

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
OF THE VILLAGE OF HARWOOD HEIGHTS  
HELD ON THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 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 (Late 7:50pm) Arlene Jezierny Demetrios Mougolias Roy Schmidt Lester Szlendak
Attorney	Mat Delort

**D. PUBLIC COMMENT**

**Joan K. White, 7429 W. Winona:** Tonight, I come before you wearing two hats again, voicing different concerns to the board; first of all, because I have received through the Freedom of Information process, copy of last year's audit report and several year-end reports, I have a few questions or comments.

First, is why for the last two-years at the year's end, the water department shows that it owes the general fund over \$800,000; \$884,000 at 4-30-05 and \$837,000 at 4-30-06, while at the same time the water department was holding over \$2,000,000 in its bank accounts at both year ends. It seems to me that transfers are not being made in a timely manner and I really cannot understand why the Chairman of Finance has not brought this up, that this is money unnecessarily sitting in the water savings account. Is this good money management? The same is true for the bond fund, \$80,000 was owed as of 4-30-06; couldn't this transfer have been made? Also, just to note, while you have refunded Special Assessment monies to individual residents/voters, there remains \$63,000 in the bank for Special Assessment 25, long overdue refunds to businesses all along Wilson Avenue. Why is this remaining in village bank accounts?

I also wish to voice an objection to item # 5 on today's agenda for an expenditure from the water department concerning the possible sale of land on Olcott, this \$2,800.00. The water tower itself is owned by the water department; but I believe the land is listed in general fund assets. Thinking further, however, since the sale of this village property is tied into the redevelopment of the entire block, I really believe it should be a cost ultimately paid by any new developers.

Now looking in a different direction, according to our village audit report for the year ending 4-30-06, our board authorized an expenditure of about \$42,800, for the WSSR Special Recreation program last year, which, according to reports given at various meetings, gives service to about 35 of our residents. Various recreation programs for all other village children have cost about \$21,000, in addition to the \$13,250 paid to Youth Commission members to organize these activities.

The community bus service for all our residents cost about \$25,000 last year and many seniors find this bus to be invaluable to them. There also is one line, which reads "Senior Activities" and shows an expenditure of \$3,829. As President of the Harwood Heights Senior Club, I would like to thank the board for all consideration given to us in last year's budget and we hope to be included again in next year's planning as well. Last year, the Mayor also allowed our village bus to transport St. Rosalie's Forever Young Club members to the Elmcrest Banquet Hall and also our Senior group was taken to the Elmcrest Banquet Hall as well as to the Rosewood Restaurant in Rosemont. This was all appreciated, considering the cost of hiring an outside bus company for this transportation. Our Senior Club Board members met in January twice, the 12<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>, to set out ideas for outside activities for this coming year, one event we

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were considering was a St. Patrick Day celebration at the White Eagle on March 6<sup>th</sup>. On January 12<sup>th</sup> I tried to see the Mayor but learned that she was not in the office, so I let a note which was going to be communicated to her, asking if we might have our village bus available again to us for this event on March 6<sup>th</sup> at the White Eagle. A few days later I was told by the Mayor's secretary that the bus would not be available to us on March 6<sup>th</sup>, because the bus has been having mechanical problems and there was concern that it might break down on this trip to the White Eagle on Milwaukee Avenue, in Niles on March 6<sup>th</sup>. We will probably make arrangements to use an outside bus company on that date, but it does concern me that if this vehicle is having such problems; perhaps it should be taken off the street and be taken to a repair shop.

Mayor, I would have preferred to talk to you personally on this matter, but you were very busy and not available for me when I stopped by again, and no appointment time was ever suggested. I know that many more important matters come before the board for their approval, but surely the safety of our residents who travel on that bus every day should receive some consideration..

