MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE VILLAGE OF HARWOOD HEIGHTS HELD ON WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 9, 2026

A. CALL TO ORDER at 7:30 pm by Mayor Jezierny

B. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

C. ROLL CALL

Mayor	Arlene C. Jezierny
Clerk	Marcia L. Pollowy (Absent)
Trustees	Eugene Brutto (Absent) Annette Brzezniak-Volpe Anna Brzozowski-Wegrecki Zbigniew Lewandowski Lawrence Steiner Giuseppe Zerillo
Attorney	Margaret Kostopoulos

D. PUBLIC COMMENT

Nino Giovannielli, 7217 W. Leland: Stated that the Chief came over to our house and did an excellent job talking to my neighbor. There have been a lot of complaints towards me from my neighbor, one was from the Police Department saying that I killed her dog and the other one was through the Illinois Department of Agriculture saying that I was poisoning her plants and her. She's been calling the Police on me for years now, saying that the barbeque from my grill, the smoke is poisoning her. I just want to put it on the record saying that I'm not touching her, I haven't done anything, the cameras, that's another thing she's been complaining about my cameras. The cameras have stopped her from talking to me and that's exactly what I want. This is a neighbor, I told him to do the same thing, because she makes calls on him also, he will be speaking afterwards. The whole thing that I need to put on record is that my cameras are there to stop her from talking to me, which is perfect. Like I said, the Chief came over and after an hour, it didn't go too far because she's a stubborn old person. I just wanted to put it on record of what's going on there.

Chief John DeVries: Nino when I came to your residence, I asked you what you were spraying on the weeds, correct? Please explain what you were doing and what happened. You told me what was in the bottle and I smelled the vinegar.

Nino Giovannielli, 7217 W. Leland: What I did, there was a Tic Toc saying it's safe for animals, pets, people; it's a gallon of vinegar, a cup of salt and a tablespoon of dishwasher soap; that thing works great! Within days it kills all the weeds and everything else. I have these spray bottles, it's very digital, anything that goes out of the way; where I'm pointing it and is where it's dying.

Mayor Jezierny: Does the Department of Agriculture want to know about this solution?

Nino Giovannielli, 7217 W. Leland: Because that gentleman was very cool with me, I told him, I have bottled this and this and I did say a gallon of vinegar, and he said a cup of salt, and I said yes. Everybody has heard of it and it does work great; it kills all the plants. It doesn't poison it or anything else. It's not toxic. I love my neighbors' dogs and his dogs breathe it and it doesn't bother their dogs.

Brett Kreznor, 7213 W. Leland: Basically, I'm here supporting the Chief and I'm just having problems with her and my dogs and the Chief was there and saw the weeds. She basically, I don't know if her kids are finding some homeless people and paying them $10, $20 to cut her grass. Somebody came by today, I can show you from what it looked like in July to yesterday; basically, the one weed was as tall as the garage.

Mayor Jezierny: Could you please send those pictures to us please?

Chief John DeVries: Brett, you said somebody came to the house today to do the landscaping. Do you still have a lot going on your property?

Brett Kreznor, 7213 W. Leland: I can show you; this was in July. I came to the Village Hall on a Monday, I complain about it last year. I tried cutting it myself, she called the Police on me, so this year I wasn't going to do it, but the year before that, JoAnn was helping me out with the whole ordeal. (Showed the Chief and Mayor the pictures from July to today). The Chief told her to call her landscaper to remove all the overgrown weeds.

Chief John DeVries: I tried calling our village landscaper and setting up an appointment with him to come out there because the complaint was you sic your dog after the landscaper and that's the reason why they couldn't get the grass cut. So I was going to come to you and ask you to keep the dogs in for whatever time it takes to cut the grass.

Brett Kreznor, 7213 W. Leland: I'm not going to lie, sometimes they are there when I get home from work but I leave my house at 5 o'clock in the morning and get home around 4:00pm or 5:00pm, so they have been in the house all day so they have to go out, I can't just wait for them to leave, not everything is on her schedule and I don't think it's really fair because if she doesn't get her way she finds something to complain about. She nit picks at every little thing, she calls the police constantly on me and Nino.

Mayor Jezierny: Inquired regarding the pictures.

Brett Kreznor, 7213 W. Leland: So, this is 3 summers in a row. Like I said, JoAnn even offered to take out the weeds for her but she refused. She did it and then called JoAnn complaining that she fell and hurt her knee and it's getting to the point where her kids they don't even take care of her, they don't do anything for her, they only come around when there's an issue with the police there, whatever. How long ago was it, maybe a week, two weeks ago she fell out in the yard and if it wasn't for Nino to call an ambulance she could of still been laying out there.

