

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

**A. CALL TO ORDER** at 7:30 pm by Mayor Margaret P. Fuller

**Minutes Amended at April 24<sup>th</sup>  
Board Meeting to include all  
Discussion.**

**B. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**C. ROLL CALL**

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.

Joan K. White, 7429 W. Winona: I would like to ask for a couple more minutes of speaking time; probably no more than three minutes, additional.

**Motion by Trustee Dobrzycki, seconded by Trustee Szlendak; all in favor.**

Joan White: Last Wednesday, at a Committee of the Whole meeting, a matter of great importance was brought up by Trustee Mougolias. He displayed a letter which was found at his back door. It was not signed, but the message read that men of the Police Department had given a vote of "no confidence" to the Chief, and the men were asking for help to solve big problems in the department. Evidently, the situation is so bad, that for the first time in the history of the village, the men have called in a union, and are willing to pay for membership to get support. My husband served on this department for over 18-years before retirement, and I do know what it is like for an officer to work under heavy department pressure and stress, an if morale is totally depleted, it affects everything they do. It could even possibly affect the security of our town; the very reason these men work here.

Mayor, you seemed to brush off this letter, saying that it was not signed, and you said, "no comment" when asked if you knew about this vote of "no confidence". I really do not fully understand what all this is about. But, Mayor, I do personally think you are wrong for not allowing the men or the Chief to meet with the board, as they have several times requested of you. It seems that you do not want to face up to the fact that you have a serious problem on your hands. Employees do not resort to such measures without good reasons. Isn't there some provision, or a designated way for these men to handle their grievances through some committee or board? This situation should be a matter of utmost concern, but, I do not think it should be followed with months and months of unending investigation and unlimited cost, the way personnel matters in the Public Works Department are currently being handled.

On the positive side at this meeting, Trustee Jezierny presented to the Ordinance Committee a new ordinance for the creation of an Economic Development Committee. Actually, Mayor, when you were trustee you brought forth such an ordinance with McCormick and Scott, when you were the Ordinance Committee Chairperson. But then, in the first

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month as Mayor, in May 2005, you had this ordinance repealed so that you alone as Mayor would be the one and only person that a developer could talk to. I think it is good to see that a door is again being opened for the trustees to participate in this process.

Still one other item came out for discussion at this committee meeting and that was when Trustee Szlendak asked Larry Laporta why he accompanied the two police officers to the Public Works Department one evening last November. It would have been a good thing for everyone to hear what Mr. Laporta had to say, but Mayor; you lifted your arm, twitched your fingers and said to him, "You don't have to answer those questions."

Mayor, why is there so much to hide from the trustees and from residents?

**Kevin Shuttleworth, 6679 W. Montrose:** Dear Mayor, Board and residents; I would like to point out and give my opinion on the 3 points that Joan White has brought up at the last meeting that I would like everyone to think about. She stated that a Mr. Garnett is not married, is not raising a family nor does he own his own home. He and I quote Ms. White, "certainly would not be involved with the difficult task of voting and making tough decisions." I ask if that is true for all officials. I believe that Trustee Gadzinski, Szlendak, Jezierny and Schuepfer are not married nor have they raised a family. I also believe that Trustee Gadzinski, Jezierny and possibly Szlendak do not own their own home. So, should they not be involved with the difficult task of voting and making tough decisions on behalf of the residents? According to Joan White, they shouldn't. Yet, Mr. Garnett is a resident, not a public official of Harwood Heights; shouldn't he be allowed to voice his opinion? Imagine if Joan White would keep her opinions to herself. Ms. White, we still allow freedom of speech in the United States.

The second point from Joan White's concern about truck parking on Lawrence Avenue. Thanks to the trustees that we have not allowed development to start in Harwood Heights, we do not have many options. Trustee Dobrzycki was talking about personal vans and work vehicles that our residents use on a daily basis to support their family' this would free up parking spaces in the village. Unlike Ms. White would like you to think of the big rigs and 40 foot trailers. Joan White should applaud Mark Dobrzycki for looking out for the residents of Harwood Heights. Again, just imagine of Ms. White would have spent this much time for the village years ago, what shape the village would be in.

The third point about an apology. I believe Mr. Garnett as a resident, he should be allowed an opinion unless Ms. White's one sided opinion is the only opinion that Ms. White feels is the only valid one.

If Mr. Hesslau, over the years on the school board did his job and kept the school in repair, I might want to listen to his opinions about the village business. Possibly the school board could rebate the taxpayers of Harwood Heights for the years of wasted water that they didn't pay for. It has been brought to the school board's attention about the waste of water over the years, yet nothing has been done. The school hasn't openly talked about any energy conservation projects and if it wasn't for the help with the Village of Harwood Heights getting them an additional parking lot on our property, our streets would be overflowing with their staff vehicles and that's just a touch of what is not correct at Union Ridge School. Thanks to the Village of Harwood Heights, the school cross walks will be improved with a grant secured by Mayor Fuller; and according to the last meeting, it totaled \$94,067.21. What has Mr. Hesslau contributed to the school?

I'd also like to make one other comment. If the newspapers would print both sides of the stories and quite putting comments, because they'll probably put down that I'm the Building Commissioner appointed by the Mayor at the end of my comments, so be it. I'm also a taxpayer, a resident and I'm raising a family here.

**Rita Lopez, 4339 N. Oak Park:** Good evening Mayor. I'm here to ask you and the board if we could please make the 4300 block of Oak Park Avenue; "resident parking only". We have so much trouble that we the residents, we can't even find parking every night and I'm asking if it would be possible to make that street "resident parking only"?

**Mayor Fuller:** I want to address this now, because we have a code and we have a process for you to go through, so I could mail that to you with your address, unless you want to stop in at the Village Hall. But I could mail you; you have to do a petition on your block and things like that. I could mail you the directions and you can call me if you have any questions.

**Rita Lopez:** Okay, that would be no problem. Thank you Mayor.

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**Herman Wu, 4746 N. Odell:** I wish to comment on Natalie Brouwer from the Citizen Advocacy Group comments made at the March 27<sup>th</sup> meeting. She stated that the Finance Committee is in violation of the village Open Meetings Act for not furnishing the minutes of their meetings within the 10-day period. They have not logged meetings going back to May. When do they expect to have the minutes posted for the record and for public viewing? When Chairman Szlendak?

The Whistleblower Act, recently passed by the trustees, Ms. Brouwer stated that the law contradicts the state law and this would open the village up for a lawsuit. Do we need a lawsuit to prove the legality of this ordinance and will the trustees waste taxpayer money to be proven wrong? Who is addressing these mishaps? As a resident of this village I would appreciate if this board gives us some answers.

If residents can find out about the Mayor's private administrative assistant jobs, why can't we find out the important village operating decisions?

And also, I would like to comment about the Pioneer Press. I don't appreciate people putting footnotes after my comments. I am a resident of the village and a taxpayer and I don't appreciate what they do.

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

**Mayor's Report**

**Mayor Fuller**

I am pleased to invite everyone to celebrate the long awaited project: Lawrence Avenue Streetscape Project Ground Breaking Ceremony, to be held April, 22, 2008 at 10:00 a.m. on Lawrence Avenue at the southeast corner of Odell and Lawrence Avenues; everyone is invited.

The Lawrence Avenue Streetscape Project was several years in the planning and development stages until formally bid out by IDOT in January, 2008. The streetscape enhancements on Lawrence Avenue include trees, planters, benches, sidewalks, street furnishings, crosswalks, underground utilities and other enhancements. I thought celebrating the ground breaking of this project on Earth Day 2008 coincided well with our efforts to provide for a greener and environmentally conscious community. 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 Citizens Utility Board (CUB), Illinois' premier watchdog group, is holding a free phone bill clinic at Scott Elementary School in Melrose Park. Bring your phone bill! Their experts will sit with you one on one and give you money-saving tips, including how to get a \$20 credit on your long-distance bill.

**Phone-bill Clinic**

Tuesday, April 15th, 2008, at 6:30 PM

Scott Elementary School, Melrose Park, IL 60164

Vehicle Stickers are now on sale and we have been very busy; the Rain barrels for water conservation are now available through the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District and other information is available in the latest news brief, there are copies in the lobby.

I am pleased to report that I attended the movie premier of "Ends Runway" a Realistic Films production; a movie written and directed by Patrick Christl a long time village resident. My family has known the Christl family for many years; our children went to school together. I was honored to be invited to the premiere. It was a very moving and well made movie. We can be proud of our local residents and I have invited Patrick to a future board meeting for his recognition, he won't be able to attend until he finishes school.

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I placed Motion I 10 on the agenda to authorize the auditors to do a compliance audit on the two Police drug and seizure bank accounts. These are audited on an annual basis financially but this will be a comprehensive compliance audit going back several years to alleviate questions.

Motion I 17 amends the snow parking ordinance to remove the confusing language about how long the ban is in affect, this was discussed in a committee of the whole. The Public Works Department needs to be able to finish plowing until 4 p.m. We will get out a notice regarding the change to all the residents before next season's snow.

The Public Works Superintendent was able to get \$200 for the old water van, that is more than we expected, and an ad went in the paper and on our website for the sale of the old vehicle, so that will be forth coming. The other items on the agenda should be covered by the committee chairs.

Motion I 11 on the agenda was discussed in committee and is for the village wide IT services for the upcoming fiscal year.

I was asked to announce that St. Priscilla's parish is having their Pierogi fest this weekend, from 4 to 8 p.m. if anyone is interested.

I do have an update on the vacant Value City site: The lease documents are in final form and are to be signed; the leasing agent is awaiting the signature copies from them.

