORTS OF MAYOR, TRUSTEES, CLERK AND ATTORNEY**

**Mayor's Report**  
**Mayor Fuller**

I wanted to address some items from last meetings public comment. A resident stated as recorded in the minutes "Whenever I've come before this board with opinions, I tried to back up my statements with facts taken either from board member commentary or village records." Among the many comments was "I was wondering if any of the village board members have heard what I heard, that Value City is not renewing its lease" FOR the record, I spoke with the leasing agent of the Value City property and according to him a renewal lease was signed. In other comments, some of the errors were typographical or pages that have been in the audit report for many years, and I believe Trustee Alex addressed that at the meeting, those were errors. As far as line items being off, that is why we sit down every year to determine how much should be appropriated. Our goals are to get as accurate a picture as possible; that is why I recommended that we review the audit questions at the same time we are preparing the new appropriations. We began that process last night and I think it is working well. The accountant will be at these meeting and additional audit

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questions can be answered. The auditors statement regarding operating budgets and subsequent appropriation ordinance adoption prior to April 30<sup>th</sup> is in fact incorrect and will be remedied in future audit reports. As far as tonight's comments, I don't know what payroll reports you were given but I will certainly get a copy of what they gave you.

The Northwest Municipal Conference of Mayors contacted legislators to cosign Senate bill 1475 and I am pleased to report that I asked Senator DeLeo and he signed on as a sponsor of the bill which amends the Public Safety Employee Benefits ACT. The language used will not deny healthcare benefits to any employee who suffers catastrophic injury; instead it is intended to end the abuse of this loophole by former public safety employees who have obtained gainful employment while collecting healthcare benefits at the expense of taxpayers.

Unfortunately another village sign posted on the 4700 block of Harlem was severely damaged; it almost appears that it was intentionally knocked down because the two posts were still standing. It is fruitless to keep replacing them, I will not order another of the same type of sign and perhaps we need to investigate another type of signage. The Police Chief spoke to all the lieutenants, sergeants and deputy shift commanders and put them on notice to watch for anyone or anything around or near the village's signs, hopefully we can apprehend the individual(s) involved.

Chief Podosek and I are pleased to announce that our Harwood Heights Police Department is a safe haven for abandoned babies. The Save Abandoned Babies Foundation is dedicated to public awareness of the Illinois Newborn Protection Act. We received our Safe Haven sign which will be posted at the Police Department. The goal is to reduce the number of unsafe infants abandoned, and the village is following the protocol for this program.

Police Officers McNally and Ottiano are part of the NorthWest Suburban Gang/Tactical group. They attend meetings and share information about graffiti and other gang related problems and individuals. Also the Chief was contacted and our police are now part of the Gang Information Initiative working 24 – 7 operating with 35 other police departments including Chicago. The FBI, ATF, DEA, US Marshalls, State Police, Cook County Sheriff and Ice are part of the program to gather all intelligence information relating to gang activity. Officers Ottiano and Yolanda Smith will be part of this program. Remember we are a 1<sup>st</sup> inner ring suburb to Chicago, and there is not much of separation from us to Chicago, so working together is to the public's advantage.

The Police and village management extended the trial period for the WENS emergency notification system for another 3 months. 3 to 4 tests will be run to truly evaluate the system so the village can make an educated decision or decide to try another system.

A Roadside safety check is scheduled for March 16-17, Friday through Saturday, 10 p.m. to 3 a.m. at the 4700 block of Harlem Avenue; once again the police will be checking every 5<sup>th</sup> vehicle for violations.

Chief Podosek has been working on a security camera system for main streets in the village. If you think I am a tough negotiator you should hear what he has accomplished. He contacted and received support from both Parkway Bank and Charter One Bank. Parkway Bank states " At the Board of Directors Meeting of Parkway Bank and Trust Company on October 19<sup>th</sup>, 2006 the board unanimously approved a donation to the Village Police Department of \$10,000 per year for 5 years, totaling \$50,000, commencing in 2007, to purchase and install security cameras on Harlem, Gunnison and Lawrence Avenues. It is with great pride and dedication to the citizens of Harwood Heights that Parkway Bank makes this commitment." Signed; William Gleason, President. We sincerely appreciate Parkway Banks continued commitment to the Village of Harwood Heights and for their generosity; I have here tonight their 1<sup>st</sup> check in the amount of \$10,000.

Charter One Bank will be donating equipment and their letter states; "as a member of the Harwood Heights community, we applaud your efforts to create a safer community for the citizens of Harwood Heights and would like to support this public safety initiative. First, Charter One would like to donate a March Digital Video Recording Device (DVR) to the Village. This piece of video equipment valued at approximately \$7,000 will help reduce the cost to the city for the surveillance camera system. In coming weeks Charter One will also install an external camera at our Charter One branch at 4777 N. Harlem. Installing an external camera will act as a deterrent against bank robberies in our Harwood Heights branch as well as assist your Police Department in identifying suspects. We hope our donation assists in your efforts to create a safer community for the residents of Harwood Heights and encourages some of your other business partners to

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join in the effort.” Signed; Christine Noel. SVP, Director of Corporate Affairs. On behalf of the Village, I thank Charter One Bank for their generosity in joining in our security efforts.

