

**MINUTES
of the
REGULAR BOARD MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
VILLAGE OF NORTHFIELD
Tuesday, May 20, 2008 – 6:30 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, May 20, 2008 at 6:30 p.m. (one half hour earlier than the regular meeting time of 7:00 p.m. as noted in the posting.) The meeting was called to order by President John Birkinbine. The roll call was as follows:

PRESENT:	President Trustees	John Birkinbine, Jr. John Chapin, Jr. Frank Charhut Joan Frazier Terry Gottlieb Ted Greene Fred Teichert
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PRESENTATION OF FINAL WILLOW ROAD/LAKOTA GROUP ENHANCEMENT PLAN

President Birkinbine noted that he would begin the meeting with the presentation of the Willow Road/Lakota Group Plan since those presenting the Plan would be going on to the Winnetka Village Board meeting following their presentation to Northfield. President Birkinbine introduced the two presenters, Becky Hurley, Chair of the Willow Road/Lakota Enhancement Steering Committee and Scott Freres, principal of the Lakota Group consulting firm.

Becky Hurley noted the manpower that both Villages dedicated to the process including the eight volunteer Committee members – four from Northfield and four from Winnetka. In addition, both Village Managers, two engineers and a full staff from the Lakota Group attended every meeting for the past year. She thanked the two Villages for investing so much in the process. She added that it helped the members of the Committee feel vested as well.

Ms. Hurley commented that during the process three public workshops were held, 17 Committee meetings, and interviews with stakeholders. The Committee took a complicated, long-standing and contentious issue and, to the credit of the two communities, created a dialog that was thoughtful, respectful, listening to all the voices of the Committee members. Through the process, the Committee came to a consensus on a number of issues – not all of them – but a many.

Ms. Hurley continued that the Committee finalized its report on May 5, 2008 and that report is on the website. She noted the last two sets of minutes are Draft Minutes since the Committee no longer is meeting to vote on them. The final act of the Committee is the presentation of the final report to the two communities and to answer any questions. Scott Freres of the Lakota Group will present the substance of the report.

Scott Freres introduced himself and noted that he would provide a summary of the report which contains a lot of information. He noted the most important thing produced by the report is the clarification of the issues involving Willow Road in both communities. There are also a lot of pictures

and other graphic and supportive material. Mr. Freres clarified that this was a planning exercise not a detailed engineering study. The report sets the parameters, goals, aspirations for improvements to the road over time and also emphasizes that further safety studies need to be reviewed and addressed.

Mr. Freres explained that the process the group went through was an IDOT (Illinois Department of Transportation) driven process but it was also a process crafted by the two Village Presidents referred to as Context Sensitive Design which was defined by IDOT and offers communities the ability to shape and plan the roadway in the community taking into consideration the individual character and quality of life of the community. The principles as defined by IDOT are safety, usability, multi-mobilism, the environment and community.

The Willow Road Plan process involved a Steering Committee made up of Board members from schools, parks, and village boards. The Lakota Group was the translator of the information not the designers of the plan. The Steering Committee took all kinds of data from various sources including stakeholder interviews, community workshops. The first workshop helped identify the primary issues and the solutions to achieving the community character and values and the third involved applying those solutions to roadway lanes. There were 17 committee meetings that occurred between the workshops. There was constant dialogue between the communities and the Committee to find out their concerns and issues.

Early on in the process, the Steering Committee crafted their own fundamental values which followed the Context Sensitive Solution parameters of IDOT and they set those as benchmark parameters. Everything discussed was evaluated against these principles. The primary parameter was SAFETY. Safety from a community standpoint, pedestrian and vehicular standpoint. Safety and increasing safety was considered in any ideas that were looked at or discussed. The second benchmark was TRANSPORTATION LINKAGES which relates to how to make the road better for all modes of transportation including biking, walking and public transportation. The group discussed access points particularly around the schools, Northfield's downtown area, the ball fields in Winnetka and Crowe Island School. OPEN SPACE – there was emphasis put on maintaining and enhancing it and improving the quality of Open Space. And, the last benchmark established was basing decisions on the Context Sensitive approach. Reaching out to the community and getting as much input from the public and using good listening skills and then reporting back to use the information in the report. All of this was used in documenting the concerns and issues, in the discussions by the Committees and is included in the report.

Mr. Freres noted that this was a 110% transparent process meaning everyone knew what was going on including making sure all the information was carried through on the website so people could read what had been talked about and it was openly available.

The Steering Committee talked about solutions – how to solve some of the issues brought up about Willow Road by them and the residents and stakeholders of the communities. Over and over,

the primary concern was Safety. And while safety is meant to include both vehicular and pedestrian, the emphasis was always on pedestrian crossings. The genesis of safety was the school crossings and the primary intersections at Sunset Ridge Road and Wagner Road at Willow Road. Getting these crossings to be as safe as possible represented the core essence of safety to the community. Mr. Freres noted that the Committee emphasized that those crossings have to be as safe or safer than what is there today. One of the concerns when addressing two versus four lanes on Willow Road was how safe is safe enough and how to quantify that.