Motion I 18 is an ordinance creating an Economic Development Committee, most municipalities who have such a committee also has an Economic Development Consultant who works with and advises the committee. I'm not going to criticize the trustees for finally doing something good, but I am concerned about how productive a committee made up of all trustees can be with these particular development and property issues. I understand that the trustees really need and have to do this committee, they have no choice; they already did a referendum to reduce density, urged voters to leave property vacant, and sued a developer. But the best thing they can do for the village is to put an experienced Trustee, Mark Dobrzycki as the Chairman of the Committee. He chaired the previous Economic Development Committee and he brought the American Planning Association in to do a work shop that got our comprehensive plan off the ground. He was involved in all the many interviews and meetings when we chose our planning consultant. He founded the Chamber of Commerce. And just recently he and I spoke with the Mayor of another town at a conference meeting about sharing an Economic Development Consultant which I highly recommend. And since he was not involved in the lawsuit or the referendum, Trustee Dobrzycki will bring the positive image that we need.

Motion I 19, is a Resolution Concerning Police Disciplinary Matters that was placed on the agenda by Trustee Mougolias, Chairman of the Public Health and Safety Committee. Trustee who drafted this resolution? **Trustee Mougolias:** Legislative Counsel. **Mayor Fuller:** Did you get the committees approval for this resolution? **Trustee Mougolias:** What do you mean by approval? **Mayor Fuller:** The committee's recommendation, all three of you recommended the Resolution? **Trustee Mougolias:** Yes, I had spoken with Trustee Schuepfer and Trustee Gadzinski and they agreed with the resolution; but I will in my comments I will be asking for the trustees to waive the ordinance review period. **Mayor Fuller:** But no public meeting was held. **Trustee Mougolias:** No there was not. **Mayor Fuller:** But you talked individually with the trustees about village business? **Trustee Mougolias:** Yes. **Mayor Fuller:** Okay, I'm just wondering when the trustees do these types of things without any public meetings. **Trustee Mougolias:** Mayor, I don't.. **Mayor Fuller:** This resolution.. **Trustee Mougolias:** That's rude, because I'm allowed to talk to trustees one at a time.

**Mayor Fuller:** This resolution gives the trustees the power to take over and decide police discipline. As Chairman, of the Public Health and Safety Committee Trustee Mougolias should know better, he should be consulting with our competent lawyers who represent the village regarding police matters regarding the authority of the Fire & Police Commission and the Chief. We already have illegal ordinances on the books thanks to the trustees. By adopting this resolution, the trustees will be in violation of the villages own ordinance. Again a huge liability for the village and the taxpayers. The village code, Illinois law, Municipal law, and the police general orders have a legal process for police disciplinary procedures by the Chief and the Fire & Police Commission. The trustee's plans to take away from the Fire & Police Commission members, who are trained and certified, and from the Police Chief who has a degree in law

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enforcement, and give the disciplinary decisions to the trustees, who are legislators, and none of whom have police training or legal back ground. The employees in the Police Department have protections already in place; they have a process and rights that are not being violated. It is not enough for the trustees to act as the Mayor, the employee supervisor, and department heads, now they want to be the Police Chief AND the Fire & Police Commission too! I find it contradicting that your alleged legislative counsel's firm publishes literature that says and I quote "Don't be one of those officials who interfere in the operation of government." Then attached to the publication for elected officials is a list of what elected officials should do, and included in the list are "not interfere in day to day operations", and "respect the chain of command."

The village attorney was contacted by the police union attorney and we met and we have an agreement in place with the Union that the police recently joined, the Illinois Council of Police. The agreement, which is a common labor practice, is to keep everything at the status quo ---until a contract is made and approved. These resolutions are in violation of our agreement with the union and jeopardizing the negotiations right off the bat by trying to change procedures during this time.

At the last board meeting, Natalie Brower, Attorney for the Citizen Advocacy Center, spoke at public comment, unfortunately Trustee Mougolias was absent. He did not hear again how the ordinance he adopted was illegal. The Citizen Advocacy Group is a good government group and I quote from the minutes because it is worth repeating: "The second issue that is troubling to us is the village Whistleblower Law that was maintained over a veto by the Mayor and a legal analysis. I can tell you that as a former litigator for 6-years in Washington, D.C., a whistleblower case and as in employment law cases the Whistleblower Law that you've enacted directly contradicts the State Law and it's illegal. And frankly, I don't know enough about the politics or about what's going on here to clarify why you would adopt a law that's clearly illegal. And the problem with this illegal law is if you try to bring charges under it, what's going to happen is the village is going to get sued and you're not going to have any defense because the law you have contradicts the State Law and it's illegal. Again, I'm not really sure why the board has approved this, but from a legal perspective there's a problem with having your own Whistleblower Law that contradicts the State Law. And our capacity as community lawyers is to point out problems like this, and again, it would fall on the citizens of Harwood Heights to pay the legal bills to clear up the mess of having two contradictory laws. So, I just caution you to be extremely careful; get the financial minutes out, avoid lawsuits and basically act in the best interest of the citizens."

Motion I 20 is another Resolution where the trustees are over stepping their authority, changing the form of government -- they have further put aside the meaning of democracy and the separation of powers that is the foundation for our country. Trustees want to decide who the negotiation team for the Police Union Negotiations are. Again, this is not within their powers and their resolution would also make their "alleged" legislative counsel who was illegally hired by the trustees, the attorney for the negotiations.

This is very disturbing. The Board received a legal opinion from the village attorney, who legally represents the village, that the Mayor and the Chief of Police are granted this authority to negotiate under state statute and the Village Code to manage, supervise and otherwise be responsible for the Police Department of the Village and its sergeants and officers. The trustee's resolution puts two trustees on the negotiating team, trustees who are legislative, have no office hours, are not involved with the day to day activities AND they don't have the Chief of Police at the table at all! I truly just can't believe it; they are refusing to give fair representation to management, when it is management whose job it is to do the negotiations! The Chief needs to represent the management of the Police Department. Officers are there to represent the officers and we both have attorneys. Then when we have something to consider it goes to the board, the trustees will be making the final approvals, now that is the trustee's job.

The Illinois State Labor Relations Board, the precursor to the Illinois Labor Relations Board, has held that a municipality's chief negotiator for the purposes of collective bargaining is the person responsible for the "day to day administration" of the municipality, and the bargaining team would also include the Police Chief and attorneys for the municipality. (*Village of Winfield, Employer, and Metropolitan Alliance of Police, Winfield Police Chapter 138, Petitioner*, 11 PERI P 2005 (1995); *Accord, Village of Burr Ridge, Employer and Metropolitan Alliance of Police, Burr Ridge Chapter, Petitioner*, 7 PERI P 2048 (1991)).

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The Mayor has the authority to appoint all "other officers" of the Village pursuant to the Illinois Municipal Code and the Village Code. (65 ILCS 5/3.1-30-5; Harwood Heights Village Code at Sec. 2.08.080.) The Board of Trustees are not given such authority. Thus, the appointment of the negotiation team for collective bargaining purposes resides with the Mayor. (*Pechous v. Slawko*, 64 Ill. 2d 576, 2 Ill.Dec. 701, 357 N.E.2d 1144, 1147 (1976).)

Based on the case and statutory law, the Mayor is responsible for collective bargaining negotiations with the proposed union representing police sergeants and officers and the Mayor is responsible for the appointment of the negotiation team. The negotiations are between the day to day management of the village and the village attorney and the police officers union representatives and their attorney.

I ask the trustees to not approve these resolutions tonight. Your actions will put a liability on the village and will cost the taxpayers huge sums of money. The US Constitution is crystal clear about the separation of powers; the Separation of Powers is The Cornerstone of American Democracy. Our different branches can disagree and we have measure in place to oversee each other, -- that is our right, but to have the legislative branch ultimately take over the duties of the Administrative branch and act in that capacity that is a true injustice to the people of Harwood Heights and our great country.

During Chief Podosek's administration he has brought about more changes within this police department than any other Chief of Police that has held this position. Insofar as promotions, five people have been promoted to the ranks of Captain, Lieutenant and Sergeant; for the first time we have Corporals. He completely outfitted the patrol division with patrol vehicles which are equipped with new mobile radios, new Panasonic Toughbook 29's, in-car video systems; rear safety seats; prisoner cages and proper lighting systems. The Mobile Data Computers will have or presently have software that has never been available to the officers including the Mobile Crash Reporting System; new Motorola portable radios, Portable Breath Testers, Tazers, car mounted rifles, and numerous other equipment and clothing for the officers.

Chief Podosek has given advancement to a number of officers in NIPAS; Greg Hauptman, Jim Blaszczyk and Biagi taking on added responsibility and participation, involved the police department with the Major Crimes Assistance Team, added more juvenile officers Jolanta Smith and Sam Palazzo, instituted and developed the first full-time evidence technician position within the department Steve Biagi, instituted and developed the first canine officer position Al Palacz, instituted and developed the first bicycle patrol unit actually utilizing full-time trained patrol officers Bob McNally, Scott Morawski, and Greg Hauptman; instituted the first School Resource Officer program within the department where for the first time our officers are in Ridgewood High School; developed and instituted a full-time traffic crash specialist Sharon Mortakis; insofar as training both Frank Biagi & Larry Maraviglia attended Staff and Command, and the countless other training classes that officers have attended under his administration;

Let's look at programs that he developed or instituted; the Roadside Safety Checkpoints, as aforementioned the School Resource Officer Program, Tobacco Enforcement Program, B.A.S.S.E.T. Program, the Senior Specialist Officers Jolanta Smith and Karen Miller, participation in the Federal JTF Liaison Program John DeVries.