This is an important crime prevention program for our village, I want to thank Chief Podosek for his efforts and Parkway Bank and Charter One Bank for their contributions. At this time I will ask Chief Podosek to give us an update on the security camera program and then I will present him with the plaque on behalf of Parkway Bank who wanted to but was unable to attend tonight.

**Chief Podosek:** Presently right now, currently I’m still negotiating with two vendors, Current Technologies and Chicago Communications to install the security cameras. Basically, the security cameras will be wireless cameras placed in six locations that we feel are soft target areas, Harlem and Foster, Harlem and Gunnison, Harlem and Lawrence; we’ll be installing one at Lawrence and Overhill and also one at Harlem and Wilson. The purpose of the cameras, basically, I think a lot of the residents have realized and through the news that recently we had an armed robbery again, a bank robbery, at Charter One Bank and that’s the third one that we’ve had in a matter of a few years and as far as I’m concerned as a Police Chief that’s three to many. Along Harlem Avenue because of the amount of traffic that we have, we’ve had a number of robberies at local businesses, J. J. Peppers, we’ve had one at Red Wing Shoes, they’ve been robbed approximately three times, and businesses further down Harlem Avenue. I’ve had people walking along Harlem Avenue that have been assaulted; that have been battered; that have been purse snatchings of senior citizens walking along Harlem Avenue. Through the assistance of the Mayor’s office, we’ve been working very closely with the local businesses and the Mayor and I started negotiating with Parkway Bank and Charter One and they were gracious enough to listen to our efforts and what our initiative was and as the Mayor points out, Parkway Bank has donated over a five year period \$50,000 for this project and Charter One Bank will be donating \$7,000 in equipment. I’ve been in contact with Charter One and they plan on also donating another \$23,000 worth of equipment for this project. I know some residents might feel that hearing about surveillance cameras, it’s “Big Brother” watching you; my intention and the Mayor’s intention is to put people’s minds at ease. These cameras will be completely fed into our village website, which means any resident can log onto our village website and actually access these cameras. So, you’ll be actually seeing what we’re seeing, 24/7 and I feel that’s important because there’s times that we might not be monitoring those cameras and we might miss something and a resident could just simply look at it and see something that we might not see. It’s going to be fed directly into our communication center; it’s going to be fed into our mobile data terminals, so all the officers on the street with their mobile data terminals will have the ability to access any one of those six cameras at any time of the day. A number of communities have done this; one closest to us is Bellwood. About a year and a half ago, Bellwood; if you know the history of Bellwood, they had a very high crime rate, serious gang problem; they decided that they had to take some initiative to assist their citizens and make the community safer. They installed thirty-nine security cameras throughout Bellwood at a cost of approximately \$8,000,000, a much larger project and in a year and half that they had those cameras up they reduced crime by 15%. On our website we have posted our crime rates for last year and we reduced it by 19%. But, as I say, I want the crime reduced to zero, I don’t know if that’s ever a logical expectation but that’s my goal, I want to make the community as safe as possible. I just want to make the residents and ensure the residents it’s not “Big Brother”, it’s not the purpose of that at all; that’s why you’ll have total access to those cameras like we will.

READ plaque

**Mayor Fuller:** Chief Podosek contacted the Norwood Park Township for a grant to purchase a motorcycle for traffic control. They granted it and I have a check here for \$10,000. On behalf of the Village of Harwood Heights I thank them for assisting us for a police motorcycle unit which will benefit the community for traffic enforcement and routing patrol. I hope to have a representative at the next board meeting to thank in person.

I have to add that between myself, Chief Podosek and Paul May, we have brought more money to the village than any other administration. I am pleased to be working with such dedicated and aggressive people.

Due to extenuating circumstances and the improbability of enforcing the snow ban due to the posted signs – all 149 snow parking citations were taken back for Harwood Heights residents related to the snow ban on February 26th and 27th. Another 57 citations were issued to non-residents and they will still be responsible to pay for the citations. This does

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not mean that the ban will be ignored in the future. I have also asked the Ordinance & License Chairman to take a look at the ordinance, but I believe the signs are part of the problem. Moving the cars so that safety and emergency vehicles can get down the street is extremely important as well as keeping inlets and catch basins clear to prevent flooding. Proper notification along with other snow removal improvements are needed.

Three Public Works employees attended the OSHA 10 hour construction seminar sponsored by IDOT this week and seven are attending the Chlorine Handling seminar today and tomorrow, next week the Superintendent and Water Commissioner will be attending the Water Conference in Springfield, on March 14<sup>th</sup> 3 employees will attend the "Work one Safety" program in Schaumburg and I asked the Superintendent to sign everyone up for the Public Works Driver Training offered by NIPSTA for April 2-3. I am extremely pro-active in training of village employees, it is imperative that everyone is up to date on the latest information for public safety.

Again this year Public Works staff and the Health Inspector will be certified by the Illinois Department of Public Health for distributing the mosquito larvicides.

