

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE PRESIDENT AND BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE VILLAGE OF EAST HAZEL CREST, Wednesday, 10/8/08 - 8 PM**

**OFFICIALS:** Mayor Brown, Administrator Lazuka, and Clerk Minnis

**ROLL CALL:** Trustees: Forte, Kearns, Johnson, Ewan and Smith were present; Trustee Ortiz was absent.

**ALSO PRESENT WERE:** PD Chief Robertson, FD Chief Vallow, PW Supt. Maltrotto, M. Clumpner, and numerous residents

**PRAYER AND PLEDGE:** After Mayor Brown gave the invocation he lead the assembly in the Pledge to the Flag.

**MINUTES:** Trustees Smith and Ewan made the motions to approve the minutes of the regular meeting held on 9/24/08 as presented. All trustees present were in favor. Mtn. carried.

**REPORTS OF VILLAGE OFFICIALS:**

**MAYOR:** 2007 tax bills have been received from Cook County. In making a review of the increase over 2006 tax bills it was noted 91% of the increase is school districts [grade school 152 ½, high school 205 and college 510]. Only ½ of 1% is the Village of East Hazel Crest portion of your tax bill.

**CLERK:** Voters registration closed in the Clerk's Office on Tuesday, 10/7. It was noted that voters registration is still being taken at the County Clerk's office; but the resident will not be eligible to vote in the November election. Early voting may be done from October 13<sup>th</sup> thru 30<sup>th</sup> at various locations including the County Court Houses.

**ADMINISTRATOR:**

- 1) **Construction updates.** Supt.Maltrotto reported the contractor is still working on the retention pond. The hand railing for the sidewalks under the viaducts is almost complete. Com Ed has a problem getting an easement from CNRR. The traffic signal at Park Avenue has yet to be corrected..
- 2) **Recreation Services.** In response to the request from Ms. Davis for recreational opportunities for her disabled children Adm. Lazuka continues to look into costs for surrounding districts. Out-of-district fees are four (4) times higher than resident fees. We would need an intergovernmental agreement with SSRA There is a state provision that allows taxation of residents for this special service and costs are calculated based on EAV (estimated assessed valuation) – ours would be about \$11,000.
- 3) **Energy.** The village is still seeking bids for lighting in municipal buildings. Midwest Mechanical indicated their bid will be good until Spring 2009.

- 4) **Culverts.** Supt. Maltrotto has identified fourteen (14) locations where the culverts are clogged. The Throop Street intersection culverts show signs of collapse. Other culverts are clogged. Robinson Engineers will look into costs for new culverts.
- 5) Fire Chief Vallow asked for board approval to conduct a 'Boot' campaign. There are twenty one (21) communities involved in MABAS. MABAS officials are asking all communities involved to help raise money to pay off the Canteen. The Canteen is a vehicle that is placed on site at all major emergencies. It not only has refreshments for the firemen but also provides a washroom for them. Fire Chief Vallow wants approval to conduct '**Fill the Boot' campaigns on the next two (2) week-ends at 171<sup>st</sup> & Halsted, 171<sup>st</sup> & Center, and 171<sup>st</sup> & Wood.** Trustees Forte and Kearns made the motions to approve the request. All trustees present were in favor. Mtn. carried.

Chief Vallow noted the EHCFD has spent about \$4,000 for new furniture in the department over the past year. He is seeking proposals for tile to further update the department.

The Volunteers are actively involved in two community oriented programs:

-**Risk Watch**, a program teaching fire safety to children. Lincoln School Principal Mrs. Fowler attended a conference in Springfield as did two of our firemen. She is working with EHCFD to involve the teachers in Dist. 152 ½ in presenting the information to the children.

-**Remembering When** is a program aimed at senior citizens. Chief Vallow commended Lt. Bill Mills for spearheading this program. One of the services in this program is to install smoke detectors. Another is to educate seniors of the dangers in their homes, eg. throw rugs that can cause a fall. East Hazel Crest is one of the 41 communities receiving Grants to fund expenses of a conference in Boston in December.

**ENGINEER:** absent.

**OPEN TO VISITORS:** Trustees Smith and Kearns made the motions to open this segment of the meeting to the public. All trustees present were in favor. Motions carried. Time: 8:24 pm

F.Kolodziej asked Trustee Forte to expound on the letter she sent to the newspaper referring to attendance at village board meetings. Trustee Forte said it's the same people who complain – no matter what community meeting you attend – whether it's Homewood, Harvey, Country Club Hills, etc. She urged residents to attend their Village board meetings to keep informed of 'what's happening'.

**CLOSE:** There being no other input from the audience, Trustees Smith and Kearns made the motions to close this segment of the meeting. All trustees present were in favor. Time: 8:30 pm

#### **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**Finance/License:** Trustees Kearns and Johnson made the motions to pay all bills on the

Claims Sheets dated 10/08/08 in the amount of \$53,777.59. All trustees present were in favor. Mtn. carried.

**Streets:** Trustee Forte had nothing to report.

**Signs/Buildings:** No report by Trustee Johnson

**Health/Safety/Personnel:** Trustee Ewan had nothing to report.

**Water/Sewers:** Trustee Smith had nothing to report. He inquired of an invoice on the **Claims** sheet if it was for the Dodge Charger repairs. Yes, it was. Supt. Maltrotto responded affirmatively to the question whether the contractual services for mowing are satisfactory.

**Police/Fire:** Trustee Ortiz was absent.

**OLD BUSINESS:** Supt. Maltrotto reminded residents that Cook County is requesting input about damages that may have resulted from the Sept. 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> rain storm.

**NEW BUSINESS:** The EHCFD Annual **Halloween Party** is scheduled for Sunday 10/26 from 1-4 pm. As usual local businessmen are generous in their contributions for this event.

Discussion on **Trick & Treat** hours. It was the consensus of members that the hours for Trick & Treating will be from Noon to 7 pm on Friday, October 31<sup>st</sup>.

Police Chief Robertson read a response to the allegations made at a previous meeting about the EHCPD *stealing bikes* from youths. His multi page report documented incidents in which EHCPD assisted Homewood PD in clearing up some of the thefts of bikes made in their village. In one case the Homewood victim identified his bike and the thief, an East Hazel Crest resident. Bikes confiscated by EHCPD will be returned to their owners upon being identified by the parents. To date, not one parent has come forward. [a copy of the report is available in the Clerk's office].

**ANNOUNCEMENTS: none**

**ADJOURNMENT:** There being no other business to come before the Council, Trustees Kearns and Smith made the motions to adjourn. All trustees present were in favor. Motions carried.  
Time: 8:44 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Helen M. Minnis  
Village Clerk

