

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
OF THE VILLAGE OF HARWOOD HEIGHTS  
HELD ON THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 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 K. White, 7429 W. Winona:** First, I would like to say thank you in appreciation for the sympathy cards and visits by some board members upon hearing of the death of my brother Stanley. That was Pat Christl's father. Thank you to those who did come.

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. Questions I might ask are rarely answered; they are ignored. But board members have been making some comments themselves about "negative attitude" in public commentary. This board will give reports only of their positive accomplishments and programs. Never once have they spoken negatively about any of their activities, and they always have long explanations if there appears to be anything questionable.

Why is this board so afraid to hear negative comments from a resident? It should be a learning experience giving the Board a different point of view, a point of view which is out of your "in the box" fashion of thinking.

Before the last board meeting, all board members sat down to a special meeting with the village auditor to receive presentation of the 2005-6 audit of village finances. I attended that meeting, and auditors quickly went through the pages with board members holding their audit copies and following along, and very few, if any, questions were raised. Must be that everybody understood everything that was presented. Other than board members, no one in the room was provided with a copy of the report. I did acquire a copy of the audit report through FOIA procedures, along with several trial balances and a copy of the trustees monthly Treasurer's Report from April 30, 2006. After reading through these reports I have some questions and comments to present. Please bear with me.

Consider the audit report first, and by the way the copies, which I received under FOIA, did not have page numbers, so I cannot quote page numbers for you to reference. I have copies of the pages themselves here, and I would like to mention things because I don't think there are too many people in the audience who would look through the audit report or even stop to question anything. First, is the letter from the auditors, the independent auditor's report, and this is dated November 10th. Here they just state the basic financial statements are the responsibility of the village of Harwood Heights management. Their responsibility is only to give opinion, that was November 10th, and on January 16th of this year the Mayor gave an extended report where she states that the responsibility for both the accuracy of the data and the completeness and fairness; including all disclosures, rests with the village.

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Then, moving along, the report does confirm that the water department owed the village general government \$837,000 at the end of 4/30. This is in spite of the fact that there was over two million dollars in the water fund account. I also noticed in the audit report that the auditors mentioned the "Water Fund". They do not say "Water and Sewer Fund". I couldn't really remember just when the two funds were combined; the auditors do mention the Sewer Fee liability. Through April 30<sup>th</sup> 2005, the City has billed the village for approximately \$800,000 and that the board of trustees and management believe the best estimate of liability is approximately \$639,000. I did not see any other explanation, but here are some re-statements that the auditors did to the prior years work to correct Accounts Payable from the prior year, evidently they were over-stated by \$28,710. To correct pre-paid expenditures in the prior year, \$50,634. The audit showed that there were expenditures over revenues by just over a million dollars.

Then also, in the Independent Auditors comments, they state "The Village of Harwood Heights adopts an annual fiscal year budget for its General Fund, as required by Illinois Statutes. The Budget is a legally adopted document that evolves from input from the citizens of the village, recommendations from village management and board of trustees' decisions as to what services to provide. When I looked further, because they refer to a certain page here, they in their notes say that budgets are adopted for the General, Water Fund, and all the other funds. But they go on further to say

- (A) Prior to April 30<sup>th</sup> a proposed operating budget is submitted to the Village Board for the fiscal year commencing May 1st. Public hearings are conducted to obtain taxpayer comments. Prior to April 30<sup>th</sup>, the budget is legally enacted through passage of an appropriation ordinance." I do not believe that is what our village does.

Another section, there are significant Due To/Due From other Funds, \$837,000 due to the general from water. \$80,000 due from the bond fund for Debt Service payments paid out of the general fund instead of the bond fund, \$387,000 recorded as due to Fiduciary Funds – That's the Pension Fund, POLICE Pension Fund. That's supposed to be paid by the end of the year, every year.

Also, there's a note – This audit report, by the way, gave a lot of interesting information that never was contained in audits before, like Principal Property Taxpayers of the village, where they show all of the businesses, not all, but the top ten businesses here, what their taxable assessed valuation is. Number two on the list for the end of this year is Value City, \$5,375,000. I was just wondering if any of the board members have heard what I heard, that Value City is not renewing its lease, and again, I was wondering what the village board might be trying to do to find out if they would stay.