Everyone in the community is invited to attend the Very Important Residents awards, March 21<sup>st</sup> at 10 a.m. this is our 2<sup>nd</sup> induction into our historical collection album. The people we are honoring are Andy Ostrowski, Lee Walewander, Don & Gerry Crivlare, Dianne Larson, Steve Wyda, Ken Havlick, Herman Wu, and Ed Connelly Sr. These are people who have donated their time for many years without hesitation or compensation, just to do great things for the people of the community. Hope you will join us to hear more about them.

Don't forget the Antiques appraisal show, Saturday, March 24 at 1 p.m. in the Community Room. Expert appraiser Karl Gates is back and he host's a very entertaining and informative event. You must register by calling 867-5947, seating is limited, and you can only bring one item to be appraised.

Have your photo taken for our 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary album on Friday, March 23rd from 9:30 am to 11am, we will be scheduling evening photo sessions once the weather gets nicer.

I have some good news and bad news, for the bad news first - we are losing Mat Delort as our main attorney with the law firm of Robbins, Schwartz, Nicholas, Lifton and Taylor, the good - actually great news for Mat is that he was appointed as a new Associate Judge and will be beginning service as an Associate Judge of the Circuit Court of Cook County beginning on April 11. We will have coffee and cake at the next meeting which will be his last meeting with us at which time we will thank him for his outstanding service to the village. Attorneys Paul Stephanides and Howard Metz will be handling our affairs and attending our meetings.

**Finance**  
**Trustee Alex**

At last night's Committee Meeting of the Whole, we began going over the Appropriation Ordinance for the next fiscal year; we started with the Police Department and we did go through the entire department. Next up probably will be Public Works; those two departments are probably percentage wise the largest portion of the budget and they are a very integral part of the village functions that we perform. Just to give everyone an overview of how we wanted to go through the budget, this is something that we've done for a number of years; I've done it for a number of years, although I'm not young any more, I didn't do it for 50-years, that was incorrect; I haven't been doing appropriations that long.

The way that we're going to do it, we're going to start off with all the appropriation categories, expenditures that the village needs to make and each department head will bring forward what they believe they need, funds to do their jobs and to run the village properly. Unfortunately, as will probably be the case again this year, as it is every year and it's probably been that way forever, the requirements that we have by the people of our village and the department heads exceed our ability to pay it all in one year. What the village board has to do then and what has been our function since I've been on the board and that was abdicated before, but as we go back we have to prioritize, we have to prioritize items and expenditures that we want to do just like everybody else and the audience and the village does. We go back, we prioritize; it's kind of almost like what you would say a shimmy process, you go back and look at what your estimate of revenue is and what are your expenditures, you prioritize. We've always made a concerted effort especially over the last

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couple of years, to try to match revenues with expenditures; however, I will say that the health and safety of the village residents comes first and if there is an instance where we need to do something and we have to go into deficit one year, we will do that. It doesn't look like we really have too, but that's something we're working on.

Like I said, the next department will be Public Works and we will be bringing notices. I do remember, Mrs. White mentioned that we didn't discuss at the last committee meeting the management letter and I remember distinctly we do this at every meeting, so if you want to come, we always ask for public comment afterwards. If you have a comment, Mrs. White, don't be shy, other people don't be shy, because we do want to hear from you. This is a difference that we've always had from other administrations; but if you have something good to say or something bad to say, you have the right to say it and we want to hear it because the saying is "you always learn more from people who don't like you than the people who do like you, because they won't tell you the truth".

**Ordinance/License**  
**Trustee Dobrzycki**

Report of the Ordinance & License Committee, as the Mayor stated, a review of the ordinance regarding parking restrictions due to snowfall will be undertaken as well as comments by residents concerning the signage, it will be reviewed. I would like to add that because of the conglomeration of street systems that we have in the village, that being that many streets are under the auspices of the state, they are state highways; such as Nagle, Gunnison, Harlem, etc and also because of our proximity to the City of Chicago and the activity of the city in plowing streets since I noticed the street plows from Chicago coming down some of our streets to get to the other side of the city. Sometimes, there's a little bit of confusion; I also have quite a few residents who also call me concerning about the signage. One woman, who claimed on Montrose Avenue, that she couldn't park on either side of the street because the sign said that she couldn't park there as long as there's snow; that was taken care of.

Continuing on with the traffic studies on vehicles going down our streets will also be considered and we will be having a "Meet with the Police" meeting on March 24<sup>th</sup>, here at the Village Hall at 4:30pm as Trustee Mougolias mentioned; we'll ask residents at that time what their opinions are, if they have any difficulties because of the snowfall and signage.

Continuing on with other Ordinance & License items; speaking about our current inventory assessment of trees and shrubs in the village; that will soon be undertaken. I would like to meet with Trustee Roy Schmidt, to see if there should be some ordinances put into place about public trees which are assets to the village and concerning their placement and usage, as we've had complaints in the past about where trees and shrubs are placed that might block intersections and sight of traffic.

**Public Works**  
**Trustee Jezierny**

As Chairman of Public Works, I did want to report on the seminars attended by some of our Public Works staff and the entire crew coming up on OSHA in the form of safety, but that has already been given by the Mayor, so I will not duplicate that effort.

