

**MINUTES
of the
PUBLIC HEARING and
REGULAR BOARD MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
VILLAGE OF NORTHFIELD
Tuesday, June 16, 2009 - 7:00 p.m.**

As provided for by public notice, the Board of Trustees of the Village of Northfield met in the Council Chambers of the Village Hall at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, June 16 2009 for a Public Hearing to consider a Special Service Area for Drury Lane and for the Regular Board meeting. The Village Clerk took the roll call.

PRESENT:	President Trustees	Fred Gougler John Chapin, Jr. Joan Frazier Terry Gottlieb Brian Kozminski Fred Teichert George Warga
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CONVENE TO PUBLIC HEARING TO CONSIDER A SPECIAL SERVICE AREA FOR DRURY LANE FOR ROADWAY IMPROVEMENTS

Manager Sigman stated that the Village was approached some months ago by the residents of Drury Lane about the possibility of establishing a Special Service Area (SSA) in order for them to repave their private lane. They asked consideration of 1) the Village to include this project as part of its public bid for our roadway project in order to get some cost savings for their private lane repaving and 2) consideration of establishing a Special Service Area (SSA) so residents can pay off the costs at once or over time as part of the SSA assessment. The process of setting up a Special Service Area requires a public hearing. An ordinance was adopted at the May Board meeting calling for the public hearing tonight. The purpose of the public hearing tonight is to take any comments from anyone affected by the Special Service Area (SSA). She noted for the record that one document from a Drury Lane resident in opposition to the Special Service Area was provided with the packet sent to the Board prior to this meeting. She also noted that she received a letter today from James Garard in support of the SSA.

Manager Sigman noted there is no action to be taken at this meeting except to hear comments. The action will take place at a subsequent meeting once bids for roadway improvements are opened. After the costs have been established, the Village Engineer will provide residents of Drury Lane with a more detailed breakdown on the cost to repave private Drury Lane. They will then inform the Village if they would like to proceed with the SSA.

President Gougler asked if there were any members of the audience that would like to address the Board on this issue of the Special Service Area. Two residents raised their hands.

Resident David Blum of 2292 Drury Lane (President of the Drury Lane Association) addressed the Board noting that the Association had provided many emails and meetings with Drury Lane

residents to explain this project. In addition to the regular and certified letters the Village sent to everyone on the Lane, he provided those documents to everyone on the Lane via email and emailed them again reminding them about the public hearing tonight. He noted he felt there is wide-spread support for the SSA on the Lane, though not unanimous support. By using the Special Service Area process, he noted they can spread out the financial burden for the homeowners on Drury Lane and expressed appreciation to the Board for their cooperation in letting them do this. He stated that it was their understanding that the bids are due to the Village on July 10, 2009 and hopes they will be provided with an estimate for the cost of the roadwork later that day so they have it for their meeting on July 12 when they will vote on whether to proceed with the SSA.

Trustee Frazier referenced the letter from Mr. Bodman noting that there are four properties for sale on Drury Lane. Mr. Blum noted Mr. Bodman is at the meeting tonight and that yes there are four properties for sale on Drury Lane. She asked Mr. Blum if he and the Association had heard from the other three owners of the properties for sale.

Mr. Blum responded that he had heard from them and had reviewed the project at a meeting in April. He felt that those property owners will be in favor of the project. He noted that he cannot speak for them but they are well aware of the process and tonight's public hearing. He felt having the roadwork done might also help them in the sale of their homes.

Trustee Frazier asked whether they had expressed an opinion for or against the SSA.

Mr. Blum responded that the Association has received very positive results.

Trustee Teichert asked whether they need a simple majority to go forward. Mr. Blum stated that the State ordinance says 51% and the Village policy is 2/3rds of the electors/voters. There are 16 homes on the street.

Trustee Warga noted that he also lives on a private lane and they had to get rid of their septic field and join in a common sewer. What they agreed to do as property owners was pay for the portion that each uses.

Mr. Blum reported that everyone on the street would pay the same amount in the SSA.

Trustee Warga asked if everyone who buys on the street has to join the Association.

