

**MINUTES OF THE  
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING  
VILLAGE OF NORTHFIELD  
TUESDAY, JULY 18, 2017**

The Committee of the Whole meeting was called to order by Village President Joan Frazier on Tuesday, July 18, 2017 at 5:45 p.m. Village Clerk Stacy Sigman called the roll as follows:

**Committee Members Present:**

Trustee Allan Kaplan  
Trustee John Goodwin (via telephone)  
Trustee Greg Lungmus (arrived at 6:00)  
Trustee Thomas Terrill  
Trustee John Gregorio

**Absent:**

Trustee Tom Roszak

**Others Present:**

Village Attorney Everette M. Hill, Jr., Village Manager Stacy Sigman and Assistant to the Village Manager Melissa DeFeo; Go Green members Bill Hayes, Sandy Ritterson, Katherine Careny and Janine Harvey.

**Approval of the June 20, 2017 Meeting Minutes**

Trustee Terrill had a correction on page 2, five lines down from the top, changing \$4.5 million and to \$8.5 million. Trustee Terrill made a motion, seconded by Trustee Lungmus to approve the June 20, 2017 meeting minutes as corrected.

**Go Green Northfield's Discussion of their goals for an environmentally friendly Northfield and the completed Greenest Region Compact 2 Scorecard**

Bill Hayes began by saying that Sandy heads the Go Green Northfield (GGN) group which started in 2016. Their role is to bring awareness to the group, the community, to work in partnership with the Village, the Park District, residents and businesses and to help identify priorities which might be useful. He said Northfield has always been a leader in environmental things which is seen in the Greenest Region Compact 2 that Ms. DeFeo went through and checked everything that has been done. The residents appreciate the Village being a leader for the environment. Mr. Hayes indicated the first thing on the list which is one of the priorities is related to climate; however they won't be focusing on it at this meeting. The question is what can Northfield do to fit in with what is happening on a global basis to meet a global issue. There is something called the climate mayors where 359 mayors around the United States have signed a commitment to the Paris Climate Agreement along with 7,000 cities around the globe. There has been a lot of momentum over the last two months for cities to take a bigger role in climate issues.

GGN identified four areas that were also on the GRC 2 list they would like to focus on. The first is an ordinance banning coal tar sealants. This is a sealant used to protect asphalt on driveways and parking lots and it has been identified as a source of polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbon (PAH) which is a suspected carcinogen and toxic to aquatic life and it can spread by foot traffic, rain runoff and vaporization in the air. Ms. Ritterson added that the dust parts can be released and it seems that most of the towns are concerned with it getting into their watershed and being tracked into homes. It has been used in schools and playgrounds. It is typically not used on streets.

Trustee Gregorio questioned if there is a type of sealant that doesn't have PAH. Ms. Ritterson said yes, and the big stores don't carry the bad product, but the smaller stores do. Unfortunately, individual contractors still use it because it protects a little bit longer versus the asphalt or latex sealers. It will protect a little better for oil spills. In cold weather climates, it seals better. Trustee Gregorio said his neighbor just did his driveway, but he doesn't know what was used. Ms. Ritterson indicated you would have to look at the actual can.

Village Manager Sigman asked how other towns are enforcing this and since most towns don't require permits for this type of work. Ms. Ritterson said that Winnetka is one of the first who have done it along with Highland Park and Wilmette. On their website, they have a report from a commission to evaluate it with studies. There is also an application for doing driveways. VM Sigman Northfield doesn't require a permit for sealcoating driveways. Ms. Ritterson is unaware as to how those towns enforce it.

