

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
OF THE VILLAGE OF HARWOOD HEIGHTS
HELD ON THURSDAY, JANUARY 10, 2008**

- A. **CALL TO ORDER** at 7:37 pm by Mayor Margaret P. Fuller
- B. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**
- C. **ROLL CALL**

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| Mayor | Margaret P. Fuller |
| Clerk | Dianne H. Larson |
| Deputy Clerk | Marcia Pollowy |
| Trustees | Mark Dobrzycki Michael Gadzinski Arlene Jezierny Demetrios Mougolias Therese Schuepfer Lester Szlendak |
| Attorney | Paul Stephanides |

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

Barbara Schwarzer, 7425 W. Carmen Ave: I would like to comment on the November village meeting. I was shocked, disappointed and confused on what was said during this meeting. I felt that Police Chief Marty Podosek explained why the police officer and computer technician were there. I would like to know why the security system, and by whose authority it was no longer connected to the Police Department; even though the Police Department moved to another location, it should have moved with them. The village function is run like a business. The proper authorities should have been notified when changes are made. Apparently this was not done for the past four years.

I'd like to comment on Ms. Schuepfer's question: If this water security is catastrophic now, why wasn't it catastrophic then? It was then, but why doesn't she direct her question to the Chairman of Public Works, since she had the knowledge which was not shared with the Police Department or the Mayor.

Now regarding the issue of the trustee's agenda requiring legislative counsel; I along with other villagers don't feel that this was necessary until the Mayor's investigation of the Public Works is finished. The Mayor is like a CEO. The Mayor has the right to make sure that the agents and officers are following procedures. I am glad that the Mayor vetoed their request for legal counsel. I am against them requesting or overriding the Mayor's veto. This is not for our benefit. If they feel so dedicated and right, let them dish it out of their own pockets, not out of our tax dollars. Just because the money has been allocated for legal counsel does not give them the right to misuse it for their own purposes.

I would also like to comment on the trustee's suing the developers who were still willing to put a shopping center on our barren lot located on Lawrence and Oketo. Bad news travels fast. Now developers are shunning our village and are going to our neighbor villages. We are losing business, rather than growing. Politicians talk about change, well, I would like our trustees to tell us what they are doing to make improvements in our village, so that our village may prosper and grow and not be stagnant or even fall behind.

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Don J. Sipka, 7400 W. Lawrence, in the Courtyard of Harwood Heights: My only purpose here this evening is to mention to you, which I think you well know, that in the primaries there's a referendum coming up regarding Ridgewood High School; Norwood Park Township, the Village of Norridge and many other organizations are supporting this whole heartedly. I would hope that our village, I'm a big believer in education, would also take the time and consideration to review this referendum and give us your support. If there are any questions or information that's needed it can be found and for the people here, it can be found on the Website of Ridgewood High School and also I was informed that anybody at the high school would be willing to answer any questions that you may have. That's my only purpose here and I hope we can have your support in the future for that referendum.

Joan K. White, 7429 W. Winona: First, I did prepare a three minute talk, but after reading tonight's agenda I wish to ask the board for additional time to comment on an item coming up for your vote tonight.

Motion by Trustee Szlendak, seconded by Trustee Schuepfer to allow additional time; all in favor.

Joan White: Thank you. Ordinarily, in giving comment at board meetings I try to restrict my focus to matters of village business, board management ideas and discussion. At the last few meetings, and recently in newspaper letter writing "by gallery participants," however, there seems to be a strong emphasis on criticism of personalities instead of issues of actual village government problems. The last board meeting in particular brought out Mr. "W" from the gallery, to use his own description, with comments that seem to beg for response.

Mr. "W" gave comments directed to each trustee, rather than to any particular issues, but evidently trying to dress down each one, guessing at their personal motivations and personal agendas. Strangely, though, when it came to the last one, Trustee Dobrzycki, it was said that this trustee was always trying to get the other board members to "do their job." We might ask Mr. "W" what, in his opinion, is "their job"? I can quote for him the Mayor's words of October 4th at a Committee of the Whole Meeting. She said, "What exactly is the job of a trustee? Trustees bring forth policies, they adopt ordinances and make suggestions for improvements and then I have the staff follow up on them." Personally, I thought the main job of the trustee was to attend board meetings and sit there to conduct village business on our behalf; since they represent us, the people who elected them.

The last board meeting seemed to give evidence that there are those who take their jobs seriously. Trustee Dobrzycki initiated some proclamations of "working together" and "getting along" but once a board meeting is in progress, he surprises us by his actions. If four or five votes are different from his, instead of he being the one to "get along" or "cooperate" he almost demands that the other four or five change their vote to show agreement with him. And, if this doesn't happen, he will pick up his papers and leave the meeting before it has ended. Another surprise was to see part of the gallery follow him in procession, out of the meeting which was still in progress.

And, speaking of the gallery, Mr. "W", you must take great pride in quietly following other gallery members around town, day and night, so that you can report at meetings if you should see them visiting one of the trustees at their home, or if they possibly attend a church. Mr. "W" must be asked if these personal matters really are worth reporting at board meetings during public comment time. And also, Mr. "W" you ask what "JKW" from the gallery is doing to bring together the Mayor and the board. I, in turn, must ask what you, yourself, personally, are doing to bring them all together. And I must ask why you choose to attack someone else in this gallery, when each individual here has the right to express an opposing viewpoint.

In fact, Mr. "W", I would like to ask if you would be willing to ask "JKW" to join you when you have one of your special private meetings with the Mayor at 6:45pm, just before the regular board meeting starts. Perhaps at that time some interesting thoughts for cooperation might be exchanged or even, possibly, someone else might also be given a script to read at these meetings.

Upon reading tonight's agenda, I offer these comments: Trustee Dobrzycki voted against hiring a legislative attorney at the last meeting. At meetings, he, as well as others from the gallery that joined the Mayor in denouncing the need for a separate attorney to answer questions asked by the trustees or to get quicker response to their important questions.

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Tonight, however, there seems to be some change of heart. If Trustee Dobrzycki now sees and feels the need for a legislative attorney to be hired, the issue is perfectly clear and definite. All six trustees in unison believe that they need another legal option and the only step to be taken now apparently is for the trustees to make a choice based on the majority vote to fill that position.

Harwood Heights' election campaigns of the past have always resurrected one same issue of someone in Chicago politics reaching out to control our village government and the Historical Room binder holds evidence that our people say "No Chicago politics in Harwood Heights." It, therefore, appears very strange that tonight's agenda introduces for hiring the name of an individual who has for a very long time been involved with Cook County political positions and who also had many years of participation in the leadership process of the P.R.C.U which is the Polish Roman Catholic Union. Even the last Mayoral election brought out objections that Mayor Pabich's choice for Village Attorney had "strong ties" with a certain outside political structure. What is bringing this apparent change of attitude into our meeting room? Is someone's personal agenda coming to surface?

Frank Rose, 5047 N. Oriole Avenue: I'm going to speak extemporaneously tonight and fairly quickly. First, I want to allude to the previous gentleman about the referendum. My wife and I are childless, we do not have children but we always support educational initiatives and I would like to add my support to that.

But, beyond that, I will also say I am unabashedly and a firm supporter of Mayor Fuller and her administration, but I'm really here just to try and talk about the fray this evening. I think we've had a lot of meetings, where it reminds me in the old city council wars in Chicago and that's really not productive for anybody. I'm not going to talk specific names, but, I think we're all pretty aware of what the divisions are here and it's just my perception and that of many others that no matter what the Mayor proposes, the opposite always comes from a set of trustees. And all I trying to appeal to everybody tonight and moving forward, we're drowning in conflict. I understand trustees as they're elected have a right to their opinions, they have a right to oppose certain policies that the Mayor has, but I think that you also have an obligation to try and find some common ground in some kind of a bipartisan effort; I don't see that at all. Try to understand the word trustee itself means trust, a trust that you'll of course represent the public interest but part of your responsibility is also to try and govern and help the Mayor govern. That doesn't mean that you have to agree with everything that she puts forward, but I think it does mean we need to act in a more civil less hostile manner and not just oppose things as perceived, at least by myself, just because they're put up by somebody who you disagree with. So, I'm sure I'm not the first one to appeal to this but I think we all need to step back and try to govern for the village and what's best for the village. And understand that as a trustee you have to represent people who may not have supported you, but you still represent the whole village. So, I'm just appealing to everybody; the trustees, the Mayor, everybody involved in government here, to remember that we're here to govern and I think if you try really hard you can maybe find some common ground on some issues and move forward rather than getting into this endless bickering that we're doing every meeting. Quite frankly, as a resident it's embarrassing and I'm going to tell you specifically without naming names, my perception is it will come to roost when I go to vote. Now, I do expect you to be more civil as representing me, even if I don't for you, you still represent me as a resident; I expect you to be more civil and to try to be a little more compromising.

Peter Magnelli, 4735 N. Oketo: I was shocked to read today in the Pioneer Press dated January 10, 2008, Mayor Field's is to announce "Norridge is getting a Starbucks Drive-in" located at Lawrence and Cumberland; the same Starbucks that was to anchor the Lawrence Avenue streetscape on the corner of Lawrence and Oketo.

How could this happen? The trustees a few months back sued the developer because the overall plan was scaled down and didn't have enough condos on the site; the same trustees who were against the development of condos on the Tornado site. So while Norridge moves forward with its vision, Harwood Heights again waits. We lost a great opportunity when Starbucks decided it couldn't wait for Harwood Heights and they moved on.

I hold the trustees responsible who took action against the developers. Their negligent act will cost our village and ultimately the taxpayers for the lost revenue. So while we wait for the resolution on the Lawrence/Oketo site, I would like to ask Mr. Szlendak, "Was it really worth it?"

Harwood Heights needs leaders not followers or individuals who have their own agenda.