Now let's take a look at the work environment the added equipment and necessities that are needed to make a good work environment for example; the ID Livescan System and the new Motorola Livescan System.

Apparently there are officers that don't want to be trained, don't want to be professional and certainly those that don't want to follow the police general orders or the chain of command. They don't want to be held accountable for their actions. But there are many happy and satisfied officers too. They have a right to a Union and a right to have a different grievance procedure. But anonymous letters are just ignorant, inappropriate. I can't believe anyone would stoop so low as Trustee Mougolias did by bringing and reading a letter such as this at the committee meeting.

Information/Technology  
Trustee Dobrzycki

No Report

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Forestry/Recreation

Trustee Gadzinski

No Report

Public Works

Trustee Jezierny

Next month is Public Works Employee Appreciation. I know that our small team of Public Works employees has really worked hard for all of us in the community. They tend to everything from water breaks, to filling pot holes, to trimming trees, to water connections, to water pressure, to plowing, to sewer and street cleaning, to maintenance of Village properties and equipment and the list goes on and on.

Yes, our small team is keeping up and doing a great job and much is credited to their training and guidance of our former Superintendent Tom Schroeder who not only hired, trained and supervised them; but also worked side-by-side with his team. As Chairperson of Public Works, I do want to express my appreciation and gratitude to the entire staff for all they do for us.

On another positive note, I'd like to talk about the Economic Development Committee. We, as Trustees and legislatures are responsible for passing Appropriate Budgets, Ordinances, Resolutions and approving expenditures. And, although we have made considerable cuts in spending, it is simply not enough!

The economic outlook for Harwood Heights has continued to deteriorate for the past several years. We still have ITW with no indication or information as to its future development. We still have Carson's Ribs sitting idle for years, along with other establishments that once produced revenue. Value City left and other retail stores hopefully won't follow. Builders defaulted on our building contracts and other Builders pulled out due to market trends.

We are faced with decisions as to how much growth, population, manufacturing and retail that we can bring to our community. While other communities grow, we continue to stand still and worse go backwards.

We have a Comprehensive plan to give us general guidelines, but we have no appropriate zoning or market analysis.

With this in mind, I have proposed to the Committee of the Whole and the Ordinance Committees to establish an Economic Development Committee. This is reflected on tonight's agenda - I-18. The committee will be comprised of all elected officials of this Board and with the Mayor as the ex officio member of all committees. The reason for all Trustees is that we ALL represent the various aspects within our community.

As Corporate Authorities, we have a challenging task at hand and that is to make a firm commitment toward growth within our community. First and foremost, we must set priorities and establish goals and action plans to achieve this challenge.

The purpose of this Committee is to meet SOLELY to focus on economic development for our community, most importantly to work together, share ideas, concepts and obtain information; so we can do our jobs. I encourage the Board to support this endeavor so we can ALL move forward in a positive direction.

Public Health & Safety

Trustee Mougalias

On the agenda tonight are two Resolutions regarding the Police Department; Resolution 08-07 and 08-08. I would ask the board to waive their right of review due to the urgency of the situation we are facing. Over the weekend the Mayor and the board received information regarding serious issues with our Police Department. I will not elaborate any further on specific issues because I do not have enough information yet, but these resolutions will be the first step to letting the board know what is going on. The board has been kept in the dark in these matters. We have been told continuously by the Mayor that there is no problem and if there is a problem it is her responsibility to correct or resolve any problems. For two months now the board knows nothing about what is happening with the Police Department or the salary

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negotiations. The Mayor is correct, it is her responsibility to oversee the staff and day-to-day operations of the village; but when it comes to spending tens of thousands of taxpayer dollars on investigations that only she knows the reasoning behind, the board must step in and make sure that the money is being spent wisely. It would be irresponsible for the board to continue to allow this to go on.

Mayor, I ask you again to let the board know what is going on. If not today, we should setup a closed session so that the board can be briefed and maybe we can work together and solve the problems. Mayor, it's not you against the whole world. The board is here, we are willing and able to help.

In regards to the police salary negotiations, the Public Health & Safety Committee had almost settled the matter when new issues came up and the Mayor decided to ban the entire committee from participating in talks with the Police Department. Mayor, I believe if you could include my committee in the negotiations based on the fact that we were so close to an accepted contract, we could be of great help to you and could get the taxpayers a much better deal.

I would like to emphasize that even though the Mayor has tried to exclude myself and the board from the negotiations and the investigations, the resolution on the agenda tonight will not exclude the Mayor from anything. I will be recommending that the Mayor be part of any negotiating teams and chair the negotiating teams.

I'd also like to add that I agree with the Mayor and all of her accommodations on the Chief and all the strides that the Police Department has made over the last few years that we have been elected here, because ever since I've been elected the Police Department has been going forward and has made major ground. But, where I see the problem with management, including the Mayor, is that she mentioned a lot of officer's names, but she didn't give any credit to any officers, only the Chief. The officers helped the Chief get to this place. So, I would recommend that maybe you look at your management and the way you're running the village, because that's where the problems are. It's not only the Mayor and the Chief; we need to give credit to everybody who deserves it.

In regards to the letter, if you listen to the tape Mayor, you ask me to read that letter in the public meeting. I did not want to read that letter. I wanted to give it to you and the board. You asked me to read the letter. So listen to the tape before you make your comments.

**Ordinance/License**  
**Trustee Schuepfer**

I have a very brief report this evening since the Mayor and Trustee Jezierny helped to provide that report for me. One is, as the Mayor pointed out that we did meet at the Committee Meeting of the Whole to consider a change in the parking restrictions during snow removal. I would just like to point out, however, that item I 16 which has a waiver of review, I requested that that ordinance be reviewed at the Committee Meeting of the Whole and that very act of consideration should be construed as a waiver, so this in my mind is a superfluous and extraneous motion on the agenda and unnecessary.

And likewise, we did in fact have an Ordinance Committee meeting this week; it was attended by Trustee Jezierny and Trustee Dobrzycki, we identified several areas in which we would continue to work. One of course is truck parking, we're always talking truck parking; another area we're looking at, and we've received a couple complaints from residents who are unhappy about unrestraint pigeons eating in uncontrolled areas. So, we're talking about how do we control the feeding of birds and we're going to go back and look at that particular ordinance on feeding animals. And we're also looking at hours of operations as I mentioned at the last committee report.

**Finance**  
**Sewer & Water**  
**Trustee Szlendak**

I'm going to be very brief, first of all, the minutes for all of the Finance Committee meetings are written. We're going to have a meeting of the Finance Committee on this coming Wednesday, April 16<sup>th</sup> for the approval of the minutes and once they are approved they're going to be given to the Clerk.

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Exactly one month ago, I said that we're not getting the financial information on a timely basis and I asked for a balance in all of our accounts, a trial balance and income and expense report by the 20<sup>th</sup> of each month; it's actually five days later than what our ordinance says. The alarming thing that happened was, actually last month our Village Accountant gave the income and expense report to the Mayor on the 26<sup>th</sup> of March. That report did not appear in my box until seven days later on April 2<sup>nd</sup>. There's no reason for this information to be held for seven days. We need the information in order to make our decisions on approving the expenditures by the village. I would like to perhaps expedite this, because this kind of a delay is unacceptable.

**Clerk's Report**

**Clerk Larson**

I just wanted to remind everyone again that there will be an electronics collection on June 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> from 9:00am to 3:00pm at Triton College. Items accepted are computer equipment, printers and all those kinds of things. Not accepted are refrigerators, stoves, dishwashers and appliances. For more details contact the West Cook Solid Waste Agency at 708-453-9100 or go on the computer to [www.westcook.org](http://www.westcook.org) for more information.

**Attorney's Report**

**No Report**

**F. TRUSTEE COMMENTS**

**Trustee Gadzinski:** I'm going to reiterate and present some more information on the topic of TV converters that the Mayor had mentioned in the newsletter that she sent out to all of you and the residents that you may or may not have received.

You may or may not know already that at midnight on February 17, 2009, all full-power television stations in the United States will stop broadcasting in analog and switch to 100% digital broadcasting. Digital broadcasting promises to provide a clearer picture and more programming options and will free up airwaves for the use by emergency responders.

You may wonder what to do. Congress created the TV Converter Box Coupon Program for households wishing to keep using their analog TV sets after February 17, 2009. The Program allows U.S. households to obtain up to two coupons, each worth \$40, which can be applied toward the cost of eligible converter boxes. Once you receive these coupons, you can go to a Best Buy, Circuit City, Radio Shack or Wal-Mart to purchase your converter box.

A TV connected to cable, satellite or other pay TV services does not require a TV converter box from this program. This is only for people who wish to continue to view their television broadcasting in analog format.

Consumers have a variety of options. Options to explore would include:

1. Keeping your existing analog TV and purchase a TV converter box. A converter box plugs into your TV and will keep it working after Feb. 17, 2009
2. Connect to cable, satellite or other pay service, or
3. Purchase a television with a digital tuner.

And I think this works hand in hand with the collection that's being done in River Grove on June 6<sup>th</sup>, it says items accepted also TV's and electronics, so I'm sure a lot of people are going to get rid of their TV's to purchase either new ones or purchase a box to replenish and allow digital format. You can request a government funded coupon up until March 31, 2009, you can request a coupon while supplies last in one of four ways:

1. going online to [www.DTV2009.gov](http://www.DTV2009.gov) (where you file electronically) or,
2. By calling the coupon Program 24-hour hotline @ 1-888-DTV-2009 (1-888-388-2009)

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For more information regarding this free program, feel free to contact me at the village hall or you can go on the village website for more information.

