



# **Village of Homer Glen**

**14933 South Founders Crossing  
Homer Glen, Illinois 60491**

**February 23, 2010**

**Board of Trustees**

## **Board Meeting**

**Village Council Chamber  
14917 South Founders Crossing  
Homer Glen, IL**

**A. CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order on February 23, 2010 by Mayor James Daley at 7:34 p.m. in the Village Council Chamber – 14917 South Founders Crossing, Homer Glen.

**B. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG****C. ROLL CALL**

Present at 7:34 p.m. were Mayor James Daley, Trustees Russell Knaack, Mary Niemiec, Margaret Sabo, Laurel Ward and George Yukich. All remained present throughout the meeting. Trustee Costa was not present. Also present on behalf of the Village were Village Clerk Gale Skroboton, Community Development Director Ed Cage, Village Manager Paula Wallrich, and Village Attorney Cary Horvath.

A quorum was established.

**D. APPROVAL OF AMENDMENTS TO AGENDA**

Trustee Ward made a motion to remove Items E-1, E-2, I-2 and I-4. The applicant has requested that Item I-2 be deferred to the March 23, 2010 meeting; second by Trustee Yukich.

Trustee Sabo requested that the Consideration of a Letter of Support for HR#884 – “Responsible Outdoor Lighting” be added under Old Business. Trustee Ward amended her motion; second amended by Trustee Yukich.

*The Mayor asked the Clerk to call the roll.*

Voice Vote:

All Ayes: (5) Trustees Knaack, Niemiec, Sabo, Ward and Yukich

Nays: (0) None

Absent: Trustee Costa

*Motion carried.*

**E. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

*February 9, 2010 – Board Meeting*

Trustee Ward made a motion to approve the Board Minutes of February 9, 2010; second by Trustee Yukich.

Trustee Knaack requested the word “community” be changed to “neighborhood” on page 8, paragraph 3.

Trustee Ward amended her motion to approve the Minutes as amended; second by Trusted Yukich.

Voice Vote:

All Ayes: (5) Trustees Knaack, Niemiec, Sabo, Ward and Yukich

Nays: (0) None

Absent: Trustee Costa

*Motion carried.*

**F. SCHEDULE OF ACCOUNTS PAYABLE**

Trustee Ward made a motion to approve Accounts Payable for the period January 28, 2010 to February 24, 2010 in the amount of \$430,936.07; second by Trustee Niemiec.

*The Mayor asked the Clerk to call the Roll:*

Roll Call Vote:

Ayes: (5) Trustees Knaack, Niemiec, Sabo, Ward and Yukich

Nays: (0) None

Absent: (1) Trustee Costa

The Mayor did not vote.

*Motion Carried.*

## G. REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS FROM MAYOR AND OTHER OFFICERS

### 1. Mayor Daley reported:

- . On February 11<sup>th</sup> the Village of Homer Glen hosted the 3rd Lockport Township High School Summit. Over 100 residents from the District attended and many voiced their concerns about the overcrowding issue. The Mayors of Lockport and Crest Hill were in attendance, as were members of the School Board and the Steering Committee. Trustees Ward, Knaack, Yukich and Niemiec also attended. The next Summit will be held on April 22<sup>nd</sup> at Lockport High School.
- . Representatives from Bolingbrook, Romeoville, Plainfield, Woodridge and Shorewood met with the Mayor, Trustee Niemiec and members of staff to continue discussions on forming a joint water agency. The purpose of the agency is the acquisition of the Bedford Park Transmission Line, to allow the membership communities to control the supply cost of water. The proposed order of the rate case was released yesterday and is being reviewed by staff. The automatic 5% QIP increase is also under review. The Village will continue to work to provide a fair cost of sewer and water to our residents.
- . The newly formed Administration and Finance Committee met to discuss the budget. Finance Director John Sawyers presented a draft budget for the next financial year and provided year end projections for our current budget cycle. The Village will complete the year with an operating surplus due to better than anticipated revenue from Home Rule sales tax and conservative spending. We anticipate that approximately \$400,000 of Home Rule sales tax will be used as part of the General Fund budget. The issue of Home Rule becomes critical when determining the budgets for next year and 2012. The issue of Home Rule will be taken to our residents and Village officials will provide information on the available options.
- . Residents were reminded of the importance of being counted in the Census. Unless all residents are counted the Village will not receive the revenues due from the State. As a community without a municipal property tax it is imperative that the Village maximize State revenue.

### 2. Trustees:

#### a. Trustee Sabo reported:

#### **ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE REPORT**

##### **Earth Hour 2010**

The universal date for Earth Hour is Saturday, March 27, with non-essential lights being turned off between 8:30 p.m. and 9:30 p.m. The public is encouraged to attend the celebration which will begin at 7:30 p.m. at Sears Essentials. Representative Renee Kosel and Homer Glen native Ashley Bradarich, who will represent Illinois in this year's Miss USA Pageant, will be on hand to kick-off the event.