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Roy Schmidt, 4336 N. Rutherford: First, in order to speak under three minutes I would like everyone to understand that when I mention the Jezierny 4, with all due respect, I am referring to Trustee Szlendak, Jezierny, Gadzinski and Schuepfer, the trustees that called the Meeting of the Whole. While I was waiting for the Meeting of the Whole to start this week, I heard one of the trustees say to the other, "Is Trustee Mougolias coming to the meeting?" Another trustee said he should because we set this meeting up to allow him to get here. I would assume that the Jezierny 4 were considerate enough to call Trustee Mougolias before the meeting was posted to see if he could attend. I have to ask if the Jezierny 4 gave the same consideration to the Mayor and Trustee Dobrzycki?

I would also like to mention that when the ordinance to hire a legislative attorney was first brought up a few weeks ago, it was too investigate the so called break-in. During the Meeting of the Whole this week nothing was said about the investigation, however, there was talk about using them for their committee business because they were not happy with the current attorney. Maybe the board will explain what they expect from the new attorney. There was also reference to when Trustee Fuller and the four other trustees hired legislative attorney a few years ago. The fact is that 5 trustees were sued by the Village Attorney. If they were sued after hiring the attorney, I would suggest they had good intuition. I wonder what it is like working with an attorney that soon files a law suit against you. If it was hired at the same time, that speaks for itself. I don't think the Village Attorney; the current Village Attorney intends to sue the board. If I remember right, the case was thrown out as fast as that attorney came in.

When I first became a trustee, and talked to the other trustees about committee assignments; I remember one trustee did not want Trustee Jezierny on any committee at all, much less as a chairman. I am glad to say that the board at that time decided this was not the best thing for the village considering Trustee Jezierny's experience and knowledge. I was sad to see that this board could not give the same consideration to Trustee Dobrzycki. I was proud to be on that board where village business came before personal business.

And finally, when the previous board discussed changing the hours of the bars in the village, I believe the Chief did give us information on incidents in the bar. None of the trustees at the Meeting of the Whole seem to remember. I will let the Chief correct myself or the board on this issue whenever he speaks on the subject. And the last thing; I would like to ask Mrs. White to read her own statements in previous meetings because I was at the other end of her personal comments.

Marge Naegele, 7336 W. Argyle: I honestly have a little bit of information here, I wanted to congratulate Norridge. I would like to congratulate Norridge for their vision, for the professionals that they have working as their Board of Trustees and for their ability to accomplish something as a team; obviously we can't do that here; it's been demonstrated several times. I too read the Pioneer Press and it says, "Details are still being ironed out but Fields said it's safe to announce Norridge is getting a Starbucks Drive-in, the facility will be located between Mobile gas and Midwest Bank, both on Lawrence Avenue and Cumberland. When they grow, we grow, he said. Norridge will attract more retail stores along Harlem Avenue, Fields predicted."

You know, I could say a lot of things here but I'll get thrown out. So, my only thoughts are to try and keep this civil is to ask Lester, the other day at the Meeting of the Whole you said that that village, that development that we were suppose to have at Lawrence and Oketo would of provided us with affordable housing, affordable condominiums, \$160,000 you said. We have affordable condominiums in Harwood Heights right now; I pulled up a list as a realtor and I saw them there; under \$200,000, under \$300,000. And I just want to let the seniors in this town know, last year I was working with a developer; a developer that was going to bring a senior community into this village. Affordable housing, you could sell your house, put money in the bank and still move in and have some cash left over. He walked away; he walked away because he heard the reputation of, as Roy Schmidt said, the Jezierny 4. He left this town and they are now looking at Norridge. So again, you have lost more opportunity. How much longer are we going to put up with this? Legal counsel should be, we should be the ones, the residents getting legal counsel to protect our interest in this town because so far nothing else has worked.

Robert Gildo, 120 N. Hale, Wheaton, Illinois; Attorney for Chief Podosek: I really don't have anything to say at this point because I'm not quite sure where things are going. I do however want to indicate to you that I will be representing Chief Podosek. I will be his legal counsel, so if there are questions of him, I suggest that you contact me and direct your questions to me. We are investigating the legality of this practice and this procedure. I have some serious doubts about it but those I'll take up later if I have to.

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E. REPORTS OF MAYOR, TRUSTEES, CLERK AND ATTORNEY

Mayor's Report
Mayor Fuller

First thing tonight I would like to recognize Gil Theel for his outstanding work in the Village as the Electrical Inspector. Our Building Commissioner, Kevin Shuttleworth, reported to me that he has watched and heard how thorough Gil is in checking every outlet, circuit breaker and pipe connection in every one of his inspections. As his monthly reports indicate, he will not approve an inspection until all the work is completed to code, even if it takes more of his time with phone calls and appointments. This process has made it safer not only for the home owner but every resident and every person that lives, shops or visits Harwood Heights. We cannot believe the nightmares that Gil has uncovered in property transfer inspections where work has been done without permits and there was a potential fire or electrical shock hazard. There are fewer electrical fires in Harwood Heights and the Building Commissioner and I are convinced that Gil is the reason behind the reduction of electrical fires. Thank you Gil for your dedication to making Harwood Heights a safer place to live and work!

Here are some good things that will be happening this year in Harwood Heights, we welcome the year 2008 with:

- **The Lawrence Avenue Streetscape** bids will be opened January 18th, and we will find out the results when IDOT posts all the bid acceptances on line. The work will begin early spring. The Streetscape improvements will foster the creation of a vibrant commercial and pedestrian corridor which will generate additional sources of tax revenue. The streetscape project will also enhance Harwood Heights' proud sense of community and will create a new "downtown" to serve as a gathering place and gateway to the Village. The Improvements include Parking, which will increase public parking along Lawrence Avenue with Dedicated Handicapped parking stalls. The Pedestrian Improvements include new sidewalks, crosswalks, benches, and trash receptacles throughout the limits of the project. Beautification with – Parkway trees, flower boxes, hanging planters, decorative street lighting, and accent paving and Safety Improvements of lighting and parking designs will improve visibility and eliminate unsafe parking practices which currently cause vehicles to protrude into travel lanes. Funding Sources: The cost of design, construction, and ongoing maintenance is funded by the Illinois Transportation Enhancement Grant of \$474,000 and a Special Service Area taxing district affecting only 12 property owners along Lawrence Avenue. Also, myself and Christopher Burke Engineering were able to obtain additional STP funds for the project. The STP grant is from the North Central Council of Mayors program Federal Surface Transportation funds (STP) we are receiving \$250,000 towards the streetscape project. The Lawrence Avenue Water Main Project will be completed this week; Motion I 21 is for the 2nd pay request for the Water main project.
- **Union Ridge School Crossing Improvements:** The Village Board approved the engineering and design work for the crosswalk and safety improvements, and an additional bike rack at Union Ridge School. This is possible through a CMAQ Grant obtained through my attendance at various Mayors' meetings and with the former Village Engineer. Christopher Burke Engineering is currently working on the project with completion expected late summer. CMAQ grant is sponsored by the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning and the CMAQ grant stands for Congestion Mitigation Air Quality (CMAQ); we are receiving \$83,000 for this project at Union Ridge.
- **CALEA Certification:** The Harwood Heights Police Department will be accredited by June, 2008, which means we meet all the federal mandates and standards. The benefits of national accreditation through the Commission on Law Enforcement Accreditation, is tremendous in terms of accomplishments for our administration and the Police Department; the CALEA Accreditation Process is a proven modern management model. Once implemented, it presents an agency's CEO on a continuing basis with a blueprint that promotes the efficient use of resources and improves service delivery – regardless of the size, geographic location, or functional responsibilities of the agency.
- **Sister Cities Program coming to Harwood Heights!** I am excited to report that I was contacted by representatives for two international cities for a Sister City relationship. One town is in Poland and one is in Italy. I've appointed an ad hoc exploratory committee to put information together to make a presentation to the Village Board. "It is a great opportunity for us to share cultures and learn about government in other countries, I look forward to pursuing the Sister City Program for Harwood Heights." Sister City Members: (Zdzialwa Habiera, Ross Pontarelli – are the representatives for the cities.) Members of the ad hoc committee: Tony Lostumbo, Chairman; Chris Dobrzycki, Mark

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Dobrzycki, Frank Rose, Peter Magnelli, Linda DiMaso, and Gail Burkhart. We hope to put something together soon to make a presentation to the board.

- **Rain Barrels:** Would you purchase a rain barrel to help save water? The Metropolitan Water Reclamation District plans to again offer the rain barrels in the Spring of '08. (Cook County residents \$40 each) I will provide more information on the village's website at www.harwoodheights.org, as soon as it's available.

I was invited to tour the new Eisenhower Library and I went last week, it is just beautiful and big, very big - there is an aquarium and a fireplace in the magazine room, the children's library has deep blue carpet with stars on it and a purple counter. There is a lot to see and hear about and I was there for an hour and a half. So if any of the village officials would like to take a tour, they're invited and I would highly recommend it, you can contact the library director. So if the board and the Clerk and the Deputy Clerk would like to go for a tour. They are planning the grand opening for Jan. 27th. I congratulate them for sticking to it and getting their building done the way it should be!

In not so good news, I was recently notified from Value City Department Stores Corporate Management that they were giving the village notice that Value City plans to permanently close their store in Harwood Heights on or about January 28, 2008. 117 employees will lose their jobs. I have been in contact with the leasing agent for the property, who believes that one of the principals of the leasing group is currently in the process of securing a new tenant or tenants for the property but the agent did not have the authority to release anymore information. On Dec. 27th I received an email from a Trustee copied to the board and the clerk and I quote from the email "Apparently the store was denied a 1 or 2 year lease." Anyone can "Google" Value City and see for themselves what is going on with the business; there's a lot of information on the internet. I will release factual information that I receive about the business once it is confirmed.