Mr. Freres noted that a silent partner of the team was Mike Kerr, a Vice President at Christopher Burke Engineering who had worked on the Three Lane Plan for Northfield in 1999. The Steering Committee and Lakota Group used Mike Kerr as a benchmark to test the final plan using a Context Sensitive Approach going from a planning approach to an engineering one rather than from engineering to planning. The Steering Committee focused on safety for the core character area going from the bridge over the Middlefork Creek west past the schools to Sunset Ridge Road. Clearly, the character of Willow Road changes west of Sunset Ridge Road. Heard over and over in discussions was uncertainty in quantifying and defining the level of safety that could be achieved between a two and four lane configuration. What was heard over and over is that clearly a three lane crossing is going to be safer than a four lane crossing. What could not be determined was whether some of the suggestions including medians, signalization improvements, underpass, a set back of stop bars, etc. – would make Willow Road safer in an additional lane configuration. The Committee could not quantify it or qualify it. The Committee believes that additional study would need to be done to determine this. Mr. Freres noted that when considering the distance variance between the two lane and the four lane configuration, it means the difference between 8 feet to 12 feet. When there is a two lane condition, when you get to the intersection it becomes a four lane to allow for turning lanes. When there is a four lane intersection, there are five lanes at an intersection which adds an additional 10-12 feet of crossing. The lack of consensus on the plan deals with whether this area could be made safer. The Committee could only determine that a two or three lane road is safer than a four lane road.

Again, some of the safety components considered include thermoplastic service, better striping, countdown timers, signalization improvements, underpass between Clarkson Park and Willow Park, bump outs, etc. All these improvements will make a better crossing environment but it cannot be quantified as being safer.

Mr. Freres then opened the discussion up for questions.

President Birkinbine asked the Board of Trustees if they had any questions or comments.

Trustee Charhut complimented the Committee and the Lakota Group on their many ideas. He noted the Executive Summary which says that someone has to decide what is safe. He asked who the Committee and Lakota envision doing that?

Mr. Freres felt it was appropriate for the Committee Chair to respond to the question.

Ms. Hurley noted that as was pointed out from the beginning, their group is planning/recommending Committee and not a decision making body. As it has become clear, the decision lies

beyond the Committee's parameters.

Trustee Charhut read the description from IDOT of the study they plan to do which includes traffic studies, crash analysis, traffic flows, simulations, geometric studies, traffic management analysis, complete bridge inspections, etc. He determined that from the sound of their description, IDOT will make the decision on how many lanes is safe. He noted that since IDOT will play such an interesting role in Willow Road, he felt the many good ideas the Committee has recommended/discussed be incorporated in IDOT's plans. He noted from IDOT's description, that a key planning tool will involve a public involvement program based on the principal of Context Sensitive Solutions. Trustee Charhut interprets that to mean not the Lakota Study but one IDOT will conduct.

Mr. Freres noted that before the Steering Committee was formulated by the two Village Presidents in association with State Senator Schoenberg. They were asked to apply a Context Sensitive Solution process to their work through the issues and make it a better plan. The Context Sensitive Solution plan done by the two communities was a lighter version than what IDOT does since they would involve all the communities along Willow Road to discuss it from a regional perspective. The Northfield/Winnetka report will be brought to IDOT as they begin to conduct their study.

Trustee Charhut noted that he felt it was very important for the Village's Traffic & Transportation Committee to play an important role in Phase I of IDOT's plan for Willow Road especially since the capacity the road will have has not been decided.

Chair Hurley noted that the Committee felt all the enhancements mentioned by Trustee Charhut are very important and that this very thorough and complete report should not be cherry picked by IDOT or others choosing only some of the safety features and not others.

President Birkinbine clarified for all that in discussing two lanes versus four lanes, two lanes refers to the plan that was approved in the late 90's and which had been through Engineering Phases I and II into 2003. It is actually called the Three-Lane Plan and features two through lanes and a middle turn lane.

Trustee Frazier thanked the Committee for all their efforts. She noted she has an objection to the report which is that the Steering Committee has vaulted its opinion over the majority view. She noted that when you read the report, it notes that the Steering Committee has reached no consensus on the lane issue which is the most important issue to the residents of Northfield. Both the two and four lane configurations are presented in Section Three of the report which makes it look like someone will have to come in and break the tie – and we know who that person is. She noted it is not right that Northfield is put in that position when the overwhelming stakeholders in the Village are for a two-lane configuration. I think the report should plainly reflect that instead of the opinions and votes only of the Steering Committee. In her opinion the role of the Steering Committee should have been to steer the process not to decide the issue for the stakeholders. Trustee Frazier continued that even if you accept the idea that the Steering Committee represents the will of the Stakeholders, she feels that inadequate consideration was given to two statutory factors. The Context Sensitive statute is described as "shall promote innovative solutions...that can effectively balance safety, mobility, community and environmental

objectives. Trustee Frazier noted they interviewed a lot of stakeholders on safety but, in her opinion, the community and environmental objectives were not given adequate consideration. Finally, she noted there is some important information that is missing from the report. It was mentioned that the Committee and Lakota interviewed 50 stakeholders; I do not know what their opinions are. I can guess what they are. I think it is just that I could not find this in the report. She asked where the results of the one-on-one interviews is. She noted she felt that is just as important as the three community meetings, and as important as the Steering Committee meetings. Trustee Frazier's last comment noted that Mr. Liss' very well written and thoughtful memorandums were included in the report but by the same token, she knew a number of people in Northfield wrote emails to the Committee and she thought those should have been included in the document too because they represent a different point of view.