**Jack Schuepfer, 7259 W. Lawrence Ave.:** And I see by today's agenda that there's an item to go after the Eisenhower Library property for a new water tower site. We have already been through one large engineering firm who said it is not necessary to have a new tower at an additional cost of \$1,200,000 and if we go ahead with this where is this money going to come from, it's our money and it doesn't have to be spent foolishly. My importance about this water district is because I personally, my firm, put in probably a third of the water mains in Harwood Heights and I maintained the system for 20-years; I do know what I'm talking about and I would like to have somebody, nobody seems to care what has gone on with the system.

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

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

In addressing a few of these questions, I do want to say that the Village Manager, Larry Noller, did send out an RFQ for a new Helper Bus for the village because we have been having a lot of mechanical problems with the buses. The older bus breaks down continually and we do want to have a little bit more control over the times that it leaves the village. The number of requests have increased from the Senior's Club on the use of it taking it out of the village; it was really meant to be a service for the village residents and to be available for village residents in the village. We're always happy to allow the seniors to use it but it has come to a point where the mechanical problems on the older bus are very bad.

I also think it's a good time to bring up that I'm going to be suggesting to the board that we make a line item specifically for the Senior's Club instead of just in the Senior budget, because the budget that we use right now is for many things, the movies and different things that we do for seniors and this way the senior's could tell us how much money they're going to need for the year and we can appropriate that money and possibly just give them that money all in lump sum and then they won't have to come to the village every time they want to rent a bus or whatever. They will have their budget and their money and they would know how many trips they could plan with the money that has already been appropriated for them. So, that's something the board can talk about in one of the budget meetings.

As far as the water tower, I will address that in my report, but I do want to add that the studies show that a new water tower is needed. It showed that the fire protection is not adequate whether we develop or not, a new water tower is needed for this village.

Prior to this meeting a public hearing for a CDBG grant took place. Our engineer Paul May is applying for the CDBG grant to replace a water main on Oak Park Avenue from Gunnison to Carl Cassatta, Oak Park is another street that has many water breaks like Lawrence Avenue. Paul May also applied for a CMAQ grant through CATS for pedestrian signal upgrades at Lawrence and Oketo, sidewalks along Gunnison, and Bus shelters and platforms at various locations through the village. As you recall last year Paul May applied for and obtained this grant for pedestrian improvements at Union Ridge School.

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I met with a representative from CMAP to set up community planning meetings in the near future. The Northeastern Planning Commission merged with the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning so they are now one organization. They are interested in coming to Harwood Heights to run some workshops regarding redevelopment and planning. The Northeastern Illinois Planning Commission received the American Planning Association National Plan of the Year Award for the REGIONAL FRAMEWORK PLAN WHICH INCLUDES OUR AREA. Their framework plan is very similar to our comprehensive plan.

The Village wants to let persons with disabilities know that Pace offers an ADA Para transit service for customers who are unable, because of their disability, to use fixed route buses and L trains. You can apply for this service by calling them direct. We have information in the lobby for this service.

Recently Parkway Towers was sold and the new owners have asked to put up some temporary banners with their new name, which is Mont Clare Apartments, this request is on the agenda for board approval.

The village is still investigating possible sites for a new water tower and there are two motions on the agenda so that I can have the information needed to continue negotiations to purchase a property for the new water tower. This is only to give me the information that I need to proceed any further.

In order to expedite permits to our village from IDOT, Resolution No. 07-01 is on the agenda for board approval. IDOT requests updated resolutions every two years and it is not a blanket permit, but serves in lieu of a surety bond. Applications still need to be made for each project.

The emergency notification sign up is now live on our web site. There is a link at the top of the Villages home page for people to sign up to receive emergency notifications. We are in a trial period with this program.

As a reminder, especially in this extreme cold weather that the community room is available as a warming center weekdays from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and through the Police Dept for after hour emergencies. Also we have received many calls about frozen pipes, if the pipes are in the house this is the homeowners problem, if not, public works will come out to investigate. They have been out doing this all week.