The Value City store in Harwood Heights is probably the largest retail business in the village and sales taxes generated by Value City is a big source of revenue for Harwood Heights. I am pleased that one of the developer/realtors that I spoke with over the past year is looking into bringing in a new store. I will let you know if and when that is ever confirmed.

Remember that a new village Comprehensive Plan was put together by myself, Trustee Mark Dobrzycki, and other officials and former trustees in 2004. The plan stressed the need for redevelopment and new sources of revenue for the village as manufacturers and factories have been moving out of Harwood Heights for the past several years. Village officials spent much effort and time in creating a Comprehensive Plan for the village to promote business growth, residential redevelopment and the regeneration of commercial areas; we have an Economic Development Plan.

Newly elected trustees have not provided any new plans or ideas to build and renew Harwood Heights as the economy continues to struggle. Instead, the new board has taken legal action against the developer of the old Village Hall property, stopping any development and any hope of new stores or new revenue for the village. I was against the suit and was in agreement with the village's Planning Commission and local residents who presented a petition with numerous signatures in favor of a new development plan presented by the developer of the old Village Hall property. Again I quote from today's Pioneer Press Newspaper article about Norridge's Mayor Earl Field; "The details are still being ironed out, but Field said it's safe to announce Norridge is getting a Starbucks drive-in. The facility will be located between the Mobil gas station and Midwest Bank, both on Lawrence Avenue at Cumberland Avenue." Wasn't there supposed to be a Starbucks Drive In at the Lawrence and Oketo site in Harwood Heights?

There is a for sale sign on the Custom Tapes property, I spoke to the owner, he is interested in selling, but is not accepting calls, I am supposed to refer developers to his broker. So if anyone has an interested developer, please have them call me. But given the situation with the old Village Hall property developer, I'm a little concerned about what type of reception we'll get with developers.

At this month's Northwest Municipal Conference Meeting we met with the representative from ComEd for the 2nd time. ComEd is in process of developing improved storm response protocols for municipalities. Due to the last storm when many trees were downed and towns had no electric for days, the Conference took an initiative to get improvements. ComEd hopes to have various improvements completed over the next year.

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I also am getting some police benefit information from the conference cities, and I will share that with the board when I receive it.

Chief Podosek informed me that the Chief of Police Association recommended that municipalities adopt the statewide smoking ban so the town can collect the fees 100%. It would make sense for the Village to adopt it - if the Village had an administrative adjudication system set up for the prosecution of ordinance violations. Norridge has such an adjudication system as part of its Municipal Code which allows Norridge to prosecute smoking violations and other ordinance violations through its adjudication system and keep the fines. As it stands now, Harwood Heights would have to prosecute violations in court and is obligated to share the fine money 50/50 with the Illinois Department of Public Health per the statute. But also I am pleased to report that all the businesses in Harwood Heights were checked in the regular premise checks and all of them were smoke free and had the ashtrays removed. All had signs up except one who has signs ordered. So I think the village is doing very well with the smoking ban.

I also have some information which was requested by a Trustee from the Police Chief that I would like to distribute to the board at this time.

On the agenda tonight is motion I 20 to approve the agreement with Red Speed Illinois so that we can begin the process for camera enforcement. Once the agreement is signed they will begin to put together a public relations campaign and start evaluating where the cameras might be installed. The board has had several discussions, meetings and visits to Red Speed about the program. So I hope the board will approve it tonight so we can move forward on this safety program.

In an update, there was a shooting in an apartment building on Harlem in Harwood Heights in December. We are still waiting for the Cook County States Attorney to give us a legal opinion on charges; through our police investigation it turns out that the victim a tenant got involved in an argument with another tenant that lives downstairs in the ground floor apartment; the offender shot the victim in his right forearm with a .25 Caliber handgun; the offender had three handguns in his apartment; a .22 Caliber, .25 Caliber and a 9mm Caliber. The offender didn't have a Firearms Owners Identification Card from the Illinois State Police so he was charged with possession of firearms without a FOID card and he will probably be charged with aggravated battery with a firearm.

I'd like to read a few letters the Chief received from Assistant Principal Michael Maguire of Union Ridge School:

Chief Podosek,

We want to send a sincere thank you to you and the entire Harwood Heights Police Department. It is a pleasure working with you and your department. Dino Giolas is a daily reminder of professionalism in law enforcement. We are fortunate to have him patrolling our grounds before and after school. He performs his job to the highest standard and his dedication to the student safety at Union Ridge is recognized by the entire community.

Dear Chief Podosek,

I just wanted to commend the efforts of Detective John DeVries. He immediately responded to a call of possible child endangerment from Union Ridge School. Detective DeVries tracked the whereabouts of the student and he verified that the child was safe. It is this type of effort that we continue to appreciate from the Harwood Heights Police Department.

Motion I 12 is for the CDBG Oak Park Water Main Project, this was discussed in several committee meetings but nothing has transpired. The village does not want to lose the Cook County Development Block Grant that we were awarded for \$65,000. If we don't use the funds this year we will lose them. The board approved a resolution and agreement for the CDBG grant project. The proposal I have on the agenda is for the project that Paul May, our engineer had originally recommended, which is from Gunnison to Sunnyside Avenue and it is for the approval of the engineering for design and construction by Christopher Burke Engineering.

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Property owners in Harwood Heights will see the City of Chicago's 15% increase on their water bills beginning with the March, 2008 bills. Information will be going out to the residents about the rate increase and where you can find more information about making sure you call in their readings if you are not home when the reader comes by. Property Owners also may now email their water readings to waterreadings@harwoodheights.org. This will be checked daily.

Public Works had several water break repairs, one being today, and has been busy with winter maintenance such as snow and ice control --up until the warm weather hit this week. They have been working with the engineer in regards to the water main installation on Lawrence and other village maintenance projects. Superintendent Wolfe and I discussed the continuance of the NIPSTA program and I am forwarding the information to the board for their action. The Superintendent does not feel that we need to renew membership with the organization; staff has already completed the recommended training last year. So the board can decide whether to put it on a future agenda or not.

The sophomore class of Ridgewood High School is conducting a recycling fundraiser. There is a bin in the lobby for cell phones, ink cartridges, DVDs, video games, laptops, digital cameras and other electronics. Let's help the class of 2010.

I'm pleased to announce I finally got the sewer bills from the city of Chicago straightened out, they had been billing us for all the penalties and never removed them from the bill; we finally got a letter saying they have adjusted the billing. Now I just have to get them to send it to the correct address. I want to thank Robbins Schwartz attorney Scott Strange for this help with this issue.

And last, I just want to say we do have the village calendars. We're looking for volunteers to help us distribute on the west-side; I was notified that the east-side is done. So, if anyone could help us distribute calendars; that would be great.

Information/Technology
Trustee Dobrzycki

First of all, I would like to respond to Ms. White. I did vote to permit you to speak longer, knowing full well that I was probably going to be, a very good chance that I would result in receiving your comments. I do offer my compromise in voting with the other trustees and when Trustee Schuepfer and other trustees on the board asked to table a motion, I have agreed even when I thought it was not the right thing to do. Why? Simply to provide more time, ample time for questions, discussion and debate knowing that if it was not a critical issue and that I needed to stand behind it, I could allow that and participate and compromise and work with the other members of the board; which in the resolution that I sponsored and it was voted on unanimously by the board, I would hope that everybody in that spirit would continue on. I do need to say though, your criticism has descended once again to cynicism and your ongoing complaints continue, but throughout the entire time you never bring ideas or speak words of compromise or offer ideas to help or benefit the village. I guess I would have to repeat what I've said previously, I do hope that you would agree that if there's one thing we're good at, it's good at being bad and maybe directly in me.

Report of the Information & Technology Committee; I would like to provide information about the Value City; I have heard many things about it, many rumors and so forth. I would like to proceed that I have spoken previously with the manager and actually there's several managers at the location here in Harwood Heights and at the time when I spoke with him in the fall, he was told, at least he told me that they had signed a new lease. In doing research on the internet I came up with various, numerous sources. In fact this is only, this collection here is only a part of what I was able to discover on the internet about Value City. And the information came from such sources, such as Business First of Columbus, similar to Crain Chicago Business, The Flint Michigan Daily News, Money Magazine, The Columbus Dispatch, a very large daily newspaper, as well as other local and daily newspapers that provided information. Value City is only a part of a Corporation called Retail Ventures; they're the parent company and they're based in Columbus, Ohio.

Now, for some additional bad news I was going to mention, thank you Marge, about the Starbucks; I'm sorry to see them not locate here in Harwood Heights. But, this afternoon I was able to locate two sites that deal with commercial properties, leasing properties; one is Loopnet and the other one just happens to be CB Richard Ellis, which deals exclusively in commercial properties. Now, I don't want to depress anyone but this information is current; the CB Richard Ellis one is current as of, verified as of January 2, 2008. What they have on their site is "Primary type shopping center, community center, total space available sixteen hundred square feet" and they have a picture of Value City. On

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the Loopnet site they also have a picture of Value City saying "Shopping center property in or near Harwood Heights, Illinois; Harwood Heights Commons, one hundred thirty-seven thousand square foot community center, anchor tenants include Value City Department Store and Marshall's. The status, it is active, this is up to date. Number of spaces, one; retail rates \$20,000 for the location. It is available." So that means no shopping for someone to come out and lease that space. So we'll find out.

The other information I do have on that, I would like to mention that Value City has had troubles for a number of times, in fact they started in December of last year to try to boot off Value City. Retail Ventures also happens to own a discount shoe store and also Felines Basement, I forget, DSW is the discount shoe store that they own. The sale of Value City stock hit a 52 week low of \$3.91 on December 17th from its high earlier this year or last year of April which was at \$23.30; meaning there's trouble in the chicken coop there. Their 24 stores sold and none of those 24 stores sold to Burlington Coat Factory were located in Illinois, because I have heard rumors that Burlington Coat Factory is going to relocate in the Value City site; that's according to the Flint Michigan Daily News. They reported none of the stores purchased by Burlington Coat Factory based out of New Jersey is in Illinois; they're all in other states, so they're not, you know according to the information from the Flint News they're not coming to Harwood Heights or at least moving from Harlem and Foster.