##### **Earth Day/Arbor Day**

The Environment Committee's Earth Day/Arbor Day group is scheduled to meet again on Wednesday, March 3. The committee has received offers of volunteer assistance from Lockport Township High School ROTC and a LTHS Science Special Project Science Club under the direction of Ivan Kimble. There will be a presentation by Homer Glen resident, Jim Nesci and his Cold Blooded Creatures. The show is very popular with adults and children and has been featured on TV programs and the Oprah show. The Committee continues to seek volunteers, participants and sponsors. Sponsors will be acknowledged in publicity and at the event.

**Proclamation for Earth Day/Arbor Day**

The Environment Committee is recommending that a proclamation for Earth Day/Arbor Day be prepared in about a month.

**151<sup>st</sup> & Bell Road Project**

Homer Glen owns a property of about one third of an acre at the northeast corner of 151<sup>st</sup> and Bell Road. The Environment Committee is presenting a concept plan for a beautification project as a result of working with consultant Marcie Stewart Pyziak. The concept shows native trees, shrubs, native plants, and perennials that will have seasonal color and will be suitable to the site. Plant materials were selected that required minimum maintenance. Mayor Jim Daley has committed a large donation for trees at the site. The Committee is recommending that signage be similar to entrance signs that show the oak tree and the Homer Glen motto. The sign drawing will be presented at another meeting. The drawing will be available at the office and the Committee is welcoming comments and recommendations from the Village Board before a final plan is presented.

**Light Symposium at Lewis University**

A not-for-profit organization, The Illinois Coalition for Responsible Outdoor Lighting (ICROL), has scheduled a free public symposium on Thursday, March 11 from 8 a.m. until 3:30 p.m. at Lewis University. The subject is Manmade Light at Night – Perils and Promises and features the cost of excess outdoor illumination on health, environment, energy and sustainability. The event features speakers representing Harvard University, International Dark Skies Association, Adler Planetarium and Astronomy Museum, City of Santa Rosa, California, Village of Homer Glen, Office of Illinois Governor Pat Quinn, and ICROL. Flyers are available on the entrance table.

**Clean Water Seminar**

Trustee Sabo and Environment Committee member Debra Norvil attended The Conservation Foundations Seminar on Green Infrastructure for Clean Water. Among the many ideas presented were using water as a resource, green infrastructure for improving water quality, deriving cost benefits, and promoting sustainability in landscaping. The Environment Committee has already been promoting sustainability to be incorporated in updating the Landscape Ordinance draft.

**Resolution for Illinois**

Under Old Business the Environment Committee is recommending that a letter be sent in support of a resolution for Responsible Outdoor Lighting which Illinois House Representative Renee Kosel is introducing as HR 884.

b. Trustee Niemiec reported:

The two main areas that comprise Homer Glen's water and sewer bills are supply and distribution. Discussions regarding the transmission line center on the supply line, which is the \$50 million pipe that comes from Bedford Park and brings water to the Village. If the water agency was to be created, it would acquire and manage the supply line. More information is needed and data is being gathered. This would give the Village an opportunity to take control of our destiny. The Board will be reviewing the proposed ordinances that would establish the water agency, and Trustee Niemiec proposed that Village Attorney Mark Sterk be asked to attend the March 9<sup>th</sup> Board meeting and provide background information and interpretation of what the ordinance would commit the Village to do.

Under New Business on the agenda the Board will be discussing a Letter of Support for legislation that was submitted by Representative Renee Kosel that addresses asset evaluation and how it is determined.

The Village attorneys are reviewing the order for the proposed IAW rate increase and will provide the Board with an accurate analysis of what the ICC determined.

Illinois American has filed with the ICC for a QIP, which is an assessment that can come every year without ICC approval based on the needs for capital improvements. Illinois American has requested that the ICC approve an up to 5% increase every year without a ruling by the ICC. These hearings will be held in March and April in Chicago. While we did not intervene, Homer Glen will be attending and providing comments. Residents who would like information or present comments can contact the Village office for details.

Illinois American Water gave a presentation at the February 17<sup>th</sup> Sewer and Water Task Force meeting on financial questions that the Task Force had submitted. We raised the issue of Illinois American putting hang tags on the front doors of residents when there is a water outage. If the hang tags are not noticed, residents may not be aware that water will be shut off or a boil order is in effect. The Task Force has suggested that Illinois American look into a process, possibly through e-mails or a reverse phone call system, of informing residents when there is a boil order or water outage.