Chair Hurley and Mr. Freres noted that the Stakeholder Summary is on page 2.1. Ms. Hurley also noted that there were a number of emails and they are briefly summarized in Appendix D.

Ms. Hurley also addressed the weight the Committee gave to the voice of the public heard in all the arenas and most significantly at the public workshops. She referenced an Edmund Burke conversation, that notes, "as a representative if you don't use your independent judgment as part of your job then you are not doing your job." She noted that the Committee did have this conversation and she felt it is a balancing effect. She noted the Committee had two responsibilities, one was to listen carefully to what they were told and the second was to use their independent judgment. If that where not so, then all that was needed was a stenographer and a typist. She also noted that the Committee asked that the report be very explicit about the input from Northfield and that it show they were strongly for fewer lanes.

Trustee Frazier commented that she felt the responses of all those who attended the public community meetings were minimized.

Trustee Teichert noted that it was stated that the Committee compared scenarios against the existing road. He noted that the existing road is garbage and wondered why it wasn't compared to different road scenarios that were suggested.

Chair Hurley noted that it was used in comparing "equal to or better than" the existing conditions. Otherwise, she noted it was difficult to know how far to go. No cars is obviously the safest. They were always trying to balance between the two. By tying it to the existing condition it at least gave the Committee a benchmark.

Mr. Freres reiterated that the Committees discussion of two and three lanes as being better. As was stated earlier in the presentation it was consistently noted that all things being equal, two or three lanes are better than four.

Trustee Teichert asked if there were any pluses to four lanes.

Mr. Freres noted there would be better mobility and better turning at the intersections but noted that the Committee discussed whether the small amount of time saved would not be worth it because of the impact more lanes have on safety. The conclusion reached by the Committee even without traffic studies and any other additional data is that two or three lanes is better/safer.

Trustee Teichert added that the cars headed east are going to the Edens and with more cars

funneling into one lane since the ramp to the Edens is only one lane, this is not a plus.

Resident John Kemper asked for a definition of a stakeholder.

Mr. Freres explained that a stakeholder is an interested person, body, organization or entity that has a concern, issue or reason for understanding a particular study area. IDOT defined it as all those in addition to all those outside the boundary of Willow Road in Northfield going all the way to Route 53 to the west and to Green Bay Road to the east and everyone affected by Willow Road.

Resident Kemper then asked if there was any weight given to those who live in the community versus those who do not.

Mr. Freres responded that those who came to the meetings were Northfield and Winnetka residents and overwhelmingly Northfield residents. He also noted that his outreach to the two communities was evenly split between the two communities. However, the attendance at the community meetings was more heavily attended by Northfield residents. There were other stakeholders from neighboring communities but the majority were from Northfield. He also noted that many emails were sent in by Northfield residents.

Resident Bob Hayward (new Traffic & Transportation Committee member) from Northfield asked when the report was printed.

Mr. Freres responded the report was finalized between last Thursday and Monday, May 12.

Resident Hayward asked when the Committee was going to respond to residents questions since the resident had not been given a real opportunity to read the report which is about 100 pages.

Ms. Hurley noted that the Committee was up against a deadline since they were already about five months past the original due date. She noted that this final report was just put on the internet on Friday but the draft report had been posted from the middle of March and there were two public meetings after that people could have provided their comments.

Resident Hayward further commented that he felt the Committee should remain together though they don't necessarily have to meet formally to address the Community's questions regarding the report. He further noted he could not understand how a Committee of eight exercising independent judgment could remain indecisive on the number of lanes with the overwhelming facts in support of various community groups. He noted the Committee should be held accountable by those who care most about what is in the report. He stated he felt that the report would not be used by IDOT and that it would be cherry picked ignoring many of the ideas of those who attended the community meetings. He felt the Committee and the Lakota Group should get back together and sit and face the community and address their questions.

Ms. Hurley noted that there is never enough communication or enough opportunity to hear comments on issues such as this. She also noted that when she was asked to Chair this Committee and work with Lakota the project was to have been completed by December 2007.

Resident Hayward stated for the record that many other residents who are greatly concerned about this matter and would have liked to participate tonight could not due to a scheduling conflict with a grade school musical event that was moved to this same date. Otherwise, there would be many more

residents who would have been here tonight. He noted he understands the time commitments everyone has and that all stakeholders should have an opportunity to ask questions after they have had a chance to read the report. He also noted it is important that the report reflect the overwhelming sentiment of the majority of the stakeholders who supported the two and three lane Willow Road over the four lane concept which is not reflected in the Committee's report. He stated it is critical as this report goes forward to IDOT that it show that the overwhelming majority of people including scientific data supports three lanes versus four lanes. If this is a totally open process, he stated, then he wanted that stated on the website, noting who participated in this process, where they are from so they know the stakeholders in the report are from Northfield rather than Winnetka because they did not have the time or energy to show up.