**Mayor Fuller:** Then I will address a couple of things; first of all Trustee Mougolias, if you look in the cabinet out in the lobby you see all the pictures of the police recommendations when they've come in here and gotten awards, gotten promotions; I always recognize them. In fact, you don't know anything about how much we recognize the police. Officer Lymberis, the Chief and I took him and his wife out to lunch downtown when he was recognized. Andy Olearczyk was there with his wife; there are so many recommendations and commendations on these police officers all the time. So, I really have a problem with you talking about something that you know nothing about.

Then I want to address Trustee Schuepfer, believes that she has the authority, one trustee, to waive a Village Code by her saying so. Someone has spoken; she waived the authority for the vote. That's unbelievable.

**Trustee Schuepfer:** I don't believe I said that.

**Mayor Fuller:** That's a Village Code.

**Trustee Schuepfer:** I don't believe I said that.

**Mayor Fuller:** And the last thing is I...I'm sorry I have the floor.

**Trustee Schuepfer:** I believe you're out of order.

**Mayor Fuller:** No you're out of order. I have the floor. And if you look at the legal bills before we had alleged legislative counsel and what we have now, you'll see a big difference. If you look at the legal bills, when I was doing the police negotiations with the full board in the past nine years and what the legal bills are now, you'll see a big difference. All you have to do is go back and look at the legal bills.

And the last thing is, Trustee Mougolias, when their committee did the negotiations they excluded the Police Chief from the negotiations. So, how could you negotiate fairly when you don't have the management at the table; that's ridiculous? So I'm going to keep making my points when I need to.

**G. SPECIAL COMMITTEE REPORTS**

None

**H. APPOINTMENTS/REAPPOINTMENTS**

**I. CONSENT AGENDA**

**Motion by Trustee Dobrzycki, seconded by Trustee Mougolias on Consent Agenda items I 1-23:**

**Trustee Schuepfer pulled I 2 thru I 15 for a separate vote.**

**Trustee Dobrzycki pulled I 19 & I 20 for a separate vote.**

**Trustee Jezierny pulled I 21 for a separate vote.**

**Motion amended by Trustee Dobrzycki, seconded by Trustee Mougolias on Consent Agenda items I 1, I 16-18 & I 22-23:**

1. To approve the regular minutes of the Regular Board Meeting which was held on Thursday, March 27, 2008.

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16. To approve a Waiver of Review by the Ordinance and Legislation Committee pursuant to Section 2.12.220 of the Harwood Heights Village Code of Ordinance 08-06, An Ordinance Amending Chapter 10 Section 10.52.150 Parking Restrictions During Snow removal Operations of the Village of Harwood Heights.
17. To adopt **Ordinance 08-06**, an Ordinance Amending Chapter 10 Section 10.52.150 Parking Restrictions During Snow Removal Operations of the Village of Harwood Heights.
18. To adopt **Ordinance 08-07**, an Ordinance Establishing an Economic Development Committee for the Village of Harwood Height, Cook County, Illinois.
22. Transfer from Parkway General Savings Account in the amount of **\$122,495.45** to Parkway Bank Payroll Account.
23. Electronic transfer from Parkway General Savings Account in the amount of **\$11,161.17** for March IMRF Pension Fund.

**A roll call vote on Consent Agenda items I 1, I 16-18 & I 22-23 resulted as follows:**

**A YES:** Trustee Dobrzycki, Gadzinski, Jeziorny, Mougolias, Schuepfer, Szlendak

**NAYS:**

**ABSTAIN:**

**ABSENT:**

Motion Carried

**ITEMS PULLED FROM THE CONSENT AGENDA**

**Motion by Trustee Dobrzycki, no second on Consent Agenda item I 2:**

**Trustee Schuepfer:** I would like to state that I move to table items I 2 through I 15 and I'd like to state my reasons for the minutes. One of my concerns is that when I looked at the check register from the last meeting, it ended with check #44475. The check register tonight begins with #44478. We have 2 checks that are unaccounted for, #44476 and #44477. One of these checks we received a copy of one of these checks in the mail from the collective bargaining agent for the police. I'm concerned about the size of the check that was written and whether or not the individual signing the check at the time had the authority to issue that check. And, I believe that we should table any expenditures until we have a full accounting for what those checks were written for and why board approval was bypassed.

**Mayor Fuller:** Well I have a very simple explanation. I have both those checks because they're voided, both checks are voided. When the bank was here and they handed me a check for \$5,000 towards the mobile speed sign at the board meeting, the next day I gave it to Martin to deposit. He deposited it in the General Fund and then we found out it was suppose to be reimbursing one of the Drug Funds and the problem right now is until we have the audit done I really don't know what Drug Fund it was suppose to reimburse. So, I decided not to reimburse anything until we get this all cleared up; so both the checks are voided and those are the two missing checks. And I guess that's my fault for not giving them back to Linda in time; but I have those in my office, they're both voided. And that's just to clear up the \$5,000 check that we got from I believe it was Plaza Bank, it was a donation and we were just moving the money from one fund, out of the General Fund to the correct fund where the payment for the mobile speed sign was made. But, until we get verification that falls correct with which fund it should go to I prefer not depositing it anywhere, so I voided the checks, so the moneys not anywhere and won't be moving anywhere until we get the clarification from the auditors.

**Trustee Schuepfer:** What was unclear to me was did you have the authority to write a \$5,000 check without the board approval?

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**Mayor Fuller:** I don't think; it wasn't spending any funds, it was moving the fund to the right, to the correct account. It wasn't spending any money. It was putting the donation that we got into the correct fund; but they're both void right now. So, I haven't done either, so I don't know what your problem is; it was a donation from the bank. I believe that you're exaggerating the situation as usual, so there's nothing wrong going on here, both checks have been voided. You can go ahead and pay these bills. If I knew exactly where they were in my office I'd go get them now but my office is pretty much a mess; so I could have copies of them for you tomorrow if you prefer.

**Trustee Schuepfer:** Well, can we have an opinion from the attorney that you have the ability to write a \$5,000 check without the approval of the board?

**Mayor Fuller:** Well they're both voided, so in sense I have not.

**Trustee Schuepfer:** You did initially do that and from what we understand directed someone to deposit it, at one point the check that we've seen to the Federal Drug Seizure account.

**Mayor Fuller:** No. You know what, you don't have any facts. You don't have any facts, so I would recommend that you wait until you get some facts because that's not the case.

**Trustee Schuepfer:** I believe that's what Trustee Mougolias has been asking for, for the last two months.

**Mayor Fuller:** You know I answer any questions any time somebody comes to me. You came to see me, I gave you the zoning map, we had a nice conversation, and then I come to the Committee meeting and nobody what's to do anything. You know, let's make it public who's playing games here. You want information, call me, ask me; I'll give you the information.

**Trustee Jezierny:** Is there a motion on the floor to table?

**Trustee Szlendak:** Pardon me, wasn't there a question directed to the counsel?

**Attorney Paul Stephanides:** There's a twist on your question because it is donated funds. Donated funds can be appropriated to the correct account, there's no question about that. So, there wasn't actually an expenditure of funds if it's donated funds, so the check is being written for it to go into the proper account. There is really nothing in your Village Code that would be violated.

**Trustee Schuepfer:** What was the timeline between the donation and this check being written?

**Mayor Fuller:** I think it was quite a while actually because that's one of the things when I get the financial statements from Martin, I am kind of his proof reader because we are so short staffed and he's doing all the entries into the system plus he's making the report; so I review them before we distribute them to see if I can catch anything. If I see a line item for \$5,000 sitting there, I'm going what is this?

**Trustee Schuepfer:** I guess I'm just concerned what the expedience was that you chose to write the checks rather than, and then since you said I don't have all the facts, process them or then void them without notification to us about the error.

**Mayor Fuller:** There was no action by the trustees; there was no new money, spent money, it was, next time I'll tell Martin to do a wire transfer, that's what they usually do in the accounting department, right, when they have to do the payroll deposits, we move money from one back account to another to pay the bills.

**Trustee Schuepfer:** I believe we authorize this.

**Trustee Mougolias:** Mayor, can I ask a question? How come there were two checks though, because the copy of the check that we got for \$5,000 which was the entire amount of the donation?

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**Mayor Fuller:** Exactly. And when I got a call from the attorney about the issue, I issued the check to the other fund because it seemed like I had issued the check to the wrong fund but then I decided to void both of them because to tell you the truth until we get the audit done I'm not sure which fund it should go to. I think there's a lot of confusion between the two Drug Funds; there's a State Fund and there's a Federal Fund and I want them audited completely.

**Trustee Mougolias:** I believe though those funds are supposed to be used only for drug enforcement.

**Mayor Fuller:** One of them.

**Trustee Mougolias:** One of them, so.

**Mayor Fuller:** Do you know which one?

**Trustee Mougolias:** I actually believe the State Fund is supposed to be the restrictive one. But we were using that money to pay other expenses.

**Mayor Fuller:** I don't know; that's what we're going to find out with the audit. We're going to go back to see how long this has been going on.

**Trustee Mougolias:** I believe the copy of the check that we received was to the State Fund or the Federal Fund, to the Federal Fund.

**Mayor Fuller:** It was to the Federal Fund because that's the one I assumed would have been reimbursed because that's the one that could be used for whatever.

**Trustee Mougolias:** What made you change your mind, why would you take that check back and write one to the State Fund?

**Mayor Fuller:** I really, obviously if I got a phone call saying that there's a problem with the check, but I don't think we ever signed the second one.

**Trustee Mougolias:** What I'm trying to figure out is who would have called you, why would someone have called you to tell you that there's a problem with the check if you wrote the check to transfer the funds, where was the problem with the check?