Mayor Jezierny: You still have to have a human touch to it, so thanks.

Brett Kreznor, 7213 W. Leland: What are we going to do, are we going to pick her up and then get sued?

Mayor Jezierny: Calling the ambulance was the best thing.

Brett Kreznor, 7213 W. Leland: I mean she's old, she's crippled, she's always complaining that she's handicapped. She lives in, you've seen the house, its disgusting. Nobody's there to take care of her and at some point they have to think about her life and living conditions, she shouldn't be alone. And then if it's constantly, I feel like we're being harassed every other day by her.

Mayor Jezierny: I don't know, did we get a report or a story that your dog jumped the fence and followed her into the kitchen?

Brett Kreznor, 7213 W. Leland: So yes, this did happen. She doesn't like the dogs so she's finding any little excuse, but she'll go out there and maybe like provoke them, she's calling their names just to get them to jump on the fence so she can take a picture which she will never show you how they got them to do it. It's pretty natural for a stranger to walk by the yard and the dog will bark and they don't like it. If they're scared, they're scared, there's nothing I can do. Cameras, Nino has cameras; we don't bother anybody. There's two young boys, maybe 10 or younger, that live right to the left of me, next to the alley, she doesn't ever call you and they don't have a problem with them, they're not scared of them. His kids, we don't bother anybody.

Mayor Jezierny: That fence that's there, is it yours or hers?

Brett Kreznor, 7213 W. Leland: I'm assuming its mine.

Chief John DeVries: The fence on the westside by Nino is hers. The fence he's talking about is his.

Brett Kreznor, 7213 W. Leland: This picture is from July and the sidewalk to the alley. But it's nonstop with them, if they can't get their way. She has nothing better to do but to sit there and complain and we're the ones that have to deal with it.

Chief John DeVries: When I was there a few years ago Brett was kind enough to agree to pay half to fix the fence because both of their fences shifted and he said he would go half but I don't want to pay the whole thing because at that time he brought both of the dogs out for me to play with them. They are very well trained dogs, very frisky, they're young; yes, they have a muscular structure to them, but they are not violent.

Brett Kreznor, 7213 W. Leland: They are easily excitable and they just want to jump and lick you, and they are pretty happy dogs and they don't bother anybody, they just want to walk and play, and I guest the look of them is pretty intimidating.

Mayor Jezierny: The only thing I want to say is if the dogs escaped the yard on their own you would have to do something to restrain them in your yard, either put up a fence or a chain, if they escape.

Brett Kreznor, 7213 W. Leland: Well that's the thing. They only jumped over because she was provoking them, antagonizing them. There is also an opossum that lives under, a family or what, but I have told her multiple times that there's opossums before the weeds there was huge stack of wood that she never uses, there were opossums inside of there.

Chief John DeVries: When the wood was removed there were mice in there.

Brett Kreznor, 7213 W. Leland: It was like a breeding ground for all these animals. And then if I say something her kids get involved and then they just knit pick at any little thing, if it's not me it's Nino. And the kids are nowhere, they don't even bring the grandkids over, they don't do anything. I just want this to end, I'm sick of dealing with this. It's not fair to me; it's not fair to Nino and not fair to her, you should see the way she lives.

Mayor Jezierny: We're going to investigate so of this and see where it ends up.

Brett Kreznor, 7213 W. Leland: And like the other day with him they weren't getting their way so it looks like they're calling the police on him. It's always somebody else's fault; it's never their fault.

Chief John DeVries: I even told the daughter when we were on the phone, I know you heard the conversation, I told the daughter this" I don't know how often you come here to see this lady?" I agree with you, this lady needs help. She's older and she's having a hard time getting around. All I'm trying to do is navigate here home right now to find out who her landscaper is to try to facilitate this problem we have in her yard. It just escalated from there, it just kept going up, she's call the wrong people. She called one guy three times within 10 minutes, he knew her by name the third time, and said Maria you're calling me by mistake again, so I said let me please help you, please listen to us. The daughter came on the phone, when I explained, she was complaining about the poison on the tomato plants I went out there and measured from the fence to the tomato garden was two and half feet. So I asked him what did you use to spray the weeds so I could see if it was long enough to go over the fence and into the tomato plants; no, it was just hitting the weeds that are growing on his side of the chicken wire that she put up. So I asked her, who put up that wire up, she said I did. Okay, so you're trying to stop the weeds from going into his yard and why don't we cut the weeds; if the landscaper came out why couldn't he weed whack? That escalated another problem, and so, with that being said, the daughter says to me "there are no weeds." I said how often do you see your mother? She wouldn't tell me and that's where the problem came in. I said if you came here once in a while maybe you'll see actually what I'm trying to describe; it's pretty bad. The weeds you were talking about were about 7 feet tall, over the top of the garage, and the stem on the bark of it was pretty thick. That's how bad it is right now in her back yard.

