MINUTES OF A COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE VILLAGE OF HARWOOD HEIGHTS HELD ON TUESDAY, OCTOBER 11, 2011

A. CALL TO ORDER at 6:45pm by Mayor Arlene C. Jezierny

B. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

C. ROLL CALL –

Mayor	Arlene C. Jezierny
Clerk	Marcia L. Pollowy
Trustees	Mark Dobrzycki (Absent) Michael Gadzinski Demetrios Mougolias Therese Schuepfer Lawrence Steiner Lester Szlendak
Attorney	Rob Bush

Also present: Attorney Mark Heinle
Chief Mario Ricchio
Building Commissioner Carmen Rinaldi

D. AGENDA ITEMS

Approval of Committee of the Whole Minutes for September 1, 2011.

Motion by Trustee Mougolias, seconded by Trustee Steiner

- Approval of Committee of the Whole Minutes for September 1, 2011.

On a voice vote, all being in favor (Trustee Dobrzycki – Absent), the motion carried and the minutes for the September 1, 2011 Committee of the Whole meeting were approved.

TIF Study Presentation to the Village Board & Taxing Bodies by Kane McKenna
(followed by Question & Answer session)

- Mayor Jezierny welcomed those in attendance including representation from our taxing bodies to hear a presentation from Kane-McKenna regarding our TIF Study. She asked that they sign in so we know who attended.
- This is an Informational Meeting in an Open Forum and following the presentation each will have the opportunity to ask questions. This is not a formal required meeting as a prerequisite for TIF. Should this Village Board determine that it's in the best interest of the Village of Harwood Heights to create a TIF district as a redevelopment tool, all members of the public and especially the taxing bodies will be re-invited to attend a required public meeting.
- TIF (Tax Increment Financing) is a potential tool for Economic Development that we are exploring during this challenging economy to help foster a striving community that will benefit all of us. As Harwood Heights takes initiatives to grow, we all can benefit while protecting the current tax base.
- A copy of the TIF study results and the proposed TIF area map where given out to all the taxing body representatives to follow allow with Mr. Biondo's presentation.
- Mr. Chuck Biondo from Kane McKenna presented in detail the results of the study, the proposed TIF area map and the proposed next steps if the village wishes to proceed with the TIF..
- Mr. Biondo answered all questions poised to him by the Village Board members, taxing body representatives and others in attendance.

Chicago Curfew Ordinance

- Chief Ricchio is recommending that the village look at the Chicago Curfew Ordinance to regulate our own village ordinance to reflect the guidelines recently implemented by the City of Chicago.
- The new regulations will make the parents more accountable for their children's actions & whereabouts.
- The Chief will provide a copy of the state statute regarding curfew rules and the new Chicago Curfew Ordinance to the Ordinance/License Committee for review.
- Copies of the state statute guidelines that the village currently follows and the Chicago Curfew Ordinance will be distributed to the board members for review for further discussion at the next Committee of the Whole meeting scheduled for November 3, 2011.

South of Lawrence - Odell to Oconto "No Thru Streets"

- Since IDOT changed the signage at the eastbound intersection of Lawrence at Harlem to "No Turn on Red" traffic is taking short cuts southbound down Oconto, Octavia and Odell to avoid the light at Harlem. A number of residents have been calling and complaining about the increase of traffic because drivers are using these streets, especially Oconto as "Thru Streets."
- Due to the number of complaints, Chief Ricchio set-up the radar sign to conduct a traffic study for car count and speed from Thursday, September 1, 2011 thru Thursday, September 8, 2011 monitoring traffic going both ways on Oconto. During that period of time the traffic studies showed that on average 95% of all cars were within the speed limit of 0 to 25mph, there were no excessive speeds on that street. During that same time period there were about 2,500 cars on Oconto during that 1 week period.
- Chief Ricchio indicated that he would like to make Oconto a "No Thru Streets" and place the signs just south of Lawrence Avenue at the alley and driveway to the buildings on Oconto. If signs are posted, Chief Ricchio can assign a police car to stop and ticket offenders.
- A lengthy discussion ensued regarding placing "No Thru Street" signs on all three streets, Oconto, Octavia and Odell and maybe placing speed bumps on Oketo to slow down the traffic.
- Chief Ricchio will place the radar sign on Oketo to monitor the traffic flow and speed. Oketo is the busiest side street in the village. Chief Ricchio will report the results at the next Committee of the Whole meeting.
- Trustee Schuepfer will work on the ordinance for the "No Thru Street" to change the village code.

Payment for Maintenance on Foreclosed & Abandoned properties

- Mayor Jezierny stated that as a member of the Legislative Committee of the West Central Municipal Conference, the WCMC is in the process of presenting data to the state legislators based on the City of Chicago's proposed ordinance for collection of maintenance fees on foreclosed & abandoned properties before they go back to the bank. The WCMC will be following the outcome of the proposed City of Chicago ordinance.
- Trustee Mougolias would like our current ordinance to be changed to include the collection of fees for the village maintaining abandoned or foreclosed properties prior to issuance of any transfer stamps when the property is being sold like we do with unpaid water bills.
- A lengthy discussion ensued amongst the village board and Attorney Heinle regarding ways to accomplish this without placing liens on the properties or causing legal suits. The discussion included whether to create one new ordinance, revise the current ordinance, create multiple ordinances or issue fines versus charging maintenance fees.

Public Comment

Mary Jo Baldassone, 4615 N. Sayre: Stated that on the east side especially the 4600 block of Sayre is also used as a bypass to avoid Harlem; there is also a lot of fast traffic late at night going northbound on Sayre. On Newcastle & Cullom cars are not stopping at the stop sign.

Mayor Jezierny: Asked Chief Ricchio to have the officers monitor those areas.

E. EXECUTIVE SESSION

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Trustee Steiner seconded by Trustee Mougolias to adjourn. On a voice vote, all present being in favor (Trustee Dobrzycki – Absent), the motion carried and the Committee of the Whole Meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Village of Harwood Heights was adjourned by Mayor Arlene C. Jezierny on Tuesday, October 11, 2011 at 9:11pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Marcia L. Pollowy, Village Clerk