

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE PRESIDENT AND BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE VILLAGE OF EAST HAZEL CREST, Wed. 12/10/08 - 8 PM

OFFICIALS: Mayor Brown, Administrator Lazuka, and Clerk Minnis

ROLL CALL: Trustees: Forte, Kearns, Johnson, Ewan, Smith and Ortiz

ALSO PRESENT WERE: FD Chief Vallow, PD Chief Robertson, PW Supervisor Maltrotto, Tom Agema of Homewood Disposal and numerous village residents.

PRAYER AND PLEDGE: After a moment of silent prayer, Mayor Brown lead the assembly in the Pledge to the Flag.

MINUTES: Trustees Smith & Ortiz made the motions to approve the minutes of the regular meeting held on 11/12/08 as presented.

REPORTS OF VILLAGE OFFICIALS:

MAYOR:

1) Ratify CDBG Resolution 08-08. Trustees Kearns and Smith made the motions to ratify Resolution 08-08 accepting the sub recipient Agreement with Cook County for CDBG funds for 2008. All trustees were in favor. Motions carried.

2) RESOLUTION 08-09. This Resolution approves Class 6B assessment status for the property formerly owned by Tienstra & Son Plbg. Service at 17410-17414 South Laflin. Homewood Disposal owns the property. HD representative Tom Agema spoke of the improvements intended for this site: tear down the old building, build a much larger structure to accommodate the re-cycling of waste. Over the past several years people have become more energy & environment conscious. He spoke of 'single stream re-cycling' in a new 50,000 SF building. The project is expected to cost \$2,500,000. Trustees Smith and Ewan made the motions to approve Resolution 08-09. Roll Call: all trustees voted aye. Motions carried.

3) ORDINANCE 08-08 TAX LEVY. It was the consensus of members at the Committee Meeting to increase the 07-08 Levy by 4.9%. Trustees Smith and Johnson made the motions adopt Ordinance 08-08 with a 4.9% increase over the 07-08 Levy. Roll Call: all trustees voted aye. Motions carried.

4) ORDINANCE 08-09; TAX ABATEMENT. Trustees Smith and Ortiz made the motions to adopt Ordinance 08-09 abating the taxes on the 1904 Building and property. Roll Call: all trustees voted aye. Motions carried.

- 5) **2010 Partnership Agreement (Census)** This agreement recognizes the importance of the impact of the 2010 Census on the overall well-being for the residents of our community. Every resident in **East Hazel Crest** counts, and deserves to be counted. Trustees Ortiz and Johnson made the motions to authorize the execution of the Partnership Agreement. All trustees were in favor. Motions carried.
- 6) **Appoint Liaison.** Mayor Brown appointed Helen Minnis as Liaison for the 2010 Census. Trustees Forte and Smith made the motions to approve the appointment. All trustees were in favor. Motions carried.

CLERK: The City of Harvey sent notification of a 15% increase in water rates effective 1/1/09. In late 2007 the City of Chicago sent notification to all communities who receive water from them that they were increasing water rates by 44%: 15% effective 1/1/08, 15% effective 1/1/09 and 14% effective 1/1/10. The 15% increase will be passed on to our residents.

2009 Vehicle stickers are on sale at the discounted price until 12/31/08. After 1/1/09 the regular price will be in effective.

M. E. Simpson sent in the report of their examination of the meter removed from 17309 Laflin. It was 100% accurate. The resident had complained that her water bill was so much higher after a new meter had been installed. Another meter has been installed at her residence. Adm. Lazuka spoke of a study she did on complaints received. Meters slow down as they age. This is another indicator of the need for proceeding with the meter replacement program.

FEMA deadline for filing claims has been extended to 12/16/08.

Christmas greetings from Mayor Ralph Parkes was read. He commended the Mayor Brown, Clerk, members of the board, Police, Fire and Public Works Departments for the progress that has been made and “may the people of the village appreciate their efforts”. Ralph was mayor 1961 - 1981.

ADMINISTRATOR:

- 1) Construction updates. PW’s Supervisor Maltrotto noted Com Ed will be out next week to put in power for the lights under the viaducts. Railings have been made and should be installed soon.
The traffic signal at 171st & Park should be activated soon.
Hazel Crest Public Works will snow blow the sidewalk and access to the Metra station on the north side of 171st St.

2) Vacation Buy-back. PW's Supervisor cannot take vacation during the winter months. Supervisor Maltrotto had 'projects' that needed over seeing this past summer and fall and couldn't schedule his last week of vacation. Trustees Ortiz and Smith made the motions to pay the vacation buy-back for Supervisor Maltrotto. Roll Call: all trustees voted aye. Motions carried.

3) **Westside Mechanical** proposal for HVAC and replacement of light fixtures in the 1904 Building. Trustees Kearns and Johnston made the motions to accept the proposal in the amount of \$244,000. Roll Call: all trustees voted aye. Motions carried.

4) **Purchase of JOHN DEERE** for plowing at the Metra Station, etc at a cost of \$26,000. Trustees Forte and Johnson made the motions to purchase the equipment with \$20,000 from the Enterprise Acct. and \$6,000 from Corp. Account. Roll Call: all trustees voted aye. Motions carried.