Winnetka Resident Jeffrey Liss reported that he read the draft report that was out in March pretty thoroughly and came to other meetings and asked the Committee if instead of going over all the things he noted in the report he could submit his thoughts/questions as part of the minutes and was told that would be fine. He noted that from the beginning the Committee held that the road had to be as safe as what is there today or safer. He also noted the question he heard at the end of the process is whether Willow Road could be safer with four lanes. He stated the Committee could not answer that but thought that engineering studies would confirm the safety factor. He further noted that some of the things that came out of the Committee meetings such as the under street crossing between the parks would be a major blessing to the Village. He noted that if Northfield residents complain that the report is not right or good, it gives IDOT an opportunity to pick it apart and just put in four lanes.

Northfield Resident George Spaniak noted that Mr. Freres clearly stated that two or three lanes is definitely safer. He then asked if the report clearly states that information. Mr. Freres said it does. He asked that if Glenview and Northbrook are also stakeholders and have a voice regarding Willow Road, why didn't Northfield have voice in the large developments built along Willow Road.

Mr. Freres noted that stakeholders have a voice in anything that commonly touches and passes through their community. Northfield does not have a voice in how property is developed in other communities nor do they have a say in Northfield's property development. However, he noted Willow is a State road that touches and runs through both of these communities and others.

Mr. Spaniak noted that other State Senators/Representatives were invited by Senator Schoenberg to the meeting he held at the Senior Center to discuss Willow Road. Mr. Spaniak wanted to know why they were invited.

President Birkinbine noted that they did not have input but might have been invited by Senator Schoenberg who represents this District. He said he thought he invited two Senators, Senator Garrett and another Senator. He also noted that it is a public meeting and people could come from anywhere to attend the public meeting.

Trustee Greene wanted to know who determines who the Willow Road stakeholders are. Is it IDOT?

Mr. Freres responded that it is any person or organization that has a stake in the project and Willow Road is a regional road that goes through a number of communities. Mr. Freres read a description of stakeholders and noted that IDOT will establish who all the stakeholders are.

President Birkinbine commented that Northfield had received a call from IDOT during the Steering Committee and Lakota process asking what we were doing. They said ours was not a true Context Sensitive Solution study because other stakeholders including IDOT itself and the Villages of Glenview and Northbrook were not included. Therefore, when IDOT begins its own study of Willow Road, we can expect them to be part of the stakeholders. In the past, other communities farther west were involved because IDOT was planning to widen Willow Road from the Edens Expressway west to Route 53 with two additional lanes.

Another person in the back of the Council Chamber spoke but could not be heard on the tape.

Northfield Resident John Kemper noted that there are no other roads between Willow and Dempster that go from the Edens to the Toll Road which puts an unfair amount of traffic in Northfield.

President Birkinbine noted that there being no further questions, he thanked the participants from the Willow Road Steering Committee and the Lakota Group and the residents who attended.

CONSIDERATION OF A SPECIAL USE ORDINANCE TO ALLOW A TWO CAR ATTACHED GARAGE AND A THREE CAR DETACHED GARAGE AT 225 SHADOWOOD LANE

Trustee Chapin made a motion, seconded by Trustee Teichert to approve a Special Use ordinance to allow a two car attached garage and a three car detached garage in excess of 1,200 square feet at 225 Shadowood Lane.

Director Anne Kane noted this matter had come before the Plan and Zoning Commission at a Public Hearing. The proposed residence for 225 Shadowood will have a two car attached garage as well as a three car detached garage which forms an enclosed auto court which the family children will use for a play area. None of the garages face adjacent roadways. The end result is 2,200 square feet of garage space which is 1,200 square feet in excess of the R1 residential district. Two neighbors next to the property attended the public hearing and neither had issues with the proposed garages. They asked how stormwater would be managed on the property and were looking for solutions to existing stormwater issues in the area.

Trustee Frazier asked whether the sanitary sewer issues had been resolved.

Director Kane noted that it would be discussed at a meeting later in the month. The residents of 225 Shadowood have discussed using an existing sanitary sewer versus the neighborhood's desire to see an upgrade to the sewer.

Trustee Frazier asked whether the sanitary sewer issue impacts what is before the Board tonight.

Director Kane responded "no".

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

AYES: Chapin
Gottlieb
Charhut
Frazier
Teichert

NAYS: 0

ABSTAIN: 0

ABSENT: Greene

CONSIDERATION OF AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE VILLAGE CODE, CHAPTER 14, ARTICLE III, SECTION 14-13, PARKWAY MAINTENANCE RESPONSIBILITIES OF ABUTTING PROPERTY OWNERS

Trustee Charhut made a motion, seconded by Trustee Gottlieb to approve an ordinance amending Chapter 14, Article III, Section 14-13, Parkway Maintenance Responsibilities and Abutting Property Owners, adding Section F to clarify the Village's responsibilities for parkway restoration in accordance with Village standards.

President Birkinbine asked what happens in current situations when an encroachment agreement has not been signed and after work has been done.

Manager Sigman noted that what the Village has been doing in past years has been worked out on a case by base basis. The Village is trying to take a pro-active approach for future projects.

President Birkinbine noted that we might want to get this information out to residents in the newsletter and do periodic reminders to inform residents about who is responsible for what.

Trustee Teichert asked what "restoring to Village standards" means.

Manager Sigman noted that in some areas concrete is used and in other asphalt. Some street have curb and gutter and others don't. She noted that typically the Village restores with sod in the parkway, but it depends on the scope of the project.