Other information that I was able to obtain searching the internet, the 89 stores; Value City owned 113 stores, they sold 24 in October; that was from a press release directly from Retail Ventures, parent company of Value City. They have 89 remaining stores and those 89 remaining stores are affected and probably will soon be closed; I don't have the source with me directly, but buyers for Value City quite buying items in the fall of last year. And today I was able to discover, and this is on a blocked site so I have no way of confirming if this is true or not. I just thought I would pass this along to everyone, "Value City Department Stores will soon be going out of business. Currently 13 of the 113 stores have begun their liquidation sales. The other stores will follow very soon. All merchandise has been shipped from the Value City warehouses to the stores to be sold. Effective today, all warehouse associates were laid off, actually we were laid off the week before Christmas but today it was made official. Of course they are saying it is temporary, however in the next two weeks information on the sale or closing of the company should be made public."

Now, people have complaints that we're not getting information. This came from the Sun News out of Cleveland, Ohio. I'll just cite a couple items here; this article is written by Jeff Piorkowski on Thursday, January 3rd, "However, as of the Euclid Sun Journals deadlines late last week, Burlington representatives did not return calls and the Value City representatives were unavailable for comment, City Development Director, Frank Pietravoia said he spoke that day to Value City representatives and got few details"; meaning they're not too willing to cooperate with officials to find out what's actually going on. Why, it could be because they're afraid that if they say too much it might hinder their ability to sell the remaining properties. Euclid Value City Manager, Chris Cherico referred most questions to the corporate offices, he said the store has been located at its present location since 1959 or 1960.

On Wikipedia, on their wiki answers, it says, and this once again is on a blog "Yes, after the fiscal year is over, come February '08, the numbers will force many, if not all Value City Department Stores to close down for good. Most will be sold to Burlington Coat Factory and a handful selected in very profitable markets will probably be converted to Filene's Basement Stores, but the employees will all lose their jobs as Filene's will only hire new hires." From the Flint Michigan Journal I already spoke about the stores that Burlington Coat Factory purchased and I can tell you exactly, there are 6 stores in Ohio, 2 in Kentucky, 4 each in New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Maryland and 1 each in Delaware, Georgia, North Carolina and Missouri.

Now, why is Value City in such straits? Retail Ventures ended the last two years in the red, losing \$150.9 million dollars in 2006 and \$183.4 million dollars on 2005. And from the sites that I was able to determine, such as Yahoo Financial, they're not doing too well this year as well.

Now, how does this all affect our village? I was able to pull up today, Harwood Heights; this is a real estate at Nextec.com. In January of 2005, the average sale price of homes in Harwood Heights was just short of \$350,000; in January 2006, the average price and I can't make a determination, it's between, it's about two thirds of the way between \$300,000 and \$350,000. As of January 2007, throughout the fall from August 26th to November 26th only 6 homes were sold in Harwood Heights and the average price was \$283,000. That means we went from about \$350,000 to \$283,000; I think that's a significant drop in property values and I think the resident of the village should be made aware of that.

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Forestry/Recreation
Trustee Gadzinski

Reporting from the Youth Commission I would like everyone to know that activities are in full swing for 2008. Dodge ball, Floor Hockey, and Soccer programs began this week and Gymnastics begin next week.

On tonight's agenda, Motions I-14, 15 and 17 all pertain to expenses for these programs. I ask the Board members for their approval of these motions to allow all our Youth programs to continue.

Last month before Christmas, I attended the Youth Commission Village Christmas Party...

I was dressed all in fur, from my head to my foot,

My clothes were all tarnished with ashes and soot;

I had a bundle of toys hung on my back, and looked like a peddler just opening my pack.

My cheeks were like roses and my nose like a cherry.

I had great help from members of the Youth Commission passing out stuffed animals and bottles of bubbles.

It was a great party, there was lots of children some happy to see me, some afraid, and some didn't want to see me at all.

I now had the opportunity to experience the joy of Christmas from a new perspective. It's hard for me to tell you what is more gratifying, then playing that role I played that day without letting anyone know what I played.

Harwood Heights Youth Baseball will hold registration for Boys and Girls ages 5-18 on Saturday January 19, from 10:00am to 2pm, Sunday January 20, from 11:00am to 2pm, and Saturday January 26th from 10:00am to 2pm at Ridgewood High School.

Further information can be obtained by calling 708-867-5903 or calling me directly for further questions.

Public Works
Trustee Jezierny

This is a report on the Public Works: I have been driving down the streets periodically as I always do and I have observed the Public Works employees checking on the hydrants last week before we had this warm weather and they were actually checking them out. It looked to me that they were clearing them from the ice that collects in there and to make sure that they're working properly in case we have any fires or any safety situations that we need to address. However, I am not able to give you any further specifics on Public Works activities as employees have been improperly directed not to talk to trustees and this has been told to me time and time again. This makes my job quite difficult in reporting activities for my committee actions.

On a positive note, I do want to say that a notice was received by the Illinois Municipal League regarding a New Grant Opportunity for Public Safety Lighting Upgrade Program – for as much as \$30,000 for any one public building but not more than \$120,000 per unit of government. This applies to existing indoor lighting systems in stand-alone public safety buildings. A City Hall that houses a Police Department is eligible to apply for this program. The Illinois Municipal League encourages all municipalities to apply for funding through the Illinois Clean Energy Community Foundations. Upgrading to energy efficient lighting saves energy, cuts operating costs and improves indoor lighting quality. This application deadline is March 14, 2008 and I would urge the Mayor to apply for this grant if applicable to us in our community.

Public Health & Safety
Trustee Mougolias

The Public Health & Safety Committee has been having ongoing negotiations with the members of the FOP who represent the Police Department employees, the sworn officers. The negotiations are ongoing, they are in closed session so I can't discuss them in detail here, but we are working on it. The trustees have expressed that they want to stay in the appropriation and we will be trying to stay within our appropriations.

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Ordinance/License
Trustee Schuepfer

On the report from the Ordinance and License Committee; we have several issues in front of us, so let me identify those issues. The first was that via Chief Podosek we received a request from the Norridge Park District to incorporate the Park District Conduct Ordinance; so that's under consideration. For some of you who are regular attendees you know that a representative for Skores came to a board meeting and requested an extension of hours of operation on Thursday, Friday and Saturday; that's an issue in front of us. Again, you know that we have been considering the installation of temporary speed bumps. The Mayor brought up the issue about incorporating the state smoking ban within our own ordinance structure and then you probably recall that we have in fact been talking about restricting cell phone use while driving.

What I did on January 2nd is I met with Chief Podosek because many of these issues were very, shall we say, central to his areas of responsibility within in the village and I thought he would be my best resource for information. And what ensued is probably I think we met for about two and a half hours, it was very productive and what we typically do when I meet with the Chief is, I was the trustee to whom the Mayor referred. I wrote an email to the Chief, documenting our discussion and copying the Mayor, because in order to get information from the Chief, the Mayor needs to be aware of it and then she transmits it to us and so the envelope that was passed out to all of us this evening contain the information or some of the information that I requested. It would appear that we need to ask the Mayor directly for the information about the reports regarding extending hours of operation; I believe about a year ago or two years ago there were two reports that were submitted and so I'm formally requesting at some time we get them. **Mayor Fuller:** He's still compiling the rest of it. **Trustee Schuepfer:** Okay, and so as we get the rest of this information we will either convene the Ordinance Committee or meet as Committee of the Whole.

I think that several of these issues will require more than one meeting and probably will require additional collection of information. For example, village resident, Roy Schmidt mentioned that we were looking at the extension of hours in the Committee Meeting of the Whole the other night and one of our intentions is to really get input from the residents to see in fact if this is desirable to those neighbors who are adjacent to those businesses as well.

Finance
Sewer & Water
Trustee Szlendak

For Water & Sewer, last board meeting a month ago, the Mayor mentioned that there are a substantial number of water breaks in 16 towns surrounding us. Unfortunately, it's very difficult to compare the numbers of those towns' verses ours because our town is considerably smaller than they are. Yes, they have water breaks but for every mile of lines that we've got, we have an abnormally a high number of water breaks and they are very, very expensive. I mean it's, rough numbers, we're looking at probably approximately \$200,000 a year that it costs us.

One of the developments that are coming up this spring is the replacement of the water main between Gunnison and Montrose and if we have adequate funds we'll go all the way to Forest Preserve Drive. It's an area that has a tremendous number of breaks, that's going to help us tremendously.

For the Finance Committee; we know about Value City, the whole companies having problems. The important factor here for us is that we don't need to do any research, all we have to do is look at the front window of the store and it's going to give us the whole story that they're leaving us. I'm very happy that the Mayor is reporting that there's a possibility of somebody else coming in; if they don't, it's going to hurt us tremendously next year in our budget and we're going to have to, in fact start looking at our expenditures impact this year and just because the monies appropriated does not mean that it has to be spent.

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Clerk's Report

Clerk Larson

For the February 5th Presidential Primary Election you can vote early beginning this coming Monday January 14th through January 31st; Monday through Friday, 8:30am to 5:00pm. Saturday's, 9:00am to noon and Sunday's, 9:00am to noon at the five suburban County Clerk offices, as well as the Clerk's downtown office at 69 West Washington Street in Chicago.

The closest early voting sites around us are: Elmwood Park Village Hall
11 Conti Parkway

Norridge Village Hall
4000 N. Olcott

Park Ridge Village Hall
505 Butler Place

Des Plaines Village Hall
1420 Miner Street

Voterinfonet.com is suburban Cook County's one-stop online resource for the latest election information, where with a few clicks, you can download registration forms, locate early voting sites, find you polling place and learn about candidates running for office.