However, I do want to call your attention to the agenda, there is a motion on the agenda, item I 6 and that motion is actually to allow the village to participate in a bidding for rock salt for the upcoming year 2007-2008. This allows us to get with the State of Illinois and with other communities so the State of Illinois can make a proper bid on behalf of the communities to make sure that the costs are down; so this motion allows us to do that.

On another issue; being that we have winter snow and we have salt on the streets, it does do damage to our streets and once again our Public Works crew is out there evaluating some of the potholes that are caused by this damage; we don't have cameras on every street but certainly we wish to get your input. If you do see a pothole or have to divert when you're driving to avoid one, please call that in to the village. Any calls that you make, a work order is filled out and submitted to Public Works and they schedule it and are out there on the street to patch it; that goes for alleys as well.

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**Public Health & Safety**  
**Trustee Mougolias**

On the agenda tonight, item I 4, an expenditure not to exceed \$1,548.99 payable to Law Enforcement Accreditation Consultants, Inc.; this is for the consultants that are helping us with the CALEA accreditation; this is for their travel expenses. I spoke with the Chief and he said they will be visiting us at least 3 more times, so I recommend that we pay this expenditure since we did hire them to help us out with the CALEA accreditation here and it will be a great milestone for our Police Department.

Also, I did want to remind everyone about the “Community Safety” meeting on March 24<sup>th</sup>, it will be held here at the Village Hall. I know a few residents, Ken Havlich, has expressed interest in attending, so I would like as many people as we can to get there to meet the Police, talk to them, see what kind of services and what kind of help the Police can give the people. A lot of people think the Police are only there to watch crime, but they’re also there to help the community in other aspects. If you did see something else wrong, maybe it’s some kind of service like they had the warming center here in the winter or any type of services. They would like to be very friendly with the residents and let them get together; so whoever would like to attend it will be on March 24<sup>th</sup>.

**Forestry/Recreation**  
**Trustee Schmidt**

I have nothing to report for the Forestry Committee, but the Recreation Committee; I have placed my recommendations for the Youth Commission’s budget in the trustees and Mayor’s mail boxes. I hope they get the opportunity to go over them before the appropriation meeting. I would be happy to answer any questions they may have before the meeting and certainly at the meeting.

The next meeting for the WSSRA will be on Tuesday, March 13<sup>th</sup>. There will be a Special Meeting for all board and alternate members on April 10, 2007. The April 10<sup>th</sup> meeting, we’ll be discussing possible changes to the share formula.

**Sewer & Water**  
**Information & Technology**  
**Trustee Szlendak**

Unfortunately, for the Water & Sewer Committee I only have bad news. We discussed at the last meeting we had 12 water breaks in just the month of February. The trend here is very disappointing, for example, for the year 2004, we had 30 breaks; in 2005, 40 breaks; 2006, 46 breaks and the two months of the year 2007 we already had 17 breaks. One thing that we need to address, that we have to take a look at, what is the real cost of these water breaks. The numbers given to me by Tom Schroeder, the water break including the water loss amounts to approximately \$5,000 each, the labor cost, equipment, water, etc. What it translates to, is that in ’04 we lost \$150,000; the next year \$200,000; ’06, \$230,000 and this year alone we had an expense of \$85,000 for our infrastructure. I think we have a real problem here, what I discussed at the last Committee of the Whole meeting is that we need to be pro-active and start spending the water and sewer money that we have, approximately \$2,000,000 and start investing it in our infrastructure.

I understand that Paul May is working on this problem on a long term main replacement, but we need to expedite this and start acting on it this year, not down the road. What I would like to propose is three projects; the first one is on Narragansett between Eastwood and Gunnison, we have a 6” main; unfortunately, none of the homes are hooked up to this main. I was told about this when I became the Chairman of the Committee from Trustee Dobrzycki and I was under the impression that it’s a relatively new main that was placed there. I discovered recently is that this main has been underground for the last 40-years and none of the homes basically, are hooked up to that main. They are hooked up to an old 4” main that simply dead ends; it can break, breaks have occurred and the relatively new one, the 40-year old one that is there, what we need to do is start spending the money. I propose hooking up the homes from the shut-off valve, or the buffalo box as they call it, to the main and then encourage the residents to hook-up from the shut-off valve to their home, because they have lead pipes. I would propose that we put this project to bids still for this year and get this potential problem diverted as soon as possible.

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The second one is on Oak Park; we had a number of breaks between Wilson and in fact recently we had a number of breaks on that main. Paul May discussed this and he proposed to have it done in two years from now. I respectfully disagree with him, we're not going to be able to do it this year, but I think next year this project should be placed on our agenda and get it done.

The third one is a main along Nagle from Forest Preserve Drive to Gunnison; it's an old main, it dead ends right over by the Butera store; it's a dead end, therefore there's a strong probability of contamination to the water itself. We had breaks along that line and that's something we need to put on the forefront. We've got the money in the bank; unfortunately, it's not collecting the interest of \$230,000 last year nor \$85,000 this year; we should start investing back into our infrastructure.

