

**MINUTES OF A SPECIAL MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
OF THE VILLAGE OF HARWOOD HEIGHTS
HELD ON THURSDAY, JULY 15, 2010**

- A. **CALL TO ORDER** at 7:33pm
- B. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**
- C. **ROLL CALL**

Mayor	Arlene C. Jezierny
Clerk	Marcia Pollowy
Trustees	Mark Dobrzycki Michael Gadzinski Demetrios Mougolias Therese Schuepfer Lester Szlendak
Attorney	Mark Heinle

Motion by Trustee Dobrzycki, seconded by Trustee Gadzinski to allow Trustee Steiner to attend meeting by electronic attendance; all in favor, none opposed.

Lawrence Steiner (Electronic Attendance)

D. **CONSENT AGENDA**

Motion by Trustee Dobrzycki, seconded by Trustee Szlendak on Consent Agenda item D 1:

Trustee Dobrzycki: Indicated that he has reservations on the Appropriation Ordinance after issues were brought up at the last few committee meetings by Trustee Szlendak & Mougolias in regards to revenue projections for a number of budget items; some issues that he agrees with and finds it difficult to be supportive of this budget.

Trustee Mougolias: Feels the residents should know that in order to balance the budget the village had to use savings, money in the general fund instead of just trying to balance the budget by working the numbers, but I still have an issue with the numbers. Is uncomfortable about the revenue projections on a number of items in the Appropriation Ordinance, thinks some of the revenue projections are too optimistic. All other areas of the budget were cut back as far as possible.

Trustee Szlendak: Reiterated some of the statements he made at a number of the Committee of the Whole meetings; indicated that the State of Illinois is bankrupt, their credit rating was cut and they're going to wait to balance their budget until after the upcoming November elections and believes they are going to cut our share of the state revenue that our taxpayers are paying. In the United States, the recovery is extremely, extremely slow and more and more analysts are projecting the possibility of a double dip recession. Believes the village should be very cautious on revenue projections due to these factors. Thinks that more cuts can be made to the budget through reduction in payroll expenses with furlough days, days off and if we have to, lay-offs; the budget needs to be reduced by an additional 6 ½. Feels we did not make all the appropriate cuts and had to borrow \$184,000 from our general fund, cash, in order to balance this budget even though it was done in the past.

Mayor Jezierny opened the floor for comments from the general public who signed up for Public Comment.

Joan White, 7429 W. Winona: Commented on Mr. Shuttleworth's comments from the Public Hearing, stating that Mayor Fuller had about 10 Administrative Assistance and even Mayor Willas had Administrative Assistants; none of these individuals ever received any compensation. Commented on Mr. Shuttleworth's comment about wanting to know why she didn't identify herself as Administrative Assistant when she gave public comment? Indicated that when she gives public comment at a meeting as a representative of the Senior Club or the Resurrection Auxiliary or any other organization, she always indicated her affiliation to the organization; Mr. Shuttleworth has spoken many, many times at board meetings and never once indicated that he was Building Commissioner or the former Building Commissioner.

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Roy Schmidt, 4336 N. Rutherford: Feels that Trustee Szlendak misinterpreted his words, believes the board did work very hard on the budget and glad that all the board members were involved in preparing it. Still had a number of questions, especially about the loan and interest payments for the old Village Hall property.

Mayor Jezierny: Commented that the appropriation is just an estimate of what the village hopes to receive in revenues from all the identified revenue sources and what the village expects to payout in expenses by department. The numbers in the appropriation are "cap" amounts that can be spent and the board votes on the spending of all monies. This years appropriation budget will be monitored very closely, hopefully on a monthly basis and if need be, we may have to make additional chances so we don't encountered a shortfall when it's too late. The appropriation budget that ended April 30, 2010 was \$8,100,000 and the appropriation budget for the current year ending 4-30-2011 is \$6,500,000 which is a reduction of \$1,600,000. Thanked the Board, all Department Heads, the Treasurer and the Accountant for all their hard work and the long hours in putting the budget together and all the cuts that had to be made.

Re-emphasized that our budget for sales tax revenue in 2009 was \$1.1 million, in 2010 it was also \$1.1 million; the actual that was taken in last year was \$999,000. The current 2011 budget figure for sale tax revenue was reduced to \$1,000,000, a reduction of \$100,000 over last year.

