

**MINUTES OF A COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
OF THE VILLAGE OF HARWOOD HEIGHTS
HELD ON WEDNESDAY AUGUST 9, 2023**

A. CALL TO ORDER at 6:35pm by Mayor Arlene Jezierny

B. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

C. ROLL CALL –

Mayor Arlene C. Jezierny

Clerk Marcia L. Pollowy

Motion by Trustee Brzozowski-Wegrecki, seconded by Trustee Brutto to allow Trustee Brzezniak-Volpe to attend the meeting by Electronic Attendance; on a voice vote, all in favor (Trustee Steiner & Zerillo – Absent).

Trustees Eugene Brutto
Annette Brzezniak-Volpe (Electronic Attendance)
Anna Brzozowski-Wegrecki
Zbigniew Lewandowski
Lawrence Steiner (Absent)
Giuseppe Zerillo (Absent)

Attorney Rob Bush

Also present: Chief John DeVries
Accountant Mary Ventrella

D. AGENDA ITEMS

Approval of Committee of the Whole minutes for July 6, 2023

Motion by Trustee Lewandowski, seconded by Trustee Brutto on July 6, 2023 COW minutes:

- Approval of the Committee of the Whole Minutes for the meeting held on July 6, 2023.

On a voice vote, all in favor (Trustee Steiner/Trustee Zerillo – Absent), the motion carried and the minutes of the July 6, 2023 Committee of the Whole meeting were approved.

Permit Fees

- Mayor Jezierny stated that his item will entail a lengthy discussion. We will have a small committee discussion with a presentation to the board on proposed permit fee increases. We will get fee schedules from our surrounding communities for comparison.

Permits for Small Cell Towers

- Mayor Jezierny stated that Attorney Bush will talk with Attorney Heinle on permit costs for the small cell towers. We will delay discussion until we get the proposed permit fees and permit cell costs.

Standby Generator for Main Pump Station

- Public Works is in need of a generator at a cost of \$373,400.00. We may consider taking it from the DCEO money but we will have to go out for bid. We have ARPA money that we will pull back from the “O” street projects and use all the DCEO money for the street projects. We will place the motion to approve the generator on our August 24th consent agenda for board approval.

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Class 6b – 7444 W. Wilson

- The current Class 6b that the board approved a number of years ago was given to 7444 W. Wilson on their plans of starting a drug program that would generate a lot of sales tax for the village. That program never came to fruition. 7444 W. Wilson is asking the village if they can reapply for another Class 6b with the current one expiring next year.
- A brief discussion ensued with a consensus of the board against approving another Class 6b for 7444 W. Wilson.
- Attorney Rob Bush will instruct Attorney Mark Heinle to inform 7444 W. Wilson that the village will not approve a renewal of their Class 6b request.

Property Appraisals

- Mayor Jezierny asked the board for their approval to have an appraisal done on the PDQ property, The Grande property and the Parkway Bank parking lot adjacent to the PDQ property. Developers don't want to pay the high price for just the PDQ property.
- After a lengthy discussion on the village options regarding these properties and the possible redevelopment prospects for that whole area the consensus of the board was to allow the Mayor to have the three properties appraised at a cost of \$5,800.00.
- Dan Gardner our Economic Development Coordinator will provide the board with a detailed cost estimate and a motion will be placed on the August 24, 2023 Consent Agenda for final board approval.

Body Cameras & Storage

- Chief DeVries stated that body cameras are going to be mandatory in 2025 and he has started looking into it because we are now consolidated with Norridge and Schiller Park; stated that Schiller Park actually wants to start get body cameras in January. Schiller Park has no protections at all, they have no cameras in their cars or cameras upon their officers. The Chief of Police of Norridge would like to start getting cameras in June of next year. I was looking to start with our next fiscal year starting May 1, 2024.
- Everyone (HHPD & NPD) want Schiller Park to test out the cameras first. I am researching Axon because the cameras in our cars are Axon and Axon is an excellent company and they have good products and their service is very hi-tech. Unfortunately, Axon is not giving any price breaks. We got a price but it's only good until the end of the year and then the price is going to go up. The current price quote is \$209,000 for 42 cameras and an extra \$10,209 for the extra licensing of those cameras and MCD would need to have someone put all the storage together for those cameras for possible FOIA's and court cases. There will be an extra cost split between the three Police Departments for the manpower to handle the camera data and storage.
- A lengthy discussion ensued regarding the licensing, the body camera equipment, software, storage and additional personnel and when we should consider purchasing the equipment. Elmwood Park is already using the Axon body cameras and their chief walked Chief DeVries through the process and showed us how they work; they really like the cameras and are using them all the time.
- Chief DeVries will contact Axon to see what the price increase will be if we wait until next year and will do more research and will update the board at the next Committee of the Whole meeting. Also, the village would have to have a policy regarding body cameras and what level of police personnel is required to use them.

Police Hires

- Chief DeVries stated that the Police Department is down from 29 Officers down to 25. There is currently no open Police Academy Training Sessions, he has reservations for 2 new Officer's at Triton College for the January 2024 next Police Academy Training Session.
- Chief DeVries would like to hire new recruits rather than hiring from the lateral list.
- A motion will be placed on the September 14, 2023 Consent Agenda to approve the hiring of 2 new Police Officers.

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Other Items

- Mayor Jezierny provided the board with a schedule of assignments for our Annual Fest August 18th-20th and reviewed the assignments making changes as requested by the board members.
- Pennoyer is having an all-day “Circus Day Event” on Thursday, September 14th. Volunteers need to attend a mandatory training session on Wednesday, September 13th from 5:00 – 7:00pm.
- Ridgewood HS Football Banner Sponsorship – The village will sponsor a banner at a cost of \$500. A motion will be placed on the August 24, 2023 Consent Agenda for board approval.
- SMART911 – The board was encouraged to sign-up for the SMART911. MCD will be having sessions to instruct residents how to sign-up or help with signing up. MCD will be at our Village Fest and at the Health Fair promoting sign-up.
- “Chicago Dog’s” Baseball game tomorrow night in Rosemont.
- Salvation Army “Back to School Supplies Drive.” Box is in the lobby for any donations.
- Ravinia tickets from West Central for on August 30th.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

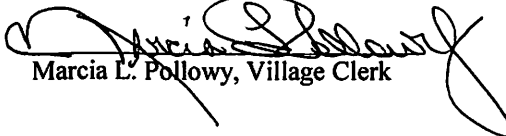
EXECUTIVE SESSION

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 Brutto, seconded by Trustee Lewandowski to adjourn. On a voice vote, all present being in favor (Trustee Steiner & Zerillo – 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 Jezierny on Wednesday, August 9, 2023 at 7:30pm.

Respectfully submitted,


Marcia L. Pollowy, Village Clerk