Mr. Hayes then discussed the second priority which is electric car-power station on Village property. The idea would be that there would be a free charging station in downtown Northfield that electric cars could charge their cars. President Frazier asked how much they cost to use. Trustee Gregorio said the fast charging ones do. Ms. Ritterson said it depends on who is putting it in. Botanic Garden is free. Walgreens and Whole Foods charges. Some are sponsored by companies. The cost varies. VM Sigman asked how much it is to set a charging station up. Ms. Ritterson said they weren't sure. Trustee Gregorio asked if it was a big draw of power. Ms. Harvey said she didn't think so. Mr. Hayes doesn't believe it is a big draw. He said the one at his home is slow charging and it's hardly noticeable on his electric bill. President Frazier stressed that these are the things we would need to know. Mr. Hayes said it would need to be explored further. Trustee Gregorio asked if any electric car can be charged or are some specific to the make. Mr. Hayes said that is another thing that has to be studied, but he thinks Tesla is different.

Trustee Terrill compared the charging stations to someone running out of gas and we have gasoline stations here and there, but you don't have facilities for electric cars, so how far are you going to be driving. Ms. Ritterson said that some of the smaller cars can only go 80 miles. So the people that have these cars have the entire North Shore mapped out so they know where to go. Trustee Terrill asked if she can see this problem evaporating with the efficiencies. Ms. Ritterson asked if he meant if technology gets to the point where it can hold a charge for a whole day. Trustee Gregorio stated

that a Tesla can go 250 miles. The car tells you where the stations are. Trustee Terrill felt the best use of the space would be for the cars that only get 80 miles. Trustee Terrill said he doesn't see that as a Northfield problem. He understands the idea, but we don't know what a station costs along with the amount of electricity being handed out for these small cars, so it doesn't seem practical to him. He said he likes the idea of going green but doesn't want to take up parking spaces and other things for this particular purpose. AVM DeFeo said there is an economic development component in that Northfield would then be on the maps that show all of the charging stations on the North Shore and they know they can park there and walk to Three Tarts for lunch or shop at Peachtree while it's charging. Trustee Terrill asked if she were referring to many stations or one or two. She indicated one or two and Trustee Terrill said you're going to attract one or two people to park their car there and all the others will be driving by not being able to find a place to park. AVM DeFeo clarified by saying they were thinking of parking at the library or the ComEd lot – somewhere where there isn't a lot of action.

Mr. Hayes indicated the third priority is Styrofoam which is difficult to recycle and production of Styrofoam pollutes the air and contains chemicals that can leach into foods. President Frazier agreed, but asked how it could be done and how have other towns accomplished it? Ms. Ritterson explained that there are towns that have accomplished it across the country. She couldn't find any local towns. More and more people are getting away from it. President Frazier asked if this should be more of an educational campaign to which Ms. Ritterson agreed. She would encourage rather than ban. VM Sigman suggested Go Green could talk to businesses and get them to do a voluntary pledge. You could do a campaign and get them to sign on saying they support this and they are agreeing to do this. Mr. Hayes suggested putting something on their door that they are being environmental smart. VM Sigman said ideally the businesses could be brought into the Go Green to get their support.

President Frazier said there is a group called Northfield Now! Trustee Goodwin said this could be a wonderful thing to add to the Northfield Now! group is the voluntary aspect of the Styrofoam. President Frazier explained this is a group of Northfield businesses that meet periodically for various purposes. This would be a good way of addressing them at one time. They have a Facebook page also. VM Sigman also suggested that if Go Green could help support the businesses with all the information, it would make them feel more comfortable signing on and adopting it.

Mr. Hayes said the last priority to discuss is composting pumpkins Village-wide meaning having a Waste Management dumpster available for pumpkins after Halloween. President Frazier said this is something that could be done and it would be a nice tradition instead of them ending up in the middle of the street. Trustee Lungmus indicated that Waste Management wouldn't take it with the yard waste. Ms. Ritterson said she is surprised they don't take them because they compost. Trustee Lungmus said it might be because there might be candles or metal in them.

Trustee Kaplan asked who pays for picking up the Christmas trees. VM Sigman indicated that was built into the franchise agreement with Waste Management. That is part of their contract with the Village. This is for curbside pickup. Trustee Kaplan asked about the Middlefork drop off. VM Sigman said she didn't know.

