



Village of Homer Glen

**14240 W. 151st Street
Homer Glen, Illinois 60491**

March 22, 2023

**Board of Trustees
Board Meeting**

**Village Board Room
14240 W. 151st Street
Homer Glen, IL 60491**

A. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order on March 22, 2023 by Mayor Yukich at 7:00 p.m. in the Village Board Room, 14240 W. 151st Street, Homer Glen.

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

Present were Mayor Yukich, Trustees Ruben Pazmino, Dan Fialko (via Zoom), Beth Rodgers, Rose Reynders, and Jennifer Consolino. Also present on behalf of the Village were, Village Attorney Eric Hanson, Legislative Counsel Cary Horvath, Chief Building Official Joe Baber, Director of Public Works Brent Woods, Finance Director & Treasurer John Sawyers, Village Engineer Brett Westcott, Village Manager Carmen Maurella, and Village Clerk Christina Neitzke-Troiike. *A quorum was established.*

Trustee La Ha absent.

E. APPROVAL OF AMENDMENTS TO THE AGENDA - None**F. APPROVAL OF MINUTES****1. January 11, 2023 – Village Board Meeting (Tabled at the February 22, 2023 Meeting)**

Trustee Consolino motioned to approve, Trustee Pazmino second.

Clerk Neitzke – Troiike asked Trustee Reynders if she wanted the yellow highlighted area clarified by whom the gentleman is that Trustee Reynders refers to. Trustee Reynders said no. Clerk Neitzke – Troiike asked the Village Board if they would like for the green section to be erased from the minutes. Village Board agreed.

The Mayor asked the Clerk to call the Roll:

Ayes: (5) Trustees Rodgers, Pazmino, Reynders, Fialko, and Consolino

Nays: (0)

Abstained: (0)

Absent: (1) Trustee La Ha

Present: (0)

The motion carried

2. January 25, 2023 – Village Board Meeting (Tabled at the February 22, 2023 Meeting)

Trustee Pazmino motioned to approve, Trustee Reynders second.

The Mayor asked the Clerk to call the Roll:

Ayes: (4) Trustees Rodgers, Pazmino, Reynders, and Fialko

Nays: (0)

Abstained: (1) Trustee Consolino

Absent: (1) Trustee La Ha

Present: (0)

The motion carried

3. February 8, 2023 – Village Board Meeting

Trustee Pazmino motioned to approve, Trustee Reynders second

The Mayor asked the Clerk to call the Roll:

Ayes: (4) Trustees Consolino, Pazmino, Reynders, and Fialko

Nays: (0)

Abstained: (1) Trustee Rodgers

Absent: (1) Trustee La Ha

Present: (0)

The motion carried

4. February 22, 2023 – Village Board Meeting

Trustee Pazmino motioned to table, Trustee Reynders second.

The Mayor asked the Clerk to call the Roll:

Ayes: (5) Trustees Rodgers, Pazmino, Reynders, Fialko, and Consolino

Nays: (0)

Abstained: (0)

Absent: (1) Trustee La Ha

Present: (0)

The motion carried

G. PUBLIC COMMENT – Agenda Items Only

Bill McNellis – Mr. McNellis had questions regarding the water, Trustee Fialko stated his comments were not pertaining to Agenda Items. Mr. McNellis asked to be switched to Public Comment L.

H. REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS FROM MAYOR AND OTHER OFFICERS

- 1) **Mayor's Report** – Mayor Yukich stated he was exercising his authority to Veto the contract regarding the Veterans Memorial contract with Touch of Green. Mayor Yukich read the following statement and it is also attached at the end of the minutes:

“On March 8, 2023, the Village Board approved the following: “A motion to approve a Contract with A Touch of Green for Design Build Services to Develop and Construct the Veterans Memorial in Heritage Park in the amount of \$345,798.00”. As President of the Village of Homer Glen, I am hereby providing my timely written objections and exercising my authority to veto the Village Board’s approval of said contract with A Touch of Green and the expenditure of funds for the contract. I am not required to provide specific reasons for my veto. However, in my opinion, the Village should have done more to solicit competitive bids for the project. I support the project, but awarding a \$345,000 contract without any other bids seems foolish. The Village may be overpaying and not even know it.”

