A. CALL TO ORDER at 7:39pm by Mayor Arlene C. Jezierny

B. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

C. ROLL CALL –

- Mayor Arlene C. Jezierny
- Clerk Marcia L. Pollowy
- Trustees Annette Brzezniak-Volpe, Anna Brzozowski-Wegrecki, Zbigniew Lewandowski, Therese Schuepfer, Lawrence Steiner, Giuseppe Zerillo
- Attorney Mark Heinle
- Also present: Chief John DeVries, Treasurer Joe Russo, Public Works Foreman/Project Manager George Assimakopoulos

D. AGENDA ITEMS

Approval of Committee of the Whole Minutes for the meeting held on January 2, 2020

Motion by Trustee Brzezniak-Volpe, seconded by Trustee Brzozowski-Wegrecki:

- Approval of Committee of the Whole Minutes for the meeting held on January 2, 2020.

On a voice vote, all in favor, the motion carried and the minutes of January 2, 2020 Committee of the Whole meeting were approved.

Intergovernmental Agreement – Norwood Park Fire District

- Attorney Mark Heinle stated that the villages of Norridge and Harwood Heights are both considering the adoption of updated fire related technical codes. B&F Technical is currently reviewing both communities’ current codes to update the areas affected by the newer version codes.
- Under the new codes the fire district would perform inspections of commercial structures including multi-family residential buildings on an annual basis. Any violations would be handled at the village’s adjudication hearings by the adjudicating officer.
- Fire Chief Dave Blondell stated that a building in violation of related fire codes in the past was given three (3) chances to resolve the violation before fines were accessed on the property. The intergovernmental agreement states that new procedures are being incorporated according to the fire districts passage of Ordinance 19-7 which will be part of the intergovernmental agreement. He will also send over the changes that Norridge is asking for so all the changes will be the same for both communities.
- Chief Blondell will forward to the board a copy of their Ordinance 19-07 referred to in the intergovernmental agreement which was not included in the documentation sent to the board for their review.
- A lengthy discussion ensued regarding the inspection process and what areas of the buildings the fire department can inspect; usually only common areas. It was suggested that copies of the fire department inspection forms are available on the village’s website so commercial and residential properties know what the inspection entails. The board would also like to see the fee structure and the list of fines.
- Chief Blondell will also forward copies of the inspection forms used by the fire department.
Ainslie Parking Issues

- Chief DeVries stated that he has been doing surveillance on that area over the past two weeks with observations at 6:00pm, 10:00pm and 2:00am in the morning. There was a minimum of 8 to 10 cars, one night 13 cars and a few more on holidays. Eight (8) of the cars were Harwood Heights residents with a majority of them living in the apartment buildings on Harlem; they had village vehicle stickers and their plates were registered in Harwood Heights.
- The Chief would like to make a recommendation that we switch parking to the south side of Ainslie and have no parking on the north side.
- A lengthy discussion ensued amongst the board members and the residents in attendance regarding additional parking solutions for Octavia and Odell; i.e: parking only on one side of the street or "No Parking" 2am to 6am to mirror Oconto.
- The board consensus is to do a 6-month trial period on Ainslie with parking on the south side of Ainslie only from the beginning of the Art Van Building to end of the Portillo’s property and no parking on the north side of the street. Octavia & Odell will have no restrictions at this time.
- A motion to approve the 6-month trial period for Ainslie will be place on the February 13, 2020 Consent Agenda for board approval.

6420 W. Gunnison

- Mayor Jezierny reviewed the proposed development of a two-flat at 6420 W. Gunnison and the neighbors' objections that the front sight-line of the proposed property would obstruct vision on Gunnison for cars coming off of Natchez. She indicated that the Public Works Project Director George Assimakopoulos and the Chief went to the proposed sight and found that the development would pose a problem for traffic coming off of Natchez.
- After a brief discussion the consensus of the board was to approve the development as approved unanimously by the Zoning Board of Appeals.
- A motion will be placed on the February 13, 2020 Consent Agenda to approve Ordinance 20-05 for the development of a multi-unit building.