Also, on this one page, they have a schedule of revenues in great detail, every line item listed, including dog tags for \$150. But when it comes to expenditures, everything is lumped together. In prior years, the expenditures were always in detail also, so that you could see the line items.

One other thing, and this one has a page number, Page 53, the top of it reads, "Village of Hawthorne Woods, Illinois"; no doubt a typo error, wrong heading. I'm guessing that it's not from Hawthorne Woods, but perhaps someone might want to look at that.

Next, I did review the 4/30/06 Treasurer's Report, which reveals what the audit report used to reveal, that is, 12 month total expenditures for all Budget line items. For some unknown reason, this year's audit does not show these totals for expenditures. Here are some of the items that I would consider questionable, or to be reviewed or to be looked at.

For example, liquor licenses, the actual is \$27,500; the budget was only \$11,500; Fines for overweight trucks, the actual was \$180, the budget was \$175,000. Building permits, the actual was \$118,000, the budget was \$60,000. Real Estate Taxes, the actual was \$753,000, the budget was \$1,100,000. Reimbursement of Developers Fees, the actual was \$40,700, there was no budget at all; nothing showed for that. Legal fees, \$81,370, the budget was only \$50,000. Zoning consultants \$127,284 was paid out, the budget was 60,000.

I can't help but wonder where the thought was in setting up this budget when, certainly, the trustees are the ones who determine what the activity for the year will be. For example, in the Police Department, overtime, we all know there's always overtime; the actual was \$132,000, there was ZERO for a budget. There is one line item marked "Salary" with no description; \$70,811 paid out, \$73,000 for a budget, just marked "SALARY". The next item is just marked "Salary", nothing was paid out three, but there was a budget for \$3,100. Uniform allowed, \$25,950 paid out, and ZERO for a

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budget. Sewer Department, Accounting Study was made for \$10,000; \$10,000 was budgeted. Possibly there would be someone else joining me in wondering what this accounting study was for, under sewer. Under Water Department, there are similar items, interest income, for example, when you've got two million in the bank, the budget was \$10,000; the actual was \$63,000. There is absolutely no charge for Legal Fees, Engineering Fees, Insurance, Audit, or an Accounting Study, but there were budgets set up. The 911 fund – There was no budget breakdown, but, we did pay an accountant \$61,000, for his services. They did also give something, which I don't remember seeing in other audits, an "Organizational Chart".

I believe that there could be some weaknesses in our Accounting Department, because I could tell from reports which I've received under FOIA, that journal entries were not posted on a timely basis, especially at year end. It can take up to 15 months after the April 30<sup>th</sup> audit before correct totals emerge. How can trustees get a clear picture of the village finance position without accurate data in the reports they are given? Do trustees ever; ever, get trial balances? Here, again, procedure is set up by someone? Surely, a CPA would recognize the importance of accurate and timely record keeping. I believe our Finance Chairman has been working with Village Budgets for at least six years, and I can't help but question if there could have been a little better guidance with the making out of the budget for our trustees.

When speaking of the organizational chart, it shows everybody answering to the Village President, the Village Attorney, the Village Treasurer, all answer to the Village President. However, the Village Board of Trustees and the Village Clerk do not answer to the Village President. Village Board Members, Village President and Village Clerk all answer to the Citizens of Harwood Heights. And I remember Trustee Alex, when he was running for election stood before us, a group of Seniors, one time, and said, "They have to know that WE, THE CITIZENS, ARE THEIR BOSSES." I have no other comment to make at this time.

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

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

Well the village had quite an eventful two weeks. After record freezing weather a snowstorm swept the area and kept the public works employees working several days straight. Not to mention the 12 water breaks that occurred including one yesterday. Superintendent Schroeder doesn't recall this many breaks during winter since 1999. Cars not observing the snow parking laws did create more problems for Public Works. The plows must be able to reach the curb for emergency vehicles to be able to fit down the street and if there is a water break the whole street could flood. The freeze - thaw cycle creates many problems besides water breaks including more pot holes, so please report any that you find. We thank the Public Works crew for their overtime work in keeping the village running efficiently and also the police for their efforts.