Home Rule sales tax in 2009 was budgeted for \$885,000, in 2010 \$925,000 and the current budget has been reduced to \$725,000, a reduction of \$200,000.

Transfer tax budgeted in 2009 was \$650,000, in 2010 it was reduced to \$325,000 and in the current 2011 budget it was further reduced to \$195,000. As a note, the transfer tax received as of May 1, 2010 for the last 2 ½ months was \$73,250.

State income tax budgeted for 2009 was \$795,000, in 2010 \$750,000 and the current year budget 2011 it was reduced another \$100,000 to \$650,000.

Property taxes are based on our tax levy and that stayed the same in all budget years.

1. APPROVE THE 2010/2011 APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE for the VILLAGE of HARWOOD HEIGHTS.

A roll call vote on Consent Agenda item D 1 resulted as follows:

A YES: Trustee Gadzinski, Schuepfer, Steiner, Mayor Jezierny

NAYS: Trustee Dobrzycki, Mougolias, Szlendak

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT:

Motion Carried

Mayors Report

Mayor Jezierny: I want to address an issue that was published in the Chicago Tribune, the Chicago Sun-Times and some media stations.

It was reported that Harwood Heights has submitted a formal inquiry to Cook County to take over policing duties. I want to state clearly that no one with authority has submitted such a request and this issue has never been discussed with any committee meeting or executive session that we held.

Upon reading and hearing the news, Chief Ricchio and I drove down this morning to the Sheriff's office and as such an investigation is underway to determine how this misinformation was reported.

I am pleased that the Sheriff's Office has sent Commander Tony Brzezniak to address this issue at our Board meeting. So at this time I'd like to turn it over to Commander Brzezniak.

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Commander Anthony Brzezniak: First of all, thanks for letting me have this opportunity to speak. I would like to just tell you here today that the Cook County Sheriff's office has not received a request from anyone in any position of authority from the Village of Harwood Heights regarding a request for police services. The representation that such a request was made is totally an error on our part and how it got released is under investigation at this time. However, we are finalizing a protocol that requires a written request for municipalities, mayors or elected officials in order to provide an assessment of what police services would cost. We are reviewing the incident to determine how the request was generated. We apologize for any error on our part. Our goal is to continue to provide services to all municipalities and police agencies that request any assistance from our department. Thank you.

Mayor Jezierny: Commander, could I ask, will the Sheriff's Office present a press release eliminating Harwood Heights as one of those requesters?

Commander Anthony Brzezniak: I've been informed that they are in the process of addressing that issue and it should be forth coming.

Mayor Jezierny: Thank you very much; I appreciate the Sheriff's Office and yourself for coming down here and clarifying this information for us.

Commander Anthony Brzezniak: Thank you and if we could ever be of any assistance, I have a direct working relationship with Chief Ricchio and we're more than happy to help you in any way we can.

Mayor Jezierny: Indicated that an Executive Session is being called tonight to address concerns regarding employment issues regarding economic development and other issues. Stated that St. Rosalie's Carnival started tonight thru Sunday and that the Village Board will be working tomorrow nights Bingo and invited those in attendance at tonight's meeting to come out and join us.

Trustee Szlendak: Encouraged everyone to come to tomorrows Bingo; everyone is a winner.

Trustee Mougolias: Addressed Mr. Shuttleworth's comment regarding Mrs. Joan White. Indicated that Mrs. White volunteers a lot of her time to the village and she is doing excellent work as an administrative assistant and he would like to see more people spend as much time as she does helping the village instead of those always trying to cause problems.

Mayor Jezierny: Indicated that Mrs. White spent over 30-years working for this village in various capacities and her knowledge of the village's finances, and workings of the chart of accounts that the village uses today makes her a wonderful choice for an administrative assistant.

Trustee Dobrzycki: Commented on an article that appeared in the Pioneer Press regarding comments made by the Mayor of Park Ridge regarding the salaries of elected officials. Elected officials salaries can not be increased or decreased during their current term of office; any change in salaries must be implemented 180 days before the upcoming election term for that elected position which would be in November of this year. The salary change would only affect the elected officials whose term would start on May 1, 2011. If the village would want to implement this change he is willing participate in those changes that would take effect on May 1, 2011.

