MINUTES OF A COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
OF THE VILLAGE OF HARWOOD HEIGHTS
HELD ON THURSDAY, JANUARY 2, 2020

A. CALL TO ORDER at 7:06pm by Mayor Arlene C. Jezierny

B. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

C. ROLL CALL –

Mayor Arlene C. Jezierny
Clerk Marcia L. Pollowy

After Roll Call a motion by Trustee Steiner, seconded by Trustee Lewandowski to allow Trustee Brzezniak-Volpe to attend the meeting by Electronic Attendance at 7:08pm.; on a voice vote, all in favor.

Trustees
Annette Brzezniak-Volpe (Electronic Attendance)
Anna Brzozowski-Wegrecki
Zbigniew Lewandowski
Therese Schuepfer
Lawrence Steiner
Giuseppe Zerillo

Attorney Mark Heinle

Also present: Chief John DeVries
Treasurer Joe Russo

D. AGENDA ITEMS

Approval of Committee of the Whole Minutes for the meeting held on December 5, 2019

Motion by Trustee Steiner, seconded by Trustee Brzozowski-Wegrecki:

• Approval of Committee of the Whole Minutes for the meeting held on December 5, 2019.

On a voice vote, all in favor (Trustee Schuepfer – Abstained), the motion carried and the minutes of December 5, 2019 Committee of the Whole meeting were approved.

Approval of Special Committee of the Whole Minutes for the meeting held on December 12, 2019

Motion by Trustee Brzozowski-Wegrecki, seconded by Trustee Lewandowski:

• Approval of Special Committee of the Whole Minutes for the meeting held on December 12, 2019.

On a voice vote, all in favor, the motion carried and the minutes of December 12, 2019 Committee of the Whole meeting were approved.

Cannabis – Conditional Use

• Attorney Mark Heinle stated that the Plan Commission conducted a Joint Public Hearing on December 18, 2019 regarding this subject and also on the moratorium on gas stations.
• Attorney Heinle reviewed all the decisions made by the board regarding cannabis over the past few months by passing several regulatory ordinances to be in compliance with state law.
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• Attorney Heinle updated the board on the finding of fact from the Plan Commission’s hearing and will be presented in ordinance 20-01 on tonight’s Special Board Meeting entitled “Approving Zoning Text Amendments Regarding Cannabis Business Establishments.” The three types of cannabis businesses that will be allowed in Harwood Heights that are referenced in Ordinance 20-01 will be one recreational dispensary, one medical dispensary and one “craft growing” operation excluding on-site consumption establishments and cannabis processing facilities.
• The ordinance establishes the zoning that will be required for each type of business, with the recreational and medical dispensaries zoned as commercial properties and the “craft growing” operations zoned as industrial. The ordinance explicitly states that qualifying cannabis businesses would be required to submit much more detailed operational information and plans that other types of prospective businesses in the village and will be subject to stringent and comprehensive state and local regulations. They would have to go through a Public Hearing by the Plan Commission prior to the board’s approval.
• Discussion ensued regarding an increase of traffic and if any location will have ample parking available if a cannabis establishment is approved. Attorney Heinle referred the question in the text of the proposed ordinance referencing that topic and the village’s current parking code. Current dispensaries already having problems with keeping up with the demand.
• This ordinance and the ordinance on the following item on this agenda for discussion will be presented on the Special Board meeting agenda following this meeting for the board’s approval.

Moratorium on Gas Stations

• Attorney Mark Heinle stated that there was very little discussion at the public hearing with no resident participation. He explained in detail how the moratorium would restrict new serve stations. The Plan Commission reviewed this ordinance briefly resulting with a unanimous approval by the Plan Commission for a one-year temporary moratorium on new automatic service station uses which was sent to the board for their consideration.
• The ordinance is on tonight’s Special Board meeting agenda for board approval.

Review of Left Turns Octavia & Oconto

• Mayor Jezierny reviewed a memo from IDOT which has approved the village’s request to allow left-hand turns off of Octavia unto westbound Lawrence Avenue and straight into the Portillo’s/Art Van parking lots, but denied the request for left-hand turns off of Oconto.
• The Mayor stated we would be working on costing and drawings/plans will have to be revised and submitted to IDOT to continue the review process.