On February 1<sup>st</sup>, Superintendent Schroeder, Water Commissioner Dave Koch, and Foreman Tom Wolfe and George Assimapolous attended a seminar for Emergency Response regarding Pipelines, a seminar which I recommended that they attend. The Police are not the only ones that need to be trained in emergency preparedness, it is very important for public works to do the same. I always feel you learn at least one thing new every time you attend a seminar or class. What our staff learned is that when you think there is a gas leak in your home, DO NOT open the window. The correct response is to get out of the house and call the Fire Department. In some instances, opening a window could cause the explosion.

It's fortunate that the village board approved the new water main for Lawrence Avenue, as we continue to have numerous water breaks. Public Works was out in extreme cold to make the necessary repairs. 104 hours of employee work time was logged for the last 3 weeks for on water breaks alone. I approved an emergency expenditure when Superintendent Schroeder called me regarding the needed repair of pump #2, the invoice will come to the board for ratification. The village has had quite a bit of heating problems with this building, it seems that the condensers on the roof, were never cleaned or serviced prior to purchasing and when remodeling this building. The heat can't be regulated in many areas and we may have some future costs as there are 20 condensers on the roof.

It is important to get the necessary ash trees in the village removed before May so that the disease does not spread. Many towns are fighting an expensive battle with this problem. Motion I 3 is for board action. Also, anyone wanting a tree planted for this spring should please contact the village hall. We did not receive any responses yet from the most recent newsletter. Larry Noller will be assisting in administering the tree consortium program and with the Tree USA application.

Larry Noller also has been picking up some of the zoning review work so that Scott Harrington won't be needed for the application process. The new vehicle sticker Software is in place and stickers are on order for target of a March 15th

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mailing. Larry Noller is working with Innovative Software to reconfigure the routes to work with the new SENSUS software for the meter reading.

The Village of Streamwood sent Chief Podosek a letter thanking Officer John DeVries for his service on December 2<sup>nd</sup> in a MCAT callout and the investigation that brought a murder charge. "On behalf of the members of the Streamwood Police Department I would like to formally express our gratitude and appreciation to you and Officer DeVries for a professional response." signed by Chief Alan Popp

A letter was received by Chief Podosek from the Arlington Heights Police Chief Gerald Mourning thanking us for the professional response on December 7<sup>th</sup> of the NIPAS emergency team and the emergency manpower alarm officers through Illinois Law Enforcement Alarm System (ILEAS) which resulted in the successful resolution of a critical incident of a suicidal subject without the loss of life or injury.

Our police officers can report any suspected allegations of elder abuse and neglect to the West Suburban Senior Services. All reports are confidential and the reporters' identities are protected; please contact the Police Chief if you suspect any abuse.

Larry Noller drafted a new policy to help with the Liquor license process and an amendment to the ordinance will be put before the board at the next board meeting. Basically we are setting some deadlines for the application process and adding penalties for late filing. Also the background check fees will be reviewed annually by the Liquor commissioner.

I received a special thank you for a senior who took advantage of the Handyman service and is very pleased and thanks the village board for supporting this service to seniors and persons with disabilities.

Come have your photo take for the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary memorial album on Friday February 23<sup>rd</sup> from 9:30 a.m. to 11 a.m., also complete a brief biography that will be included in the album. Ken Havlich is our photographer.

And last, please join the Norridge Historical Committee as they honor Norwood Park Township Clerk Rocco Secco for his 30 years of service to the township on February 20<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m. at the Sieb center. I prepared a Proclamation from the Village of Harwood Heights for the event.

**Finance**  
**Trustee Alex**

On tonight's agenda is item I 8, which is Ordinance 07-04, an Ordinance Establishing Certain Financial Institutions as Municipal Depositories. This is really kind of a technicality, what it says is that the board is giving the Village Treasurer the authority to deposit the money in anyone of these particular institutions; these are institutions that we have done business with for a while and like I said it's a little more technical in nature but I hope the board will support it and pass it so we can allow the Treasurer and the Accountant to do their jobs.