**Clerk's Report**

**Clerk Larson**

From the Norwood Park Fire Protection District Alarm Report; **Fire Alarms for February 2007**, Norridge - 105, Harwood Heights - 52, Township - 5, Mutual Aid - 0. **Ambulance Alarms for February 2007**, Norridge - 138, Harwood Heights - 68, Township - 8, Mutual Aid Given - 4. **Total Alarms for February 2007**, Norridge - 243, Harwood Heights - 120, Township - 13, Mutual Aid - 4, Mutual Aid Received - 6, Automatic Aid - 43, Haz-mat Box - 0, Investigators Box - 0, **TOTAL 423**

**Attorney's Report**

The Mayor asked me to talk to the board for a few minutes tonight about a relatively new state law, not a brand new state law regarding the Open Meetings Act and as you are familiar, the Open Meetings Act requires that the board's decision making process that's give and take be done in public. Actually, if three of you are together, discussion is held in public because three of you theoretically can control the board vote. And as the world changes and technology changes and it becomes more and more sophisticated the legislature has looked at those issues and considered what techniques should be used to ensure that the decision making process and the discussions regarding public policy are kept in an open forum. One of the things that the legislature was concerned about was the use of emails by elected officials or board members to discuss and engage in a discourse about an issue of public policy and last year they cleaned up the Open Meetings Act in Springfield and specially addressed emails. While emails are perfectly legal, they are a very helpful tool; they are a much quicker substitute for the US mail or for hand delivery, so that materials can be distributed out to trustees so they have time to review them; they can be made aware of memos or reports that are of interest to them in their official capacities. What the legislature does not want the trustees doing is have three or more of you basically online at the same time in sort of a chat conversationally format where you are discussing issues of public policy and there have been many people sort of out there in the world of journalism, the world of the public who don't quite understand where the line that the law draws is because it is still perfectly legal to distribute information among yourselves as trustees by email. You can say "please put this on the agenda"; "Listen, I just got this report from the Public Works Department and I'm sending it out for your information". What you can't do, especially if you're online at the same time, go back and forth discussing "well this is a good idea" or "I think you should do this or that", basically end up reaching some kind of consensus without anybody from the public being able to watch it. I know the Mayor had some questions from trustees about what can or can't we do in email. One of the things that happened in Springfield when the bill was passed last year is that a couple of the legislators specifically went on the record to explain what they were trying to prohibit and there was a good discussion in the legislative debate which I have a copy of in the office where Senator Cullerton and Senator Roskam, who is now a Congressman, explained that information can certainly be distributed by email, it's the timing of it that's the really crucial thing, are you having a conversation? You always can send mail back and forth; you can put memos in each other's boxes. If you're sending an email back and forth and you're not all on line and Trustee Alex sends an email to everybody at 8:00 in the morning and different trustees view it at different times of the day or the next day and perhaps acknowledge it or send back a comment, that very clearly under the views of the sponsors of the legislation doesn't violate the law. Again, it's if you're all online at the same time that you have to be very careful of; certainly if the back and forth gets a little bit too close to reaching a consensus, probably someone should raise the red flag and say "maybe we should discuss this at a board meeting". Sometimes, depending on the client involved, they include the attorney in the trustee mailing list, email list, and I end up seeing this stuff going on; I've had to raise the red flag once in a while and say "everybody stop, do this at a board meeting" Mayor, I don't know if that answers your question?

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**Mayor Fuller:** I had a question because I read it in one of these many articles that they have on the subject that the safest thing is just not use “reply all”.

**F. TRUSTEE COMMENTS**

**Trustee Dobrzycki:** I just wanted to remind everyone that last year we had a “Meet with the Police” community meeting over at St. Rosalie’s where the Chief, the Mayor and Trustees Alex, Mougolias and myself attended and there was a very large crowd and it was very successful. We got to meet with a lot of people and it was very helpful in helping getting the word out what the Police can do, how they do it, how to contact them; so I think it’s very beneficial. You, your neighbors, inform them about this meeting, especially those who aren’t sure about how to go about contacting the Police, why they should contact the Police, for what purpose. Even if it’s just for information, because in past situations people say, “well, why don’t you do something about it”; well, if you don’t call the Police they can’t make a record of it and if it keeps repeating and you don’t call the Police, they still don’t know about it. What we want to do is inform the Police of what’s going on so we can prevent the problem and not have to respond to a problem and that’s one of the reasons for the meeting. People shouldn’t be afraid to call the Police; I remember growing up, “Officer Friendly” and that’s how I knew them. They are there just as much to protect you as to help you.

Also, some comments about the water lines, the water mains on the east end that Trustee Szlendak mentioned; that’s a problem or a situation that’s been going on, not today or yesterday, but for many, many years. It’s inherent that our village hasn’t planned into the future in having a program for maintenance and replacement and that’s something that I, ever since I’ve gotten on the board, been pushing for and now that we have a Village Engineer, something that we can address and finally put into effect and make sure that we have some type of plan we can budget for and not say, “do we put in the pipes and then let’s wait until they give out in their 70, 80-years or whatever lifespan”. Now we could put into a budget, for appropriations where we know that each year we’re going to do some part of that work and plan for it on future and hopefully on a rotating basis, that when we end from where we started from, we’ll be ready to start again; so we can plan for it, budget for it and have the money in place for it, instead of waiting for some emergency to occur and then we have to spend large sums of money instead of some sum that we can have set aside and ready for it to go.