And there's a map out in the foyer showing you where all the early voting sites are.

Attorney's Report

No Report

F. TRUSTEE COMMENTS

Trustee Gadzinski: I had prepared a little report; a few days ago I wrote it out, it's actually very similar in genre to a lot of comments made from the public this evening. I'm going to read it verbatim as I wrote it.

Over the last few weeks, I have spoke with many residents who live in Harwood Heights and Norridge. Instead of asking me how I was doing, the first thing they wanted to know was... what is going on between the Mayor and the Trustees?

Now I believe this is a very important question, but I myself don't have the answer to it.

I believe the answer lies within the board as a whole.

Quite frankly people are really disgusted and fed up with the bickering, finger pointing, and ongoing accusations amongst us. I personally find it very sad and depressing that a group of individuals which **I hope** love this village as much as I do, can't decide on a common ground, and work together.

I continue to believe that each day we shall turn a new leaf. We can not look into the past and dwell on wrongful doings and decisions. But we must look optimistically into the future and learn from the past.

Many times residents from other surrounding towns tell me that they're happy they don't live in Harwood Heights. I look in their eyes and tell them that I'm happy I don't live in their town.

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All I can say is that I know for a fact that this village has great potential and we can not, and let me stress **"I will not"** stand for the opinions of a few short sided individuals.

Making decision requires quarrels, fall-outs and disagreement. Our opinions and views will clash, they will clash and we will not agree too many things, but at the end, **our objective** is to all agree on one wholesome resolution.

I crave and wish that this **New Year** will bring a coalition to this board and that we will work to represent the hopes and ideas of the residents that come first and bring HONESTY and TRUST to this village. Whether that happens or not, it shall be determined individually!

Trustee Szlendak: One of the topics that was discussed over and over again is the property that was sold to Newport Builders. They purchased the property, there were lengthy hearings, there's an ordinance drawn, there's a contract drawn between the village and the developer. Everybody agreed that it's part of our Comprehensive Plan to have mixed use buildings along Lawrence. We're spending well over \$3.5 million dollars to beautify Lawrence. The builder came to us and said that they're not going to build; I wish to correct Marge, they did not plan on selling those condos for \$160,000; their plan and it's in writing, they were going to sell those condos for approximately \$230,000. Even at \$230,000 it's affordable housing in this town. They made a decision not to build, they violated the rule, they violated the contract; their offer is to build a strip mall on half of the property. Granted, once again they said "Well, we're going to bring a Starbucks", over and over they kept on dangling the Starbucks in front of us. A strip mall on half of the property is not what the vision was or is for Lawrence. They were planning on building a beautiful building; they pulled out because according to what they said if they could not make a double digit profit, they're not interested in the project. They made an agreement with our town; we expect them to live up to that agreement. Now, if that scares other developers because when they make a contract, when they make an agreement with our town, we expect them to live up to it. Yes, that's what we expect because when we sign a contract with a developer, the developer is expecting us to live up to every single word in that contract.

One other comment that I would like to make; at the Committee of the Whole Meeting we had a number of residents attending it and it was very, very productive. Marge Naegele suggested that the trustees go out and spend more time with the businesses, spend more time with the residents and get a better pulse of our town. I think it's a wonderful suggestion and I'm looking forward of spending considerably more time talking to the residents, talking to the businesses than I have in the past.

Trustee Dobrzycki: I just want to say that I'd like to remind everyone that for 57 consecutive months I've been holding my monthly "Meet with Mark" meetings and I've probably met a couple hundred people and I've heard various issues and comments and criticisms and all kinds of things, so I think I've been holding up my end of the bargain and my promises when I was first elected, that I will keep in touch with the residents. So, I thank you for those who've approached me and I look forward to continuing on with that.

As to some of the other comments made this evening, I'd like to thank Ms. White for placing words in my mouth though my attempt was a compromise. Ms. White, you attended the Monday meeting of the whole; I did not, and I heard your comments made there on tonight's agenda and I heard at that meeting there was a consensus made for a motion to reconsider the Mayor's vetos. So, you don't have to be a genius to realize that there's a motion to reconsider a veto, it's not likely that they're going to reconfirm that veto. That's at least the way I understand it. My offer is a compromise. I would think that the firm of Kuser and Raucci, a good quality law firm as I've done some research on the internet and in speaking with other individuals such as Mark Stevens, the President of the Triton College Board of Trustees, as well as I have a direct quote from Irene Moskel Del Gudis, who's an 18-year member of the Board of Trustees for the Triton College Board who told me "It's a great firm with great people and they get results". That came directly from Ms. Del Gudis; I apologize if I mispronounced her name. But my intent, realizing that there was a motion to reconsider was a compromise; compromise offering the firm of Stanley Kuser and Raucci and the Attorney Stanley Kuser, Jr. Why? Mr. Kuser spent over 20-years as Cook County Clerk, so he knows what it's like to sit on this side of the desk because he had to deal with issues concerning government and laws and so forth. He also knows what it's like to sit on the other side of the desk, he's an attorney, and he knows what it's like to stand in front of a judge and argue a case. In fact, he is one of few municipal attorneys who have successfully argued cases in front of the Illinois Supreme Court as well as the United States Supreme Court. So I consider that attorney a very qualified attorney if he could win cases in front of those courts, in those courts. I can read the continual material and I called some of the trustees and then emailed other trustees

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about this information, about this intent and I apologize I did not have much more time to present a greater package of information. But, I do believe that if we were going to hire a legislative counsel, Kuser and Raucci would be a firm that would be well respected and well used by the members of the board. That was my intent.

You say I don't compromise, when other trustee ask to table an item and when I think it's not the right thing to do, I still do as I mentioned before, I agree too. So, using your argument Ms. White, when I ask to table a motion and I'm not met half way, just refused by the others not even receiving a second on occasions, your argument would say that when the other trustees ask for a table I refuse to do that. And I can tell you right now I will not refuse to do that. I will work as hard as I have to, to work with all the other members of this board. To work with them, work hand and hand and as Trustee Gadzinski mentioned we may quarrel; we may have disagreements, that's just the nature of things. I believe and I know, my experience working in other associations as well as boards that I can work with the members of this board. To cut to the quick, I do believe though, I shouldn't say, I do believe but it seems to me that and I hope I am wrong, that no matter what I say or what I do there are some trustees on this board that will refuse to work with me. I will confirm that I was not notified previous to picking up my material from my mailbox about the Monday Meeting of the Whole and I did have something else scheduled for that Monday. Had I maybe been notified earlier I might have been able to change that date.

Trustee Jezierny: First of all I want to say thank you for coming, we have a larger crowd than normal and I think it's always good for more and more residents to attend our board meetings and become more involved in the process.

One thing I do want to say is somebody referred in one of the comments and I'm not going to get into names, I don't want to get into that, but somebody referred to the Jezierny 4. I'm a little taken aback by that because you know I vote what I feel is correct, what I feel is right and what I feel might work for the community. It doesn't always have to be in agreement with what the other trustees do. But one thing I can ensure you is there is a lot of talent on this board and we're all independent in that way. Just because one trustee brings an issue to the table does not mean that I'm going to jump and say yes for it; I want to know why, I want to know why it's brought to the table, I want to know how it's going to work, how it's a better solution than this, and outweigh it.

Some of the things we discussed today that were just mentioned here; we talked about the American Planning Association. I was involved in the American Planning Association, a few years back. That developed into the many sessions that we had with the planning consultants addressing many of the planning issues for the village and as a result we all came together and we have a Comprehensive Plan; that's working together.

The other issue is the CMAP. We've listened to many issues with CMAP and yes we had discussions and maybe questions up and back for the representatives that attended. And yes, as a result we now have Union Ridge with the bicycle path and all that.

The streetscape project, that's the SSA; yes, I wasn't in favor. I couldn't see our businesses and all our residents along Lawrence Avenue paying for this project. I was concerned about the cost and I was concerned about what's on Lawrence Avenue right now. I would prefer to see businesses along Lawrence Avenue and then do the streetscape. To me it would make more sense. But you know what, it's a streetscape project, it will still make the neighborhood look good and may entice some businesses so I went with it. I thought it was a positive thing; yes, I had some hesitations on it, but I went with it and so did the rest of the board and as a result we have that.

We also have some lighting put up on Lawrence Avenue that I also recommended; that residents brought it up to me, it was a safety hazard; we all supported that.

We have the Red Speed that most of us, I think all of us just about have either contacted or attended all of those sessions in another suburb or went online and took a look at the Red Speed. Also it was one of the presentations made at the Illinois Municipal Conference; we went to that to find out what all this involved. It seems like a very good program that would be for safety and it seems like we're all supporting it and it's also on as a resolution on tonight's meeting.

The CDBG Water Mains; we do have water mains; you see them breaking all the time. You see Public Works out there working. We are getting together on that, I think we're all in favor of fixing these water mains and getting them better so that we don't have these breaks. We can get the money that we save on these breaks and put it toward other good uses in

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the village as opposed to always fixing breaks and always for supplies to get and all the cost of the time of our Public Works staff.

We've also come together with the Odell and the Argyle street paving projects that are now completed. So there are things that we're working on for the village. Yes, there are going to be some issues as far as disagreements; but you know that's going to happen widespread in the whole community. You're not going to get the entire community, even if all of us agree to it, that you're going to say this is exactly what all of us want. So you know what I would say is share with us your disagreements, but let's not be vocal and irate and mad. Just share with us. I mean, call my phone. Share with me, I'm Chairman of Public Works, share with me what good things Public Works could do? How can we make it better? What else can we do? What would you like to see? Call my phone, leave a message at the Village Hall, 867-7200; just ask for Trustee Jeziorny's extension or any of our extensions to give us feedback or email us, we're online.