Motion I 4 covers an emergency expenditure I approved for the purchase of a longer rodder for Public Works to repair reoccurring sewer backups in the Police Department. This has been an ongoing problem with this building and the longer rodder will eliminate the need to tear out walls in order to find the blockage and fix the problems. The Public Works Truck #4 plow broke and it was temporally repaired on Tuesday so Public Works could keep plowing, but on Wednesday it broke again. Therefore I approved an emergency expenditure for the plow.

ARC Disposal ceased all collection operations for February 13<sup>th</sup> due to adverse weather conditions and they worked through the weekend to make all the pickups.

Also last week the village office experienced a gas leak, and Nicor completed a repair of the gas leak at the meter, where there was a 2" union at the meter that needed repair. The Fire Department and the Police Department, especially Dino Giolas were a great help with dealing with this problem. Although Nicor said it was safe to occupy the building, the hall was temporarily closed and the office staff went over to the Police Department for about 2 hours until the hall was reopened due to the odor.

The Helper Bus broke down on Tuesday and people were stranded until we had someone from the Police Department to go get the driver so he could come and get the other bus and go back and pick up the riders. The bus was towed in for

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repair. Thankfully an RFP is out for a new bus. I do want to thank Larry Noller for overseeing a lot of these emergencies through the office and making sure everything was taken care of.

Yesterday the village hall experienced a power outage; over 500 Com Ed customers in our area were affected for about 1 ½ hours. We did not close the village hall and were able to operate manually until the electric was repaired. The Poor Condition ash trees were taken down this week and the stumps were ground immediately afterward. Our Building dept official, Pat Ryan contacted all of the homeowners.

Motion I 8 is a simple resolution for the CDBG grant application which our engineer Paul May is applying for. I am amending this motion, now, to read Year 2007, not 2004, that is an error. The resolution says that the Village Board is aware of the application and is prepared to budget for the matching funds. Public hearings were held in accordance with the grant procedures.

Motion I 6 for board approval is a local agency agreement with IDOT. Because some of the funds for the streetscape are coming from ITEP grant funds, IDOT will not maintain those enhancements. Therefore this agreement states that we will be responsible for maintaining the features that are funded with ITEP grant funds. We are also agreeing that funds have been appropriated for this project.

Chief Podosek received the official Crime Index/Crime Rate figures for 2006/2005 from the Illinois Department of Law Enforcement and we had (-19.0%) drop in total crime in Harwood Heights; in all the major categories we had tremendous reductions across the board. Our proactive approach is working and it is certainly showing a remarkable difference in overall crime within the village. This information will be available on our web site.

I am pleased to report that the police conducted an underage tobacco sting and all the businesses in Harwood Heights passed the challenge. No one sold cigarettes to minors.

The Police Department received a letter of congratulations from North East Multi Regional Training Inc., thanking us for hosting NEMRT training at our facility. The letter reads "It is because of your departments' willingness to share your facility that police officers throughout the NEMRT training area have a place to go for training."

Once again the Police Department performed 761 community service hours again way over the 666 hours needed. I also want to thank the police dept for their efforts during the snow and emergencies over the past two weeks.

Motion I 7, amends the liquor license procedure so that penalties will be charged for late applications, and the fee for fingerprinting can be determined annually by the Liquor Commissioner, as we are reducing the \$150 fee to \$75 in order to help our local businesses.

I hope to have the first of "additional" community planning meetings scheduled for the end of March or the beginning of April. I have been talking with CMAP, the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning, who would be hosting the meetings and they have a lot of great ideas to get increased participation and also reach out to our residents regarding development and planning issues.

In regards to the public comment, as far as negativity, I think I addressed a lot of negative items earlier and also remember the board changed the sewer fee, they went back and saw that the first ordinance didn't work. The committee meeting regarding the audit was for year ending 4/30/06, the discussion of issues and questions the trustees have on some of the line items will be discussed at the budget meetings where we can look at the past and make sure we don't make the same mistakes again.

As far as the report the GASB34 standards provides more information than the previous form and also multi year comparisons. The line item that was mentioned for zoning consultants for \$120,000 I believe, we need to appropriate everything we are going to spend even if we are getting grants, such as the \$30,000 we received for planning and also \$50,000 that was reimbursed for development fees.

And last the trustees get the trial balances on a monthly basis and many of them call the accountant when they have questions.

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**Finance**  
**Trustee Alex**

We are still in preliminary stages of working on the upcoming budget; I'll have more information probably at the next board meeting.

