



Village of Homer Glen

**14331 South Golden Oak Drive
Homer Glen, Illinois 60491**

Tuesday, September 20, 2005

**Board of Trustees
Meeting**

**Homer Junior High School
15711 South Bell Road
Homer Glen, IL**

A. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order on September 20, 2005 by Mayor Russ Petrizzo at 7:38 p.m. at Homer Junior High School, 15711 South Bell Road, Homer Glen.

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

Present at 7:38 p.m. were Mayor Russ Petrizzo, Trustees Brian Andrews, Marcia De Vivo, Chris Locacius, Margaret Sabo and Dale Vogelsanger. All remained throughout the entire meeting. Also present on behalf of the Village were Deputy Clerk Yelana Bowes, Village Manager Dwight Johnson, Community Development Director Jeff Harris, Village Attorney Ken Carlson and Renee Kosel, State Representative. (Trustee Niemiec arrived at 8:14 p.m.)

A quorum was established.

Approximately 230 residents were present for the meeting.

D. APPROVAL OF AMENDMENTS TO THE AGENDA

There were no Amendments to the Agenda.

E. COMMUNITY AND NATURE IN HARMONY AWARDS

Trustee Sabo read the description of the Community & Harmony Awards and thanked those who attended the tree planting ceremony at Founders Crossing Senior housing at 5:00 p.m. Community and Nature in Harmony Awards were presented to 28 recipients who received an award plaque, a yard sign and had their pictures taken.

Members of the Committee present were: Margaret Sabo, Lynne Herman, Kathy Kudla, Neeloo McAndrew, Bob Moses, Roger Ross, Cloyd Selby, and Sue Steilen.

Mayor Petrizzo congratulated and thanked all the winners for their time and making Homer Glen a beautiful place to live.

Trustee Niemiec made a motion adjourn the meeting for 10 minutes for picture taking; second by Trustee Sabo.

Voice Vote:

All in Favor: (6) Trustees Andrews, DeVivo, Locacius, Niemiec, Sabo and Vogelsanger

Nays: (0) None

Motion Carried.

Mayor Petrizzo reconvened the meeting at 8:15 PM.

F. REPORT ON I-355

Jim Cahill gave a brief update on the I-355 extension progress. Copies of the I-355 map are available at the Lemont Public Library. Mr. Cahill reported a bike path will run on the east side of the right-of-way connecting from south to north all the way to University of Wisconsin. An informational meeting will be held, Saturday, October 1st, from 10:00 a.m. to Noon at the Homer Glen Village Council Chamber.

G. PRESENTATION BY SEWER AND WATER TASK FORCE

Trustee Mary Niemiec, Chairman of the Task Force, called to order the Sewer and Water Task Force at 8:20 p.m.

Members present: Rob Denton, Jim Robert, George Tarasuk, Joe Jeraminas, Marcia DeVivo, Steve Dalton, Aaron Fundich and Brett Postl.

A quorum was established.

Trustee Niemiec thanked all who served on the Task Force, and the Engineering Firms who donated their time. She explained that the Task Force was formed and began to meet in June of 2004 to address the following issues:

- *High cost of water
- *High sewer fees
- *Availability of water

A power point presentation was presented by Trustee Niemiec explaining the water issues, bills, distribution, Illinois American Water Company, where water is pumped from (Bedford Park), all with documentation gathered from rate filings, public documents, ICC, IAW Co, American Lake Water Co., State agencies, surrounding communities, communities served by private utilities, Homer Glen Legal counsel and residents.

Points of the presentation:

1. Basic service fee
2. Use charges
3. August 2003 rate fee increased 45%
4. Size of water meters
5. Key findings
6. Unaccounted for water
7. Options
8. Cost of operating out our own system
9. Recommendations
10. Request help from all residents, village, State, Illinois American

Trustee Niemiec asked the Board to establish an ordinance to protect fire hydrants and get additional information and research. Trustee Niemiec told the residents that " we are on your side" with regard to the water issues.

Ms. Niemiec reported the Task Force will hold an Open House, October 12th from 5 - 8 p.m. at the Homer Junior High School to inform residents on the water issues.

The Mayor stated that he has spoken with Illinois American Water Company to work on changes for the rates and explained that back in the 1990's residents had asked for Lake Michigan water through Citizen's utilities who serviced the area at that time. The residents felt that the problems of hard water and orange laundry could be solved by bringing in Lake Michigan water. Citizens Water was accessible to the residents, but Illinois American does not seem to be.