So, you're not always going to be happy with everything we do and we among ourselves are not going to be happy with everything that we do. But as I just pointed out there is progress made and hopefully we can continue this progress in 2008.

Now I do want to get into some of the agenda items today and again there might be some disagreements here but we think it is a good process to do and hopefully we'll be set for a vote from all of us today.

On the agenda tonight are several motions, one is to reconsider Ordinance 07-25, Authorizing the Trustees to Retain Legislative Counsel and want to adopt the ordinance over the Mayor's weak veto. The Mayor's veto addressed many issues, one was fiscal responsibility. I believe that using a law firm that has agreed to match the per hour rate we are currently paying for legal service, plus the fact that this firm is large enough to offer qualified services, diversified in the many areas we need without billing us for hours of research, disqualifies that claim. We will not be spending additional money. We have relocated funds from one firm to another to better service our community. And also to clarify, there's no retainer fee for legislative counsel.

I have just read Mayor Fuller's comments when she overrode the prior Mayor's veto on bringing legislative counsel back in 2003. I don't want to do plagiarism so I do want to say that all this applies; it applies today.

Also I want to address some of the Mayor's veto message, who cited that our village code indicates that all ordinances are to be discussed in committee; but, our ordinance also states that such review shall be waived by a vote of the board. The majority of the board members voted for legislative counsel.

The Mayor's veto tries to make it appear that legislative counsel is for the trustees own personal and political luxury at the taxpayers' expense. This is absurd and nothing more than political rhetoric. Legislative counsel can only be used for village business and it is our utmost concern that we get the best possible guidance for future ordinances and village issues when we are faced with important and critical decisions to make as trustees.

Let me give you some information on the firm of Ancel, Glink. All members of our village board attended the Illinois Municipal Conferences and received their copy of the Illinois Municipal Review, which is a monthly magazine that we all get in our inboxes. And we receive the Illinois Municipal Handbook for Elected Officials. You cannot avoid the fact that the firm of Ancel, Glink is highly recognized and respected.

They are often asked to write or edit books, pamphlets and articles which are widely used by both municipal officials and attorneys as well. Ancel, Glink conducts seminar presentations where they discuss the newest developments in statutory and case law; they authored the Elected Official's Municipal Handbook, published by the Illinois Municipal League; which we all get when we are elected officials and attend their seminars. They also include the four volumes of Municipal Law and Practice in Illinois which is published by the Illinois Institute for Continuing Legal Education.

The law firm of Ancel, Glink is also the attorney's for the Illinois Clerk's of Illinois Association and has given numerous presentations in the various conferences that they have. I do have some copies here at the desk if anybody is also interested in some further information about Ancel, Glink; they have a website and here are some copies. If there's not enough I'll be happy to make more; make sure you get it before you leave today. If anyone is interested in a printout, please come up.

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I'd also like to thank Trustee Dobrzycki for recognizing the need for legislative counsel since he has put forth a motion to hire another firm on tonight's agenda.

The other two motions refer to investigating the actions that took place on November 7, 2007. As a result of these actions our Superintendent was suspended with pay and then simply no longer appointed after almost 25-years of service given to our community. Anybody that knows Mr. Schroeder has known he's worked many, many years in our community, a very dedicated individual and it's tough to see someone that's a good employee, gone. As a trustee I want answers; but most importantly I just want the truth.

The Mayor's veto message gave very weak objection and does not support any statute or law where trustees cannot appoint legislative counsel and direct them to investigate public affairs or to obtain information. No trustee interfered with the Mayor's investigation on November 7th, as we were all at the Committee of the Whole Meeting when actions took place.

In her veto message, Mayor Fuller cited the *Village of Westmont v. Lenihan*, when the Westmont Village Board installed a new Village Attorney over the veto of the Mayor. That is not the case here; it doesn't apply. Mayor Fuller also cited *Sampson v. Graves*; the Sampson decision concerned the appointment of a Professional Consultant rather than a Village Attorney. In Sampson and in the case of Harwood Heights the Mayor does not have the exclusive authority to appoint all attorneys and the presence of such authority was decisive in the Lenihan case. The facts in Sampson are distinguishable from those in Lenihan, therefore, Mayoral approval is not necessary for the appointment of legislative counsel.

Don't look at this as a negative, this is a positive move, we are not spending additional dollars, taxpayers' dollars; remember your dollars are our dollars. We are out to make sure we are within our budget, to curb expenses and do the best job we can. Yes, we are going to come together on some issues and yes we are going to have disagreements; let's make them pleasant, let's move forward.

G. SPECIAL COMMITTEE REPORTS

Trustee Gadzinski: I would like to add a comment and some interesting information to Trustee Dobrzycki's Information and Technology Report:

The Cook County Board of Commissioners has proposed a new tax of \$48 per phone per year, which could raise some phone plans by as much as 131%! The proposed tax would apply to every phone – even to every cell phone and broadband high speed internet line. If passed, this tax would hit the pocketbooks of all consumers and businesses in Cook County. Now, some people and their families have 3, 4, 5 lines; each line including cell phone would be charged at a tax if this would be passed.

The new proposed tax would increase every year at the rate of inflation. This means that in five years, the total tax would be more than \$250 per phone line!

The County claims it needs the revenue from these taxes to save the health care system. We know that there are better ways for Cook County to save money, such as affordable technologies that can eliminate inefficiencies in our health care system and save millions of dollars.

Creating a new phone tax on top of the many taxes that we already have, which some of these taxes total even more than the phone bill or 50% of the phone bill is not the answer.

As of yesterday there are 6 County Commissioners against this tax hike, there are 11 Commissioners still for passing this new tax and your help is needed in urging President Stroger and the remaining 11 commissioners to listen to the concerns of their constituents and Stop the Phone Tax!

For those residents that have internet access, there is a website under the address www.nophonetax.org which you can access. On this website there is a link you click on to contact the remaining 11 commissioners by email or by phone; the nice thing about it is if you do it by email there's already a set statement in there, you just have to put your information in

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there, your name, your address, a working email, a cell phone, whatever you want to give them as to information they can contact you at. The good thing is it only took me 43 seconds to do yesterday and I got a response from some representative from the county within 2 hours; I have a Blackberry, so I got it really quick. I believe that this is great way to show our Cook County Legislators that we do not need to raise our taxes more than we already have.

NEWS FROM THE WSSRA, the West Suburban Special Recreation Association; on Tuesday January 8th, I attended a regular board meeting of WSSRA. We discussed and reviewed many things in this meeting the most important being; Special Recreation events being held by all participating Park Districts and Municipalities for the 2008 Winter Season.

The WSSRA is hosting a Golf Par tee fundraiser (spelled **Par tee**) this will be an evening full of indoor Golfing fun, at the White Pines Golf Dome in Bensenville, Illinois. The event is scheduled for January 19, 2008 from 7:00pm until 10:00pm; the donation will be \$35.00 per person paid in advanced by credit card, or \$40.00 per person at the door. Proceeds from this fundraising event will assist the West Suburban Special Recreation Association to continue their mission of providing great year round recreation for children and adults with disabilities within the communities of Berwyn, Cicero, Elmwood Park, Forest Park, Franklin Park, Harwood Heights, Norridge, Oak Park and River Forest. Please RSVP to WSSRA 24 hours a day at 1-847-455-2100. Even if you can't attend, a donation would be great to give; I am actually planning on attending this event and it's just marvelous what the WSSRA does for children and adults and anyone with special needs or disabilities. If you have any more questions on the email addresses or phone numbers, please contact me.

Mayor Fuller: I'm just going to add some comments here before we go on with the agenda because I see several members of the Plan Commission here and they were the ones that had the second hearing with the developer for the old Village Hall site, so they're aware of the information there. It wasn't a strip mall that they were coming back to propose, when they bid out the project that they had said they were going to build and it came out way over budget and they said they couldn't build that project and came back to the Planning Commission asking the village if they could change the plan especially since the village had just passed a referendum saying that they wanted to see longer density. The plan that was looked at by the Plan Commission was two separate buildings giving a look of two-stories so it would fit in with the design of the streetscape. What the board did is just right away wanted to take legal action, take them to court without compromising; again, the word compromise. Since they've been in office there has been no compromise on the things that we disagree upon. We could of sat down with the developer and if they could not build what they said they were going to build, perhaps we could of worked out some sort of revenue agreement where they could pay us something to supplement the loss that we were going to lose for the condos that we're not going to receive the real estate tax for. So that was something that we'll never know because we never sat down with them to find out if we could work something out. I don't want to spend a lot of time, because this meeting is going so long.

As far as the veto message, a lot of you weren't here last week for the veto message. I do want to say that the trustees want to hire their own attorney. I quoted from both Trustee Szlendak; in my veto message going to the Finance Committee, "we had a meeting to discuss the veto, we looked at all of the details and first of all I wish to thank our counsel, Paul Stephanides, he was very, very helpful to make sure that we do everything appropriately and legally. I want to say thank you again." And also from Trustee Jezierny from the June 14th board meeting minutes, "the other thing that I would like to report on I do want to extend a personal thank you to Attorney Metz because I had the opportunity to not only talk to him but also have some email correspondence and that was that he really helped me better understand how to be in compliance with the Open Meetings Act in specifically when addressing the role of attendance at committee meetings by nonmember trustees and what kinds of roles they really can play within those types of discussions without calling into question whether or not there's a violation of the act and I want to thank you for that clarification." The trustees themselves confirm that the village already retains a highly qualified and well respected municipal law firm that meets the needs of both the legislative and administrative bodies.