I guess I did want to address, since we do the budging here and the annual reports here, there's a lot of misconception, some people don't understand we technically don't have a budget in the Village of Harwood Heights, we actually have an Appropriation Ordinance. What we use to do in the past, which I thought was very responsible, is that they use to appropriate as much money as they could so that the spending would never run short. If we thought we would spend \$100,000, they would appropriate \$200,000 just to make certain that the money was there to spend in case of an emergency because in an Appropriation Ordinance you're not suppose to go over, overall. So we have an Appropriation Ordinance and many people don't understand that and I'm sensing that out of Public Comment that people think we have a budget but technically we don't.

And the other issue is that we started since I was trustee to try to make the appropriation get really close to what we thought the spending would be and we did that because we found out that you tell a person they could spend \$200,000, they'll spend the whole amount. We made a real great effort to try to restrict our spending and we had an audit just recently, and it is a very good audit. It was an unqualified top audit and when audit means unqualified is that the auditor looks at our financial statements and says, "For the year your financial statements present fairly the position of the village". Now, does that say that every transaction was recorded correctly? No. Does that say that one account might actually have more money than the other; they have to make an entry between the two? Yes, that possible. It's like saying my left pocket owes my right pocket \$10.00, well, it's all the same money. A lot of people don't understand that. Is there a title typo in the budget? Yes, there's a typo in the title because we hire auditors who use forms for maybe two or three villages and sometimes they'll copy a page and not change the top of the page.

I was listening for a question, I always try to answer questions that members of the audience might have; I didn't even hear a question in this 15-minute thing, it was just one on ending thing but I guess overall the comments is "there's errors", "there's typos in our budget" and that's probably true; but overall the financial statement the auditors have told us we're in the top 2% of all the districts in the State of Illinois. There's 2% who are better than us in reporting but there's 98% of the state with worse reporting than us; I think we've made tremendous strides, I think we have a lot of work to do. I personally won't be happy until we're number 1, but I think we've make some progress. As far as critiquing ourselves or being negative; I know I don't have to do that, I have someone who shows up at every board meeting to do that for me, so I'm not going to go do that. But otherwise, I think we've made some strides, I would like to see better reporting and I think that's what we're going to do.

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

The Ordinance & License Committee report, the Mayor has already presented information on Ordinance 07-05 and I urge the board to vote in the affirmative for this ordinance.

**Public Works**  
**Trustee Jeziorny**

As Chairperson of Public Works I wanted to give you a report of the recent activities of the Department, but the Mayor has already done so, however, I do want to add some of my personal comments and observations as I have been in constant communication with the department and also on-site to many of the activities.

As each winter approaches, there seems to lay the possibility of anticipated snowstorms, water breaks, wind and freezing temperatures and ice conditions.

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Superintendent, Tom Schroeder and the Public Works crew prepare for each season to be ready for these anticipated situations by having the necessary equipment on hand and keeping them maintained. Salt is pre-ordered early on in the year, we also have parts on hand for water breaks and hydrants, stone to back-fill, asphalt for potholes, etc.

With the recent snowfall, Public Works was ready - and they were really put to the challenge. I want to categorize them as the "small department with big shoulders".

With the task of keeping up with the constant snowfall and snowdrifts, they were interrupted with a number of water breaks and value repairs. Digging was difficult and time consuming, as they had to break through over 3-4' of frozen ground before reaching their destination, ice covered the sidewalks and streets in thick layers. Each spent long hours away from home working days and throughout the night tending to each situation. The below freezing temperatures, (at -20 to -26 below wind-chill) made it even more difficult for their task at hand. Besides all the situations they had to face, the Publics Work team persevered and completed their challenges. Streets were plowed and salted, alleys were plowed, the wheel loader was utilized to take snow away from many areas of the Village, breaks were fixed and water was tested for consumption. Due to the wind drifts, streets and alleys had to be plodded several times to keep up with the snow accumulation.

I want to salute Tom Schroeder who worked side-by-side with his dedicated team and also want to acknowledge each by name: Foreman George Assimakopoulos, Foreman Tom Wolfe, Joe Vanderpluym, Carmen Santoro, Maurice Lazzara and Ron Maslo. I want to thank them for their dedication and for keeping our community safe!