Brett Kreznor, 7213 W. Leland: She just hires some random people, who knows who they are, even with the people that she hires how do we know if they're good people that they're not going to break into the house or my garage when they come, nobodies there.

Mayor Jezierny: I just want to state too that I did talk to the other daughter, she had called me, and complaining about you treating an old elderly person like that and I specifically said you have no idea how much our Chief helps our seniors and the people in this town. And I said, for example, there was a gentleman whose legs were very swollen, he has a son that evidently didn't come around, there was stale water, mold in the basement and this Chief goes and cleans everything up for him. That's the type of person he is; so that's on the record.

Chief John DeVries: But she didn't give me the opportunity to get this cleaned up. It would of taken me 25 minutes to go in there with a saw, cleaned it up and made it presentable because I know he doesn't like his yard like that. And from the pictures the bushes are growing probably about 2-1/2 feet into his gangway. I don't even know how his dogs to the gangway because the bushes are impeding the walkway right there; that's how bad it's growing into his yard and he's too scared to cut it on his own because he doesn't want the police to come out there.

Brett Kreznor, 7213 W. Leland: Last summer, that's why I went to the village to show them. I went on a Monday and they didn't come until Friday. And as soon as I got home from work on Friday she finally started pulling some of the weeds out. And even JoAnn tried to do the same thing, she offered to go clean the yard and she wouldn't let her. And she has this thing if you're not Polish. The Police Officer told me I could cut what was on my side of the fence but it's a big deal with her, if she can't get her way then she does whatever she can. She makes up a lot of lies, she can't even drive but she has handicap parking. She doesn't have a car.

Mayor Jezierny: And still has handicap parking?

Brett Kreznor, 7213 W. Leland: Yes! And she was telling the Police Officer that I was throwing nails in her handicap spot and then she got a flat tire. She had workers at her house doing work.

Chief John DeVries: When I walked up there with the Building Commissioner her garage door was wide open and there was a lawnmower that was sitting on the apron half out of the garage and I walked up and felt the motor and it was warm, I'm thinking someone just cut this grass. So, I called her on the phone, I told her who I was, I told her I have 2 problems, I'm at your house here in the alley and your garage door is wide open. I don't want to walk away until your garage is secure, please if you can do it I'm here to assist you. So we did, she thanked me for that and then we walked back into the gangway and that's where it just erupted at that point.

Mayor Jezierny: Stated that our Attorney suggested that maybe the Senior Assistance Center can check in on her and do an evaluation.

Chief John DeVries: Yes we could! I don't know, I can't get over there to talk to her.

Brett Kreznor, 7213 W. Leland: She use to have a lot of hospice coming by, but they haven't been by in at least a year. If they weren't Polish she would fire them. The family came by on Friday, that was the first time I've seen them in who knows how long. They put up a new camera because they think they're going to catch us. Her son-in-law was taking videos because I went outside and let the dogs out and they were barking. They do anything they can to provoke them and then once they start barking they pull out the camera; but they'll never tell you how they did it. All this provoking and antagonizing or whatever you want to call it they will find a way to do something to get what they want. They make up blatant lies and everything they can do to make us look like bad people.

Mayor Jezierny: Thank you for coming tonight and we will see what we can do once we take a closer look at this; I'm sure they will be contacting us.

E. REPORTS OF MAYOR, TRUSTEES, CLERK AND ATTORNEY

Mayor's Report

I want to announce that the Village of Harwood Heights received a ratings increase from S&P from A+ to AA-. This is based on the Village's strong financial performance. I want to thank Mary Ventrella & Rob Romo, our financial directors, for their conscientious effort on watching over all our finances. Congratulations and thank you to both of you!! Great job!!

A 9/11 Ceremony will be held in front of the Fire Protection District building recognizing the 25th year. It will be held at 9:00 am. All are welcome to attend.