Also, comments previous from Clark Dietz, the contracting engineering firm, when I addressed the situation to them; their answer was to put hydrants at the end of the dead end water mains so that we could flush them to avoid contamination and any collection of bacteria.

And last item also, lead pipes, yes; they’re not only there in that part of the village, but throughout the village. Many of the homes are older than the village itself and may have lead connections to the water main, as I was told by Mr. Schroeder and other individuals who concern themselves with these items. Probably the amount of calcium that has built up within the pipe itself, as long as it hasn’t been moved, broken or anything like that, the contact between the water and the lead is probably very minimal if it exists at all. But yes, the lead is a concern, we should try to get rid of that; I’m sure Trustee Szlendak did something that we should address and I think once again follow through. I know the Mayor is someone I worked with on these items and thankfully we have a full time engineer that can help us proceed with these items.

**Trustee Schmidt:** Two comments, one being I wonder if we should put a camera by the village sign to see who’s doing that. But secondly, as a person who has FOIA’d before; I was going to ask, but I don’t want to put the Clerk on a spot. How, what happens when someone sends in a FOIA? I understand you gather the information, I believe it’s you! Does anyone censor the information before you send it out? Anyone look over it and say ok? So you just gather the information and mail it out as required.

**Trustee Jeziorny:** I just wanted to add one more statement from Public Works; there were reports of 5 streetlights that have been out; one on Odell Court; two at Lawrence and Harlem; one further down on Harlem at the 5000 block and one at the 7300 block of Lawrence. Good news, all those lights have been fixed and are in working condition. Once again, if you do see a light out, please call the Village Hall, report it in and Public Works will contact Commonwealth Edison and will follow up to make sure that those lights are fixed.

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**Trustee Alex:** I did want to mention one thing, Trustee Szlendak was talking about the water mains, I'm a little bit disappointed because one of the items Trustee Dobrzycki and myself and the Mayor did a lot of work on is the Oak Park Avenue line. Do you know where the Oak Park Avenue water line is Trustee Szlendak? Where is it? **Trustee Szlendak:** On Oak Park Avenue. **Trustee Alex:** Where on Oak Park Avenue? **Trustee Szlendak:** I'm not an engineer; it's not my job to know where it is. **Trustee Alex:** Well let me tell you where it is and if you would have asked me... **Mayor Fuller:** This is comment time; I don't want interaction!

**Trustee Alex:** The line is under the street currently; it's an old line. We looked at this with the engineer; if anyone took the time to look at this we would of saw that it was under the street. Trustee Dobrzycki and myself, came up with an idea that what we would do is we would cap the line under the street and we would put it in the parkway. The reason why we would do that is that we wouldn't have to rip up the whole street. It would cost a heck of a lot less and this is because Trustee Dobrzycki took the time and we sat down; I'm not an engineer and Trustee Dobrzycki's not an engineer, but we sat down, thought about it, we talked to engineers and we tried to layout something, we tried to plan it out. Now, if you run around like a chicken with you head cutoff and start doing spot repairs you'll fix the immediate problem, but that's what we've been doing here for 50-years; this is why we're in the mess we're in now. So we started that program and the engineer is looking at that. We're going to approach that in 2-years; there's a reason why it's in 2-years, because we have other things that need to be done first in preparation of that; yes, we're spending money on the water line breaks, I understand that, but we could spend a heck of a lot more if we don't plan.

The second thing is, the water line on Nagle Avenue; Trustee Szlendak didn't take the time to talk to Trustee Dobrzycki or myself again, because that line doesn't get contaminated and I don't want the audience and I don't want the newspaper to go out and say that the line is contaminated because it's a dead end. We've had other dead end lines; specifically we had one by the Zitella project and one of the things that we corrected with that project was put a loop in there; but we have to prioritize and we have to do the issues that present the biggest health issue, or in some type of order. That particular line will get looped, but we have the engineer looking at other things, other projects which have to be planned ahead of time before you can go ahead and do that.

I guess the last one is the line; I believe you said the one that people aren't tapped into, they're tapped into an old 4" line. That one there, again, I'm surprised to hear it tonight because the Mayor has already said that she's putting together a plan where we would have a fund for our residents to get a credit to tap into that line. That one, it's been a lot of work and we are working on that and frankly, if you're just going to jump around from spot to spot you'll never catch up and we found that. And we've been doing this for a number of years Trustee Szlendak and the best way is to have a meeting, and let's talk about it and then let's listen. Let's listen to the engineer, we hire some good people; we need to take the time to do that. I understand we're spending a lot of money on water main breaks, but we'll spend a lot more and we'll never catch up if we don't do it in a systematic fashion. You end up, you put in a new line in, and then you break the street. How many times have you seen it, the minute they fix the street, they break the street and put a gas line in; it happens all the time, you never get ahead that way. And I wanted to make sure that I let the residents know that; that there is a high leeway when you plan, but it really pays off in the long run.

**Trustee Mougolias:** Since we're talking about the sewer line, I just want to see if you could make a note or Larry Noller could make a note; I know we talked when we hired Paul May to get a plan together of what we should do with the infrastructure and what needs to be prioritized, but I haven't seen that plan yet. Could we maybe get an update on that so we could see what we should have in priority?