Mayor Jezierny: Indicated that a number of the board members are already donating back a part of their checks.

Trustee Szlendak: Also indicated that the board members do not have to wait until May 1, 2011 to donate part of their salary back to the village.

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E. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion to enter into Executive Session: pursuant to (5 ILCS 120/2) Sec. 2. Open meetings © Exceptions. A public body may hold closed meetings to consider the following subjects: (1) Litigation, when an action against, affecting or on behalf of the particular public body has been filed and is pending before a court or administrative tribunal.

Motion by Trustee Mougolias, seconded by Trustee Szlendak to enter into closed executive session at 7:58pm.

A roll call vote to enter into closed session resulted as follows:

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

NAYS:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT: Motion Carried

Executive Session closed at 8:25pm: all in favor.

Reconvened open session 8:28pm; roll call indicated all board members present, (Trustee Steiner – Absent)

F. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Trustee Mougolias, seconded by Trustee Dobrzycki to adjourn. On a voice vote, all being in favor, the motion carried and the Special Meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Village of Harwood Heights was adjourned by Mayor Arlene C. Jezierny on Thursday, July 15, 2010 at 8:29pm.

Respectfully submitted,


Marcia L. Polowy, Village Clerk
Prepared by Mary O'Connor, Deputy Clerk

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A. CALL TO ORDER at 7:00 pm by Mayor Arlene Jezierny

B. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

C. ROLL CALL

Mayor	Arlene Jezierny
Clerk	Marcia Pollowy
Trustees	Mark Dobrzycki Michael Gadzinski Demetrios Mougolias Therese Schuepfer Lester Szlendak
Attorney	Mark Heinle

Motion by Trustee Mougolias, seconded by Trustee Szlendak to allow Trustee Steiner to attend meeting by electronic attendance; all in favor, none opposed.

Lawrence Steiner (Electronic Attendance)

D. Clerk Marcia Pollowy Reading of Public Notice Hearing on 2010-2011
Appropriation Ordinance published in the Pioneer Press on July
1, 2010.

VILLAGE OF HARWOOD HEIGHTS PUBLIC HEARING

A Public Hearing will be held on Thursday, July 15, 2010 at 7:00pm at the Harwood Heights Village Hall, 7300 West Wilson Avenue, Harwood Heights, Illinois, at which time there will be a discussion of the proposed budget, which will then be used as a basis for the 2010-2011 Appropriation Ordinance. Subsequent to such hearing and before final action there-on, the Corporate Authorities may revise, alter, increase or decrease any items contained therein, and all items will act as a basis for the Appropriation Ordinance scheduled for passage at a Special Board Meeting of the Village Board of Trustees on Thursday, July 15, 2010 at 7:30pm following the Public Hearing. All citizens of the Village are encouraged to attend and will be given the opportunity to give oral and written comments on the proposed Budget and Appropriation Ordinance. The proposed Budget and Appropriation Ordinance will be available for viewing at the Harwood Heights Village Hall, 7300 West Wilson Avenue, Harwood Heights, Illinois on Thursday, July 1, 2010

Pub: 7/1/10 in the Pioneer Press

Mayor Jezierny: The purpose of this hearing is to take public comment for the Village of Harwood Heights 2010-2011 Appropriation Ordinance. If anyone has any comments regarding issues not relating to the Appropriation Ordinance, please save them for the Special Board meeting which will follow at 7:30pm.

The Draft Appropriation Ordinance was posted in the Norridge/Harwood Heights Pioneer Press and in the Village Hall lobby on July 1st.

The Appropriation Ordinance is on the agenda for board approval at the Special Board meeting following the hearing at 7:30pm. Following the hearing the Village Board will be considering your comments when they debate the Appropriation Ordinance for approval.

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E. Public Comment

Peter Magnelli, 4735 N. Oketo: Had a few comments regarding the Appropriation Ordinance. Wondered if Mr. Roy Mc Campbell is still on the village payroll? Questioned the amount of money appropriated for the Village Attorney? Asked if the attorney gets paid for attending municipal meetings in place of the Mayor or Trustees or attending Committee of the Whole meetings?

