

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
OF THE VILLAGE OF HARWOOD HEIGHTS  
HELD ON THURSDAY, MARCH 26, 2009**

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

**B. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**C. ROLL CALL**

Mayor	Margaret P. Fuller
Clerk	
Deputy Clerk	Marcia Pollowy
Trustees	Mark Dobrzycki Michael Gadzinski (Absent) Arlene Jezierny Demetrios Mougolias (Absent – had requested Electronic Attendance) Therese Schuepfer (Absent) Lester Szlendak (Absent – had requested Electronic Attendance)
Attorney	Paul Stephanides

Due to a lack of a quorum, the Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees could not be held to conduct village business on the 3-26-09 agenda items. Because of the lack of a quorum present, Trustee Mougolias and Trustee Szlendak could not attend the meeting through electronic attendance.

**Mayor Fuller:** As you know Chief Martin Podosek has left the Harwood Heights Police Department, his last day was March 20th; he was officially sworn in as Chief of Police on Monday, March 23rd for a city of 13,000 residents. I congratulate Chief Podosek on his new career and I wish him the best. I am proud to have worked with him. He has been an exceptional professional leader for our Police Department. I thank him for his 30 years of dedication and service to our community

**Now I want to introduce and recognize our new Acting Police Chief Frank Biagi.**

I am pleased to announce that I have appointed Lt. Frank Biagi as Acting Chief of Police. Concerned with public safety and security, I made this appointment immediately on March 20<sup>th</sup> at 5 p.m. The village can't be without a responsible person in the Police Department and I am pleased that Frank Biagi accepted the challenge. Chief Frank Biagi began his career with the Harwood Heights Police Department in July 1989 after graduating from the Chicago Police Academy.

In January 2001, he was promoted to Sergeant and also became a member of the Northern Illinois Police Alarm System team.

In October 2004 Chief Biagi was promoted to Lieutenant in command of the Harwood Heights Police Department Patrol Division. Coinciding with that promotion, Chief Biagi was also promoted to a command position within the NIPAS Emergency Service Team.

During his tenure with the Harwood Heights Police Department, Chief Biagi has successfully implemented various programs. These accomplishments include the implementation of Rapid Response (Active Shooter) and implementation of a Less Lethal program and policy. As a Firearms Instructor, Chief Biagi was also active in modernizing Harwood Heights' Firearms Training and Records program.

In January of 2007, Chief Biagi graduated from the Northwestern University Center of Public Safety, "Police Staff and Command". He finished in top 10% of his class.

Most recently, in March 2009, acting Chief Biagi was accepted, and is currently attending, the Western Illinois, School of Business, "Police Executive Role in the 21st Century" Executive Management Training Class.

I have worked with Frank Biagi over the past 10 years that I have been in office and I am confident in his leadership capabilities. He has always been up front with me and I respect that. Lt. Frank Biagi has 20 years of police service and was currently the patrol division commander. Acting Chief Biagi appointed Lt. Larry Maraviglia as Acting Police Captain. Lt. Maraviglia is currently the 911 coordinator.

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It is extremely important that the village have solid police and emergency management at all times. Residents can rest assured we are in good hands with acting Chief Frank Biagi taking on the huge responsibility of the police department and the village's overall security. With Chief Podosek recently leaving, the department is short staffed. I am confident in acting Chief Biagi's leadership capabilities and his commitment to the village. I want to thank Chief Biagi for accepting and taking on this position and the huge responsibility for our village. I also want to congratulate acting Captain Larry Maraviglia who Chief Biagi chose for 2<sup>nd</sup> in command, he is another great asset to our department again; we're in good hands.

Mayor Fuller swore in appointments.

Acting Chief Biagi gave an update on the new officer that just graduated and the second officer who will be completing training in the next few weeks.

**Honoring the service of John H. Lemke to the youth of our community AND as a Very Important Resident!**

John moved to Harwood Heights in May of 1952 when he was 7 months old!

John graduated from Maine South High School, went to Harper College then went to George Williams College and graduated with a degree in Health and Physical Education. He then was a substitute teach for 4 years. He is the owner of his family business the Remember Frame shop in Arlington Heights.

John began playing in the Harwood Heights Baseball Program as a youth. He began coaching in baseball in 1971 until 1986. In 1971 he was appointed to the Youth Commission where he is still serving at the present time. John previously worked with Len Ferguson with the basketball program until he took it over in the late 1970's. (Leonard Ferguson is now the Mayor of Salem, Illinois!)

Don Helms was the Chairman of the Youth Commission when John first started. John also coached the ice hockey program for years when that was part of the village's program. Later John also ran a summer track and field program in the village. John started coaching high school track at Arlington High School in 1978 to 1984 which included the pole vault, high jump, long jump and triple jump. He then went to Rolling Meadows High School in 1985 to the present. He has mainly coached pole vault the last 10 years. He coach 37 state qualifications during his coaching years. This year his senior pole vaulter was 2<sup>nd</sup> highest in the nation. **On January 10<sup>th</sup>, 2009 Coach John Lemke was inducted into the Illinois High School Track and Field Hall of Fame.**

John continues to run the basketball program in the Harwood Heights Youth Commission Programs. He runs beginning, intermediate and advanced levels. John is a great asset to our youth, and our youth programs. John is one of those people that can always be counted on to help and go the extra mile. He volunteers to pick up t-shirt, medals and trophy's. When the score board broke he jumped right in to find a replacement. When the adapter broke he was came to the aid of the program.

On behalf of the Village of Harwood Heights, myself, the board, and the Historical Committee I want to first congratulate John on being inducted into the Illinois High School Track & Field Hall of Fame. I also want to recognize John Lemke's lifelong commitment to the youth of our community and for his participation in quality programs for young people that keep young people active and involved in rewarding experiences. He indeed in one of our Very Important Residents!

Mayor Fuller presented Plaque.

**Vehicle Sticker Winner: Michael Lechowicz**

This year's Harwood Heights' vehicle sticker was designed by **Michael Lechowicz**, a senior, age 17, who happens to live in Norridge but won the Harwood Heights Vehicle Sticker design-- the theme this year is "Ridgewood High Schools 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary."

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In Recognition of Michael Lechowicz, senior at Ridgewood High School, for his design of the 2009-2010 Village of Harwood Heights vehicle sticker. The theme for the sticker is Ridgewood High School's 50th anniversary which he titled "Building Better Futures."

Thank you Michael for your participation and your design.

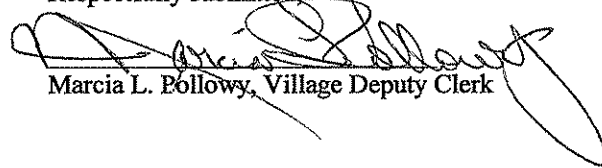
I also invited the Ridgewood High School Student who designed the Norridge vehicle sticker, Laryssa Kwiatkowski, who happens to live in Harwood Heights. She was not able to attend.

As it turns out the Harwood Heights winner lives in Norridge and the Norridge winner lives in Harwood Heights!

Mayor Fuller presented Plaque.

Meeting adjourned at 7:50pm.

Respectfully submitted



Marcia L. Pollowy, Village Deputy Clerk