**Trustee Szlendak:** Thank you very much for the comments from Trustee Alex. First of all, I did not go to Trustee Alex or to Trustee Dobrzycki for the information; I went to our Superintendent who has been on the job for over twenty years. I went to our engineer, Paul May to get the information. They have been on the board considerably longer than I have, I don't see their credentials as civil engineers. Now, do I know where the water main is at on Oak Park, not really; it's along Oak Park. What I do know is that we have water breaks on there. It's not my job to tell the engineers; I don't want to micromanage and tell them where or how they should replace the water main. It is the job of the engineer, superintendent and other consultants that we're going to hire to get the job done. For years there have been discussion and talk and everything else; we have homes along Narragansett that have not been connected to the new main for 40-years. Are we done talking about it by now and it is not my opinion that the main along Nagle should be replaced, it is the opinion of our engineer; it is the opinion of Tom Schroeder; that's where I got my information. We're done

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procrastinating and everything else, we better start spending the money otherwise we're going to have hundreds of thousand of dollars going literally down the drain.

**Mayor Fuller:** I'll just say a few words on behalf of the engineer, at the March 1<sup>st</sup> Committee meeting I did give some reports; he is working on the 20-year plan, he has been working on the infrastructure plan; all three if these issues are part of the plan and I believe they're all part of the next 5-years. The water main plan, he's already working on that; he's putting together the cost estimates; we have a plan for a grant possibly to help the homeowners pay for that connection, so all these things are in the works and that's something the engineer has been working on. So, before it gets to out of control these are all issues being addressed.

**G. SPECIAL COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Trustee Schmidt:** The Youth Commission will be holding the St. Patrick's Dance at Union Ridge Scholl on March 16<sup>th</sup> from 7pm to 9:30pm for 6 to 8<sup>th</sup> graders. The entrance fee will be \$5.00.

They will be holding an Easter Egg Hunt on March 31<sup>st</sup> from 2pm to 4pm at the Village Hall. The Hunt will be for children from the ages of 1 to 10. They are asking each child to bring their own basket.

This information can also be found on the village Internet site.

**H. APPOINTMENTS/REAPPOINTMENTS**

**I. CONSENT AGENDA**

**Motion by Trustee Dobrzycki, seconded by Trustee Szlendak on Consent Agenda items I 1-I 18 as Amended:**

1. To approve the minutes of the Regular Village Board Meeting held, Thursday, February 22, 2007, as amended.
2. To approve the minutes of the Special Village Board Meeting held Thursday, March 1, 2007.
3. To **not release** any past executive session minutes at this time because the need for confidentiality still exists; and that the tape recordings of all closed sessions which are less than 18 months old also remain closed; and that tape recordings of all closed sessions which are 18 months old or older be destroyed by the Village Clerk.
4. To approve expenditure, not to exceed **\$1,548.99**, payable to Law Enforcement Accreditation Consultants, Inc. for Police Accreditation to be expensed to the FY 06/07 General Fund – Police.
5. To approve expenditure, not to exceed **\$4,465.03**, payable to ADT for Police security system contract to be expensed to the FY 06/07 General Fund – Police.
6. To approve expenditure, not to exceed **\$14,000.00**, payable to Illinois Department of Central Management Services for rock salt to be expensed to the FY 07/08 General Fund – Public Works.
7. To approve expenditure, not to exceed **\$5,814.17**, payable to SPD, Inc. for new water pump to be expensed to the FY 06/07 Water and Sewer Fund.
8. To approve a 36 month lease of **\$157.57 per month**, payable to Ricoh for Village Hall printer/scanner/copier to be expensed to the General Fund – Finance and authorize the Manager of Finance & IT to execute the agreement.
9. To approve expenditure, not to exceed **\$3,159.58**, payable to Robbins, Schwartz, Nicholas, Lifton & Taylor for legal services to be expensed to the FY 06/07 General Fund – Legal.

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10. To approve expenditure, not to exceed \$6,831.15, payable to Vandewalle & Associates, Inc. for zoning, consulting services to be expensed to the FY 06/07 General Fund – Administration with \$1,505.00 to be reimbursed by developers.
11. To approve the kick-off parade for Harwood Heights Youth Baseball on Saturday, April 28, 2007. Parade begins at St. Rosalie Parish parking lot at 10:30am, traveling west on Montrose Avenue to New England, right turn on New England to Carl Cassata Sr. Lane. At Carl Cassata Sr. Lane make a right turn to the black top of the Union Ridge playing field, turning left onto the black top and proceed to the playing fields (approximately 10:45am), also asking for a Police & Fire Department Escort.
12. To approve the Salvation Army Christmas Kettles drive beginning Friday, November 16, 2007 through Sunday, December 24, 2007.
13. To ratify emergency expenditure, not to exceed \$1,867.73, payable to Suburban Welding and Steel, L.L.C. for snow plow repair to be expensed to the FY 06/07 General Fund-Public Works
14. To approve Ordinance 07-06, an Ordinance Amending Ordinance 03-19 Granting a Special Use for a Nonconforming use for the Property located at 6434 West Gunnison Avenue, in the Village of Harwood Heights, Cook County, Illinois.
15. To ratify one Special Assessment refund received through February 22, 2007 in the amount of \$ 184.31.
16. Transfer from Parkway General Savings Account in the amount of \$144,439.17 as they appear on check register # 42482 thru # 42560.
17. Transfer from Parkway General Savings Account in the amount of \$122,013.57 to Parkway Bank Payroll Account.
18. Electronic Transfer from Parkway General Savings in the amount of \$14,841.55 to IMRF Pension.