We have a number of construction projects taking place in the Village along Montrose from Sayre to Forest Preserve Drive, the blocks on Leland from Oketo to Harlem, 5 alley projects and paving projects for 4600 & 4700 New England and 4700 block of Newcastle. Residents will be notified as projects continue.

To address any water leak issues, ME Simpson Co will perform an extensive survey for the Village to locate and fix any leak issues.

The Collective Bargaining Agreement for personnel is finally ready to be approved for the Village Board.

The façade in front of the Village Hall will give a presentable look to our Village with healthy bushes and a retaining wall.

Shredding & Recycling will take place at the Village Hall on Sept 26th from 9:00am – Noon.

The Car Show is on Sunday, Sept 27th with registration for cars beginning at 8:30am and will conclude at 2:00 pm. It will be held in the Steinhafel's parking lot.

The Craft Fair begins Saturday, Oct 3rd from 10-4:00pm and Sunday from 10-3:00 pm. Admission is $1 and includes a raffle ticket.

Finance
Trustee Brutto

No Report - Absent

Ordinance & License
Trustee Steiner

No Report

Police/Public Safety
Trustee Brzezniak-Volpe
The week of September 20th is "National Seat Safety Week." The Harwood Heights Police Department will do a child passenger safety event on Sunday, September 20th from noon until 4:00pm for check the car seats and they will have some kids activities, safety information and give aways. The event will be held at the Police Department.

Public Works/Public Health
Trustee Brzozowski-Wegrecki

No Report

Building
Trustee Zerillo

No Report

Forestry & Green Initiative
Trustee Lewandowski

No Report

Clerk's Report

No Report - Absent

Attorney Margaret Kostopoulos
We are very happy that our agreement with MAP for Public Works and administrative personnel was ratified. It is the same wage increase as police, same insurance package as police and non-union. So, we are very happy to have finally resolved that. Thanked Mary Ventrella, Deputy Chief Sam Palazzo and Trustee Brutto for their help.

Chief John DeVries

No Report

Deputy Chief Sam Palazzo:
We are kicking off the "National Seat Safety Week" event on Sunday, September 20th from noon until 4:00pm. We will have a certified technician now, Sal Cannella, so even after the event on the 20th we will put it out there and people can call and schedule an appointment and have their seats installed.

F. TRUSTEE COMMENTS

Trustee Lewandowski: I just want to mention that the Mayor and I attended the 30th Anniversary of the Noise Commission; it was a nice event. They will continue to work to keep our neighborhoods and our area of living safe and quiet.

G. SPECIAL COMMITTEE REPORTS

Trustee Brzezniak-Volpe – MCD Update: We had our meeting on Tuesday and we approved Director Ron Gross' contract for the next 3 years and he is getting a raise equal to what the dispatchers received for the first year 4%, 3-1/4% for the second year and 3% for the third year. The drone is progressing along; it may be moved to Ridgewood High School instead of the Norridge Park District.

Trustee Brzozowski-Wegrecki/Zerillo: We had our meeting yesterday and discussed the proposed Shares for 2027. Our current 2026 Share was $53,953.00; we are looking at a proposed 3% increase for 2027 which will be $54,997.00. These numbers will be finalized in October waiting on the EAV, census & population. Also, we will invite Marianne to our COW for her yearly report.

Trustee Steiner – Norridge/Harwood Heights Chamber of Commerce: Next meeting is September 15, 2026. from 11:30am to 1:30pm lunch at Las Palmas.

Trustee Zerillo – O'Hare Technical Committee: Next meeting September 22, 2026. Thanked the Mayor and Trustee Lewandowski for attending the 30th Anniversary Event.

H. APPOINTMENTS/REAPPOINTMENTS/HIRES

None

I. CONSENT AGENDA

Motion by Trustee Brzezniak-Volpe, seconded by Trustee Lewandowski on Consent Agenda items I 1–18:

1. To approve the minutes of the Regular Board Meeting held August 27, 2026.

2. To approve expenditure, not to exceed **$11,305.72**, payable to West Central Municipal Conference for the FY 2026-2027 Membership Dues expensed to FY 26/27 line item 11-01-7027.00 – General Administration.

3. To approve expenditure, not to exceed **$1,861.76**, payable to Johnson Controls to replace batteries for alarm system expensed to FY 26/27 line item 11-14-7051.02 – General – Building/Site Maintenance.

4. Motion to Authorize Public Works Superintendent or Mayor Arlene Jezierny to enter into contracts, to include joint participation agreements, on behalf of the Village of Harwood Heights for the State of IL CY2026 – CY2027 Joint Purchase Master Contract(s) for the purchase of Rock Salt.