In my discussion with Tom Schroeder, even our new engineer, Paul May complimented the Public Works department on the excellent job that they did on the snow removal. I think that was noted since he lives outside the village, so that's great.

On another note, I was going to indicate about the Nicor and the ComEd outages; but that was already reported by our Mayor, so I will save you that repetition.

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

Item I 3 on the agenda tonight is for an expenditure of \$5,122.00 payable to the FOP Legal Defense Plan; with the contract that we have with the Police Department for the salary, we are obligated to pay their upfront legal fees, so I recommend that we approve this expenditure.

The Mayor did talk about the crime rate reduction; I did want to congratulate the Chief and the Police Department for an excellent job, a 19% reduction in crime in one year is a very good job and it's a very nice feeling to know that we're living in a safer community than we were last year.

I would also like to inform the residents on the west side of Harlem that we'll be holding a Community Meeting with the Police Department on March 24<sup>th</sup> at 3:00pm. Last year with the help of the Police Department and Trustee Dobrzycki and myself, we arranged a meeting with the residents on the east side of Harlem. Our objective was to let the residents become a little more comfortable with calling police and talking to them about any problems that they might have. The meeting went very well and now we would like to give the opportunity to the residents on the west side, to again voice their opinions and get a little more comfortable with calling police and letting them know if there's any problems going on in the area. The meeting will be held at the Village Hall, again, on March 24<sup>th</sup> at 3:00pm and I will have more information and Trustee Dobrzycki will have some fliers made up to pass out to a lot of the residents if anyone would like to attend.

**Mayor Fuller:** Before you publicize that, maybe we could just make it a little bit later because we have the Antiques Appraisal Show that same day from 1:00pm to 3:00pm.

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

**No Report**

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

As the Mayor reported, we had 12 water main breaks and there are a couple of things that I would like to add in my Water & Sewer Department report.

Last weekend, I observed the water and sewer employees on 3 of these breaks, 2 of them on Oak Park and one of them on Newcastle. They were repairing the water breaks in freezing mud with air temperatures hovering around zero with a wind chill factor of minus 25 degrees. Never in my life, have I seen a group of harder working municipal employees in those unbearable conditions; they have proven to me and our residents their true devotion to our village.

But, the best example of the devotion to our village was shown by Tom Schroeder, the Superintendent of Public Works; Tom was there for every one of the water breaks and not just as a Supervisor or overseer, but in his orange overalls working along side his men. There were days that he worked all night long in subzero temperatures providing true leadership by example. The one difference between Tom Schroeder and his employees is that they get paid overtime for their hard work, but Tom Schroeder is a salary employee and is performing this work in subzero temperatures without getting an extra dime. I don't know of any other Superintendent of Public Works that works as hard as Tom Schroeder and I want to thank him for his loyalty and dedication to our residents and the village.

I hope that our local media will have an interview with Tom and perhaps give some more details of what kind of an employee we have working for our village. We are truly getting our money's worth by having Tom Schroeder on our payroll.

**Clerk's Report**  
**Clerk Larson**

I would like to amend motion I 2, it should read, "to approve expenditure, not to exceed \$1,356.40 payable to Shore Galleries, Inc. for weapon supplies for Police Department to be expensed to the FY 06/07 General Fund-Police.

**Attorney's Report**

**No Report**

**F. TRUSTEE COMMENTS**

**Trustee Dobrzycki:** I also want to thank Public Works; I know living on Sayre Avenue that the residents on the north side of Gunnison in Chicago look with slight jealousy on our plowed snow streets. Also, the comments made and the information given this evening brings to light our infrastructure. As our 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary approaches, so has the time to replace and update our water and sewer lines. As former Chair of the Water & Sewer Committee and leading in the initiative to make a plan of action in working with our Mayor and other trustees, such as Trustee Alex, who served with me on the Sewer & Water Committee in hiring our first full time engineer. I believe and I think that all of us acknowledge the fact that our infrastructure has reached a point of no return and there are many parts of it that need to be replaced; something that should be planned for, something that should be part of our thinking from everyday that we sit here on the board and every board that follows us into the future. It's a never-ending story, as many breaks as there are and repairs that we do we will sometime face in the future as we face right now the need to replace the infrastructure and it should be planned for, it should be appropriated for and it should be continually monitored, so we can schedule for this and not do this with unexpected increases, taxes or needs of emergency to replace that infrastructure. I am very proud to have served on this board and with this in light I believe we are approaching this problem thoughtfully and well prepared.