**A roll call vote on Consent Agenda items I 1 – I 18 as amended resulted as follows:**

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

NAYS:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT:

Motion Carried

**J. NEW BUSINESS**

**Mayor Fuller:** I do want to add a couple of other things that I forget to mention before; I just today signed a pre-application for an EPA loan that Paul May is working on to help pay for some of these water improvements, this is something that will help everybody with their decision making; so we are looking into some funding for all those improvements that need to be done.

**K. OLD BUSINESS**

None

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**L. CORRESPONDENCE**

None

**M. OTHER NEW BUSINESS**

None

**N. TRUSTEE COMMENTS**

**Mayor Fuller:** I would like to wish everyone a Happy St. Patrick's Day and a Happy St. Joseph's Day, the next board meeting is March 22th.

**Trustee Dobrzycki:** First of all, I think many of you might have received in the mail today the Harwood Heights Community Guide sponsored by the Harwood Heights Chamber of Commerce in your Pioneer Press and even if you didn't subscribe you should have received it in the paper. Most of you did, I didn't, I didn't get my paper today and the last couple of Thursday's, just wanted to let you know, Wynn. I'd also like to thank Pioneer Press for publishing and printing the guide, this is our second one; I think it's very useful, something that you can keep in your home for informational purposes.

And I just wanted to add, remember to move your clocks ahead this weekend and then check it in a couple of weeks, in April, because many of you might have appliances that are preprogrammed to change with the daylight savings time like smoke detectors, check the batteries too. Please do advance your clocks, this is something new, a new federal law that comes into effect this weekend; so when you wake up Sunday morning and have to hurry to church, you might be an hour late.

**Trustee Schmidt:** Last night at the meeting of the whole, the board met to discuss the Police Department budget for the coming fiscal year starting 05/07. This will probably be the first of many meetings to discuss the village budget. It once again made me think about all the services that residents require or request from the village. The Police Department and, I might assume, all department budgets will increase and rightfully so, if not just based on cost of living increase for employees but also for new and improved services that residents require.

But, I also have to think about how we pay for these services. It would be nice to think that new development or new businesses are coming in and helping to contribute to the payment of these services. Unfortunately, the opposite seems to be true for us. We have many businesses that are vacant and land space that is not being as productive as it could be. Yes, we are receiving property taxes from these vacant buildings but there could be so much more. I have to believe that even if the businesses were running, the employees would be bringing in monies as they purchase things in the village. I can only imagine what this village could do if we had more residents and their purchasing power. It could possibly draw in more businesses. People draw businesses because that is how a business makes money.

I hope that as we continue with the budget process, the board and the residents think about the potential of this village and what it can do. I hope this board looks around and sees what other villages are doing to increase revenue and help to provide more services. In reality most villages are land locked, even Chicago. You can look downtown and see how creative they are in bringing in people and thereby businesses. People and businesses help relief some of the tax burden on residents.

I hope this board continues to keep its eyes toward the future and not the past.

**Trustee Jeziorny:** We did have the Chamber of Commerce publication and I do applaud the Pioneer Press to be involved with that and getting the information out to our businesses and residents.

And, I do want to add a thank you to Nuccio D'Argento at Vince's Restaurant; he has been hosting all the Chamber of Commerce meetings every month for the past couple of years, so I think everybody coming together to get things rolling in the village, it's a start, so let's continue.

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I also think that with improvements going on, I've been involved as Chairman of Public Works regarding streets and flooding sewers, I was never on the water main committee; but I do think that of all the infrastructure improvements that this village is facing I do believe that the number one thing that we have to look out for is public safety first and there's nothing more safe than water. I think that, that water main and anything that would prevent or create some type of bacteria or detriment to the village whether it's existing or whether it's desolate at this point, we need to bring that to the forefront and address those issues first and foremost. I applaud Trustee Szlendak for bringing it out to the open and making this move forward. We do need to address the important issues like water, a number one safety.

**O. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**Motion by Trustee Dobrzycki, seconded by Trustee Mougolias at 8:38pm to enter into Closed Session:**

Motion to enter into closed session pursuant to: (5ILCS 120/2) Sec. 2. Open Meetings. © Exceptions. A public body may hold closed meetings to consider the following subjects: (1) 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.

**A roll call vote resulted as follows:**

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

NAYS:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT:

Motion Carried

**P. ADJOURNMENT**

Motion by Trustee Dobrzycki, seconded by Trustee Mougolias 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 8, 2007 at 8:38pm.

Respectfully submitted,

\_\_\_\_\_  
Dianne H. Larson, Village Clerk