

**MINUTES
of the
REGULAR BOARD MEETING
OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
VILLAGE OF NORTHFIELD
Tuesday, February 20, 2007 - 7:00 p.m.**

The Board of Trustees of the Village of Northfield met in the Council Chambers of the Village Hall for the Regular Board Meeting on Tuesday, February 20, 2007. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by President John Birkinbine. The Village Clerk called the roll which was as follows:

PRESENT:	President Trustees	John Birkinbine, Jr. Frank Charhut Evan Karnes Ruth Lucchesi Terry Gottlieb Ted Greene Bobbie Moore
ABSENT:		

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS:

Trustee Lucchesi made a motion, seconded by Trustee Greene, to approve Consent Agenda items 1 through 7.

1. Approve the Minutes of the January 16, 2007 Village Board meeting.
2. Approve the Bills and Disbursements from 1/11/07 to 2/16/07 in the amount of \$688,494.09.
3. Approve the Employee Safety Recognition Awards for the year 2006.
4. Approve the appointment of Peter Fischer as Chair of the Traffic & Transportation Committee.
5. Approve the appointment of Barbara Moore as Liaison to the Skokie Valley Bike Trail Committee.
- 6A. Approve a Water Easement Agreement with ComEd to use their right of way for the Glencoe Emergency Water Interconnect project.
- 6B. Approve a bid award for the Glencoe Emergency Water Interconnect to Lenny Hoffman Excavation, Inc., Wilmette, IL in an amount not to exceed \$345,609 plus a contingency amount of \$51,841.
7. Approve an Intergovernmental Agreement with the Villages of Wilmette, Glenview and Northbrook to perform a feasibility study for the development of the Skokie Valley Bike Trail.

Trustee Karnes advised that one of the payees on the list of bills, Kone Inc., is a sometimes client and that he intends to vote on the complete list of bills.

Upon the following roll call vote, the motion was approved.

AYES:	Charhut Karnes Lucchesi Gottlieb Greene	NAYS: 0	ABSTAIN: 0	ABSENT: Moore
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CONSIDERATION TO APPROVE AN INTERGOVERNMENTAL LICENSE AGREEMENT TO PERMIT THE PARK DISTRICT TO USE THE WAGNER ROAD ROW FOR PARKING

Trustee Karnes made a motion, seconded by Trustee Lucchesi to approve an Intergovernmental License Agreement with the Northfield Park District to use a portion of the eastern Wagner Road right of way for public parking.

Trustee Karnes noted his concern with the perpetuity of the ordinance/agreement which allows the relatively unrestricted use of the right of way for a total of 80 years which he felt was a long time. He suggested that it be a 20 year period that would be renewable upon application after that time. He also noted that there is an issue with the timing of notices which states that faxes are immediately effective upon being sent regardless of whether there is confirmation that the fax went through. Trustee Karnes did not feel the Village Board should sign this without a revision. Also, under Paragraph 6, it states that if the Village does work in the right of way, the Village would restore the pavement at its expense. Trustee Karnes noted that he didn't feel it was intended to mean to bring it up to a brand new condition but to approximate the condition of the pavement at the time of the work.

Trustee Charhut noted that the parking places on the northwest side of the property have some impact. But he felt there should be a restriction prohibiting cars from backing into the spaces to minimize the effect of car lights at night on residences in the area. It was noted that the agreement could be amended and parking in the area could be signed to prohibit backing into spaces.

Park District President Scott Turban made a comment about how it should be signed and noted they are fine with the suggested recommendations made by Trustee Karnes.

President Birkinbine asked that the original motion be amended to include revisions to the Intergovernmental Agreement to include the four changes recommended.

Trustee Karnes then made a motion, seconded by Trustee Charhut to approve an Intergovernmental Agreement with the suggested amendments with the Northfield Park District to use a portion of the eastern Wagner Road right of way for public parking subject to an amendment to Paragraph 3, entitled Term; paragraph 6, Village Reservation of Rights, regarding storing pavement; paragraph 7(c) regarding notices by fax effective with a confirmed receipt of transmission and, the ordinance should include information to bar backing into parking spaces in the right of way.

Upon the following roll call vote, the motion was approved.

AYES:	Charhut	NAYS: 0	ABSTAIN: 0	ABSENT: Moore
	Karnes			
	Lucchesi			
	Gottlieb			
	Greene			

CONSIDERATION TO APPROVE AN ORDINANCE GRANTING A PRELIMINARY PLAT OF SUBDIVISION AT 285 AND 287 EATON STREET

Trustee Gottlieb made a motion, seconded by Trustee Karnes to approve an ordinance granting a preliminary plat of subdivision to re-subdivide two lots at 285 and 287 Eaton Street.

Trustee Karnes noted that one of the lots is technically non-conforming and Mr. Chen has been permitted to build on lots that are currently 40 feet and 80 feet wide. He noted that lots in the area are typically 75 feet. With the approval of the ordinance, the lots would now be 60 feet each. Trustee Karnes questioned whether the 40 foot lot would still be grandfathered once it is re-subdivided to 60 feet or would it be a special use.

Attorney Hill stated that “yes” the property continues to be grandfathered.

There being no further discussion and upon the following roll call vote, the motion was approved.