Trustee Niemiec commented that she was encouraged by the number of residents who attended the School Summit and it is evident that our residents are looking for the Village to provide some leadership into helping find a solution for the school. There is a cost to doing nothing and if we wait the cost will get higher and higher. There are two significant issues: school overcrowding and the uncontrolled escalating water rates that the Board has taken seriously and is aggressively addressing.

- c. Trustee Knaack reported the Parks and Recreation Committee is working on completing an analysis on our neighborhood parks, comparing them with our Master Plan, and finding a way to prioritize the order in which those parks should be developed. The Committee is also still looking at creating an inventory of land for community parks. The regular meeting of the Parks and Recreation Committee will be changed from 8:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. on the 4<sup>th</sup> Monday of each month.
  - d. Trustee Ward reiterated the importance of participating in the 2010 Census. It is important to Homer Glen that we receive a significant amount of our revenue from our per capita count. Without that revenue we would be in jeopardy of balancing our budget, as this revenue helps the Village operate without a property tax. It is also very important to the State of Illinois. Illinois is one of the States that is in danger of losing a congressional representative in the U.S. House of Representatives, and the 2010 Census will determine the number of representatives for Illinois. It is also important to all of us as federal tax payers since the Census Bureau will send representatives over and over again to households that do not return the surveys and each of the visits will cost taxpayers money.
  - e. Trustee Yukich reported the Public Services and Safety Committee continues to work with residents on the speeding problems, especially on Oakwood Court. The police will continue to issue more tickets for speeding.
3. Treasurer Village Manager Wallrich read into the record the Treasurer's Report, with ending balances as of January 31, 2010.

General Fund	\$ 2,714,330.30
Motor Fuel Tax Fund	\$ 1,159,867.76
Park Fund	\$ 629,170.31
Land Acquisition Fund	\$ 91,528.51
Capital Project Fund	\$ 913,666.23
Tollway Fund	\$ 222,955.42

4. Clerk – No Report
5. Village Manager Wallrich commented that the Village Attorney will be testifying at the March 3<sup>rd</sup> Judiciary I Committee meeting for the valuation legislation. We will be sharing the cost with Orland Hills.

6. Attorney – No Report
7. Task Force Chairperson(s) – No Report
8. Sheriff – No Report

#### **H. PUBLIC COMMENT**

1. Vilija Kerelis, 13429 W. Oakwood Ct. voiced her concern about the dangerous conditions of the traffic circle and asked what the Village is doing about keeping the residents safe.
2. Curt Eberhardt, 16948 Meadowcrest informed the Board of a flooding problem that has existed since 1996 in the Meadowcrest subdivision. The flooding problems are due to the continued home development in the area and the loss of drainage areas due to this construction, as well as deterioration of the drainage system.

#### **I. LEGISLATION**

1. **Consideration of a Map Amendment from A-1 to E-2 and a Minor Single Family Residential Subdivision to Create One Lot for the Subject Property Located at 17550 S. Meader Road in Unincorporated Will County (1.5 mile Review).**

Trustee Ward made a motion for consideration of a map amendment; second by Trustee Niemiec.

Community Development Director Ed Cage stated the applicant is requesting a non-objection to their minor subdivision (creating one lot for one residence) and rezoning through Will County. Our Comprehensive Plan designated the subject property as single family rural and calls for lots to be 2.5 acres or greater in size. The proposed lot size is 2.7 acres after the Meader Road right-of-way dedication, and is therefore consistent with the proposed E-2 residential zoning district. The Plan Commission, by unanimous vote, saw no objection to the applicant's request.

*The Mayor asked the Clerk to call the Roll:*

Roll Call Vote:

Ayes: (5) Trustees Knaack, Niemiec, Sabo, Ward and Yukich

Nays: (0) None

Abstain: (0) None

Absent: (1) Trustee Costa

The Mayor did not vote.

*Motion carried.*

2. **An Ordinance Granting a Special Use and Certain Approvals for Real Property Located at 12500 West 159<sup>th</sup> Street (Waterfall Place).**

This item was deferred to March 23<sup>rd</sup> at the request of the applicant.

3. **Ordinance No. 10-006 – An Ordinance Amending Ordinance No. 01-022 Providing for the Control of Alcoholic Liquor.**

Trustee Ward made a motion to approve Ordinance No. 10-006; second by Trustee Yukich.

Village Manager Wallrich stated Litsa Lounge currently holds a Class B-1, Bar with Food Service liquor license. Sam Akkawi, future owner of the business, applied for a Class B, Restaurant and Bar liquor license and plans to expand the size of the business into two vacant lease spaces and extend the hours of operation to include a lunch menu. The Ordinance provides for the reduction of the B-1 license and the creation of a B license. The Plan Commission met with Mr. Akkawi and reviewed his application and unanimously recommended support of issuing the liquor license.