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**Trustee Jezierny:** Trustee Dobrzycki, you seem to forget that I was on that committee as well, you forget to mention me as well; but, even though for a short time I know that I had brought in the village engineers at the time to apply for a \$300,000 grant, which was to help fix the water mains as well as the sewer on Gunnison. Sometimes we don't get all of the grant money that we want, we did get awarded \$80,000, which was used to replace the sewer on Gunnison, so we did make some headway there.

I also just want to take this time to thank our resident Joan K. White for bringing up some of these issues. Again, we shouldn't target any of our residents for bringing up issues; we should take them under consideration and if there are errors we should take a look closely at them for the next future budget and learn from them. As far as whether it's a budget or an appropriation, we need to get it as close as possible; in a sense it is a budget, it is something that we work with and it is applied to the income, revenues and expenses that we need to oversee. So, thank you and if any other resident wishing to express comments, it's certainly well received.

**Trustee Schmidt:** I don't know if I'm targeting the resident, I am not sure why Mrs. White read the recreation appropriation report at the last meeting, but if it was to compare the costs of different programs, I must fill in some blanks. They are:

- The WSSRA works with adults and young people
- There is a cost for the salaries for the bus drivers
- Young people pay a fee to help subsidize their programs

Those were not mentioned in the run down on whatever was presented, I wasn't quite sure if there was a question in there.

However, I was glad that Mrs. White agreed with the Mayor that in regards to the bus service the safety of its residents should come first

**Trustee Alex:** I did want to mention and I think I failed to mention with the extra cold and snow that we had, we do have a very good Public Works Department. The Superintendent has been with us many, many years; Tom is a wonderful guy. A couple of times I've gone out and saw him working there and it doesn't matter how cold it is, that his bones ache, but he's out there. Whatever the village has always asked him to do; he's out there. I asked him one time, "after all these years why are you still doing it" and he said, "Because the village asked me, they need me". He's been doing it a long time, we've placed a lot of burdens on Tom and he's always, always delivered. Tom and his wife are very proud grandparents; he's always worked for the community. His staff is very qualified, they look up to him and I'm just proud to have somebody like that. As he enters his golden years, I think we need to actually help him out more; I think we need to recognize all the stuff that the department is doing which they haven't got the recognition in the past, that's why we got a new garage for them, it was too cold before, they couldn't work outside, they couldn't do it like they use to. We're buying new equipment for them so that they can work in a professional environment. I'm glad to be part of a board that can do this to help one of the key players in our whole village history. I also do want to mention his staff, which is great, Trustee Jezeriny, Georges' name is actually "Assimakopoulos"; I think you had a mispronunciation there. But they're a great staff and I would be remiss not to mention all the good work that they've done and how proud I am of them, nobody disagrees with that.

**Mayor Fuller:** As long as we're still on Public Works I just want to add a couple of comments. That's a dilemma that we have in the office when we have residents calling up complaining about the snow plowing and complaining about the alleys and the streets and the snow plowing and tickets for being parked on the wrong side of the street and then I have Tom Schroeder coming in saying that people will not move their cars, I can't get the plows down the street and we have to sent the police out and ticket; so there's always a dilemma there and we're trying to make it work as best as we can.

**G. SPECIAL COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Trustee Schmidt:** There are still tickets available for the Wolves game, which is this Sunday. The cost is \$15.00; this includes the cost of the ticket and transportation to and from the game. Please, if anyone is interested, please see the Village Hall for tickets.

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**H. APPOINTMENTS/REAPPOINTMENTS**

