

**MINUTES OF A COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
OF THE VILLAGE OF HARWOOD HEIGHTS
HELD ON WEDNESDAY, MARCH 4, 2009**

- A. **CALL TO ORDER** at 7:10 pm by Deputy Clerk Marcia Pollowy
- B. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**
- C. **ROLL CALL**

Mayor	Margaret P. Fuller (Absent)
Deputy Clerk	Marcia Pollowy
Trustees	Mark Dobrzycki (Arrived 7:26pm) Michael Gadzinski Arlene Jezierny Demetrios Mougolias Therese Schuepfer (Arrived 7:20pm) Lester Szlendak

In the absence of Mayor Fuller, Deputy Clerk Pollowy requested a nomination for a Temporary Chair for tonight's meeting. Trustee Mougolias nominated Trustee Jezierny as acting chair, seconded by Trustee Gadzinski; on a voice vote, all in favor.

Other Attendees

Larry LaPorta, Nabtech

Dave Osterkamp, Forward Communications

Larry Maraviglia, Harwood Heights Police (Did Not Attend tonight's meeting)

Tom Bobula, Harwood Heights Purchasing

D. **AGENDA ITEMS**

Voice & Data providers for 2009 thru 2010

Tom Bobula provided the trustees with a spreadsheet of possible vendor quotes, indicating that the Village and Police Department voice and data contracts will expire May 9, 2009. Tom reviewed the quote of our current carrier Call One and Time Business and then presented and reviewed the 4 other cost quote options; Option 1: Call One and Forward, cost savings \$5,919 or -17%; Option 2: Global Com and Forward, cost savings of \$3,165 or -9%; Option 3: AT&T and Forward, no cost savings, increase of \$1,268 or increase of 4%; and Option 4: Cbeyond and Forward, cost savings of \$7,190 or -21%. Option 4 also includes waiving a one time installation fee of \$1,900. Option 4 requires an ISDN card for a charge of \$2,732, the payback on the Option 4 ISDN card in number of months is 4.6. Option 4 also has off-site storage capability (3 separate locations) for a cost of \$30 a month for 80GB of storage; this is an option that the Police Department needs per Chief Podosek. The off-site storage capability has to do with Homeland Security and Tom Bobula explained that none of the other carriers who presented quotes have the off-site storage capability. The voice & data service covers the Village Hall, the Police Department, Public Works and several other telephone line locations (Water Tower). Discussion ensued regarding the T1 lines; the village has 1 T1 line on the police side for internet and 1 T1 from the state for leads, the village side has Comcast Cable.

Larry LaPorta, (NABTECH) and Dave Osterkamp, (Forward Communications) explained the process to facilitate the transition to Cbeyond. Mr. Osterkamp has worked with Cbeyond for the last 5-years; he also represents 40 other companies for voice and data services and indicated that the advantage of Cbeyond is that their service is all automatic and their turnaround time is much quicker than the others. The other carriers take about 30 to 45 days to install; Cbeyond averages only a couple of weeks, unless it's an emergency situation. Mr. Osterkamp will work with Tom and Larry to get all the numbers changes over for the new systems; no new phones are needed for the switchover.

Tom Bobula, Larry LaPorta and Mr. Osterkamp reviewed all the contracts with the board. The consensus of all the trustees was for Tom Bobula to place the 4 motions discussed on the 3-12-08 board meeting agenda for board approval.

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Request from property owner to discuss water billing

Mr. Lou Grande, owner of the strip center on 4728-4742 N. Harlem Avenue, requested that the board consider mailing the water bills to the strip center tenants rather than to the property owner; Mr. Grande's building has 4 stores which have individual meters, original construction; the tenants pay the electric, gas and water, Mr. Grande is responsible for the water bill. Out of the 10 stores in the strip mall, the other 6 have apartments upstairs and the landlord receives the bills. Mr. Grande currently receives all the bills and has to deliver them to the individual tenants. Mr. Grande contacted some of the other villages in the area, Norridge, River Grove and Elmwood Park, who indicated that the bills go to the shop tenants who have a lease and not the building owner. Discussion ensued regarding our current water billing system, who's responsible for the payment of water bills, the idea of, recommended by Mr. Grande, possibly setting up an escrow accounts on new store tenants, like other villages do, and if a change of address can be made for the tenants in his building, so the bills are mailed directly to them for payment. Trustee Szlendak made a suggestion that possibly a copy of the bills can be sent to Mr. Grande so he would have a record of tenants that are in arrears on their water payment; Mr. Grande agreed, if it's possible to do.

The consensus of the board was to recommend through the Mayor to have the water billing clerk, Briggett, change the addresses on the water bills to reflect Mr. Grande's tenants and to send a duplicate copy of the bills to Mr. Grande so he's not holding the bag if one of his tenants falls behind in payments, leaves and does not pay the final water bill, or any other situation where the bill is not paid.

The Ordinance Committee will also look into this matter for further discussion and will research the ordinances of the villages that Mr. Grande mentioned.

Mr. Grande wanted to bring up another item for discussion that he mentioned to Mayor Fuller regarding renting space for a massage/massage therapy office. Mr. Grande stated that the Mayor said that Harlem Avenue is not zoned as an adult area. The definition of a "massage therapy" office would have to be reviewed by the Village Attorney and the interpretation of the village code. The trustees advised Mr. Grande that this item was not on tonight's agenda for discussion and they did not have any background information.

Approval of Committee of the Whole Minutes

Approve the Committee of the Whole Meeting minutes for 8/6/08, 9/17/08, 10/15/08, 10/31/08, 11/5/08, 11/20/08, 12/3/08, 1/7/09 & 2/4/09.

Trustee Szlendak moved to approve the minutes of the Committee of the Whole meetings for the dates listed, seconded by Trustee Gadzinski.

A roll call vote to approve the Committee of the Whole minutes resulted as follows:

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

NAYS:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT:

Motion Carried

E. PUBLIC COMMENT

Joan White, 7429 W. Winona: Was sorry that Mr. Grande had already left the meeting. Joan commented that she thought it would be difficult for the water billing clerk to keep track of the changes for only one business owner and it should be his responsibility to make sure that his tenants pay the bills. If this practice is done for one individual, it should be done for all; the outcome is that the village becomes a collection agency if this happens and the village would be let holding the bag.

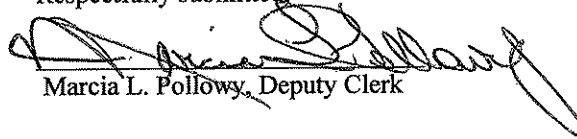
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F. EXECUTIVE SESSION

G. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Trustee Mougolias seconded by Trustee Szlendak to adjourn. On a voice vote, all being in favor, the motion carried and the Committee of the Whole Meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Village of Harwood Heights was adjourned by Temporary Chair Trustee Jezierny on Wednesday, March 4, 2009 at 8:12pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Marcia L. Followy, Deputy Clerk