Mayor Petrizzo asked if Senator Radogno and Representative Kosel would help us with these problems.

Representative Kosel said she would take recommendations to Springfield, and said there should never be a rate increase without the voice of the people. Rep. Kosel stated that we need a bill of rights for water usage from private companies, and other villages on Illinois American may want to back the legislation with us.

Senator Radogno thanked the Task Force for all the hard work and suggested that we may need to develop a solution at the legislative end.

Homer Township Supervisor Bud Fazio gave a brief history of the water situation in the past and explained the hard water situation, but that is was not easy to bring Lake Michigan water here.

Mayor Petrizzo would like to ask Lisa Madigan to look into this issue for us.

H. PUBLIC COMMENTS

1. Deb Finnegan, 13256 Mulranney Drive explained she is a 12 year resident, she questioned the supply charge on her bill. She sent in her payment minus the supply charge and was sent a turn off notice. Her August bill was \$532 which included a \$247 supply charge. Illinois American did not answer her calls.
2. Regina Reklaitis, 13251 Mulranny Drive brought her bill for 1 month totaling \$805.00, Illinois American told her they could not talk to her since her name was not on the bill. She explained her husband was deceased. She was told to send in the normal bill, Illinois American left a message at her employment voice mail that she would be going to collection on the outstanding bill.
3. Jim Mitchell, 12436 Rosewood Drive (2-year resident of Kingston Hills) had a cost sheet form Illinois American with a fixed cost, on the bottom of the sheet there was a variable cost with construction tax (1 pipeline, 1 builder) He paid a total of \$1,071.00 for the first year in Homer.
4. Scott Ambrose, 16830 Pineview Drive thanked the Task Force for excellent job. He would like to see a timeline for resolution to the water problems. Usage charge per 1,000 gallons of water goes up to the next 1,000 if it is over, ie: 1,001. Mr. Ambrose offered his assistance to the Board.

Trustee Niemiec explained the Task Force needs feedback from the Board first, then recommendations may change, and reminded the residents of the Community Forum on October 12th, where there should be an updated report and information will be posted on the website.

Steve Dalton stated that the water is billed cumulatively; if you cross 1,000 then you are charged 2,000.

Representative Kosel stated that she wants to file legislation as fast as possible and have the Governor sign and look at flaws in the existing statutes.

Trustee Niemiec asked the Board to give a go ahead to the Task Force and a budget.

5. Tom Bernicky, 12522 Martingale reported discrepancies in billing from IAW:

April - May billing - 0 gallons - \$60.00;

June billing usage - 33,000 gallons (gone on vacation 3 weeks)

Mr. Bernicky encouraged all residents to monitor usage and stated that the water bills have doubled since Lake Michigan water came in. He asked the Board to be careful of the money spent on this issue and that the Board should be concerned about the citizens.

Trustee Niemiec recommended an advisory to look into a revenue bond which would be billed back into the cost and stated that good facts make good decisions.

Trustee Niemiec made a motion to adjourn the Task Force; second by Rob Denton.

I. LEGISLATION

1. Resolution No. 05-032 - A Resolution Establishing Date, Time and Location of Community Forum on Water and Sewer Rates.

Trustee Vogelsanger made a motion to approve Resolution No. 05-032; second by Trustee Niemiec.

Village Manager Johnson stated the recommendation from the Task Force is to follow up the presentation at this meeting with an open house style forum where there would be a variety of informational stations about different aspects of the issue and residents could stop in for additional information and ask questions in an informal atmosphere. The available dates at the Junior High School are October 5, 12 & 19th. The Board should establish a date, time and location if it is agreed that this forum is a good idea.

The Mayor recommended October 12th for Forum from 5 – 8 p.m. at the Homer Junior High.

The Mayor asked the Deputy Clerk to call the Roll:

Roll Call Vote:

Ayes: (6) Trustees Andrews, DeVivo, Locacius, Niemiec, Sabo, and Vogelsanger

Nays: (0) None

Abstained: (0) None

Absent: (0) None

The Mayor did not vote.

Motion carried.

2. Ordinance No. 05-048 - An Ordinance Regulating the Use of Fire Hydrants

Trustee Vogelsanger made a motion to approve Ordinance No. 05-048; second by Trustee DeVivo.