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

**No Report**

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

Regarding Public Works, basically as the Mayor stated there were a number of homes that called in regarding that they did not have water supply to their home; Public Works did go out to the homes to check it out and to make sure that our water supply and our pressure going to the home was in working order. However, what happened is that the pipes inside the home had froze and some tips to avoid some of these frozen pipes is: 1.) If you can, leave your cabinet doors open, 2.) In extreme cold temperatures, below zero, let the water trickle down to keep the flow of water coming out of the pipes, this will eliminate frozen pipes.

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Also, with the recent snow that we had, we had under 2” of snow, the plows and the salt trucks were out there, even though there was only a snow dusting the streets were very, very slippery because under the snow was a number of ice patches and many times in cold weather the salt does not melt the ice as quickly as it does in higher temperatures. So, please do be careful out there especially if we get a dusting.

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

The Public Health & Safety Report, I know the Mayor mentioned about the Warming Center, but I’d just like to repeat it a little bit too. Just to inform the residents that the Warming Center will be open in the Village Hall from 9am to 5pm during the week, but on weekends if there is a problem don’t be afraid to go to the Police Station, to try the weekends or after hours because it is a very, very serious issue. I know some people might not have sufficient heat in their houses and you can have a very dangerous situation if you’re there without the heat. So, if there is any problems the Warming Center will be open from 9am to 5pm and the Police Station will be available for after hours and weekends.

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

**No Report**

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

Breaks in our water mains are very extremely serious problems; the cost of the manpower is just one component of it, a larger cost is actually the water lose. Paul May shared with me some of the numbers and we’re talking about thousands and thousands of dollars that went quite literally down the drain. In the next budget I would like to propose very aggressive replacement of the mains for the year 2008, instead of going in with a three phase program. I think the Oak Park should be replaced in ’08, the whole street.

**Clerk’s Report**  
**Clerk Larson**

**No Report**

**Attorney’s Report**

**No Report**

**F. TRUSTEE COMMENTS**

**Trustee Schmidt:** The Tribune reported that the Laramar Group LLC, a property investor that focuses on underused buildings in major, high-quality markets bought Parkway Towers. I am not a mind reader like some others profess to be nor can I state that I know why this company was interested in Harwood Heights, but I would think and hope they did this because of the Comprehensive Plan and the future this board has for the village.

**Mayor Fuller:** I will add that they’re doing a lot of improvements in the building, the Building Department has been out there doing inspections and they’re doing a lot of upgrading, so that’s a good thing for us.

**G. SPECIAL COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Trustee Schmidt:** Larry Noller has created a web page for the Youth Commission under the heading Recreation and Leisure. It will list all the youth programs sponsored by the Youth Commission. Hopefully, this will make it easier for residents to learn what programs the village has to offer young people. We also hope to have the application forms for joining the programs placed on the website. This will make it easier for residents to sign their kids up for these programs.

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The Youth Commission will be having a dance March 16<sup>th</sup> from 7pm to 9:30pm at Union Ridge School for ages 5<sup>th</sup> through 8th. Flyers will be distributed with further information. The information will also be posted on the website when we get it.