I'm not going to go into it but I have several articles, you know, Trustee Jezierny says one thing one year and something else another. Jezierny said she voted against the motions when we had to hire legislative counsel several years ago, we hired them right before we got sued by the Mayor and that was we probably saw it coming because we eliminated a job in the appropriation and the Village Attorney was telling us we couldn't do that; there's a state statute that you can eliminate the job in the Appropriation Ordinance. Jerzierny said she voted against the motions because she felt it wasn't necessary to hire other lawyers when the lawyers present have served the village well. In another piece she says "Trustee Fuller hired her own attorneys at taxpayers' expense, now resulting in two attorneys on a village that is only one square

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mile. Her extra attorney only represents four trustees on the board, not the Mayor and not the village.” And there’s a lot more here. Let’s see, what else do I have? The firm that they want to hire, it should be very interesting because in their own literature they said “individual officials in most government bodies discover that they are only part of the legislative body and possess no power to direct employees or operations.” They also say “that officials should not interfere in the day-to-day operations of the village; respect the chain of command.” So it should be very interesting, but I don’t see this as a solution to the village problems, it’s only going to accelerate the problems.

As far as them needing legislative counsel to investigate the action by the police, the police were directed by me, they were acting lawfully and legislative counsel does not have the authority to investigate the police. So, I see it as a true waste of taxpayer dollars.

H. APPOINTMENTS/REAPPOINTMENTS

I. CONSENT AGENDA

**Motion by Trustee Dobrzycki, seconded by Trustee Mougolias on Consent Agenda items I 1 – I 25:
Trustee Szlendak pulled motions I 2, I 3, I 4, I 5, I 6, I 7 and I 18 for a separate vote.**

Amended Motion by Trustee Dobrzycki, seconded by Trustee Mougolias on Consent Agenda items I 1, I 8-17 and I 19-25:

1. To approve the minutes of the Regular Board Meeting held on Thursday, December 13, 2007.
8. To approve expenditure, not to exceed **\$6,107.26**, payable to Robbins, Schwartz, Nicholas, Lifton & Taylor, Ld. September billing \$1,000.00 expensed to line item 11-02-00-7050, \$4,053.95 expensed to line item 11-02-00-7051, \$847.06 expensed to line item 11-02-00-7057, \$206.25 expensed to line item 11-01-00-7061 for FY 07/08 – Legal.
9. To approve expenditure, not to exceed **\$6,510.72**, payable to Robbins, Schwartz, Nicholas, Lifton & Taylor, Ltd. October billing \$1,000.00 expensed to line item 11-02-00-7050 \$4,767.72 expensed to line item 11-02-00-7051, \$742.50 expensed to line item 11-02-00-7057, FY 07/08 – Legal.
10. To approve expenditure, not to exceed **\$2,513.00**, payable to HD Supply Waterworks for 261 repair clamps, tile probes, expensed to line item 22-00-6014 for FY 07/08 – Water and Sewer.
11. To approve expenditure, not to exceed **\$1,155.00**, payable to Suburban Laboratories, Inc. for water testing due to water breaks, expensed to line item 22-00-00-7024 for FY 07/08 – Water and Sewer.
12. To approve expenditure, not to exceed **\$57,500.00**, payable to Christopher Burke Engineering for design and construction engineering for the CDBG Oak Park Water main project to be expensed to line item 22-00-00-7023 FY 07/08 – Water and Sewer Fund.
13. Motion to hire Nick DeGrazia, Patrick Czerwiec at **\$30.00** per night each for referring HHYC Dodeball program for eight weeks beginning January 7, 2008 to be expensed to the 11-08-00-7041 FY 07/08 – Recreation.
14. Motion to hire Joe Jacobsen at **\$30.00** per night for scorekeeping for HHYC Dodgeball program for eight weeks beginning January 7, 2008 to be expensed to line item 11-08-00-7041 FY 07/08 – Recreation.
15. Motion to hire Carol McNamara at **\$40.00** per child enrolled in the HHYC Gymnastic Program starting January 14, 2008 to be expensed to the line item 11-08-00-7033 FY 07/08 – Recreation.
16. Motion to hire Matthew Bishop and Pablo Perdano at **\$20.00** per game for the HHYC Soccer program for six weeks beginning January 7, 2008 to be expensed to line item 11-08-00-7036 FY 07/08 - Recreation.

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17. Motion to hire Patrick Czerwiec, Nick DeGrazia, Robert Furlan at **\$30.00** per night each for coaching HHYC Floor Hockey program for eight weeks starting January 7, 2008 to be expensed to line item 11-08-00-7035 FY 07/08 – Recreation.
19. To adopt **Resolution 08-01**, a Resolution Approving a Condominium Plat and Property Report for the 4744 North Sayre Condominiums Project.
20. To adopt **Resolution 08-02**, a Resolution Authorizing the Execution of an Agreement Between Redspeed Illinois, LLC and the Village of Harwood Heights for Traffic Law Enforcement System.
21. To approve expenditure, not to exceed **\$338,608.00**, payable to DiMeo Brothers, Inc. for Lawrence Avenue Water main pay request #2 expensed to line item 56-00-00-7005 for FY 07/08 – SSA.
22. Transfer from Parkway General Savings Account in the amount of **\$129,403.32** as they appear on check register **#43994** thru **#44058** for supplemental payment for December 27, 2007.
23. Transfer from Parkway General Savings Account in the amount of **\$106,589.87** as they appear on check register **#44059** thru **#44114**.
24. Transfer from Parkway General Savings Account in the amount of **\$143,385.24** to Parkway Bank Payroll Account.
25. Electronic transfer from Parkway General Savings Account in the amount of **\$14,636.30** for December 2007 IMRF Pension Fund.

A roll call vote on Consent Agenda items I 1, I 8-17 and I 19-25 resulted as follows:

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

NAYS:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT:

Motion Carried

ITEMS PULLED FROM THE CONSENT AGENDA

Motion by Trustee Szlendak, seconded by Trustee Jezierny on Consent Agenda item I 2:

2. Motion to reconsider the vote by which **Ordinance 07-25**, an Ordinance Authorizing the Trustees to Retain Independent Legislative Counsel in the Village of Harwood Heights, Cook County, Illinois was originally adopted.

A roll call vote on Consent Agenda item I 2 resulted as follows:

A YES: Trustee Gadzinski, Jezierny, Schuepfer, Szlendak

NAYS:

PRESENT: Trustee Dobrzycki

ABSTAIN: Trustee Mougolias

ABSENT:

Motion Carried

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**Motion by Trustee Szlendak, seconded by Trustee Jezierny on Consent Agenda item I 3:
Motion by Trustee Dobrzycki to Amend; no second.**

3. Motion to adopt **Ordinance 07-25** An Ordinance Authorizing the Trustees to Retain Independent Legislative Counsel in the Village of Harwood Heights, Cook County, Illinois not withstanding the Mayor's veto.

A roll call vote on Consent Agenda item I 3 resulted as follows:

A YES: Trustee Gadzinski, Jezierny, Schuepfer, Szlendak

NAYS:

PRESENT: Trustee Dobrzycki

ABSTAIN: Trustee Mougolias

ABSENT:

Motion Carried

Motion by Trustee Szlendak, seconded by Trustee Jezierny on Consent Agenda item I 4:

4. Motion to reconsider the vote to direct Legislative Counsel to perform an investigation into the police action which occurred at the Public Works Facility on Wednesday, November 7, 2007.

A roll call vote on Consent Agenda item I 4 resulted as follows:

A YES: Trustee Jezierny, Schuepfer, Szlendak

NAYS:

PRESENT: Trustee Dobrzycki

ABSTAIN: Trustee Gadzinski, Mougolias

ABSENT:

Motion Carried

Motion by Trustee Szlendak, seconded by Trustee Jezierny on Consent Agenda item I 5:

Trustee Dobrzycki: I am going to say right now that I'm going to vote against it, as I believe with knowledge presented to me from this board, I think it is not in the best interest of the board to proceed with this. It is wasteful and from what the Mayor has stated, it is not permitted by state law.

5. Motion not withstanding the Mayor's veto to direct the Legislative Counsel to perform an investigation into the police action, which occurred at the Public Works Facility on Wednesday, November 7, 2007, to determine whether any Village procedures, policies or regulations were violated or other wrongful acts committed and to direct all Village employees, officer and consultants to make themselves available when requested by the Independent Counsel and to cooperate fully and truthfully in the Independent Counsel's investigation. It is expected that the Independent Counsel will report back to the Village Board at the Board's next regularly scheduled meeting.

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

A YES: Trustee Jezierny, Schuepfer, Szlendak

NAYS: Trustee Dobrzycki

ABSTAIN: Trustee Gadzinski, Mougolias

ABSENT:

Motion Carried

Motion by Trustee Dobrzycki, seconded by Trustee Szlendak on Consent Agenda item I 18:

Motion to Table by Trustee Mougolias, seconded by Trustee Schuepfer on Consent Agenda item I 18:

18. Motion to increase the salaries for Public Works employees Maurizio Lazazzera and Ron Maslo to laborers high scale of **\$47,161.92** retroactive to January 1, 2008.

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A roll call vote to Table Consent Agenda item I 18 resulted as follows:

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

NAYS: Trustee Szlendak

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT:

Motion Carried

MOTIONS WITHDRAWN BY TRUSTEE DOBRZYCKI FROM THE CONSENT AGENDA

Trustee Dobrzycki: I would like to withdraw these motions as they are null and void by the previous ordinances that have been instituted at this time. I do want to add that I offered this as a compromise to the board. I would like to say, is Ms. White satisfied with the arrangement that has been made at this time? I would also add that I need to correct Trustee Jezierny; I did not say that we need to hire. And, after listening to Monday night's Meeting of the Whole tape, I realize my opinion does not count, as I was made aware at the previous meeting when I asked to table a motion so I could learn more about what is going on.

6. To appoint the municipal law firm of Kuser and Raucci Chartered of Chicago, Illinois as Legislative Counsel.
7. To appoint Stanislaus Thaddeus Kuser, Jr., Esq. (formerly known as Stanley J. Kuser, Jr.) as legislative attorney.