**Mayor Fuller:** Well, the letter that you got was kind of the problem. Instead of the employee coming to me or to the Chief asking what the concern was, he went outside the chain of command and outside the village and asked the question. The question ended up coming back to me through another party, so, there is some concern there. But, if you're trying to make something criminal out of this, go for it, because there's nothing wrong here.

**Trustee Mougolias:** I'm just trying to figure out why the two checks.

**Mayor Fuller:** It was \$5,000 of donated money.

**Trustee Mougolias:** That's what I'm trying to figure out.

**Trustee Szlendak:** Was the donation made to the Drug Fund?

**Mayor Fuller:** It was made to the Village of Harwood Heights if I recall.

**Trustee Szlendak:** Okay, but why are we putting it in there if it's made out to the village; it should go into the General Fund.

**Mayor Fuller:** It did go into the General Fund, so we can keep it in the General Fund, that's fine.

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**Trustee Szlendak:** Okay, thank you.

**Trustee Schuepfer:** Then I guess my concern is why are we reimbursing either the State or the Federal Drug Seizure Funds? I guess I'm unclear what prompted your action to write either one or both of these checks.

**Mayor Fuller:** Because the mobile speed sign was purchased through one of the funds and the money from the bank was suppose to reimburse the payment for the mobile speed sign. That's the connection. I'm confused of the two funds so I'm not going to address it until I get some answers from the auditors.

**Trustee Szlendak:** Mayor, who paid for the speed sign? Who wrote the checks and who signed the check?

**Mayor Fuller:** That was paid for out of one of the drug funds, whoever has the authority to do that.

**Trustee Szlendak:** And who was that person that wrote that check?

**Mayor Fuller:** You know I don't have that information now, we're doing an audit. If you would approve it we can have the audit done and get the answers that you want, if you really want the answers or if you want to just make this big to-do, you can do that too.

**Trustee Szlendak:** I'm not making a big to-do; I mean what has happened is you're the one that wrote the checks.

**Mayor Fuller:** I didn't write the checks from the drug fund. I don't even see the drug fund.

**Trustee Szlendak:** I understand, but.

**Mayor Fuller:** I have no idea.

**Trustee Szlendak:** So you have no idea, you did not see who wrote the checks? Who wrote the check for the speed sign?

**Mayor Fuller:** I think that that's the information that we're trying to get with this audit. If you would like to do the audit, then let's do the audit. If you don't want to do the audit then you can just keep going. I assume the Chief of Police or whoever is in charge of the drug fund, you have a copy of the check. Is that the one?

**Trustee Szlendak:** I don't have it with me.

**Mayor Fuller:** That's the one that...

**Trustee Gadzinski:** I have it.

**Mayor Fuller:** No, that's the village check that I signed. The one from the drug fund I don't know offhand.

**Trustee Mougolias:** I have a copy of the village check.

**Mayor Fuller:** You know, nobody took money and went and brought themselves a Cadillac and you know nothing, nothing's going on here. The bank donated money, it's got to go to the right place, and we need to find out what that is.

**Trustee Schuepfer:** It sounds like the donated money was in the correct place in the General Fund, if that's where you're drawing it from to reimburse one of the drug funds and the problem seems to be that the speed sign was essentially paid for out of an incorrect fund. Is that your understanding up to date?

**Mayor Fuller:** That's a possibility.

**Trustee Schuepfer:** Okay.

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**Mayor Fuller:** I admit that's a possibility and that's why we're looking into it.

**Trustee Schuepfer:** Then here's my concern, it's my understanding and if we could refer to I 10, that Sikich, the Village Auditor, has in fact already audited those funds with the exception of the current year and the current audit that's on going. Why would we go back and spend the money to go to 2001 instead of simply identifying when the checks were written against the account.

**Mayor Fuller:** Because there could be a pattern in that fund of how it was being used that determined...

**Trustee Schuepfer:** Aren't there state federal guidelines that we can simply take a look at the checks and see whether or not they're in compliance as opposed to expending even more money?

**Mayor Fuller:** You know if you want to do that, go for it.

**Trustee Schuepfer:** I think we want to know who's writing the checks, what are the guidelines for the State and Federal Seizure Fund and if in fact there were inappropriate expenditures against those funds, and who's responsible for it. You just told us you're not responsible for those two funds.

**Mayor Fuller:** I'm sorry; if I was I'd take responsibility. I do take responsibility, but I don't have anything to do with those two funds. If you don't want to do all the way back, somebody's going to have to go back and make sure that... You know you want to target a particular person or a particular year and you don't want to go back and see if this was done previously that preempted the reason that he used this check, this account; you know, I would prefer to do it thoroughly.

**Trustee Schuepfer:** Well, your actions when you wrote the check would seem to me that you were dealing with the here and now as opposed to going back and doing an investigation until 2001. You are attempting to remedy what had just recently happened and for whatever reason decided not to reimburse either the State or the Federal Fund. I think the first point of order is to find out what's happened in this most current case and then decide based on that finding whether or not we expend more money to go back to 2001 and investigate a pattern.

**Mayor Fuller:** Well, it's up to the board, it's on the agenda. Do you want to change the dates; that's your prerogative? You could do it for one year, you can change it whatever way you want to. If you don't like this motion, you want to table it; you want to put a different motion next week, that's fine too.

**Trustee Schuepfer:** Can we have copies of the checks that you said are voided?

**Mayor Fuller:** Yes, definitely, I'll get those tomorrow.

**Trustee Schuepfer:** That's 76 and 77. Can we have copies of the checks that were drawn from either the State or Federal Fund?

**Mayor Fuller:** You know I'm not going to do that work, if you want to come in I'll give somebody the file and you can deal with it.

**Trustee Schuepfer:** No, no, I wasn't asking you personally to copy them, but will you make it available for the trustees.

**Mayor Fuller:** Yes, actually the files are all in the Police Department, so.

**Trustee Schuepfer:** Again, I believe that your chain of command is that I can't go to the Police Department and ask for them.

**Mayor Fuller:** Well I wouldn't suggest it, but if you would let me know when you're coming then I could have the files there to be copied; that's what I would ask.

**Trustee Schuepfer:** Okay.

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**Trustee Jezierny:** I second the motion to table until we see the voided checks and make sure that they're not cashed and make sure we have some answers to these questions.

**Motion to Table by Trustee Schuepfer, seconded by Trustee Jezierny on Consent Agenda items I 2 - I 15:**

2. To approve expenditure, for emergency ratification, not to exceed **\$5,800.00** payable to DiMeo Brothers for emergency repair on water main, to be expensed to line item 22-00-00-6014 FY 07/08 – Water & Sewer.
3. To approve expenditure, not to exceed **\$51,176.75** payable to HD Waterworks Supply to replenish stock of meters and supplies, to be expensed to line item 22-00-00-6016 FY 07/08 – Water & Sewer.
4. To approve expenditure, not to exceed **\$2,075.00** payable to Colesimos Construction to fix concrete that was damaged due to water breaks this past winter, to be expensed to line item 11-06-00-7045 FY 07/08 – Public Works.
5. To approve expenditure, not to exceed **\$3,800.00**, payable to Pioneer Transmission Service, Inc. for emergency repair of 1995 Chevrolet dump truck, to be expensed to line item 11-06-00-7044 FY 07/08 – Public Works.
6. To approve expenditure, not to exceed **\$1,160.00**, payable to Corpro for Cathodic Protection Corrosion Control System for water tower for contract May 1, 2008 thru April 30, 2009, to be expensed to line item 22-00-00-7042 FY 08/09 – Public Works.
7. To approve expenditure, not to exceed **\$15,602.00**, annually payable to RICOH Business Solutions for 36 month lease with \$1 buyout for 4 RICOH copier machines beginning May 2008 and to authorize the Mayor to execute the agreement to be expensed to line item 11-03-00-7038 FY 08/09 – Finance.
8. To approve expenditure, not to exceed **\$2,750.00**, payable to Imagetec LP for the return of 5 Toshiba copier machines at end on lease to be expensed to line item 11-03-00-7038 FY 07/08 – Finance.
9. To take from table and approve expenditure, not to exceed **\$2,812.36** check #44458, payable to Vandewalle & Associates, Inc. all to be reimbursed, to be expensed to line item 11-01-00-7061 FY 07/08 – Administration.
10. To retain Sikich, Professional Services and Support, to perform a compliance audit of the Harwood Heights Police Drug Enforcement Fund a/c 198089 and the Asset Seizure Fund a/c 1511949/1498459 from May 1, 2001 to date at the hourly rate of Supervisor \$138 per hour and Partner at \$275 per hour – FY 08/09 – Police.
11. To approve expenditure, not to exceed **\$32,241.60**, payable to Nabtech for IT Services for the period May 1, 2008 to April 30, 2009 for the Harwood Heights Village and Public Works offices and the Police Department, including 911 Center and squad adjustments, and to authorize the Mayor to execute the agreement – FY 08/09, **\$17,338.20** for Police and **\$14,903.40** to Finance.
12. To approve expenditure, not to exceed **\$11,014.63** for Invoice 217364 thru 1-31-08, payable to Robbins, Schwartz, Nicholas, Lifton & Taylor, Ltd: **\$1,000.00** Retainer expensed to line item 11-02-00-7050, **\$4,452.50** Legal expensed to line item 11-02-00-7051, **\$41.25** expensed to line item 22-00-00-7022 – Water Legal, **\$2,220.88** Zoning Fees reimbursable, expensed to line item 11-01-00-7061, **\$165.00** Legal Notices expensed to line item 11-02-00-7053, **\$3,135.00** Liability Claims expensed to line item 11-02-00-7055 FY 07/08 – Legal.
13. To approve expenditure, not to exceed **\$17,968.22** for Invoice 217371 thru 2-29-08, payable to Robbins, Schwartz, Nicholas, Lifton & Taylor, Ltd. **\$1,000.00** Retainer expensed to line item 11-02-00-7050, **\$3,457.29** expensed to line item 11-02-00-7051 Legal, **\$123.75** expensed to line item 22-00-00-7022 Water Legal, **\$82.50** expensed to line item 11-02-00-7054 Real Estate Transfer Legal, **\$6,762.92** expensed to line item 11-05-00-7031 Police Legal, **\$3,778.01** expensed to line item 11-01-00-7061 Zoning Fees, Reimbursable, **\$2,763.75** expensed to line item 11-02-00-7055 Liability Claims FY 07/08 – Legal.