Trustee Teichert asked about replacement of a tree.

Manager Sigman noted that we would replace a tree which is most likely a Village tree if it is on the parkway. We do not replace shrubs because they are not standard. We do not want shrubs on Village parkways. In areas where there are encroachments, the Village usually gets an agreement signed. Often it is difficult for the Village to get the materials to replace unusual things such as specially designed mailboxes or it requires going onto private property.

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

AYES: Chapin
Gottlieb
Chapin
Frazier
Teichert

NAYS: 0

ABSTAIN: 0

ABSENT: Greene

CONSIDERATION OF A PERMIT TO ALLOW DOMINICKS TO OPERATE A TEMPORARY PHARMACY IN A TRAILER IN THEIR PARKING LOT AT 1822 WILLOW ROAD

Trustee Chapin made a motion, seconded by Trustee Gottlieb to approve issuing a permit to Dominick's to operate a temporary pharmacy in a trailer in their parking lot at 1822 Willow Road

provided 1) a Certificate of Occupancy is issued and when the permanent store is opened to the public, the operation of the pharmacy within the trailer ends and it must be removed, 2) any approval for the temporary trailer is subject to a time limit not to exceed four months without further review and approval by the corporate authorities and, 3) on-site security personnel is provided when the pharmacy is closed.

Director Kane noted that the agenda item sums up the issue.

Trustee Chapin asked when the four month time period starts.

A representative of the Dominick's store responded that the projected completion of construction on the store is August 28 and the grand re-opening of the store would be about three weeks after that or about mid-September.

Director Kane responded to Trustee Chapin that the start of the four month period would have to be determined and might coincide with issuing the permit.

Trustee Gottlieb asked about the security for outside and inside the trailer.

The Dominick's representative responded they would provide private security outside on a 24/7 basis. He noted inside they are required to have a burglar alarm.

Trustee Gottlieb also asked if the picture of the trailer they received in their packet is what the trailer will actually look like.

The Dominick's representative noted yes and that it is one of the best looking trailers.

President Birkinbine asked Chief Lustig if he is satisfied with the security measures.

Chief Lustig noted that without the security, he would have had strong objections to the trailer because it does pose a significant risk. With on-site security there 24/7 and hopefully a security firm like Brinks removing money periodically and monitoring of drugs, on whether they would monitor any internal issues. Otherwise, he stated, it would create more issues for his department and more concerns.

Trustee Frazier asked if there had been an incident of theft after the roof collapse. She also asked about the decision on placing the trailer closer to the east side of the parking lot.

The Dominick's representative commented on placement logistics – closeness to utilities, electricity for refrigeration of cases, etc. Also he noted there are two options for placement of the trailer with one closer to Willow Road. He noted the parking lights will be on at night.

Trustee Gottlieb suggested some signage be put up that notes the premises are subject to 24 hour security to deter thieves.

Trustee Charhut noted that when Dominick's was approved by the Village years ago, they were to put in trees but those trees haven't thrived. He asked whether Dominick's would put in better trees when it re-opens.

Resident John Kemper commented on how much the Northfield pharmacy is missed.

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

AYES: Chapin
Gottlieb

NAYS: 0

ABSTAIN: 0

ABSENT: Greene

Charhut
Frazier
Teichert

CONSIDERATION OF AN ORDINANCE SETTING A PUBLIC HEARING FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A SPECIAL SERVICE AREA 08-1 FOR OLD HUNT ROAD RESURFACING

Trustee Chapin made a motion, seconded by Trustee Gottlieb to approve an ordinance setting a public hearing for the establishment of a Special Service Area (SSA) -08-1 for Old Hunt Road resurfacing project.

Director Steve Noble noted that the Village had been approached by the Old Hunt Homeowners Association to approve the paving of their private street along with the Village's 2008 resurfacing project. Staff felt it is a worthwhile project but was concerned with how the homeowners on Old Hunt would reimburse the Village for the cost. It was determined that the best way to accomplish this was to establish a Special Service Area. Special Service Areas have been used by the Village most recently in the Longmeadow area when they annexed to Northfield to recoup the cost of installing a new sanitary sewer system. Using a Special Service Area is a way of applying a specific tax on a specific geographic area. In this case, the Village would create a special tax district just for the homeowners on Old Hunt Road. Old Hunt homeowners have requested that we split the cost of the repaving evenly over the 15 properties. The Longmeadow Special Service area had the tax distributed by assessed valuation so people paid different sums of money for the same project. Old Hunt wanted the cost split evenly between the 15 homeowners and in order to do that the Village will have to do the billing and collection of the Special Service Area tax. When based on the assessed valuation, the County levies the tax and collects it.

Director Noble noted that the Village has received a petition signed by 12 of the 15 Old Hunt Road property owners which states they would not object to the establishment of a Special Service Area. If the Village proceeds, there would be a public hearing at the next Board meeting. June is an important meeting date since the Village hopes to have the bid back for the resurfacing project so it would be good to have this all done in order.

Trustee Chapin asked if the Village requires 80% of the homeowners on Old Hunt to sign the petition.

Director Noble noted that State statutes require 51% of the property owners and 51% of the electors in the geographic area to sign a petition to stop the process which is known as a backdoor referendum. It has been the Village practice in the past to have 2/3's of the homeowners agree to the project.