Village Drug Policy

- Attorney Mark Heinle stated that communities across the state are reviewing their drug and alcohol polices due to the legality of recreational cannabis for individuals over the age of 21.
- A copy of the proposed changes to the village’s drug and alcohol policy were provided to the board for their review. Attorney Heinle stated that Attorney Margaret Kostopulos worked on this policy and expounded on the policy due to the new state ruling. Attorney Heinle reviewed the policy in detail.
- Attorney Mark Heinle stated that the revised policy provides zero tolerance in the new climate of being an employer in the State of Illinois. The policy does not directly impact the Police Department or the village employees; the police officers and village employees are governed under their collective bargaining agreements. This revised policy would only cover a few employees that are not represented by any union.
- Attorney Heinle will reach out to Attorney Kostopulos regarding the policy and he will then prepare a resolution for board approval.

State Mandatory Sexual Harassment Training

- Attorney Mark Heinle stated that there were a number of amendments to various Illinois laws last year in response to the Me-Too movement which will impose universal training requirements that apply to all employers not just public sector employers including the village. The most impactful is that the village and all employers must now provide annual sexual harassment training to all employees and appointees and it must be completed by December 31, 2020 and then every year after that. The State as part of the law is developing a free online training program through the Department of Human Resources'.
- The Village’s primary responsibility is to monitor to make sure that all employees, elected officials and appointees completes the training by the end of the year. If anyone from the village doesn’t complete the training there can be financial penalties. A certificate will be generated after completion that must be given to the Village Clerk.
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- Mayor Jezierny stated that a letter will be going out to all businesses providing the link to the sexual harassment training program. The businesses will then be responsible for all their employees.
- Attorney Heinle stated that bars and restaurants will have additional requirements included in the training session for all their employees.
- A resolution amending our current sex harassment policy will be prepared to include the training schedule, the handling of complaints of sexual harassment and the link to do the online training. A copy of the adopted resolution will be given to each employee for reference.

Rich’s Deli Request

- Rich’s Deli representatives were not in attendance to present their request to the village.

Planning/Zoning Commissions

- Mayor Jezierny asked the board if they had any objections to the combining of these two commissions for all future zoning and planning issues presented/requested to the village. Both commissions have recently lost one member and one other member will be leaving in the near future.
- After a brief discussion the consensus was to wait a few months before combining the two commissions.

Police Wall Maintenance

- Public Works Foreman/Project Director George Assimakopoulos updated the board on the work that Public Works did on the northwest corner of the building due to water damage by re-tarring, re-asphalting and veering water away from the building. There was some damage done to the drywall inside the Roll Call Room due to the drywall meeting up with the plate. George got a quote to bond the whole length of the west wall bumping it out away from the footing creating a bump out with a ledge for the radios; the wall will also be insulated along with the north wall.
- George will have the Village Attorney review the quote which is about $6,800. George stated that there are also two (2) bad security doors at that north end of the building. Due to a safety issue, the Chief will contact Norwood Park Township to possibly pick up the cost for the two (2) doors. The quote for the two (2) doors is about $7,940. These are fire rated doors, steel doors that’s why the cost is so high.
- Also discussed briefly was the anticipated project for the canopy over the police cars for weather related protection and the concrete replacement for the stairways and new railings.

Tobacco Store

- Mayor Jezierny stated she received a call about the former tobacco shop next to Pepe’s Mexican Restaurant being converted into a smoking lounge and video arcade.
- After a brief discussion the consensus of the board was to deny this request.

Other items discussed

- Recognition of Officers – At the February 13, 2020 Board Meeting the Chief will be recognizing a number of officers’ for going beyond the call of duty.
- Appointee Renewal – The Mayor will be renewing the appointment of various commissions and appointee’s at the February 13, 2020 Board Meeting.
- KLOA – Will update the board at the March COW regarding the Lawrence/Octavia Traffic Signal.
- Handicap Parking – Sayre – Mayor wrote a letter to the apartment owner regarding parking on the driveway rather than posting handicap signs on the street.
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- WCMC Legislative Breakfast – This Saturday, February 8, 2020 at the Elmcrest Banquet Hall on Grand Avenue in Elmwood Park from 8:30am to 11:00am.

- Mail Service – The Mayor along with the Mayor from Norridge are sending a letter to all our State Representative’s regarding the delay in mail service to our businesses, residents and mail from our residents to pay their water/sewer bills.

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 Brzezniak-Volpe, seconded by Trustee Lewandowski 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, February 6, 2020 at 9:04pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Marcia L. Pollowy, Village Clerk