5) **TASER Purchase request.** Chief Robertson has requested approval to Purchase three (3) TASERS. The new TASERS are smaller in size and have updated technology. Total cost of the TASERS, battery packs, dataport and holsters is \$3,338.24. Trustees Smith and Ortiz made the motions to approve the purchase to be paid with Asset Forfeiture funds. Roll Call: all trustees voted aye. Motions carried.

6) **Microsoft Office Professional 2007.** Discussion followed the purchase of twelve licenses at the cost of \$3,589.97. (7 to be charged to PD Asset Forfeiture, one each to Water, Sewer, Parking Lot and Corp.) Trustees Smith and Ortiz made the motions to approve the purchase. Roll Call: all trustees voted aye. Motions carried.

OPEN TO VISITORS: Trustees Smith a& Ortiz made the motions to open this segment of the meeting to the public. All trustees were in favor. Motions carried. Time: 8:36 pm

A Bremerton resident was puzzled why she received a letter about the bagged leaves on her property. She had raked & bagged them up over the week end and placed the bags in her driveway until she could place them curbside on Wednesday night. Another resident from the east side of the village asked why a 'flyer' was put in his mail box. EHC VFD is hosting "SANTA IS COMING TO TOWN" this Sunday. He also asked why the EHCPD hand delivered a letter from the Clerk. Mayor Brown responded that this form of delivery is done when proof is needed of delivery of 'timely' mail. A brief discussion took place on the need for the meter replacement program. Feral cats are a problem in Bremerton Woods. The presence of coyotes and raccoons have been noted. What can be done about resident who put out food for the wild critters? The Village will seek proposals from wildlife control contractors.

CLOSE: There being no other input from those present, Trustees Smith and Ortiz made the motions to close this segment of the meeting. Time: 8:50 pm

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Finance/License: Trustees Kearns & Ortiz made the motions to pay all bills on the Claims Sheets dated 11/26/08 in the amount of \$107,834.27 and on the sheets dated 12/10/08 in the amount of \$173,989.43. All trustees were in favor. Motions carried.

Streets: Trustee Forte noted removal of leaves and the feral cats are an ongoing problem. The re-hab of the house at 17305 Forestway is looking good. She suggested the next Newsletter should admonish residents not to feed the wild animals.

Signs/Buildings: Trustee Johnson had nothing to report.

Health/Safety/Personnel: No report by Trustee Ewan.

Water/Sewers: Trustee Smith had nothing to report.

Police/Fire: Trustee Ortiz read excerpts from the EHCPD November Report [this report is on file in the Clerk's office].

OLD BUSINESS: none

NEW BUSINESS: The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Village Board will be on Christmas Eve. Trustees Smith and Ortiz made the motions to cancel the 12/24/08 meeting. All trustees were in favor. Motions carried.

Clerk Minnis informed members that the Annual Conference of the International Institute of Municipal Clerks will be in Chicago in May, 2009. This is the 1st time that Illinois – in this case Chicago- will host the conference and she expected to be in attendance.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Fire Chief Vallow invited everyone to participate in the EHCVFD Annual **Santa's Coming to Town** event this Sunday, December 14th, starting at 5 pm on the West side of town and ending up at the Fire House. Cookies and Hot Chocolate will be served. *Come one, Come all!*

Adjourn to Executive Session to discuss Hecim property, vacation buyback, employee grievance. Trustees Ortiz and Smith made the motions to adjourn to Executive Session. All trustees were in favor. Motions carried. Time: 8:58 pm

Reconvene to Regular Session: Trustees Ortiz and Smith made the motions to reconvene to regular session. All trustees were in favor. Motions carried. 9:31 pm.

Police Department Vacation BuyBacks. Several members of the department were out on sick leave this past Summer and Fall causing a problem with vacation scheduling. Trustees Ortiz and Kearns made the motions that the persons involved with 2008 vacations yet to be taken will take 50% of their vacation in January or February and 50% of it will be in a 'buy back'. All trustees were in favor. Motions carried.

GRIEVANCE SETTLEMENT. Trustees Johnson and Ortiz made the motions to settle the grievance filed by Officer Wasek by paying him \$3,200 now and \$250.00 a month for five (5) years or until he leaves whichever comes first. Roll Call: All trustees voted aye. Motions carried.

HECIM PROPERTY. Mayor Brown brought members up to date on reasons why East Hazel Crest purchased the Hecim property and the property on the NW corner of 171st & Park. It was necessary to 'move' the 171st Street reconstruction project along. Cook County reimbursed East Hazel Crest for all expenses for the corner property at the start of the project leaving us with just the Hecim building and it's parking lot. The Village of Hazel Crest was offered the property for the purchase price and all costs to date with no interest to be paid over a ten year plan. Trustees Smith and Ortiz made the motions to approve the offer of sale to the Village of Hazel Crest as stated. Roll Call: All trustees voted aye. Motions carried.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no other business to come before the Council, Trustees Ortiz and Smith made the motions to adjourn. All trustees were in favor. Motions carried.
Time: 9:33 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Helen M. Minnis,
Village Clerk