Trustee Gottlieb asked how this will work since the Village is handling the billing.

Director Noble responded that the Village Finance Department will send out semi-annual bills.

Trustee Gottlieb asked whether the Village will be covering its administrative costs.

Director Noble responded that the administrative cost is covered in the interest rate which is

5%.

Trustee Gottlieb asked what is the liability if one or two people don't pay. Is everyone on Old Hunt responsible or just the particular person.

Attorney Hill responded that each person is responsible. Once the Special Service Area ordinance is adopted, the billing is done through that Special Service Area and any taxes established through it become an automatic lien on the property. That is the Village's security, he noted. With regard to recovering costs, the statutory lien allows the Village to recover any costs that we have.

Director Noble noted that several residents are looking to pay their bill off upfront while others are on fixed incomes and need to space out the payments.

Trustee Teichert asked what savings the homeowners will anticipate.

Director Noble responded that because of the number of roads the Village is having resurfaced they will be saving and enjoying the expertise of a larger paving company.

Manager Sigman noted the Village had done a Special Service Area in the past with Old Hunt when they annexed and the Village redid their sanitary sewer. It was done on the same basis and the Village has collected its money.

Attorney Hill also added that when the Village did a Special Service Area in the past with 50-60 homes, there was only one homeowner where we experienced difficulty in collecting.

Manager Sigman also noted that of the three properties that did not sign the petition, one is a vacant lot that is being held in trust, another homeowner is out of the State and the third is a homeowner who doesn't think they need to repave the road.

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

AYES:	Chapin Gottlieb Charhut Frazier Teichert	NAYS: 0	ABSTAIN: 0	ABSENT: Greene
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APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS:

Trustee Chapin made a motion, seconded by Trustee Gottlieb, to approve Consent Agenda items 1 through 6.

1. Approve the Minutes of the April 15, 2008 Village Board meeting.
2. Approve the Bills and Disbursements from 4/5/08 to 5/9/08 in the amount of \$626,589.33.
3. Approve an ordinance authorizing disposal of miscellaneous equipment (printers, monitors and tire changing equipment) as surplus.
4. Approve an intergovernmental agreement and resolution for membership in the Northeastern Illinois Public Safety Training Academy (NIPSTA).
5. Approve a resolution authorizing the use of \$1,040,000 Motor Fuel Tax funds for 2007 and 2008 roadway maintenance projects.
- 6A. Approve a resolution amending Resolutions R99-97 and R45-92 modifying the membership and composition of the Traffic and Transportation Committee.
- 6B. Approve the appointments of Brian K. Kozminski and Robert Hayward to the Traffic &

Transportation Committee to four year terms each expiring 5-1-2012.

Trustee Frazier noted that it states in the resolution for the Traffic and Transportation Committee that it reports to the Village Board. She noted she has never seen a report from the Committee and shouldn't the Board be getting reports.

Manager Sigman responded that she did not believe that the Committee has met since the new Board has taken over. It is like an Ad Hoc Committee that only meets when there are issues. In the late 1990's they met regularly and they were providing minutes and reports to the Village Board.

Trustee Charhut noted that as IDOT begins Phase I engineering work on Willow Road it will be important that the Village keep up on what they are doing. He asked if this is the group that should be responsible for this.

President Birkinbine responded "yes."

Trustee Charhut then commented that shouldn't the Resolution note that the Board should direct the Traffic and Transportation Committee.

Attorney Hill responded that he did not know if that was covered in the original resolution and Manager Sigman noted that they will look into it and can bring it back in June if additional wording is needed.

Manager Sigman noted that T&T does not have a regular schedule and that a single meeting is being set up in July.

Trustee Gottlieb noted that he recalled that Trustee Greene is the Board representative on the Traffic & Transportation Committee and would be providing information to the Board

Trustee Chapin also asked whether we are doing any funding out of the \$100,000 allocation that President Birkinbine has control over.

President Birkinbine noted yes, beginning May 1, 2008 a funding at the rate of \$4,000 a month to Thomas & Joyce Consulting firm for planning and strategy advice on Willow Road is being spent and noted and they would also be interacting with the Traffic & Transportation Committee.

Trustee Chapin asked who the Consultant is.

President Birkinbine noted the principle is Larry Horist who played a similar role in the late 1990's to help turn IDOT from a no to a yes on the 3-lane road.

Trustee Chapin asked about the original \$5,000 that was spent and whether there was a deliverable the Village received from that expense. He also asked what the deliverable is.

President Birkinbine noted the deliverable is a report on where the Village stands now relative to where we were back when we thought the fight had been won, who the players are, the problems we can expect, potential avenues the Village has. However, because it is a public document it does not contain strategy. President Birkinbine noted that the biggest benefit from Thomas & Joyce was not the written report but in getting them thinking of avenues the Village needs for the road we want.

Trustee Chapin asked what Thomas and Joyce's objective is.

President Birkinbine noted that it is to prevent having a four lane Willow Road forced on Northfield.

Trustee Chapin asked if it isn't a little late for that.

President Birkinbine responded "no" and referred to the IDOT document Trustee Charhut mentioned about the time frame for Phase I and Phase II being 48 months or 4 years which includes engineering and various public meetings.