**I. CONSENT AGENDA**

**Motion by Trustee Dobrzycki, seconded by Trustee Mougolias on Consent Agenda items I 1-I 10 as Amended:**

**Item I 7 Pulled by Trustee Jezierny**

**Motion by Trustee Dobrzycki, seconded by Trustee Mougolias on Consent Agenda items I 1-6 and I 8-10 as Amended:**

1. To approve the minutes of the Regular Village Board Meeting held, Thursday, February 8, 2007.
2. To approve expenditure, not to exceed \$1,356.40, payable to Shore Galleries, Inc. for weapon supplies for Police Department be expensed to the FY 06/07 General Fund – Police
3. To approve expenditure, not to exceed \$5,122.00, payable to F.O.P. Legal Defense Plan, Inc., for Village F.O.P. Legal Defense Plan coverage from March 1, 2007 to March 1, 2008 to be expensed to the FY 06/07 General Fund – Police.
4. To ratify emergency expenditure, not to exceed \$2,524.96, payable to Grainger for drain cleaning equipment to be expensed to the FY 06/07 General Fund – Public Works.
5. To approve expenditure, not to exceed \$2,718.00, payable to East Jordan Iron Works for water main repair equipment to be expensed to the FY 06/07 General Fund – Water & Sewer Fund.
6. To approve IDOT Local Agency Agreement for Lawrence Avenue Streetscape Project and to authorize the Mayor to execute the agreement.
8. To approve **Resolution 07-02**, a Resolution Authorizing Community Development Block Grant Application for Year 2007.
9. Payment of current approved bills in the amount of \$130,819.27 as they appear on check register #42422 thru #42481.
10. Transfer from Parkway General Savings Account in the amount of \$155,991.30 to Parkway Bank payroll account.

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

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

NAYS:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT:

Motion Carried

**ITEMS PULLED FROM THE CONSENT AGENDA**

**Motion by Trustee Dobrzycki, seconded by Trustee Schmidt on Consent Agenda items I 7 as Amended:**

7. To approve **Ordinance 07-05**, an Ordinance Amending Section 4.12.030 and 4.12.050 of the Code of Ordinances of the Village of Harwood Heights.

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
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**A roll call vote on Consent Agenda items I 7 as Amended resulted as follows:**

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

NAYS:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT:

Motion Carried

**J. NEW BUSINESS**

**Trustee Mougolias:** I had a meeting with the Chief today and I was talking about I had a lot of complaints from residents since I live on Oketo and a lot of the neighbors have been coming up and talking about speeding cars and a lot of traffic down Oketo, it kind of like a mini Harlem. I know that Trustee Dobrzycki has gotten the same response from the residents on Sayre since he lives there also. I was speaking to the Chief, there have been some traffic studies done on Oketo and on Sayre and both streets Oketo was registered at about 2,500 cars a day and Sayre was anywhere between 1,200 to 2,000 depending on a given day. I was looking into maybe talking at the Committee of the Whole since we do have the traffic studies maybe try some removable speed bumps. I know Norridge has tried them and I know Norridge has actually added some more stop signs along Oketo because they have been experiencing the same problem. Maybe we could try putting the speed bumps on Sayre and Oketo, the Chief told me there were some other problem areas in the village. If we do another traffic study when the speed bumps are there and we see they help maybe we can implement them on some other problem areas in the village too. Maybe we can talk about it some more at the Committee of the Whole.

**Trustee Dobrzycki:** I just wanted to add on that, that was one of the additional items to bring up on the next meeting of the whole and I guess we have the studies that Trustee Mougolias mentioned and the Mayor has also been cooperating with the Police Department. We've discussed some matters previously and the course of actions as we know the City of Chicago surrounding us has changed directions of streets, making two-way streets one-way streets, adding additional stop signs; I've spoken with our engineer about the situations there and that's something that we would like to bring to light. We would like to do this in a manner unlike the sewer fees where we got bogged down in quite disruptive discussion. We would like to make it a positive action and we have prepared information and follow through on that.

**Mayor Fuller:** I know Trustee Dobrzycki and I have talked several times about Sayre Avenue and whether it's a one-way street or speed bump there's always a plus and minuses and that's what we really have to take into consideration; because with speed bumps then you start getting lawsuits about car damage and things like that; one-way streets, people complain. So I think after the board comes up with some ideas, we can definitely do some public meetings to make sure that the residents are on board also.

**Trustee Szlendak:** I spoke to the Chief about the very subject this summer; one of the ideas that he recommended is a camera with an automatic ticketing system. This would not damage the cars and I think it's one sure way of slowing down the traffic.