Village Manager Johnson explained this ordinance would require that anyone using the fire hydrants throughout the Village must have written authorization to do so from Illinois American Water Company with them. Firefighters, of course, are allowed the use of the fire hydrants. At the workshop meeting, Board members requested that other emergency personnel be allowed to use the fire hydrants without prior permission, so the definition in the ordinance has been broadened to include other emergency personnel.

Trustee Andrews is concerned about unauthorized usage from developers in construction sites and feels the Board needs to address this issue and find a way to monitor.

Village Manager Johnson explained that the ordinance will require authorized usage.

The Mayor asked the Deputy Clerk to call the Roll:

Roll Call Vote:

Ayes: (6) Trustees Andrews, DeVivo, Locacius, Niemiec, Sabo, and Vogelsanger

Nays: (0) None

Abstained: (0) None

Absent: (0) None

The Mayor did not vote.

Motion carried.

3. Ordinance No. 05-049 - An Ordinance Approving a Variation to Allow the Reduction of the Required Fence Height Surrounding a Pool from Five Feet to Four Feet. (Case HG-0525-V: Winters)

Trustee Locacius made a motion to approve Ordinance No. 05-049; second by Trustee DeVivo

Village Manager Johnson stated the Board's review at the workshop indicated that a unique feature to justify this variation is the fact that the rear yard is already surrounded on three sides by the fences of neighboring property owners that are 4' tall. The Winters would have to duplicate the fencing already there. In addition, the Board requested that the approving ordinance should include a condition that if any of the neighbors remove their fence, the Winters would be required to replace the fence with a 5' fence. Both of those items are included in the ordinance and the Plan Commission previously recommended approval.

The Mayor asked the Deputy Clerk to call the Roll:

Roll Call Vote:

Ayes: (6) Trustees Andrews, DeVivo, Locacius, Niemiec, Sabo, and Vogelsanger

Nays: (0) None

Abstained: (0) None

Absent: (0) None

The Mayor did not vote.

Motion carried.

4. Resolution No. 05-033 – A Resolution Directing Staff to Acquire Right -of-Way for Roundabout at 151st and Cedar Road.

Trustee Andrews made a motion to approve Resolution No. 05-033; second by Trustee DeVivo

Dwight Johnson, Village Manager reported that Robinson Engineering provided an update on the design for this roundabout at the workshop meeting and the Board gave direction on several aspects of the design. The next step is to begin acquiring right-of-way for several of the corners involved. Authorizing right-of-way acquisition at this time allows for the possibility of construction of the roundabout next year, but the Board retains the option of waiting for the Transportation Plan to take shape before construction.

Trustee Vogelsanger asked if the Fire Department had approved this roundabout.

Trustee Locacius answered that Chief Schofield was present when they conducted the test with the fire equipment and in a similar size roundabout in Evlyn's Gate North there was not a problem.

Mayor Petrizzo stated that this is something new for us, there are some areas in the Village that a stop sign cannot be put in. That is why we are putting this roundabout and this area is down the street from the site of the new High School.

The Mayor asked the Deputy Clerk to call the Roll:

Roll Call Vote:

Ayes: (6) Trustees Andrews, DeVivo, Locacius, Niemiec, Sabo, and Vogelsanger

Nays: (0) None

Abstained: (0) None

Absent: (0) None

The Mayor did not vote.

Motion carried.

5. Ordinance No. 05-050 - An Ordinance Renewing Line of Credit for the Village.

Trustee Vogelsanger made a motion to approve Ordinance No. 05-050; second by Trustee DeVivo.

Village Manager Johnson stated that since incorporation, the Village has maintained a line of credit as a potential cash flow reserve. Although it is becoming increasingly unlikely that the Village will need it unless some disaster strikes or a sharp economic downturn occurs, there is no cost to maintain the line of credit. The Village Board must re-authorize the line of credit each year. The line of credit would continue to be with Palos Bank.

The Mayor asked the Deputy Clerk to call the Roll:

Roll Call Vote:

Ayes: (6) Trustees Andrews, DeVivo, Locacius, Niemiec, Sabo, and Vogelsanger

Nays: (0) None

Abstained: (0) None

Absent: (0) None

The Mayor did not vote.

Motion carried.