President Frazier felt these are all nice ideas. She said we are thrilled to have Melissa who is a guru on this topic. President Frazier's suggestion is to look at it in the future as possibly a partnership with the Village. We don't have the manpower to do all the research, and perhaps one of the trustees will act as a liaison with the group to work together and when it's ready to bring a project forward, we can look at it in depth then. She also suggested looking at these ideas one by one. She said we are very interested but are limited by the budget. We need to see if these ideas are doable without spending a lot of money. Everyone agreed.

A discussion continued about the new school and how wonderful it is. Trustee Kaplan suggested putting an electric car charger at the new school. He thinks employers should help their employees and put them in. Ms. Ritterson said Medline has one on their campus. Her thought was one of the bigger businesses might want to sponsor it. She has had some informal discussions with Fields and they are open to discussing it. They have charging stations on their lots. Trustee Terrill asked if she could get a cost on putting it in.

### **Cook County Sick and Wage Ordinances Update**

President Frazier said the original thought was to have an informal meeting at the COW to discuss what everyone thinks. But as events have unfolded, it is clear that a hearing will be necessary. She met with Commissioner Suffredin and was the sponsor of these ordinances. President Frazier asked what the trustees' thoughts are on the sick leave ordinance. She asked if they are in favor of opting out or let it go.

VM Sigman said that the Village heard virtually nothing from our businesses and this has been out there since October. It went into effect July 1<sup>st</sup> and around June 30<sup>th</sup> we started getting phone calls asking if this is going into effect here. The businesses we had talked to up until that point didn't have any issues with either one. People are now trying to figure out the practical application of how they track the sick time which precipitated most of the phone calls to the Village.

Trustee Lungmus said he has a problem with the minimum wage ordinance which originates in the County and not the State. He is for increasing the minimum wage, but he doesn't like doing it on a County basis. He would opt out of the minimum wage and the sick leave ordinances. He thinks it's onerous on businesses to keep track of all this. Medline wrote a very thoughtful letter saying their policy is much more generous, and keeping track of it from county to county would be hard. Trustee Lungmus feels it is an intrusion on businesses. This is another example of government over-regulating. He would like to opt out of both.

Trustee Gregorio agreed with Trustee Lungmus. Trustee Terrill indicated he prefers less regulation, so he would also support opting out. Trustee Kaplan said we should opt out. Trustee Goodwin would opt out also.

President Frazier said that was her initial inclination also, but we are bumping up against a certain political reality. The county is very passionate about it. She said there are reasons why Glencoe, Winnetka, Evanston, Skokie and Kenilworth did not opt out. The Village relies heavily on Cook County funds and support. We need them for our roads, for grants (which we received a \$188,000 grant for bicycle paths after the meeting), and other projects such as a new storm sewer trunk main under Winnetka Road. Commissioner Suffredin has been a huge supporter of Northfield and it is imperative we retain that positive relationship. She indicated we have to not just think of our retailers, but also our residents who would be affected by the lack of county support.

Trustee Gregorio questioned the politics and doesn't believe they would pull the Happ Road project because we took action on something that we thought was in the best interests of our businesses. His duty is to do what's right for the people here.

Trustee Lungmus asked about the meeting with Suffredin and President Frazier said he couldn't have been nicer. He knew we hadn't opted out and gave us his rationale for sponsoring the legislation. At the end of the meeting, he mentioned county property may become available for us for free. President Frazier said that is why she feels there should be a public hearing. She met with Peachtree and Canvasback and Stacy spoke with Medline who was initially concerned about paperwork, but later indicated it may not be an issue. Canvasback is a tiny store with only part-time employees. The owner isn't concerned about the minimum wage, but the sick leave would be onerous for her. Both Peachtree and Canvasback provide higher salaries because their employees do not get other benefits.

Trustee Gregorio repeated his dislike for Cook County or the State telling businesses what to do. He is adamant against the sick leave policy.