Trustee Charhut asked if the \$4,000 a month is in perpetuity and whether there a limit as to how many months their agreement runs.

President Birkinbine responded "yes" and that it is cancelable by either party with 30 days advance notice.

Trustee Chapin asked is this allocation of funds is something that President Birkinbine has sole control over and the Board did not act on.

President Birkinbine affirmed that and noted that he had check with Attorney Hill about it and felt it was within his capacity and Attorney Hill confirmed that is the case.

Trustee Teichert asked if the Board would be kept informed on how the money is being used.

President Birkinbine noted that one result is a press release that is expected in the Tribune this week and perhaps in the Pioneer Press on Northfield's take on the Lakota report highlighting what the Lakota report says about three lanes being better and that two or three lanes are always going to be safer.

Trustee Teichert asked if there would be a vote on the Lakota Report.

President Birkinbine responded that that was never what was intended. The Lakota Report represents a product of a task force of citizens of two towns who reviewed the road and tried to come to an agreement on what Willow Road should look like. He said he never anticipated it being a document that the Committee or Board would vote on. This report now has to be reported back to Senator Schoenberg and IDOT. He noted that IDOT will be undertaking their own Context Sensitive Solution report.

Trustee Teichert asked why the Lakota Report was presented to the Board tonight if it has no significance since IDOT will be doing their own study.

President Birkinbine explained that it was a courtesy and felt the presentation of the report should have been made to the school and park board too since they have as much stake in the task force and the report.

Trustee Charhut then commented that we now know that the study will be done over by IDOT with a wider selection of stakeholders.

President Birkinbine commented that he felt that would be the case. He also noted that when the public process starts on Phase I and Phase II engineering, we need to have residents attend the public hearings and be part of the procedures to give Northfield a voice.

Trustee Charhut commented that the intersections are very well done in the report. He noted that the area of conflict is from Sunset Ridge Road to the Bridge. He noted that it is all about the 9/10ths of a

mile. When he looks at the other amenities the Village could get, he wonders if the Village should pass them up and whether IDOT and the Senator would actually provide those.

President Birkinbine noted that at the very beginning of the Lakota process, Senator Schoenberg said there is no guarantee that the communities would get what was agreed to. That is what is unsettling. Down the road when IDOT is seeking funds to reconstruct Willow Road there is no guarantee funds will be available for any of the extras and the Village could wind up with just a four lane road.

Trustee Charhut expressed that Northfield has to monitor IDOT's Phase I engineering very carefully.

President Birkinbine responded that is what the appropriated money will help us do.

Manager Sigman noted that it will take approximately two years for Phase I and two years for Phase II engineering to be done.

Trustee Chapin noted that Senator Schoenberg was very direct in stating that it will be four lanes and did not provide a courtesy invitation when he spoke on the matter. And added that, unfortunately, he controls the money. He noted that the Village should watch how it is spending any additional funds because he felt it is throwing bad money after good. He noted he was concerned about any of the money being spent of the \$100,000.

President Birkinbine asked that the Board return to discussion of the Consent Agenda items. He asked for any additional comments on this.

Trustee Frazier asked about NIPSTA and white it does.

Manager Sigman provided an explanation of what NIPSTA is noting that it covers training for our 20 sworn Police Officers, 9 Firefighters and 25 Public Works employees.

Attorney Hill disclosed that the firm he works for (Klein, Thorpe and Jenkins, Ltd.) is the attorney for NIPSTA.

Police Chief Lustig noted that about two years ago, the Police started a lot of web based training in an effort to save money but some training required scenario based training which you cannot get off a computer and as much as they try to keep training costs down, there is some training that is very specialized and has to be done in the best way for employees.

Trustee Charhut asked whether the Board was voting on the Consent Agenda with or without items 6A and 6B.

Manager Sigman responded they are included in the vote and that items 6A and 6B are simply to change the number of members of the Traffic & Transportation Committee from 8 to 10 and to remove reference to the Community Life Commission from the past resolution(s). The question raised on whether the Board directs the Committee will be reviewed and Manager Sigman and Attorney Hill will report back to the Board in June if the T&T resolution needs any additional language with regard to the Board directing the Committee.

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

AYES: Chapin

NAYS: 0

ABSTAIN: 0

ABSENT: Greene

Charhut
Frazier
Gottlieb
Teichert

Board Update

Miscellaneous Information

Manager Sigman apologized that no specific update information was included in the packet. She noted that because of the presentation by Lakota they would cover most of the current information on Willow Road and because the downtown redevelopment task force meetings have been completed, she did not add these items to the Board Update. However, if there are specific questions the Board has, she will address them.