**H. APPOINTMENTS/REAPPOINTMENTS**

**I. CONSENT AGENDA**

**Motion by Trustee Dobrzycki, seconded by Trustee Alex on Consent Agenda items I 1-I 12:**

1. To approve the minutes of the Regular Village Board Meeting held, Thursday, January 25, 2007
2. To approve expenditure, not to exceed \$1,708.00, payable to Adirondack for Police Department furniture to be expensed to the FY 60/07 General Fund – Police
3. To approve expenditure, not to exceed \$5,860.00, payable to Hendrikson/The Care of Trees for removal of six Ash trees to be expensed to the FY 06/07 General Fund – Forestry.
4. To approve an Authorization, Acknowledgement and Indemnification for Ground Penetration Work and Temporary Access Agreement between the Eisenhower Public Library District and the Village of Harwood Heights regarding the property located at 4653 N. Olcott Avenue in substantially the form submitted and subject to legal review, and authorize the Mayor to execute the agreement.
5. To approve an agreement with Fehr-Graham Associates for a Phase 1 Environmental Assessment for property located at 4653 N. Olcott in the amount of \$2,800.00 to be expensed to the FY 06/07 Water and Sewer Fund and to authorize the Mayor to execute the agreement.
6. To approve an agreement with Comcast in order to facilitate the relocation of cable lines adjacent to the 7343 W. Lawrence Avenue in the amount of \$2,524.36 to be expensed to the FY 06/07 Special Service Area Fund and to authorize the Mayor to execute the agreement.
7. To approve temporary banners on the Mont Clare building located at 7171 West Gunnison (formerly Parkway Towers) for a period not to exceed 45 days pursuant to the drawing submitted.
8. To approve Ordinance 07-04, an Ordinance Establishing Certain Financial Institutions as Municipal Depositories.
9. To approve Resolution 07-01, a Resolution for Construction on State Highway.
10. Payment of current approved bills in the amount of \$67,922.55 as they appear on check register #42353 thru #42421.
11. Transfer from Parkway General Savings Account in the amount of \$125,966.17 to Parkway Bank Payroll Account.
12. Electronic transfer from Parkway General Savings Account in the amount of \$12,798.86 to IMRF Pension.

**A roll call vote on Consent Agenda items I 1- I 12 resulted as follows:**

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

NAYS:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT:

Motion Carried

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**J. NEW BUSINESS**

None

**K. OLD BUSINESS**

**Mayor Fuller:** I will just say that the Warming Center was used last year; we had a power failure during the winter months and some people had to come in and they sat in the Community Center until their electric came on and they were very, very happy that they had some place to go, so, it's good to get that information out.

**L. CORRESPONDENCE**

None

**M. OTHER NEW BUSINESS**

None

**N. TRUSTEE COMMENTS**

**Trustee Dobrzycki:** I just want to extend my apology; I was detained at a previous meeting, I try my utmost and my best to always be on time.

**Trustee Mougolias:** I would just like to let the residents know that the Harwood Heights Chamber of Commerce, which I'm the Vice-President of, is putting out a Community Guide. We're putting in a lot of information about the village; we're celebrating also the 60<sup>th</sup> year of the village with the Community Guide. So, just to look for it in the neighborhood paper and maybe you can use it as a reference, it will have a lot of information, different phone numbers you might need for the village, State Representatives, maps; so it might be beneficial for a lot of people to keep it around and use it as a reference guide.

**Trustee Dobrzycki:** I just wanted to say, I previously wanted to mention this but, last year we had a delegation visiting from Poland; some officials, one gentleman who was a candidate for Prime Minister, he was not chosen as the Prime Minister, but one of the women who accompanied him here on the visit, Hanna Gronkiewicz-Waltz was the former Finance Minister of Poland and then Director of the European Bank in London was just recently elected the first woman Mayor of Warsaw. So, here in Harwood Heights we have our first woman Mayor, and she met with our Mayor and now she is the first woman Mayor of the City of Warsaw in Poland; so there is great rejoicing there. Maybe we can start a Sister City connection.

**Trustee Jeziorny:** I just want to add to Public Works, as far as people wondering whether or not the snow ban is in effect or not and whether or not they should move their cars. There is a phone number they can call that is listed in the village calendar and if they call that number there is a recording that will say the snow ban is "in effect" were you need to move your cars or it is "not in effect". Also, I noticed on many of the streets people are still following the street sweeping signs. The street sweeping ends December 1<sup>st</sup>, so you can leave your car on that side of the street, you don't have to keep moving it, only until April 1<sup>st</sup> when we start street sweeping again.

I would also like to make a charitable announcement; in January Mayor Fuller gave a Proclamation to 3 families with children with autism. Autism is a growing illness that we have throughout the country and we need to focus and do the best we can to find a cure or care for these children. There is a benefit that is being held at Vince's Restaurant on April 17<sup>th</sup> and it is a fundraiser for autism and Nuccio D'Argento was one of the recipients of the Proclamation. If anyone wishes to participate, give a donation, I'm sure it would be greatly appreciated and a community effort.

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**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 8, 2007 at 8:00pm.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dianne H. Larson, Village Clerk