2) Trustees

Trustee Pazmino – Trustee Pazmino reported on behalf of the Behavior Health Committee. Trustee Pazmino stated they had an amazing productive meeting. They were joined by John Roberts, President of and cofounder of Hero. Hero provides a trailer to take to events to provide information and educate families on how to detect signs early. Margert Winter from National Alliance on Mental Illness was also present. They support individuals with mental health and their families thru advocacy. One of the main topics in the committee discussion was stigma. Families don't want to be labeled as "that type of family". Trustee Pazmino stated families need to take that first step and he is very proud of this committee and the Village is blessed to have this committee.

Trustee Reynders- Trustee Reynders reported for the Parks Committee. The Parks Committee agreed to build two new tennis courts and repair the existing courts and restripe them as pickle ball courts. Trustee Reynders stated the slide in Evlyns Gate park is broken. Trustee Reynders wanted to let residents know TRIA was given a \$10 million bid to repair the village hall and park. In the park plan there was a veteran's memorial and it was slated for close to a million dollars. Trustee Reynders questioned Mayor Yukich on why he would veto something that was already slated for the park. The Mayor stated we needed to watch the money we were spending. Trustee Reynders asked Trustee Rodgers why was the memorial never taken off the grand plan of the park. Trustee Rodgers stated it was never built just like the ampatheater. Trustee Reynders stated there was always a Veterans memorial planned and this Veto is nothing but a political move and electioneering before the election.

Trustee Fialko – No Report

Trustee Rodgers- No Report

Trustee Consolino – Reporting for the Public Services and Safety, two weeks ago we had several local fires within our Village. I would like to give a big thank you to the Homer Township Fire department for extinguishing the fires.

3/8/2023 4:31 pm under power lines south of 159th behind Ridgewood Dr

3/9/2023 5:28 pm under power lines north of 159th behind Annico Dr

3/9/2023 5:28 pm behind houses at the end of Mackinac Rd (this one was an extension of a fire on the Orland side, they handled).

The cause of these "brush" fires is undetermined. If any residents have any further questions or information they would like to relay regarding the fires, please feel free to contact myself or the Homer Township Fire Department. Unfortunately, this is also the season for leaf burning. I would ask residents to please be extremely mindful and vigilant when burning anything on their property. Directives for obtaining a leaf burning permit and our Leaf Burning Village Ordinance 13-055 can be found on our Village website. And as always, if you see something that concerns you – say something. Call 911 whenever you have concerns about seeing a fire.

Earlier this month, the Community Safeguard committee compiled a detailed list of how to personally take the initiative to be proactive with personal security. It should be going up shortly on our Village website and via our social media page. I would like to thank staff member Alana

Charboneau for taking our long list and creating a very attractive pdf to share with our residents. Please keep an eye out for these very helpful security tips.

At our last Village board meeting Lt. Jeff Taylor criticized my comments during my report where I stated, *“the Will County Sheriff’s Office documented that crime has increased over the past year, especially with burglaries.”* And *“With the amped up crime and violent crime occurring around our Village, I compiled a checklist of safety precautions that each of our residents can use to be more proactive with their personal security.”* **I STAND BY WHAT I STATED, BECAUSE IT’S TRUE. I ALWAYS WELCOME ANY EVIDENCE PROVING DIFFERNTLY. 11 MILES OF HOMER GLEN BORDER COOK COUNTY.**

I’m going to refer to both the 12-month Will County Sheriff’s report that I received from Lieutenant and the Will County Sheriff’s Office policy and procedure 1.01a regarding rules of conduct: *****