AYES:	Charhut	NAYS: 0	ABSTAIN: 0	ABSENT: Moore
	Karnes			
	Lucchesi			
	Gottlieb			
	Greene			

Discussion of Board Update Information

Village Manager Sigman provided an update on upcoming meetings noting the Committee of the Whole meeting the following Tuesday to discuss the Village Budget. She also provided an update on the Willow Road issue. She noted that the Traffic & Transportation Committee’s new Chair will be Peter Fischer who was appointed tonight. Linda Garard will stay on the Committee as a member.

Willow Road

Ms. Sigman provided a brief update on Willow Road. She noted that the Village has seen no plans from IDOT except the one page rendering received about a month ago. The Village has asked them to provide drawings and plans on what IDOT would like to see for Willow Road but has not received any additional information.

Trustee Karnes asked if there is any impact to the Village or change to IDOT’s position with the Village since Secretary Martin has stepped down from IDOT. Manager Sigman noted that until the head of the Appropriations Committee, Senator Schoenberg, stepped in, the head of IDOT was in agreement with the Village on the three lane Willow Road. She noted that IDOT’s position is neutral but tends to go with that of the political appointment. Ms. Sigman noted that she did not foresee any change.

Trustee Charhut asked that as the road continues to deteriorate and with the potential safety problems on the bridge, what is the Village doing to make sure it is not legally responsible. Ms. Sigman responded that the Village has addressed the Willow Road conditions and safety issues in letters to IDOT. Their response is that since Willow Road is a project actively in their

system, they would not make any improvements or appropriate funds for repaving.

Trustee Karnes asked whether the Village is aware of the number of accidents on a weekly or monthly basis that are more than fender benders on the stretch of Willow Road through Northfield. Ms. Sigman noted that accidents with fatalities have occurred at the intersection of Willow and Waukegan Road but there have not been any major accidents along Willow in Northfield. Trustee Karnes suggested that if there are any major accidents in this stretch of Willow Road that the Police Department note in their report the deteriorating condition of Willow Road because it might have an impact on IDOT's willingness to repave Willow Road.

President Birkinbine also noted that he is working to set up a meeting with Senator Schoenberg without Glenview being present but with President Woodbury of Winnetka who is a student of highway traffic flow and who has offered to help in the Village's efforts to reach a solution regarding Willow Road. He also noted that in contradiction to what was said in Diane O'Keefe's IDOT letter to Northfield about not resurfacing, she was recently quoted at a Wilmette meeting as saying work on Willow in Northfield and redoing the bridge over the Branch of the Chicago River could not wait.

Trustee Charhut stated that he is for anything the Village can do to strengthen our position to limit our liability.

Village Center Task Force

Community Development Director Anne Kane provided an update on the Village Center Task Force Committee's work. Ms. Kane noted that the Friedman property owners met with the Village staff to discuss their vision for the redevelopment of the downtown area of approximately 10 acres south of Willow Road. Their comprehensive development plans were in the very early stages showed 80,000 sq. ft. of retail on the ground floor level with residential condominiums above and underground parking for condos. Following the meeting with Friedman, staff met with the Task Force to bring them up to date on Friedman's concept for redevelopment and what they were looking for including designation as the preferred developer and all that would involve, TIF financing assistance, eminent domain issues, relocation of the Village Hall and Police Department facilities to get it out of the main corridor as well as the old public works/library and post office building. Other issues dealt with vacation of various streets.

At the last Task Force meeting, staff was directed to begin meeting with property owners in the village center. Staff has started those meetings but has not been able to reach some of the property owners. Ms. Kane was confident that all the meetings would be scheduled by the first week in April. The next meeting of the Village Center Task Force Committee is planned for the middle of March.

Trustee Charhut asked if the Village has the authority to do what it wants to do with the Village Center (not including TIF) property if we can get together with the property owners and decide on a plan? Ms. Kane responded that if the property owners and the Village could come to

an agreement, it would be possible. Some of the issues the Village would need to consider include zoning regulations and whether it would relax some of the current requirements.

Trustee Karnes noted that Friedman Properties brought a partnership of other entities with it which included some developers that are working on other projects west on Willow Road in Northbrook.

Trustee Charhut then asked whether being a home rule community would help the Village. Ms. Kane deferred to Ms. Sigman who noted that home rule gives the Village greater flexibility to be able to work with a developer and put together a development agreement and some of the financing that would make the project work. Being home rule she noted would help by giving the Village tools it currently does not have.

ADJOURN TO EXECUTIVE SESSION

Trustee Karnes made a motion, seconded by Trustee Gottlieb to adjourn to Closed Session at 7:34 p.m. to discuss pending litigation and personnel related issues.

Trustee Karnes recommended that the three Trustee Candidates present should be permitted to attend the Executive Session. Village Attorney Hill noted that it had been done in the past and President Birkinbine concurred that it was a good idea.

Upon the following roll call vote, the motion was approved.

AYES:	Charhut	NAYS: 0	ABSTAIN: 0	ABSENT: Moore
	Karnes			
	Lucchesi			
	Gottlieb			
	Greene			

RETURN TO OPEN SESSION AT 8:33 PM

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Board, Trustee Karnes made a motion, seconded by Trustee Lucchesi to adjourn the meeting at 8:34 p.m.

Upon the following roll call vote, the motion was approved.

AYES:	Charhut	NAYS: 0	ABSTAIN: 0	ABSENT: Moore
	Karnes			
	Lucchesi			
	Gottlieb			
	Greene			