Mr. Blum responded it is automatic.

Trustee Warga asked the Village Attorney Duggan if that is legally accepted.

Village Attorney Duggan responded that it is a typical arrangement like a condo declaration. It is a feature that runs with the property.

Resident John Bodman from Drury Lane who wrote the letter to the Board spoke next. He noted that he has a financial situation that will make it hard for him to participate in the SSA program and he felt that the road only needed some repairs rather than a complete repaving.

Trustee Gottlieb asked Mr. Blum whether the Association considered minimal repairs versus a whole resurfacing.

Mr. Blum responded that because the property owners were unsure how to determine this, they had a civil engineer do a study with samples of the road. He was the one who prepared the specifications for how the project should be rebuilt. It was his opinion that the road was so deteriorated and so broken up particularly on the edges, that the only course was to completely take it down to gravel and repave it. The Association will be paying for that engineering fee from Gewalt Hamilton ahead of time.

Trustee Gottlieb reiterated to Mr. Bodman that repairing the road was considered but complete repaving was considered the best option because of the condition of the road.

CONSIDERATION TO ADJOURN THE PUBLIC HEARING AT 7:10 PM

There being no further comments, Trustee Gottlieb made a motion, seconded by Trustee Kozminski to adjourn the Public Hearing and to convene the Regular Board meeting.

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

AYES:	Chapin	NAYS: 0	ABSTAIN: Warga	ABSENT: 0
	Frazier			
	Gottlieb			
	Kozminski			
	Teichert			

RECONVENE TO REGULAR BOARD MEETING AT 7:10 P.M.

The Board of Trustees of the Village of Northfield reconvened in the Council Chambers of the Village of Northfield for the Regular Board Meeting on Tuesday, June 16, 2009. The meeting was called to order at 7:10 p.m. by President Fred Gougler. The roll call as called by the Village Clerk was as follows:

PRESENT:	President	Fred Gougler
	Trustees	John Chapin, Jr.
		Joan Frazier
		Brian Kozminski
		Terry Gottlieb
		Fred Teichert
		George Warga

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS:

Trustee Chapin made a motion, seconded by Trustee Warga, to approve Consent Agenda items 1 through 5.

1. Approve the Minutes of the May 19, 2009 Village Board meeting.
2. Approve the Bills and Disbursements from 5/9/09 to 6/5/09 in the amount of \$225,884.01.
3. Approve the appointment of Sean O'Grady as the School Board representative to the Traffic & Transportation Committee for a four year term expiring May 1, 2013, filling a vacancy.
4. Approve a banking resolution with Suburban Bank & Trust.
5. Approve the Prevailing Wage ordinance as required by the State of Illinois.

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

AYES: Chapin
 Kozminski
 Teichert
 Frazier
 Warga
 Gottlieb

NAYS: 0

ABSTAIN: 0

ABSENT: 0

CONSIDERATION TO APPROVE AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SPECIAL USE/PUD ORDINANCE 94-812 FOR 770 FRONTAGE ROAD

Trustee Chapin made a motion, seconded by Trustee Frazier to approve an ordinance amending Special Use/PUD Ordinance 94-812 and all subsequent ordinances for 770 Frontage Road, Fields Dealerships, to allow phased construction of a 32,380 sq. ft. sales and service facility.

Director Kane reported that earlier this month the Plan and Zoning Commission conducted a public hearing to consider Fields Auto Group's request for an amendment to their existing PUD to allow for the demolition of the existing office building and construction of a new automobile sales and service facility up to 32,380 sq. ft. on the property located at 770 Frontage Road. This site is immediately north of their existing BMW facility and is currently occupied by a bronze-mirrored single story office building. In 2007 when Fields purchased this property to allow for the then proposed BMW expansion, it was anticipated that eventually a new dealership would be located on this site but in today's economy, with the volatility in the automotive industry, the Village is extremely fortunate to be attracting this sort of investment and redevelopment in the community. Fields initially planned to relocate its existing Volvo dealership along with the Subaru dealership that they sought to acquire to this new shared facility with approximately 85% space devoted to Volvo and about 15% occupied by Subaru. Although Fields does not yet have corporate approval from Subaru to relocate that part of the project to this location, Fields is seeking a full approval of the overall project with the ability to phase in site improvements within the next few years. The draft ordinance before the Board tonight includes a condition in Item 3 that would allow Fields a four year time frame to build out the second phase of the PUD rather than the two year time frame prescribed by our Village Code. The property is currently zoned office-research in which our zoning code permits both commercial PUD and automotive dealers as appropriate special uses.