J. NEW BUSINESS

Trustee Mougolias: At the Committee of the Whole Meeting there were some recommendations by some of the residents, to maybe have the trustees be in touch with the businesses to see what's happening. Me, being the Vice President of the Chamber of Commerce, I am in touch with a lot of the local businesses and we also have Trustee Dobrzycki, who is the liaison for the Chamber of Commerce. I think it might a little, the resident asked to have all the members go in and talk to each individual business but I think that might be a little troublesome for some of the business owners. But, I would like to ask the board to consider maybe since Trustee Dobrzycki is the liaison maybe we appoint him as a liaison of the village to the businesses and let him speak to the businesses and come back and report to the board. I think that would be a good idea to keep us informed on what's going on with the businesses since we didn't know anything about Value City. So I would like to put that on the table for consideration.

K. OLD BUSINESS

None

L. CORRESPONDENCE

None

M. OTHER NEW BUSINESS

Mayor Fuller: I just wanted to read a letter I got late this afternoon from Dave Bennett, Executive Director of the Metropolitan Mayor's Caucus; "Mayor, I wanted to let you know that both Chambers of the Illinois General Assembly passed a mass transit funding package this afternoon. The bill now goes to the Governor Blagojevich for his consideration. The final bill that was adopted was HB656, the Senate adopted it on a 30-25 roll call; the House vote was 62-51. HB656 is identical to the bill you are probably more familiar with, with one difference, both bills call for increases in the RTA Regional Tax; one quarter percent in Cook County and one half percent in the collar counties and the establishment of a Real Estate Transfer Tax in the City of Chicago to fund the CTA's pension debt. The difference is that Representative Hamos's original bill allowed the collar counties to only use the additional one quarter percent for transportation purposes. HB656 expands the use of the additional dollars to public safety purposes as well."

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N. TRUSTEE COMMENTS

Trustee Szlendak: I just want to find out when did I get demoted from the Fuller 5 to the Jezierny 4?

Trustee Gadzinski: Yes, I'd just to say that I also agree with Trustee Mougolias and picking someone that would represent the businesses or an alternate in case the main person can't not make it, just to be able to come back to the Village Hall and give us an update or also let the Planning Commission and everyone else know what's going on. So, I think it's a great idea and I hope we look into that soon.

Trustee Dobrzycki: First of all I would like to thank Trustee Mougolias for making that suggestion and I'd be happy to comply with that. As the founder of the Chamber of Commerce I always found it very pleasant working with the businesses in town and it was my intent from the start, in starting the Chamber of Commerce.

I also wanted to remind everyone that when I first came on the board that was one of my initiatives to start working on a plan for the village, since the last one was made in 1970 and I was the one who contacted the American Planning Association. I brought them here to the village to help setup those initial meetings to get the ball rolling and that's when we realized the many changes that had been going on in the village.

Now, I have a little bit here to say and I just wanted to start off, I remember at the last meeting Trustee Schuepfer questioned my ability to comprehend written English and she said that I could get the answers from the last minutes. Is that correct, Trustee Schuepfer? **Trustee Schuepfer:** I said that I would help you find the information; I didn't question your ability to understand English.

Trustee Dobrzycki: I accept that. I would like to present the following correspondence that took place at that time because unfortunately I took it as an offensive remark and I accept your apology. But, this all started when I picked up the packet for the November 29th meeting and found out as a member of the Ordinance & License Committee there was an issue placed forth on voting upon legislative counsel which was never discussed when I was present at the Ordinance & License Committee meetings. Trustee Jezierny earlier said that the item does not have to be placed if a vote is taken to waive that requirement. My question here is when was that vote taken to waive the requirement for presentation before the Ordinance & License Committee? Because as I read the minutes, the vote was taken to retain a legislative counsel and to direct that legislative counsel to start an investigation; I do not remember a vote taking place to waive that requirement to be placed before the Ordinance & License Committee prior to it's being presented to the board for a vote.

Now, at the time I learned about that item I sent off some emails; one of the first emails I sent off was to Trustee Jezierny. This is dated Thursday, November 29th at 11:14am; I started off "Arlene", and you must know that we must be on good terms because I started off using her first name, so I apologize I did not address that as Trustee. "I have picked up my agenda packet and related information included was your memo of November 27th, 2007 regarding Ordinance 07-25. Please tell me at what meeting of the Ordinance & License Committee was there an agenda item listed for trustee counsel? Ordinance 07-25 was present at the meeting that the vote was taken, what the vote was for consensus and who or what attorney or firm has been chosen?" I also received an email from former Trustee, Roy Schmidt; at that time Trustee Schmidt wrote to me asking about information and I had no information. So, what I did was I wrote an email to the Chair of the Ordinance & License Committee and that is to Trustee Schuepfer and once again I addressed it by the first name, so you know we are on good terms; "I received an email from Roy Schmidt in today's email asking about an item posted on the agenda for Thursday's Board Meeting; I have no answer for him. Please tell me at what meeting of the Ordinance & License Committee was there an agenda item listed for trustee counsel on Ordinance 07-25? What the vote was for consensus? Who placed the item on the agenda and who or what attorney or firm has been chosen?" My reply was "I responded to Roy in a separate email" from Trustee Schuepfer. Then I wrote back saying, "Thank you for getting back to Roy. I would like to know as well" because I didn't know. Now, then I sent off an email to our Clerk and that was Thursday, November 29th at 12:25pm. "Clerk Larson, did you or Marcia post a meeting of the Ordinance & License Committee with an agenda item listed as trustee counsel, Ordinance 07-25? If so; when?" Her answer was, "To Trustee Dobrzycki," reply, "I did not post a meeting regarding any Ordinance meeting regarding Ordinance 07-25; Clerk Larson." The next question, "Do you have the minutes of the above Ordinance & License Committee Meeting with the agenda items listed as trustee counsel, Ordinance 07-25? If so, please forward a copy to me before tonight's board meeting." The reply was, "I have no minutes regarding this meeting" from Clerk Larson. "If you have any questions, please contact Trustee Jezierny, you would have to ask her regarding this meeting." So, I believe we established the fact

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that there was no meeting of the Ordinance & License Committee that considered this item if it was never on an agenda that the Clerk was able to post and the decision was made outside the Ordinance & License Committee. Trustee Jezierny also stated tonight that the vote could take place to waive that requirement, but no vote did take place to waive that requirement, it was directly voted on at that board meeting.

Now, just in passing here, I have a letter dated January 9th, it's addressed to me, it says "Dear Trustee Dobrzycki, you requested of me that I read the minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Harwood Heights for the dates Thursday, November 8, 2007 and Thursday, November 29, 2007 for the purpose of ascertaining whether or not questions posed by you to Trustee Arlene Jezierny and Trustee Schuepfer were answered in the minutes of those meetings? The questions you posed was in following email dated November 29th, 2007 and subsequently repeated in later emails as quoted "Arlene, I have picked up my agenda packet and related information, included was you memo of November 27th, 2007 regarding Ordinance 07-25. Please tell me at what meeting of the Ordinance & License Committee was there an agenda item listed for trustee counsel, Ordinance 07-25? Who was present at that meeting? What the vote for consensus was and who or what attorney or firm has been chosen? I know that there are four items of information requested: 1.) At what meeting? 2.) Who was present at the meeting? 3.) What the vote for consensus was? And 4.) Who or what attorney was chosen? In reading the minutes of the Regular Meeting as stated in the first paragraph above, I found that only one of the four questions was answered, namely item number 4. On page 8 of the minutes for the meeting on Thursday, November 29th, 2007, Trustee Jezierny states in her report under the title Public Works the following quote; "The other motion on tonight's agenda, I 19, is to specifically authorize the legislative counsel, the firm of Ancel, Glink, Diamond, Bush, Dicanni & Krafthefer to perform an internal and independent investigation on behalf of the trustees." The other items of the questions that you posed, namely items # 1, # 2 and # 3 were not answered in the minutes of the two meetings mentioned above. I trust this fulfills your request to ascertain to what degree your questions were answered. Respectfully yours, Frank B. Kujawinski, PhD, Retired. Loyola University, Chicago." I should add that he taught Literature and English at Loyola University.

So, I guess the professor from Loyola was able to help me not find those answers.

Trustee Mougolias: I was hoping that I didn't have to bring this up again that most of the regular attendees know that I don't like to sit up here and talk and I told the Mayor and the board that I think they talk too much. But, I think a lot of residents have come in today and I feel I should say this because a lot of people have come in here today asking for a compromise. And the board members and the Mayor keep asking for a compromise and we unanimously adopted a resolution sponsored by Trustee Dobrzycki for a compromise. But the problem is, every time someone asks for a compromise they're pointing fingers and I don't think that helps the compromise. Even some of the regular attendees of the board meeting they come in and sometimes it's in support of the Mayor and sometimes it's in support of the board; they come in asking for a compromise but they're pointing fingers at the same time and I don't think that helps facilitate the compromise.

I would just like to recommend to the board and everybody, but before I recommend, I would like to say, Mr. Wu came in the last meeting and accused or said that I was on the fence and I'd like to say thank you Mr. Wu because I am on the fence. I refuse to pick a side. I will not just vote for the Mayor, with the Mayor or just vote with the board. I vote whatever I think is right and as everyone knows, sometimes with the Mayor, sometimes with the board. And I would just like to say to the board and the Mayor, maybe you should all just get over it.

I know there's a lot of animosity here that has built up over years, but to get the job done, we do all have to get over it and try to compromise as everybody keeps saying they want to do. So, like I said, I hope that everyone just gets over it.

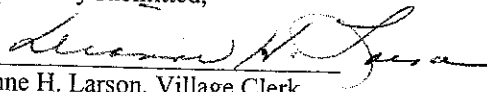
O. EXECUTIVE SESSION

P. ADJOURNMENT

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Motion by Trustee Dobrzycki, seconded by Trustee Gadzinski 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, January 10, 2008 at 9:35pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Dianne H. Larson, Village Clerk