5. To approve expenditure, not to exceed **$7,900.00**, payable to Melrose Yard Services (+ $4,000 for materials obtained by PW) for the removal of existing evergreens in front of the Village Hall and removal of existing stumps from the west side and installing 2 retaining walls in front of the Village Hall and planting new shrubbery expensed to FY 26/27 line item 11-14-8711.00 – General – Streetscape.

6. To approve expenditure, not to exceed **$1,795.00**, payable to Shamrock Fire Protection LLC for fire sprinkler repairs and testing expensed to FY 26/27 line item 11-14-7051.02 – General – Building/Site Maintenance.

7. To approve expenditure, not to exceed **$11,750.00**, payable to M.E. Simpson Co., Inc.to perform a Water Distribution Leak Survey on approximately 25.7 miles of water mains within the village expensed to FY 26/27 line item 22-00-7039.02 – Water & Sewer Fund.

8. To approve expenditure, not to exceed **$1,039.10**, payable to Core & Main for 1 water meter expensed to FY 26/27 line item 22-00-6018.00 – Water & Sewer Fund.

9. To approve expenditure, not to exceed **$1,196.82**, payable to Municipal Backflow LLC for Police Department backflow repair expensed to FY 26/27 line item 11-14-7041.02 – Village Properties.

10. To approve expenditure, not to exceed **$3,172.07**, payable to Inter-Pacific, Inc. for the replacement of Fixed Dome and PTZ camera on pole at the Heights Bar expensed to FY 26/27 line item 12-00-8536.00 – Capital Projects Fund.

11. To approve expenditure, not to exceed **$1,796.00**, payable to Nicholas Ramirez for tuition reimbursement for course at Governors State University expensed to FY 26/27 line item 11-05-7064.00 – Police

12. To approve expenditure, not to exceed **$1,393.00**, payable to The Printing Station II for the printing/laminating of the 2027 Residential and TCVP Mirror Hanger Tags expensed to FY 26/27 line item 11-05-7022.00 – Police.

13. Motion to approve the Collective Bargaining Agreement between the Village of Harwood Heights and Metropolitan Alliance of police, Civilian Chapter # 282, May 1, 2026 to April 30, 2029.

14. To approve expenditure, not to exceed **$460.00**, payable to Norridge/Harwood Heights Little League for the 2026 registration reimbursement for 23 Harwood Heights participants expensed to FY 26/27 line item 11-08-7047.00 – Recreation.

15. To approve expenditure, not to exceed **$245.00**, payable to Ridgewood Foundation for a table at the Twenty-First Alumni Hall of Fame Dinner & Raffle on Thursday, September 10, 2026 as 6:00pm at Ridgewood High School expensed to FY 26/27 line item 11-01-7040.00 – General Administration.

16. Transfer from Parkway General Savings Account in the amount of **$97,569.79** as they appear on the September 4, 2026 check register **#77574** thru **#77616.**

17. Transfer from Parkway General Savings Account in the estimated amount of **$210,000.00** to Parkway Bank Payroll Account. (September 11, 2026).

18. Electronic transfer from Parkway General Savings Account on the amount of **$18,316.43** for August 2026 IMRF Pension Fund.

A roll call vote on Consent Agenda items I 1 – 18 resulted as follows:
A YES: Trustee Steiner, Brzezniak-Volpe, Brzozowski-Wegrecki, Zerillo, Lewandowski
NAYS:
ABSTAIN:
ABSENT: Trustee Brutto **Motion Carried**

MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE VILLAGE OF HARWOOD HEIGHTS HELD ON WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 9, 2026

I. NEW BUSINESS

None

K. OLD BUSINESS

None

L. CORRESPONDENCE

None

M. TRUSTEE COMMENTS

Mayor Jezierny: Nino, we will be doing work on Leland, if you see anything that needs our attention please give me a call. We will have people there, Ron Maslo, our Public Works Superintendent along with the contractor and our engineers

N. PUBLIC COMMENT:

None

O. 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:

P. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Trustee Brzezniak-Volpe, seconded by Trustee Steiner to adjourn. On a voice vote, all being in favor, (Trustee Brutto – Absent) the motion carried and the Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Village of Harwood Heights was adjourned by Mayor Arlene Jezierny, on Wednesday, September 9, 2026 at 8:02pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Marcia L. Pollowy, Village Clerk