Manager Sigman reviewed the previous information on the update on Dominick's construction. She noted the sidewalk on south Happ has been installed and it is being used. The watermain project has had some challenges; however, there are no major issues and we are following the revised schedule presented last month. The Safe Routes to School Committee continues to meet working with the schools, park district and Police. She noted she was disheartened to read an article in the Tribune that those towns that have been awarded grants for the Safe Routes to School program have not received their money because IDOT has not been funded for this yet. With regard to Willow Road, the bids for resurfacing came in on April 28. She is still checking with IDOT to see if the program has been awarded and the start date. IDOT had discussed that ideally the project would start in early July. Manager Sigman then reviewed RedFlex and noted that the first adjudication hearing was at 4:30 on Thursday. The program has gone fairly smooth with just a few computer glitches. She further noted that as of today, the Village has issued 341 citations (issued after the warning period) and 119 are pending for a total of 460 citations from April 16 to May 20 at \$75 per ticket. Chief Lustig added that the RedFlex camera at Willow and Waukegan is expected to be in place and operating by the end of the week. It was noted that if the citations are not paid, they are sent to a collection agency similar to what the Village does for parking tickets. Manager Sigman reviewed that the Community Events Sign is on hold until the watermain work is completed at the corner of Willow and Central. She noted some of the pricing is running over the estimate requirements and she needs to discuss it with the Village Attorney on whether to waive the bidding or some other solution. Manager Sigman reported that brackets for the new Chamber of Commerce banners have been installed on the light posts and the banners will be mounted in the next week or so. She also noted that the Police Department will be busy at the end of the month with the PTA Fair and New Trier graduation and then with the Farmers Market on Saturday, June 7.

Trustee Chapin asked if there is anything new on the proposed Edens bank project east of the Village Hall.

Manager Sigman noted that she had not heard anything new on this. She also noted that since

the moratorium has expired, the Village has not received an application for the bank building.

Director Kane noted that the Community Development Department finalized the design guidelines for the downtown redevelopment plan with the Architectural Commission earlier in the month and she met with Myefski Cook today and worked through comments and design guidelines with them. Regarding Edens Bank, she noted she had one informal meeting with them. She noted they were excited that they might be able to meet the intent of the design guidelines and still meet their own needs.

Director Kane asked Village Attorney Hill if there was a decision on whether the Village could institute a fee in lieu of sales tax on banks?

He responded we cannot do it.

Director Kane noted that prior to receiving Attorney Hill's decision she had noted they might be able to do that or a contribution of a fee in lieu of parking might be used.

Trustee Teichert asked if there will be any problem with the Dominick's re-design.

Director Kane noted the department has already done a review of the re-design. She noted that she did not anticipate any problems. The interior will be somewhat routine. Dominick's is expecting to do some outside remodeling that will be brought to the Architectural Commission.

Trustee Teichert also asked how the outstanding water bill collection is progressing.

Director Noble noted that it is going very well and that between 80 and 85% of the unpaid water bills have been collected. He noted that either they have paid in full or made payment arrangements. He noted there is one person who has moved and they cannot locate.

Trustee Chapin asked President Birkinbine who Jeffrey Liss is.

President Birkinbine responded he is a Winnetka resident who makes every Village meeting and made every Willow Road and Lakota meeting. He is an attorney and President Birkinbine noted he thought he is still active in practice since he made mention of having to get downtown.

President Birkinbine commented that the other similar type resident from Winnetka is Mr. Kates. He noted that Winnetka had warned that him that both these Winnetka residents would be coming to Northfield's meetings because they are involved with everything.

Attorney Hill asked if they are working together.

President Birkinbine noted that they are very similar and they always want to be heard.

Trustee Chapin asked if there is a plan to replace the sign at Willow and Forestway Drive.

Manager Sigman noted that it was included in the Capital Improvement Program for a study of the design of the sign. However, she stated that depending on the design, the cost and what could be worked out with the Friends of Northfield Foundation, the garden clubs, etc. with regard to grants/donations, it we might be able to get it done sooner.

Trustee Frazier noted that replacement of the Community Events sign is important as well as the Village sign at Forestway and Willow. She noted it is frustrating to drive through other communities and see these things are in place and in Northfield they're not.

Resident John Kemper noted an election sign that was up on a home on Riverside and he noted

it took a week to get it removed. He also noted a real estate sign at the corner of Winnetka and Wagner Road that has been up all year on public property. He noted the length of time these signs are up and yet residents are not allowed to put up political signs without observing the specific dates when they could go up and when they had to be taken in.

Manager Sigman has asked Police and members of the Building Department that when they are out conducting their duties, if they see political signs to advise the person of the code and ask them to remove the sign. She noted that the Village no longer has a Zoning Inspector who used to handle removing this type of signage. The work is now absorbed by other staff members who have other kinds of duties and signs don't get removed as quickly.

Manager Sigman noted that political signs can't go up prior to 60 days before an election and must be taken down so many days following the election. Real estate signs can stay up on the person's property until the house is sold.

Attorney Hill noted that it matters whether the sign is on public or private property. He said that signs are not allowed on public property except for open house signs the day of the open house. He also noted the reason we don't regulate real estate signs is because the Illinois Supreme Court said local governments could not regulate real estate signs on private property.

Trustee Charhut asked how soon after the political election the sign must be removed.

The response was 24 hours after the election.

Manager Sigman noted that Chief Lustig has informed her that he would add signage to the list of duties of the Public Safety Officer. Any signs in violation of the ordinance, the address where the sign is located can be reported to the Police Public Safety Officer.

Attorney Hill noted that as someone who has been in the Village for 30 something years, signage has generally been on a complaint basis and particularly political signs since most of the decisions that come from the courts are against municipalities on this matter.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Board, Trustee Charhut made a motion seconded by Trustee Teichert to adjourn the meeting. By voice vote, all agreed and the meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m.