J. ACCOUNTS PAYABLE

1. Trustee Vogelsanger made a motion to approve the payment of General Fund expenditures for the period August 18, 2005 to September 21, 2005 in the amount of \$409,293.65; second by Trustee DeVivo.

The Mayor asked the Deputy Clerk to call the Roll:

Roll Call Vote:

Ayes: (6) Trustees Andrews, DeVivo, Locacius, Niemiec, Sabo, and Vogelsanger

Nays: (0) None

Abstained: (0) None

Absent: (0) None

The Mayor did not vote.

Motion carried.

2. Trustee Vogelsanger made a motion to approve the payment of Motor Fuel Tax expenditures for the period August 18, 2005 to September 21, 2005 in the amount of \$59,167.87.

The Mayor asked the Deputy Clerk to call the Roll:

Roll Call Vote:

Ayes: (6) Trustees Andrews, DeVivo, Locacius, Niemiec, Sabo, and Vogelsanger

Nays: (0) None

Abstained: (0) None

Absent: (0) None

The Mayor did not vote.

Motion carried.

K. REPORTS AND COMMUNICATINS FROM MAYOR AND OTHER SOURCES

1. Mayor Petrizzo reported:

- a. Sears – parking lot must be fixed – estimated cost to fix and landscape is between \$400,000 to \$500,000. This is the 2nd Sears Essential in the country and is nice to have in the community.
- b. Took helicopter ride to see progress of I-355 from Elwood to Homer Glen, I-80 to I-355

2. Village Treasure Report – Village Manager Johnson read into the record the Treasurer's Report, with ending balances as of August 31, 2005

General Fund	\$ 863,466.86
Motor Fuel Tax Fund	\$ 1,230,353.60
Park Fund	\$ 700,931.23

3. Village Manager Report: (No report)
4. Village Clerk (No report)
5. Attorney: (No report)
6. Trustees:
 - a. Trustee Sabo reported:
 1. Work is being done on Homer Glen marshland south of Erin Hills on a ten acre parcel, 3-1/4 acres are being seeded.
 2. Reclaim national floodplain - education area in joint partnership with Homer Township.
 3. Grant - National resource alert when grasses not indigenous is gone.
 4. GIS Grant –from Chicago Wilderness is the First Phase of environment to protect nature and is a modern tool for village use for such things as: Homeland Security, Flooding issues Public Safety and Community & Nature.
 5. Roger Ross, a member of the environment committee, donated the tree for planting at Founders Crossing.
 6. If anyone knows of a resident who meets the criteria for the Community & Nature in Harmony award submit their name to the Environment Committee.
 - b. Trustee Niemiec (No report)
 - c. Trustee Vogelsanger reported that the Hurricane Katrina Community Blood Drive by the Red Cross will be held on October 22, 2005 from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the Northwest Homer Fire Station #2, 13010 West 143rd Street. Lunch and snacks provided by Chesdans, Dominicks and the Wrigley Company.
 - d. Trustee Andrews reported there will be a Joint Meeting of the Transportation Committee and the Board on Wednesday, September 28th at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chamber. The Transportation Committee will hold their regular meeting on Monday, October 3rd. Trustee Andrews noted his concern about the water issue with residents receiving turn-off notices and asked if our attorney could help with cease & assist. He asked that water meters not have a shut-off.
 - e. Trustee DeVivo: (No report)
 - f. Trustee Locacius: (No report)

L. OLD BUSINESS

There was no Old Business.

M. NEW BUSINESS

There was no New Business.

N. ADJOURNMENT

Trustee Vogelsanger made a motion to adjourn the meeting: second by Trustee Sabo

Voice Vote:

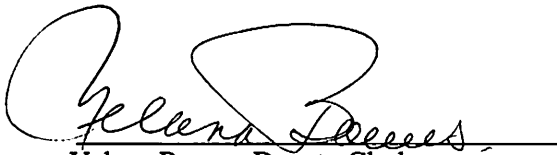
All in Favor: Ayes (6) Trustees Andrews, DeVivo, Locacius, Niemiec, Locacius, Sabo and Vogelsanger.

Nays: (0) None

Motion Carried

The meeting adjourned at 9:58 PM

Respectively Submitted,



Yelana Bowes, Deputy Clerk

Approved at the Board of Trustees Meeting dated March 11, 2008