The Mayor commented that he met with Mr. Akkawi regarding concerns about the proposed new name of the business, and Mr. Akkawi agreed to come up with a different name.

Trustee Sabo voiced her concern about the number of available parking spaces in the front of the building and questioned the number of parking spaces required for the size of this establishment.

Mr. Cage stated the number of parking spaces for all the units in the building met the criteria, which is based on square footage; however, the required number of spaces for a restaurant is based on the number of tables, rather than square footage. There are some concerns about the parking in the front of the building, but the new establishment will have two access points and parking is available in the back of the building and across the road on Township property to the west.

*The Mayor asked the Clerk to call the Roll:*

Roll Call Vote:

Ayes: (5) Trustees Knaack, Niemiec, Sabo, Ward and Yukich

Nays: (0) None

Abstain: (0) None

Absent: (1) Trustee Costa

The Mayor did not vote.

*Motion carried.*

#### **4. An Ordinance Establishing Policies and Procedures Concerning Building & Development, Employees and Village Board Requests.**

This item was deferred to a later date.

### **J. WORKSHOP ITEMS**

#### **1. Fiddymt Creek Sewer Extension Project – McDonough Associates, Inc.**

Village Manager Wallrich stated that a draft is being prepared for Board review that can then be presented to the public at the Open House Public Meeting. The meeting has been moved to March 31<sup>st</sup> to allow for the required notice requirements. There is a 30-day notice requirement and a total of a 60-day comment period. The draft document will be available at the library and comments can be made via e-mail or in writing. The Open House will be held from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. on March 31<sup>st</sup> in the Council Chambers.

Village Manager Wallrich stated that Trustee Ward had submitted her comments and questions that she would like to see addressed through the process.

Trustee Ward commented that she would like to see the language that is not consistent with the Comprehensive Plan changed before the draft goes out for public viewing. Trustee Ward suggested that the Village's Arborist look at the proposed preferred alignment of the trees so he can answer questions from the Board.

Trustee Knaack will submit his comments after completing his review of the draft.

Mayor Daley commented that he would like to complete the work on this project soon as there may be federal funds available that can only be used for "shovel-ready" capital projects, such as this sewer line.

Trustee Sabo stated that she would like to walk the property and see the alignment when the weather allows, and invited the other Trustees to join her.

### **K. OLD BUSINESS**

Village Manager Wallrich read the Letter of Support for House Resolution #884 on “Responsible Outdoor Lighting”, which states that “The passage of this legislation is fundamental in building awareness and garnering endorsements for protecting our night sky.” The letter will be addressed to Representative Renee Kosel on behalf of the Board.

Trustee Sabo made a motion to authorize the Village Manager to send the Letter of Support; second by Trustee Ward.

*The Mayor asked the Clerk to call the roll.*

Voice Vote:

All Ayes: (5) Trustees Knaack, Niemiec, Sabo, Ward and Yukich

Nays: (0) None

Absent: Trustee Costa

*Motion carried.*

#### **L. NEW BUSINESS**

Village Manager Wallrich stated that she received a request from Director Sheree Kozel-La Ha for a Letter of Recommendation for the Homer Township Public Library as it seeks to obtain a DCEO/ISL BTOP Grant. This grant would provide extended learning workshops and training.

Trustee Ward made a motion to send a Letter of Recommendation; second by Trustee Yukich.

*The Mayor asked the Clerk to call the roll.*

Voice Vote:

All Ayes: (5) Trustees Knaack, Niemiec, Sabo, Ward and Yukich

Nays: (0) None

Absent: Trustee Costa

*Motion carried.*

#### **M. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Trustee Ward made a motion to adjourn to Executive Session for land acquisition and probable or imminent litigation; second by Trustee Niemiec, but also to include matters of personnel.

Trustee Ward amended her motion to include discussion of matters of personnel; second by Trustee Niemiec.

*The Mayor asked the Clerk to call the Roll:*

Roll Call Vote:

Ayes: (5) Trustees Knaack, Niemiec, Sabo, Ward and Yukich

Nays: (0) None

Abstain: (0) None

Absent: (1) Trustee Costa

The Mayor did not vote.

*Motion carried.*

The Board recessed to Executive Session at 8:36 p.m.

No final action was taken at Executive Session.

Trustee Niemiec made a motion to reconvene the Board meeting; second by Trustee Sabo.

Voice Vote:



All Ayes: (5) Trustees Knaack, Niemiec, Sabo, Ward and Yukich

Nays: (0) None

Absent: (1) Trustee Costa

*Motion carried.*

*The meeting reconvened at 9:50 p.m.*

**N. ADJOURNMENT**

Trustee Sabo made a motion to adjourn the meeting; second by Trustee Niemiec.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:51 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Gale Skroboton, Village Clerk

*Approved at the Board of Trustees Meeting dated March 9, 2010*