I’ve said it time and time again during board meetings that I would point out politicking when it occurs in our Village. When it comes to the two referendum questions on our April 4th ballot, I understand that Lt. Taylor wants to campaign for the License Plate Reader Cameras, but is vehemently opposed to the feasibility study to look into costs associated with creating and maintaining a “part-time police department.” Lt. Taylor repeatedly informs us that License Plate Reader cameras could have helped him solve crimes that have occurred the past year in Homer Glen. He also likes to tell us that Homer Glen is the safest community and that we have little or no crime. I would like to publicly request to Lt. Taylor that when giving reporting regarding our crime in Homer Glen, please provide data and not opinions. I would also like to request for proof of where exactly the Lieutenant is finding the information to support that Homer Glen is the safest community around or in the State of Illinois. I want to be clear. I have never publicly commented or criticized on the performance of the Will County Sheriff’s officers assigned here in Homer Glen. I also want to be clear that the non-binding referendum question on the April 4th election ballot is not to hire any police department. The question is to pursue a feasibility study for costs for a part-time police department. If the question passes, it still does not mean we will be creating a department. It only means we see if the costs associated will be feasible for our community. Another referendum would need to go before the residents to see if they would want to pursue one and the costs associated with it. I can’t be any more transparent. Unfortunately, confusion and false information come from bad politicians and their campaign supporters when they feel it doesn’t personally benefit them. So, Homer Glen, please research the referendums and your candidates – very carefully – and please vote.

I would like to address how amazing our staff are. Our Village staff put together a beautiful newsletter this past month for our community to provide awareness to the amenities that our Village offers. This newsletter includes everything from our record-breaking number of scheduled events, Committee information, Village accomplishments, Voting information and the referendum questions on the April 4th ballot, Homer Fest schedule, and even news with Illinois American Water and our tax levy. On the last page, our Environment included their annual recyclable’s list that we normally send out in July – which is now perforated for you cut and place up for your convenience. Our staff, not this board, worked hard on this newsletter that helps show our residents how hard they are working for all of us. Without them our Village does not operate.

I want to publicly apologize to them for all of pressure and personal attacks they've received with all of the campaign elections. I don't think most residents know how brutal some campaign cronies have been with torturing our staff on a personal level. I also don't think that elected officials understand or care that by attacking a few employees, you're attacking them all. Yet, here they are, doing their jobs for all of us and our community. The people who should apologize never will. Therefore, I'll apologize loud and clear to my Village staff. You're amazing. I'm sorry for what you've had to endure. You do not deserve it. I am very grateful to being working alongside each of you and I am praying for the best with this April 4th election. Regardless, of whatever this election brings, I will always support you, because you are a blessing to our community.

Lastly, I'm going to beat a dead horse here and say to everyone, please stop with the political campaign signs. Just stop. Everyone is sick and tired of the whining, the lying and the antics. Leave the signs alone. Someone just got arrested the other day in New Lenox for stealing signs. I have residents complaining about their signs being taken down and residents complaining about 4x4 signs being placed illegally on their private property. The Clerk allegedly has people defacing her signs. I would like to request that she fills out a police report and requests the security video footage that is available from the Mobile Station, Eddy's Tobacco Shop, Richards Office Supplies, Ace Hardware and Megaplex. Grow up people. Grow up. A few weeks ago we had two officers go to a resident's house to threaten to arrest him for crossing out a sign that had been illegally placed on his lawn. I think enough is enough. So just stop the nonsense. Homer Glen deserves better. Today, a candidate's wife went out there and cleaned the Clerk's mayoral campaign sign on Bell Road across from Megaplex with "goo be gone." It worked. Fix where we live candidates. It's easier than you think.

ONLY 13 MORE DAYS HOMER GLEN.

GOOD LUCK EVERYONE.

Trustee La Ha - absent

3) Village Clerk – Clerk Neitzke – Troike thanked Ms. Roti and Angel Shake for cleaning an election sign that was spray painted.

4) Village Attorneys

Village Attorney Eric Hanson – Attorney Hanson gave an update on a task in which resident Steve Balich had given him regarding a survey. The Village of Homer Glen is not conducting a survey per Manager Maurella. Attorney Hanson followed up with Mr. Balich for the information he stated at the last board meeting. Attorney Hanson stated he turned over the complaint to Lt. Taylor and the Sheriff's office is looking into if a crime has been committed. Attorney Hanson provided Manager Maurella and Mr. Balich with information regarding robo calls in the future. The FCC has a process of reporting these and they will investigate.