Oketo Review

• Mayor Jezierny stated that this is the area is just north of Lawrence Avenue on the west side of Oketo where we approved “No Parking” signs a few months back.
• Chief DeVries stated that the morning and evening rush hour traffic is moving smoothly and there are less problems or accidents since the signs were installed; recommends that we continue with the “No Parking” restrictions. He also spoke with the Superintendent of Public Works who indicated that the “No Parking” restrictions have helped with street cleaning and snow removing operations.
• It was recommended when we installed the signs that the residents on that first block of Oketo north of Lawrence could park on the 7300 or 7400 blocks of Ainslie.
• The Police Department and Public Works will continue to monitor the traffic flow in that area.
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Impound for Retail Theft

- Chief John DeVries stated that retail theft law recently changed and we need to update our current ordinance regarding impoundment of vehicles relating to retail theft and impound paper work referencing the new violation codes.
- Attorney Mark Heinle indicated that he will look at the new retail theft law and will revise the current village code to reflect the changes and prepare a proposed ordinance to present to the board for their review and approval.
- Chief DeVries also stated that the state is looking at revising the state code regarding juvenile law regarding marijuana to increase the age to 21.
- Chief DeVries also stated he received complaints from residents on the 7300 block of Ainslie due to the parking restrictions we put on Oconto that are now affecting Ainslie. The resident indicated that they and a number of their neighbors will be attending the next board meeting to lodge their complaints.
- A brief discussion ensued regarding parking problems effecting the whole village and possible solutions to prohibit non-resident individuals from parking on village streets.

Legislative Breakfast

- The West Central Municipal Conference is hosting the 2020 Legislative Breakfast on Saturday, February 8, 2020 at the Elmcrest Banquet Hall on Grand Avenue. Please advise the Clerk if you will be attending so we can call in the reservations.

Projects for 2020

- Mayor Jezieryn stated that she will be doing a recap at the board meeting next week as to what projects were done in 2019.
- PDQ has gotten out of the Chicagoland marketplace. PDQ has closed their restaurants in Orland Park, Wheaton, and Schaumburg. Their PDQ building in Harwood Heights has been torn down and we are actively working with contractors for redevelopment.
- Carson Ribs plans to return to their original site on Harlem Avenue. We await their plans and look forward to their opening this year. They plan to begin excavating in May.
- A Shell Gas Station, Convenient Store and Car Wash will soon open at the corner of Lawrence and Olcott; there is no firm date scheduled for the opening.
- OrangeTheory Fitness will be locating to the Holiday Plaza mall at 4747 N. Harlem. An anticipated opening date is in early Spring.
- With Office Max closing, management at the Holiday Plaza is seeking other business opportunities.
- Mont Clare Apartments continues their remodeling with interior and exterior work including a new parking lot and additional apartment units on the main level.
- The Village was recently awarded funds for the street widening and paving of the 7400 and 7500 blocks of Argyle. That is being scheduled for this year.
- We are working together with the Water Reclamation District for funding for another Green Alley to help with street and sewer drainage. The alley will allow water to drain through the paver bricks into the ground before draining into other sewers. This location is between the 4700 block of Newcastle and New England.
- Union Ridge School will also undergo a green parking lot to help with their drainage.
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- The Village Hall will undergo some renovations with tuck-pointing and painting including a carport to protect the police cars from the weather elements.

- Grants have also been applied through Cook County Hazard Mitigation and FEMA to expand our detention areas at Oriole and the other at Leland for storm water expansion.

- This Spring we are applying for additional grants through Safe Routes to School for more sidewalk and signage improvements.

- This Spring the Village will also apply for a grant to resurface Carl Cassata Sr. Lane from Oak Park to Sayre as well as the 7200 and 7300 blocks of Leland.

- We are working AL AIR on the air conditioning and heating units on the top of the roof by the Police Department; they have now been installed, so that is done. There are some repairs that need to be done on the inside by the roll-call room and that’s due to the damage from the constant moisture on the bricks. Hopefully the construction of the carport and wall will alleviate this problem.

On-Going Programs for 2020

- We will continue our Safety Seminars giving our residents tips to be aware of scams and how to recognize them.

- We will continue to entertain our Youth with various programs throughout the year including holidays with Santa combined with our Sing-along with the Clerk.

- A holiday Open House offers our residents an opportunity to enjoy the holidays and each other.

- Decorating contests for Halloween and Christmas show off the talents of homeowners. Residents can win 1st, 2nd and 3rd place local prizes for the best in show with our thanks for brightening up our holidays.

- A Haunted House is fun to visit and could possibly be another event this year.

- Our yearly August Summer Fest entertains our community with music, food and comradery.

- Our 3rd annual Car Show will take place again in September. A fun event for all!

- Village Calendars each year offer residents' information on the various dates of all our meeting events and includes general information and features Ads from some of our businesses in the Village.

- Our Public Works will host an Open House this year to entertain and educate our residents of what occurs under our streets and can view the equipment used.

- The Village will provide a Health Fair on April 22nd.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

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:
ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Trustee Brzozowski-Wegrecki, seconded by Trustee Steiner to adjourn. On a voice vote, all present 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 Mayor Arlene Jezierny on Thursday, January 2, 2019 at 7:58pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Marcia L. Folkowy, Village Clerk