**Attorney Mat Delort:** Just following up on Trustee Szlendak's comment, as you know Chicago has the automatic cameras; the only suburb that has them now I think is Bellwood and the Municipal Attorneys do meet every month and this was actually discussed at last months meeting. It was the consensus of the suburban attorneys that our villages should hold off on the automatic red light enforcement until we see what happens with the lawsuit that was filed against the City of Chicago challenging the legality of it's system, which isn't an uncommon thing we let Chicago pay all the money, fight all the fights and hopefully when they win in the end we have a clear path because one of the issue is that the owner of the car is responsible for paying the ticket even if the owner is not driving the car or even in the car. There is some constitutional issues about that, so we're watching that, so I just suggest, I don't want to begrudge the village of looking into that as a possibility to help the traffic enforcement, but I would recommend not implementing it until we see what happens with Chicago.

**Mayor Fuller:** Actually, Trustee Alex, Trustee Dobrzycki and I saw a presentation of that program, Bellwood was in Springfield the same time we were last year and they had a video that they showed us of the cameras in action and all the cars that they stopped, it was amazing.

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**Trustee Jezierny:** Also, when I was in Arizona, I visited their municipality out there and they also have the cameras and they were going through the same litigation as far as it goes to the owner of the automobile and it becomes a lawsuit as far as who was driving that automobile and it even went to the extreme where a photo was taken and maybe so and so was not suppose to be with so and so and that became a litigation too.

**K. OLD BUSINESS**

None

**L. CORRESPONDENCE**

Clerk Larson read a thank you letter from the Salvation Army thanking the village for the donations for the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays.

**M. OTHER NEW BUSINESS**

None

**N. TRUSTEE COMMENTS**

**Trustee Dobrzycki:** Trustee Jezierny with all my respect I did say my serving with all members of the board and I mentioned Trustee Alex because he has offered advice and made suggestions to me while I served on the committee as Chair.

With respect to Mrs. White; Mrs. White I respect your comments and criticisms which you present almost at every board meeting and everyone else's right and entitlement to speak to us from this platform at the board meeting or to telephone calls, some very early in the morning to some late into the night, during the Meet with Mark meetings, or when I'm shopping or while I'm shoveling snow or when I'm walking with my daughter. I come to the village several times a week and I receive a multitude of messages on my voice mail, sometimes with criticism, sometimes with comments, sometimes with suggestions and I try to address all of those. I believe Trustee Schmidt who has been very self critical on our actions here as the board. I remember several times he has made comments and even self graded our performance here, which is a hard thing to listen to. We on our own here have tackled very difficult issues, such things as the sewer fee charges, which were forced upon us by actions of the City of Chicago and prior course of action by other administrations.

I much believe that my participation on this board would lead me to satisfy and make happy every resident of the village. I have learned that just as my parents do and say things I did not like but later learned that it was to my benefit, I may not have liked it at the time but realized their foresight was what was good for me. I don't want to compare myself to my mother and my deceased father but I do believe my actions here are what I would believe to lead to a better Harwood Heights, as my family, my brothers family, my mother, my friends and all the residents here, I'd like to continue living here in Harwood Heights and sharing in the well being and benefits of a well run village and administration.

And in respect to the messages that I have received this week, a letter dated February 13<sup>th</sup>, I shall read a quick, brief item from it; this is a letter addressed to the Village of Harwood Heights, the Mayor, Inspector Kevin Shuttleworth and myself, "Our appreciation extends beyond what words can describe. We feel that you are an extremely organized team of people that truly cared and acted on our behalf. Once again we personally want to thank Inspector Kevin Shuttleworth and Trustee Mark Dobrzycki for being professionals by listening and taking actions in regards to our problems. You truly have impressed upon us a better quality of life and for that we are extremely grateful. Kindest regards, Jolanta & Jerzy Mokrzycki, Harwood Heights, Illinois".

**Mayor Fuller:** That was for their help on a leak in a condo that was going from one unit to another and it took quite a while to take care of that. We went through some great ordeals, but it's finally been taken care of.

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
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Since we thanked the Public Works and we thanked the Police all the time; I just want to thank the office staff, they get all the phone calls and whenever there's an emergency their really busy and listening to a lot of complaints and rarely get any thanks; so I do want to thank them for taking care of that and talking to all the people.

**O. EXECUTIVE SESSION (IF NEEDED)**

**P. ADJOURNMENT**

Motion by Trustee Dobrzycki, seconded by Trustee Alex 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, February 22, 2007 at 8:30pm.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dianne H. Larson, Village Clerk