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14. To approve expenditure, not to exceed **\$3,403.31**, payable to Ancel, Glink, Diamond, Bush, DiCianni & Krafthefer, PC for January billing expensed to line item 11-02-00-7057 FY 07/08 – Legal.
15. To approve expenditure, not to exceed **\$1,404.48**, payable to Ancel, Glink, Diamond, Bush, DiCianni & Krafthefer PC for February billing expensed to line item 11-02-00-7057 – FY 07/08 - Legal.

**A roll call vote to Table Consent Agenda items I 2 – I 15 resulted as follows:**

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

**NAYS:**

**ABSTAIN:**

**ABSENT:**

Motion Carried

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**Motion by Trustee Dobrzycki, seconded by Trustee Szlendak on Consent Agenda item I 19:**

**Trustee Dobrzycki:** Just to make sure that Trustee Gadzinski and the rest of the board understand what the past motion was and let me reiterate it, it is to vote on the motion itself for its passage or for its defeat. Is that correct? Okay, thank you. My questions or comments on this is that there have been many items mentioned concerning this resolution and item I 20 on the agenda, Resolution 08-08, as well as this item we're presently voting on 08-07. There has been many good points made on both sides of the coin, but also at the same time I have been given great doubt as to the legality of the resolution and its intent. I have to state my only contact and my first contact with the organization that sent the letter was requesting action and as was mentioned by the Mayor that there is concern about the legality of that action. I'm deeply disturbed in speaking with Trustee Mougolias earlier; I don't know all the officers personally or intimately, my relationships with the officers as a resident prior to being a trustee, as well as being a trustee on the board, has always been in best light. It once again comes back to this concern of the legality and doubts and the issues that have been raised, I believe are very grave. I would ask that before we vote on these resolutions, that they be tabled so we could further discuss them in a Committee of the Whole meeting, so we get a better understanding of what is being asked and what is going to be done with these issues.

**Trustee Gadzinski:** I have a question regarding these two motions to Trustee Mougolias. On Resolution 08-07, just a quick question, was this drafted by the attorney?

**Trustee Mougolias:** This was drafted by the legislative counsel.

**Trustee Gadzinski:** By the legislative counsel; okay.

**Trustee Mougolias:** And I would like to add that this is not changing really anything in the Police Department; this is actually saying that they can still do their jobs; the Chief can still do his job, still discipline, so can the Fire Board and Safety, but it has to come to the Board of Trustees before they act.

**Trustee Gadzinski:** Disciplinary?

**Trustee Mougolias:** Yes. We have to see it before they do something on their own actions, and it's only for 30-days; it's a halt for 30-days.

**Trustee Schuepfer:** I would like to reiterate the 30-day period, it really is a moratorium; in sense a cooling off period and as many of you have heard, there have been all different types of reports of what has been going on. Both Trustee Mougolias and I were in the negotiations as part of the negotiation team. One of the areas of concern expressed to us was the disciplinary process; at this point I think it is good to implement a cooling off period. I think that we want no further action that can damage police moral, whether we're talking about the Captain, whether we talking about the Chief, whether we're talking about the rank and file, we need to decompress and this is exactly what this motion does. It does not usurp anyone's power; it is a cooling off. This is a very common practice when you have an escalation of tension and it is in the best interest of the health of this village to take this action.

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**Trustee Szlendak:** I agree with 30-day moratorium. You know there are a lot of unknowns out there; an anonymous letter came in and there was a no confidence vote taken. I don't know if it was taken or not? The Mayor is not telling us anything about it. Something like that is a serious, serious occurrence. It jeopardizes the safety of all of our residents and this is something we need to take a look at and see what's going on with our Police Department.

**Trustee Dobrzycki:** With this what was said about a cooling off period, I would be in favor of such. I am not a police officer. I am not trained nor do I understand the inner workings or depths of the Police Department. I'm not a Police Captain, I'm not a Police Lieutenant, I'm not a Police Chief and if this resolution and its intent is only to be of a cooling off and not to take any other steps I believe we could simplify this resolution and remove all the extraneous language in it. And once again, if you talk about the moral of the department, I think the moral of the department could be jeopardized in adopting a resolution which has such language that could be misinterpreted and misunderstood.

**Mayor Fuller:** I just don't know why you think that there needs to be a cooling off period because you don't even know what the issues are. If we can't get to the bottom of issues, if we received information from certain officers and we need to interview them now before they forget about different things that have been said, you're making sure that that never happens. By the time we can interview them, they'll have forgotten about everything and this department has a right, other officers have a right to have their concerns addressed. You want to limit your concerns to certain officers. I think that something's wrong there.

**Trustee Mougolias:** Mayor, can I just reiterate. It doesn't say that you can't interview them; all the day-to-day operations are the same. It just says that there will be a 30-day moratorium on any disciplinary action without board approval. It doesn't say that the Chief cannot interview them; it doesn't say that the legal team that you have expensed thousands of dollars to every day interviewing them, cannot interview them. You can still do it, but the discipline which was a major issue with the negotiations will be held off so that everybody can cool down. We don't want to end up putting the village in some kind of position to be sued by employees because we are somehow disciplining them. It may be construed that we are trying to union and I don't want that to be construed.

**Mayor Fuller:** We have an agreement with the union to keep the current practices that we have right now; that's what we're supposed to be doing. We're supposed to be keeping everything status quo; you're changing it and you don't have the authority to do this. You don't have the authority to be the disciplinarians for the Police Department.

**Trustee Mougolias:** Like I said, we are not the disciplinarians. We will take the recommendation of the Chief, who is the disciplinarian, but he will not be able for 30-days to enforce a discipline without our approval. He will still be deciding if someone needs discipline or not and recommend it to us.

**Mayor Fuller:** The police answer to me. You've got it in your document that the Chief of Police "shall halt any and all disciplinary investigations against police officers for a period of 30-days"; so yet, you're trying to stop us from even talking to anyone. You're stopping the fair treatment of certain officers for the benefit of others.

**Motion to Table by Trustee Dobrzycki, no second.**

**Trustee Dobrzycki:** It seems to me that it's becoming very political and I can't approve something that is becoming or could be political and I say no.

19 To adopt Resolution 08-07, a Resolution Concerning Police Disciplinary Matters.

**A roll call vote on Consent Agenda item I 19 resulted as follows:**

**A YES:** Trustee Gadzinski, Jeziorny, Mougolias, Schuepfer, Szlendak

**NAYS:** Trustee Dobrzycki

**ABSTAIN:**

**ABSENT:**

Motion Carried

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**Motion by Trustee Dobrzycki, seconded by Trustee Gadzinski on Consent Agenda item I 20:**

**Trustee Gadzinski:** A comment directed towards Trustee Mougolias. Again, I would like to ask was this Resolution 08-08 drafted by the legislative counsel; the "alleged" legislative counsel.

**Trustee Mougolias:** Yes, it was drafted by the legislative counsel.

**Trustee Gadzinski:** Okay, thank you.

**Trustee Dobrzycki:** Do I properly understand the comments that were just made by Trustee Gadzinski that this document was drafted by the "alleged" legislative counsel?

**Trustee Gadzinski:** The "alleged, alleged" counsel. Right?

**Trustee Dobrzycki:** Okay, thank you. Am I to understand that there's currently an agreement right now with this institution known as ICOP's?

**Mayor Fuller:** We have a gentlemen's agreement, yes, that everything stays status quo until the negotiations are approved; there's no changes.

**Trustee Mougolias:** We don't know that, though; this is the first time we're hearing this.

**Trustee Schuepfer:** And a correction if it was in fact status quo based on the advice of the Village Attorney, the negotiating team, which you were invited to be part of, consisted of the Health & Safety Committee with Trustee Mougolias as the lead negotiator, Trustee Gadzinski and myself on it, so if we're maintaining status quo, that fact was the agreement. And I'd also like to express my concern that our Village Attorney at one point when we spent a great deal of time discussing the composition of the negotiating team gave us one opinion and now has changed.

**Attorney Paul Stephanides:** Never gave that opinion. You have my opinion in writing pursuant to this board's request and it was issued when the question that was asked by Trustee Mougolias and the board consented that I issue an opinion that the Mayor has authority over collective bargaining negotiations, you have that opinion. I stick by it, I stand by it 100%.

**Trustee Schuepfer:** Then I believe then I am bound by the closed meeting in which you stated something quite differently and preceded your written opinion for at least a period of two months.

**Attorney Paul Stephanides:** There was no union at that time, you have a union now. You have collective bargaining negotiations that go through a formal process pursuant to State Law. This is not pursuant to the Village Code; this is pursuant to the Illinois Labor Relations Act and that's why you have that opinion and I stand by it 100%.

**Mayor Fuller:** The status quo only affects the salary and benefits and discipline and procedures, it doesn't have anything to do with your committee. There's a motion and a second, is there any other questions, Trustee Jezierny.