Joan White, 7429 W. Winona: Read excerpts from the Municipal Review magazine regarding the explanation for the Public Hearing and the posting of the Appropriation Ordinance. Remarked on the letter that appeared in the Pioneer Press today regarding the Appropriation Ordinance and how things were handled by the past administration and the current administration.

Roy Schmidt, 4336 N. Rutherford: Believes last years appropriation was prepared by the Finance Committee and all the trustees were not involved in the budget process. Asked what line item in the budget is the loan amount for buying back the old village hall property? Where are the fees to the bank on this loan, and also the SSA tax payments until the property is sold? Questioned a revenue line for the crossing guards?

Kevin Shuttleworth, 6677 W. Montrose: Understands that Mrs. Joan White was appointed as one of the Mayor's administrative assistants; did not see an expense line in the budget for this position. Is she working for free? Asked why she doesn't identify herself as the Mayor's Administrative Assistant when she gives public comment at board meetings? Inquired why the village is not having a village picnic or other summer events for the little kids, yet we paid out \$4,500 for the baseball program and this year and last for the "Island in the City Fest at Norridge Park."

F. Board Comments

Trustee Szlendak

Stated that Mr. Schmidt attended almost all of the Finance and COW meetings that were held regarding the preparation of the Appropriation Ordinance and that he commented on how hard the board worked on the appropriations and should not take a cut in pay; now it seems he's has a change of heart indicating that we've done things inappropriately. Regarding the crossing guards, we have an agreement with Union Ridge that they will pay part of the cost for the crossing guards. In the memo from the Mayor, Mrs. White is helping out without any compensation. Picnic – we had to make cuts, it was decided not to have the picnic but we will still try to get some donations to possible have one. We had a choice of either laying off employees or having a picnic; sorry the employees won.

Mayor Jezierny

Addressed the question regarding the attorney fees; the appropriation for legal fees is in one spot in the current budget rather than spread out among the various departments as it had been done previously. The amount borrowed or received for the sale or purchase of property should not be in the appropriation budget per the auditors; those items are audit related not part of the appropriation. The interest on the loan is included in this appropriation because it is a payment. The Mayor and the Chief met with members of the Union Ridge board and agreed to split the cost of the crossing guards. The Village Attorney attended the West Central Council of Mayors meeting in place of the Mayor, as a representative for the village, at no charge; she had another appointment at the same time. She had placed an issue on the West Central's Council of Mayors meeting agenda to get Oketo Avenue considered as an FAU route; if considered as an FAU Route the village could obtain federal funding to pave the street, put in sewers and eliminate the flooding in that area, especially at Oketo & Wilson. The Village of Norridge has agreed to work with the village on those improvements and

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supported the motion at the West Central's Council of Mayors meeting and the other Mayor's also approved it. Would like to have individual events not only for the children but also the seniors and families if we had the funds; the "Island in the City" is for all the residents of Harwood Heights, Norridge and the Township and it was a nominal cost to the village because most of the board members, the clerk, the Chief and a few appointee's made substantial donations to cover a large portion of the cost. Thanked the entire board for their participation and work on the Appropriation Ordinance during these difficult economic times.

Reviewed a few of the items that were changed on the revised Appropriation Ordinance draft; page 10 – line item 13-15-00-7058 appropriation of grant funds for Octavia/Oconto. Page 12 – New Totals for the E-911 Fund for the fund balance that was in the E-911 fund account and needed to be identified. Pages 13 & 14 – New Totals including the above mentioned adjustments. Page 19 – Shows the transfers in the Grant Fund Balance for the Octavia & Oconto project. Page 21 – balance on the revenue side on E-911 statement. Page 23 – Grand Total adjustments.

Trustee Mougolias

Questioned the intergovernmental revenue sales tax amount of \$1,000,000?

Mayor Jezierny

Indicated that the total actual sales tax received last year was \$999,000.

G. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Trustee Dobrzycki, seconded by Trustee Mougolias to adjourn. On a voice vote, all being in favor, the motion carried and the Appropriation Ordinance Hearing of the Board of Trustees of the Village of Harwood Heights was adjourned by Mayor Arlene Jezierny on Thursday, July 15, 2010 at 7:27m.

Respectfully submitted,


Marcia L. Poltow, Village Clerk