Legislative Attorney Cary Horvath – Attorney Horvath stated Manager Maurella asked Attorney Horvath for clarification regarding the request of proposals. Attorney Horvath stated bids were solicited on November 18, 2022 and a request for proposals went out and was posted on

the village website with a due date of December 16, 2022, and an optional site visit on December 2, 2022. Attorney Horvath stated the Village Board could override the Veto by 2/3 vote.

5) Public Safety Officials – No Report

6) **Village Manager** – Manager Maurella stated the Village needed to start looking into ethics. Manager Maurella feels it is important to have some sort of ethics policy in place. Manager Maurella stated Staff is excited to present the budget. It was a privilege to get a need and wants list from staff and it flowed right into the budget for this year. Manger Maurella stated he has been working with Supervisor Balich and Clerk Bozen on the energy efficiency program. They retro fit the entire Public Works department and had 28% savings. Manager Maurella also looked into retro fitting the sports complex as well, which will also save the Sports program 28%. The newsletter went out, if anyone needs a copy, the Village has copies at the Village, the Library and the Senior Centers. The Village is doing a Food Drive starting April 3, 2023 and the food will be donated to the Lockport food pantry.

I. CONSENT AGENDA

1. **Consider for Approval the Accounts Payable for the Period of March 10, 2023 through March 23, 2023 in the Amount of \$609,159.54.**
2. **Consider for Approval the Treasurer’s Report of Cash and Investments for the Period Ending January 31, 2023.**

Trustee Pazmino motioned to approve the consent agenda, Trustee Reynders second.

The Mayor asked the Clerk to call the Roll:

Ayes: (5) Trustees Rodgers, Pazmino, Reynders, Fialko, and Consolino

Nays: (0)

Abstained: (0)

Absent: (1) Trustee La Ha

Present: (0)

The motion carried

J. LEGISLATION AND ACTION ITEMS

1. **Motion to approve Resolution No. 23-004, a Resolution in Support of the Mayors’ Monarch Pledge.**

Trustee Pazmino motioned to approve, Trustee Consolino second.

The Mayor asked the Clerk to call the Roll:

Ayes: (5) Trustees Pazmino, Reynders, Rodgers, Fialko, and Consolino

Nays: (0)

Abstained: (0)

Absent: (1) Trustee La Ha

Present: (0)

The motion carried

2. **Motion to approve Ordinance No. 23-018 a request for [1] a Special Use Permit to allow a swimming pool to be located in a side yard, [2] a Variance to increase the maximum permitted height of a fence located in a front yard from four (4) feet to six (6) feet, [3] a Variance to permit a solid fence in a front yard where fences are required to be fifty (50) percent open in design, and; [4] a Variance to the Stormwater Management Section of the Land Use and Site Development Code to reduce the required development setback from a stream from seventy-five (75) feet to sixteen (16) feet for certain real property located in the R-3 Residential District at 13842 S. Twin Oaks Court, Homer Glen, Illinois.**

Trustee Pazmino motioned to approve, Trustee Consolino second.

The Mayor asked the Clerk to call the Roll:

Ayes: (5) Trustees Rodgers, Pazmino, Reynders, Fialko, and Consolino

Nays: (0)

Abstained: (0)

Absent: (1) Trustee La Ha

Present: (0)

The motion carried

3. **Motion to approve Ordinance No. 23-019 an Ordinance Approving a Final Plat of Subdivision (Will-Cook Ace Plaza Subdivision) for certain real property located at 12121 W 159th Street, Homer Glen, Illinois, [HG-2210-APUD].**

Trustee Pazmino motioned to approve, Trustee Consolino second.