**Trustee Jezierny:** Yes, I just want to say that just from what we're hearing tonight, there's a lot of investigations going on, there's a lot of, if this is true, this vote of no confidence; but what's not happening in here is there is no communication between this board. I think there are a lot of questions, certainly in my mind; there are answers that are not being answered. I am concerned that this is escalating into a financial burden for this community. I am concerned that there could be a potential safety concern for our residents and our community, especially now if we're involving the Police Department. So, hopefully we can all open up, meet and find out what is really going on.

**Trustee Gadzinski:** In my opinion, I believe that the status now is kind of like a garden hose. You crimp it from the top, no water comes out. That's all.

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**Trustee Szlendak:** I would like to amend the motion on page 2, Section 2 that reads, "The Corporate Authorities hereby appoints the Mayor and the Trustees", I would like to suggest Trustee Mougolias and Trustee Schuepfer to be on that negotiating team.

**Mayor Fuller:** Do you accept the amendment to the motion? Trustee Dobrzycki, there's an amendment to the motion.

**Trustee Dobrzycki:** I would like to see this tabled so we get further information and I agree with Trustee Jezierny. I would like to be included in all the discussions among the other trustees, so I would know what's going on and what offers are being proposed or what ordinances are being proposed, so that I could be included in this closed loop and therefore, if I would be enclosed in this matter of information among the board, with the exception of myself, I would then be so inclined to vote in the affirmative. But, at this point, I would like to see this motion tabled.

**Mayor Fuller:** There's a motion to table, is there a second? There's no second. So I need a motion to approve with the amendment. Motion by Trustee Szlendak, seconded by Trustee Jezierny.

**Trustee Dobrzycki:** Point of order. Since I made the initial motion to approve, shouldn't I be asked to amend that motion? Can I ask the Village Attorney?

**Mayor Fuller:** I asked you if you were willing to amend it and you said you wanted to table it.

**Trustee Dobrzycki:** But I didn't give an answer whether I would amend it or not.

**Mayor Fuller:** I'm sorry.

**Trustee Dobrzycki:** And, I would like to ask the Village Attorney if that's the proper procedure.

**Attorney Paul Stephanides:** Yes.

**Trustee Dobrzycki:** Since I see no willingness to work as the resolution that I promoted and was approved by all of the board, the entire board, voted and since I see up to this point, whenever I asked for additional information or for time for more consideration, a simple table, and every single time I've asked for something to be tabled, no one comes up with the seconded. But, in other circumstances and other cases, when someone else asks for something to be tabled and I have seconded that motion, so what incentive do you give me, right now, to amend my motion as made by Trustee Szlendak. Why? Whenever I ask something from you, you give me nothing. Now, you ask something from me, why should I give it to you? Can you please answer that?

**Trustee Mougolias:** I'd just like to say that I spoke to you Trustee Dobrzycki about this ordinance, a lengthy conversation and you called me the day that you received my email which the ordinance didn't come up and I tried calling you back the same day and I did speak with you about this ordinance. So, I am trying to keep you in the loop and I am trying to work with you, but these resolutions are on the agenda tonight because they are an urgent matter. And if we table them for two weeks, that's what I'm afraid of. That we may cause more hostility in the Police Department if the way things are going, everything is going and with the negotiations and we may cause undue stress on the residents, the employees of the village and everyone in town because of the way the negotiations are going now. And the board is asked to make decisions now on financial matters and keep approving bills when we have no understanding of what's happened. Every day you see our legal bills that the Mayor had proposed, they're very high this month, with all these investigations and all these matters where the board has no knowledge of what's happening. So, to delay this resolution, I think in my opinion it would be very bad, so I won't, I will not support your table; other circumstances maybe I would, but not tonight.

**Trustee Jezierny:** Just a short comment. Trustee Dobrzycki, I too, want to know what is going on and I think that as Trustee Mougolias said with the emergency that's involved with a very important issue that we have that's evolved and the fact that we will have members of our own board as part of the bargaining agreement team, I think then we will start getting information from what's going on and then we can be involved in the loop. That is why I am approving this resolution.

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**Mayor Fuller:** They're putting themselves on, but not the Chief of Police. I can't believe it. Who knows about the day-to-day operations of the Police Department? Who's going to answer the questions about what needs to be addressed in the negotiations? This is the most ridiculous offer I've ever seen in my life. So, Trustee Dobrzycki will you amend your motion with the new information?

**Trustee Dobrzycki:** I withdraw my motion.

**Mayor Fuller:** Motion is withdrawn.

**Motion by Trustee Szlendak, seconded by Trustee Jezierny, as amended.**

**Trustee Dobrzycki:** There's a period for comment after that motion? I think that would be the proper procedure.

**Trustee Szlendak:** We're in voting.

**Trustee Dobrzycki:** After a motion is made and seconded there's time for debate and discussion.

**Trustee Szlendak:** I apologize.

**Trustee Dobrzycki:** Okay, I believe I'm right in this circumstance and I accept your apology.

**Mayor Fuller:** It's a new motion, Trustee Dobrzycki:

**Trustee Dobrzycki:** There has been enough doubt cast this evening and once again I believe myself to be a friend of every member of the Police Department, whether I know that officer well or at a distance, I would like to take into consideration all the concerns of every officer in the department. I believe there is a procedure currently setup that if there is discontent, concern, if someone is not being treated fairly, there's a way for that to be addressed. Once again, I am not the Chief, I'm not a Captain, I'm not a Lieutenant, I'm not a Corporal or a Sergeant; I am not even in charge of the day-to-day workings of the shift as they go on. I do talk with Trustee Mougolias and I also do hear and talk with Trustee Szlendak. They addressed these issues towards me. Once again, the first I've heard about ICOP is about the letter that was put in my mailbox and then one that was delivered to my house by the post office. The issues here, once again, are very important and grave and once again, I would like to talk with the other members of the board so I can get a better understanding of what their concerns are; I've only spoken with two; and those on separate occasions, so to make sure that I didn't break the Open Meeting Act or neither did the trustees who spoke with me. I can't understand what is going on here and what is the concerns that are being addressed. I have enough doubt that I cannot clearly and with good conscience cast a vote this evening on this issue.

**Trustee Szlendak:** Two points that I share with Trustee Dobrzycki; there's a lot of questions, a lot of things that I'm hearing out there that I don't know, truly don't know what's going on. The concerns, I know what the concerns are. I'm hearing an extremely low morale among our police officers and I'm hearing of a "no confidence" vote. That's exactly what I'm concerned about; we have to know what's going on.

**Trustee Gadzinski:** I believe I can answer the comment made by the Mayor a few minutes ago about why don't the trustees put in the Chief as a part of the negotiation team. Well, I believe, as I recall, we had asked the Chief many times to attend these meetings and he didn't. So, that's why I am voting, the way I vote on this, because I believe that I hold certain people, I don't know the word, I show more responsibility towards the people that we just put in; that's all. Asking someone to do something and they refuse to do it, they refuse to show up; I take them out of the picture.

**Trustee Dobrzycki:** Once again, I agree with Trustee Gadzinski, if he makes his comments about the Chief and if those are true and accurate, then, I think we should even pay more attention to an anonymous letter that has no credibility, no origin. Who do we refer to when we receive an anonymous letter? There were many comments made about the past political campaign when one of the former trustee's wrote a letter or his wife wrote a letter, at least you had an origin to that letter; you had a source to go back to. But, when I received throughout the past several years anonymous letters, who do I turn to for more information? How am I suppose to believe a letter that someone writes or creates and does not even

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have enough confidence to stand behind that letter? So once again, there's mention of a "no confidence" vote, I have never been informed of a "no confidence" vote, so how am I supposed to believe that. If I receive an anonymous letter, making some type of accusations, how am I supposed to believe that letter? Are we not, all of us here, every single one of us, from Trustee Gadzinski, Trustee Jezierny, Trustee Mougolias, Trustee Schuepfer, Trustee Szlendak; are we not honest enough? Are we not forward enough? Can our people afraid to address concerns to us; that they have to come to us in an anonymous letter, in an anonymous form. If someone should write anything about anyone of us and it has happened to me, an anonymous letter, how am I supposed to address that? Are we supposed to let the whims of someone to write a letter without putting their signature or their name behind it and how would you feel if such was done to you?

**Trustee Szlendak:** Trustee Dobrzycki, I think you might have hit the nail on the head. One of the reasons that somebody was afraid of signing that letter was that they were afraid of repercussions. I mean there's a very simple resolution to this letter; I just want to ask the Mayor, has there been a "no confidence" vote taken by our police officers, a "no confidence" in the Chief. Has that happened or not, why are dancing around this thing; has it happened or not?

**Mayor Fuller:** I have no comment. But I can tell you I have a whole file of anonymous letters, I've been in office nine years. I take them and I stick them in a folder, I've never made any of them public but if you would like me to I've got some real dozes. It would probably embarrass quite a few people.

**Trustee Mougolias:** Mayor, I don't think anybody said they believed the anonymous letter, I myself, I don't believe the anonymous letter. But, that's why we're asking the questions and that's why we're trying to pass these resolutions, so we can get to the bottom of this. And if it is true, if it's not true, none of us can say and nobody said they believe it.

**Mayor Fuller:** No; you're just trying to control the whole village. Now you want to control the Police Department, that's pretty scary.

**Trustee Mougolias:** No Mayor!

**Mayor Fuller:** The trustees want to control the Police Department. That's like the lowest level you can get, that's the sign of a terrible village when the public officials are controlling the Police Department.

**Trustee Mougolias:** I'm not finished talking yet, but it doesn't say there that the trustees control, it says the Mayor is the chief negotiator; it says the Mayor is in on the committee, it doesn't say the trustees are trying to control. And the only reason why we are looking to add the trustees to the committee is because we were so close in negotiating a contract and then you banned this committee from finishing the negotiations. You stopped us from talking with the Chief or talking with the officers.