Trustee Goodwin asked VM Sigman if she has networked with neighboring Village Managers not opting out to get some of their rationale. It has been reported that Cook County President Preckwinkle has indicated the county will take this into consideration when they look at grants and programs. She has been more overt in saying she intends to use this as a scorecard. A large portion of Cook County has opted out but on the north shore, most of the towns that have Larry Suffredin as Commissioner, have decided to stay in. Winnetka has not considered the question in part because they have been working to acquire land from the county for storm water measures. Skokie took it up and voted to stay in as well as Evanston. Wilmette decided to opt out. Kenilworth and Glencoe has not committed because they don't have the legal ability to opt out because they are non-home rule communities. Glenview, Northbrook and Niles have opted out. Trustee Gregorio asked how long it can be stalled. VM Sigman said there is nothing in the statute that sets a limitation on when we can or cannot consider it. Attorney Hill added our ability to do it from a tempera perspective is indefinite. In the

meantime, it's law. If the employee believes that they haven't gotten their benefits, they can apply to the Cook County Human Rights Commission and file a grievance against their employer.

Trustee Lungmus would like to poll the Northfield businesses and get their opinion on it. He asked if there is a way to do this without spending money. President Frazier said that is also her thought. Moving forward, we have to give businesses the ability to come before us and share their opinions. Larry Suffredin indicated he would like to attend the meeting as well. Prior to that meeting, we need to have a survey. The Chamber had planned to do a survey, but have not yet done one. President Frazier indicated the ordinances stated an impact of approximately 1% on their bottom line. She asked the two businesses she met with to quantify how this would impact them. We haven't heard back from them. Businesses should be able to come forward and let us know how it would affect them. So President Frazier is suggesting we go forward, gather whatever information we can and let the people speak. VM Sigman said Melissa can help on the electronic side and get the survey out but the Northfield Now! would be a good group to educate and push the survey. Trustee Terrill doesn't think a survey is necessary because it has already been confirmed that none of them would vote for the sick leave plan. President Frazier said another thought was to limit the ordinance in some way and write our own parameters.

Trustee Kaplan asked why this is being discussed because if an employer wants to give sick leave they can. It brings about 2.5% to the cost of employment and he thinks it's ridiculous. If we decide to opt out of one or both, it is important to understand the facts. We don't have the number of retailers that they have in Wilmette or Northbrook. President Frazier said no one will be happy so we should try to compromise. Trustee Gregorio suggested staying in with the minimum wage and opting out of sick leave.

Trustee Lungmus likes the idea of Trustee Goodwin working with Northfield Now! to get feedback to buy some time. Trustees Terrill, Lungmus, Goodwin, Gregorio agreed but Trustee Kaplan thinks it's wrong and intruding on the business people. President Frazier and Trustee Lungmus agree, but they don't believe this is on the businesses' radar. Once they get a letter describing exactly what they will have to do, they will then take more of an interest.

A discussion continued on when to act and what advantage or disadvantage opting out would do. VM Sigman indicated that many of the upcoming county projects are years out. The County owns 1/3 of all the roads in town.

President Frazier suggested that it is to our benefit to make an informed decision and have the retailers come forward and have their say and have Larry Suffredin come forward and have his say and weigh the evidence. See what the survey says and make a decision. This should take about a month or so. Trustee Lungmus agreed and said he understands what Trustee Kaplan is saying, but he would like to hear from the businesses.

VM Sigman said timing-wise, we can get a survey out and results back by August. We could then hold the hearing at the September meeting.

President Frazier then asked if any of the trustees have an interest in the Go Green group, to send her an email. Trustee Goodwin said he wouldn't mind working on it if it were a liaison with Northfield Now! President Frazier then appointed Trustee Goodwin as the liaison.

### **Other Business**

No other business.

### **Adjournment**

Village President Frazier asked for a motion to adjourn. Trustee Terrill made a motion, seconded by Trustee Lungmus to adjourn the meeting. By voice vote all agreed and the meeting was adjourned at 6:50 p.m.