The Mayor asked the Clerk to call the Roll:

Ayes: (5) Trustees Rodgers, Pazmino, Reynders, Fialko, and Consolino

Nays: (0)

Abstained: (0)

Absent: (1) Trustee La Ha

Present: (0)

The motion carried

4. **Motion to approve Resolution 23-005, A Resolution Approving and Authorizing Execution of an Intergovernmental Agreement with the County of Will and Northwest Homer Fire Protection District for Maintenance and Energy of Traffic Signals at the Intersection of 143rd Street (County Highway 37) and Greystone Drive.**

Trustee Consolino motioned to approve, Trustee Reynders second.

The Mayor asked the Clerk to call the Roll:

Ayes: (5) Trustees Pazmino, Reynders, Rodgers, Fialko, and Consolino

Nays: (0)

Abstained: (0)

Absent: (1) Trustee La Ha

Present: (0)

The motion carried

5. **Motion to approve Resolution 23-006, A Resolution Approving and Authorizing Execution of an Intergovernmental Agreement with the County of Will and the Northwest Homer Fire Protection District for the Maintenance and Energy of Traffic Signals at the Intersection of Bell Road (County Highway 16) and Glengary Drive.**

Trustee Consolino motioned to approve, Trustee Reynders second.

The Mayor asked the Clerk to call the Roll:

Ayes: (5) Trustees Pazmino, Reynders, Rodgers, Fialko, and Consolino

Nays: (0)

Abstained: (0)

Absent: (1) Trustee La Ha

Present: (0)

The motion carried

6. **Motion to approve an Intragovernmental Agreement between the Village of Homer Glen and Will County School District 92, concerning village use of Oak Prairie Junior High property for public parking and access during the Homer Community Festival taking place on June 22-25, 2023.**

Trustee Consolino motioned to approve, Trustee Reynders second.

The Mayor asked the Clerk to call the Roll:

Ayes: (5) Trustees Pazmino, Rodgers, Reynders, Fialko, and Consolino

Nays: (0)

Abstained: (0)

Absent: (1) Trustee La Ha

Present: (0)

The motion carried

K. WORKSHOP

1. **FY2024 Budget Draft Discussion – See Power Point attached**

L. PUBLIC COMMENT

Bill McNellis – Homer Glen resident Mr. McNellis spoke in regards to his concerns and issues with IL American Water and the current agreement they have with Homer Glen.

Mike Carlson – Homer Glen resident spoke in regards to the vandalized election signs in Homer Glen.

M. OLD BUSINESS – Trustee Consolino requested that on the next agenda the Board needs to initiate an Ethics Commission and an Ethics Advisor. Trustee Consolino also had questions for Village Engineer, Brett Westcott as to what the village is doing to notify businesses in regards to the street widening on 151st and Bell Road. Engineer Westcott stated they are awaiting more information

on when the work will begin and at that time, he will work with Economic Development Director Janie Patch on relaying the information to the businesses.

Trustee Consolino also noted that Mayor Yukich and the previous board had spent over ten million dollars on a no bid contract with TRIA for Heritage Park.

Trustee Pazmino gave clarification on the advisory question for a part time police department that will be on the ballot for the April election. He wanted to clarify that is an advisory question and not a referendum. It is purely advisory and not binding in regards to what the citizens would like to see happen.

N. NEW BUSINESS – None

O. ADJOURNMENT

Trustee Rodgers motioned to adjourn, second by Trustee Reynders.

Voice Vote:

Ayes: (5) Trustees Reynders, Pazmino, Consolino, Rodgers, and Fialko

Nays: (0)

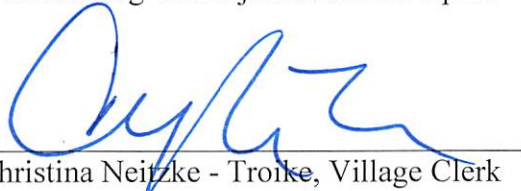
Abstained: (0)

Absent: (1) La Ha

The Mayor did not vote.

The motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:56 p.m.



Christina Neitzke - Troike, Village Clerk

Approved at the Board of Trustees Meeting dated May 24, 2023