**Mayor Fuller:** I didn't ban you.

**Trustee Mougolias:** Yes you did.

**Mayor Fuller:** I was following proper procedures.

**Trustee Mougolias:** No, no.

**Mayor Fuller:** There's a chain of command.

**Trustee Mougolias:** You gave an executive order.

**Mayor Fuller:** There's a proper procedure for the officers to go through; they weren't talking to trustees in a closed...

**Trustee Mougolias:** No, no, we were in negotiations.

**Mayor Fuller:** Well, no, not negotiations. Your committee gives recommendations; there's no law that says your committee negotiates on behalf of the village. The ordinance says that you give recommendations to the board and I reached that level...

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**Trustee Mougolias:** And we were giving recommendations.

**Mayor Fuller:** The police know the chain of command and they should have followed it, and you what the chain of command is and you should have followed it; we addressed it. We went as far as we could; if the police want a union that's their prerogative.

**Trustee Mougolias:** We understand that completely Mayor; and I believe that's the truth, if they want a union it's their prerogative. But, for all the years of the village it never had a union until you stepped into the negotiations..

**Mayor Fuller:** No, no, no, no, no, no.

**Trustee Mougolias:** That's when they decided to go union.

**Mayor Fuller:** We never had a union because I was involved in the negotiations; letting, letting three trustees run the negotiations was one of the worst mistakes I made.

**Trustee Mougolias:** Mayor, we will see...

**Mayor Fuller:** Oh honestly, say that, I made a mistake.

**Trustee Mougolias:** The truth will come out in the end and the smoke and mirrors you're....

**Mayor Fuller:** I made a mistake. I let three trustees run negotiations and now we're in turmoil.

**Trustee Schuepfer:** I understand that the Mayor has pride in her negotiating ability and I'm sure her relationships with all of the trustees give ample testimony to her skill at reaching consensus. However, one of the concerns that I have and many of you know that I am involved with labor, I've sat on both sides of the table; I have extensive negotiating experience but one of the oldest adages whether you are labor or whether you are management is that labor, a union, never stands a chance at organizing unless you have inappropriate management or poor management.; poor communication, intimidation, threats and secrecy. So, yeah, we fill the bill and we opened the door for collective bargaining. And I think it is a good step, I think that we should do whatever we can to support the police officers whether they choose to be organized or not, but it is inappropriate for us to throw mud. We need to move forward with this and stop spending money on this.

**Mayor Fuller:** But you can throw mud, like you just did. It's okay for you to throw mud.

**Trustee Schuepfer:** Mayor, since the moment I stood up....

**Mayor Fuller:** Do you have some proof; do you have proof of any of these allegations you just made?

**Trustee Schuepfer:** Poor communication, I think we have witness of it right now.

**Mayor Fuller:** No. There's a separation of powers between the administration and the legislation. I can't come and tell you every time an employee comes crying to me with a complaint; that's not something I go to the board with.

**Trustee Schuepfer:** No, but we have a history of Trustee Mougolias coming to you over and over again whether it was in closed session, open session or meeting with you in your office...

**Mayor Fuller:** And I addressed and I addressed the issue the proper way...

**Trustee Schuepfer:** Excuse me, and he asked you if we could meet in closed session with the Chief to raise some of the concerns that were emerging during negotiations and Trustee Mougolias can confirm this, you would not discuss it. I know that police officers came to you to discuss their concerns and you would not discuss it.

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**Mayor Fuller:** That's false; give me the names.

**Trustee Schuepfer:** Again, that's why we have the Whistleblower Protection Act.

**Mayor Fuller:** No, no police officers came to me to discuss this. I called in three officers to ask them their concerns, but no officers came to me. I contacted the officers and asked them for their grievances, I got nothing. So, you know, keep with your deluded facts here, but you're off, you're really off track. There's a motion and a second; will the Clerk please call the roll.

**Trustee Jezierny:** Excuse me, Mayor, I don't think you answered Trustee Szlendak's question.

**Mayor Fuller:** What was the question?

**Trustee Szlendak:** Was the "no confidence" vote taken?

**Mayor Fuller:** I told you I'm not discussing anything about an anonymous letter.

**Trustee Szlendak:** No, no, it has nothing to do with the letter.

**Mayor Fuller:** I have no comment.

**Trustee Szlendak:** Was there a "no confidence" vote.

**Mayor Fuller:** I have no comment.

**Trustee Szlendak:** Can you tell us why you don't have a comment?

**Trustee Gadzinski:** Lack of communication.

**Mayor Fuller:** I have no comment. There's a motion and a second, will the Clerk please call the roll.

**Motion by Trustee Szlendak, seconded by Trustee Jezierny, as amended.**

20. To adopt **Resolution 08-08**, a Resolution Designating the Village Bargaining Team to Negotiate a Collective Bargaining Agreement with the Police Union.

**A roll call vote on Consent Agenda item I 20 resulted as follows:**

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

NAYS:

PRESENT: Trustee Dobrzycki

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT:

Motion Carried

**Motion by Trustee Szlendak, seconded by Trustee Jezierny on Consent Agenda item I 21:**

**Trustee Schuepfer:** I think we have to amend it, given the fact that we tabled some of those items.

**Mayor Fuller:** If they're pulled off the agenda they'll automatically be pulled; the Clerk let's Linda know.

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21. Transfer from Parkway General Savings Account in the amount of \$110,499.02 as they appear on check register #44478 thru #44545.

**A roll call vote on Consent Agenda item I 21 resulted as follows:**

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

NAYS:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT:

Motion Carried

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**J. NEW BUSINESS**

None

**K. OLD BUSINESS**

None

**L. CORRESPONDENCE**

None

**M. OTHER NEW BUSINESS**

**Mayor Fuller:** I have some other new business; we met in Committee of the Whole and I informed the board that the Helper Bus needed repairs, the wheelchair lift is broken and the drivers obtained an estimate. But the trustees wanted more, they wanted someone to compare all the service to the vehicle and I don't have anyone to do that. You've eliminated the job of the Vehicle Inspector and the office help, so I need your help trustees. I'm looking for a volunteer to come in one day and go through all these bills and match them up for the service so we know what we need to get approved for the Helper Bus. Otherwise, it's just going to be on the emergency procedure that we're doing now when something happens, they bring it in. So I'm looking for a volunteer, perhaps the Chairman of Public Health & Safety Committee can come in and go through all the bills for the services.

**Trustee Mougolias:** Mayor, I will volunteer, but would I be able to take them.

**Mayor Fuller:** Not the originals. You can't take the originals.

**Trustee Schuepfer:** And I'll help him.

**Trustee Mougolias:** Then I'll have to come in. Can I make copies?

**Mayor Fuller:** You can't come together, that's a violation.

**Trustee Mougolias:** Can I come in and make copies and do it at home.

**Mayor Fuller:** Sure.

**Trustee Mougolias:** Then I will come in tomorrow morning.

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**N. TRUSTEE COMMENTS**

**Trustee Dobrzycki:** Today in the neighborhood newspaper, the 4<sup>th</sup> edition of the Harwood Heights Chamber of Commerce Community Guide was distributed and as my contribution to that guide, I would like to read the following:

As the founder of the first ever Harwood Heights Chamber of Commerce, I am proud to say our organization is a success because of the ability of many to work together towards a common goal.

A little over four years ago, I started working to put together an organization that fosters cooperation and unity in promoting the local businesses of Harwood Heights. Other villages and towns have grown and become better communities because of the interaction between businesses, local government and residents.

The Harwood Heights Chamber of Commerce is an important step in telling others about the wonderful opportunities for business and consumers alike in our town. Many new friendships and relationships have been made and its benefits everyone who works, shops and lives in the Harwood Heights area.

Next time you visit a member store or business of the Harwood Heights Chamber of Commerce tell them thank you for investing in our community. And if the shop is not a member, tell them about the Harwood Heights Chamber of Commerce. Chamber President Anthony Pinello of Rex Italian Foods and I have dedicated ourselves to welcoming new associates and making them part of an ever growing successful team.

This community guide is only one of many benefits our town receives from the collaboration between businesses and residents. Working together we can promote our community, our businesses and our town and make it a better place for all.

I'd also like to add that in that letter that I received, I find it very unusual that for the first time that I receive information from any type of bargaining unit or union, it is from an organization called ICOP. Since the first time I came on to the board and worked with the police in any type of discussions or deliberations or debates, the police have always informed me that they were associated with the Fraternal Order of Police. So I find it highly unusual that the Harwood Heights Police Department that for so many years associated itself with the Fraternal Order of Police, now I receive communications from an organization called ICOP. My question is why? Why all of a sudden the change from this association with this organization after so many years that they've worked together with?

**Trustee Jezierny:** I'll make this brief. Senior citizens from Harwood Heights, Norridge are invited to attend a 'special' Town Hall meeting at noon on April 25 at the Senior Assistance Center at 7774 W. Irving Park in Norridge to discuss issues of concern to Senior Citizens. Many of your elected officials will be present. So please make a note of it and let your voice and ideas be heard!

I also attended the premier of Patrick Christl's short film "Ends Runway" which was produced and directed by Patrick Christl, our own Village resident.

I am pleased to announce that his short film, "Ends Runway" has been accepted by the film festival in France and he will be traveling to France for this debut. Patrick is a hard worker and I'm sure he will make a lot of contacts to help him achieve his dream and success.


**O. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

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P. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Trustee Gadzinski, seconded by Trustee Jezierny 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, April 10, 2008 at 9:23pm.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Dianne H. Larson, Village Clerk