Director Kane continued noting that as the Fields PUD campus has grown and developed over the years since its establishment in 1994, the primary concern of the neighbors to the west of the site have focused primarily on the lighting levels and some of the noise. In the packet was a line of sight exhibit prepared by Gewalt Hamilton which demonstrates the challenge between the height where the residences are on the east side of Happ Road, west of the campus, and the change in topography. In 2007 when the Fields expansion was approved, a stipulation of the Plan and Zoning and Architectural Commissions at that time was to encourage the Village Board to seek a donation from Fields for an evergreen planting project to be located on Village-owned property (the Village owns a 100 foot strip of property that runs the entire 1300 linear foot length of

this PUD campus. You may recall that the project was awarded last month and the planting is scheduled for next week. Fields supplied that contribution last fall but a critical deadline was missed this spring. It should be noted that the screening project will not provide 100% screening nor will it create an immediate buffer for these residents. Both the Plan Commission and Architectural Commission did condition their recommendation for approval subject to lowering the light poles on the Volvo site to no more than 22 feet so no pole would exceed the height of the building. The light poles at the rear of the property are 15 feet in height and Fields was asked to return to the Architecture Commission with a revised site lighting plan and a plan designed to reduce the overall lighting impact on the adjoining property. Over the years there have been many tests of the photometrics and, by code, this property is in compliance with our Village Codes. Wirth regard to the revised lighting plan that would be presented at a future Architectural Commission meeting, staff will make the neighbors aware of the meeting along that corridor so they can participate and hear what the plan is. She noted that representatives of Fields and the project architect are present tonight.

Trustee Frazier asked what the light revisions might be.

Director Kane responded that a couple of easy solutions might be making the rear of the building a color other than white because that reflects the light onto the adjoining properties. She noted that she has had initial discussions with the Fields architect and they have not come up with any solutions yet. One thought is that the new expansion could be wired so that a simple switch could be flipped at the end of the business day to turn off every other light. She noted there are about five light standards at the rear of the property so, perhaps, three of the lights could be turned off. However, there is a need for security. The right balance is needed between the lighting level between the adjoining property owners and the business owner to safeguard their inventory.

Trustee Gottlieb asked, in terms of the revised lights in the front and back, has Fields acknowledged that lowering them is a possibility?

Director Kane responded "yes".

Trustee Gottlieb also noted that he had read in the information provided that unlike the original lighting standards, the new lights are shielded from the rear and the sides. Is that correct?

Director Kane responded that is right but believed that those shields are on the existing light poles as well. She noted, however, that the infrastructure is not in place which would allow them to flip a switch at the end of the day to affect the Jeep and BMW portion of the dealerships to turn off every other light.

Trustee Gottlieb asked, in terms of alternate lighting in the evening after business hours, whether it would be acceptable and whether they would be willing to address the neighbors concerns within reason. Fields has indicated a willingness to do that.

Trustee Warga asked if the two year to four year extension is only with regard to Phase II for the potential Subaru dealership.

Director Kane responded that is correct but clarified that it could be that Volvo needs the additional space so it may not wind up including Subaru or it could be a different second dealership.

Resident David Woodyatt who lives on Norfolk Road and is a member of the Caucus, commented that he represents 18 residents who have been and continue to be adversely impacted by the Fields dealerships. The proposed expansion would probably add another three to four residents that would be impacted. These residents are from Pine Street, Earl Drive and located west of the southern end of Fields. He noted that he has spent time on the path west of Fields where the trees are to be planted. He noted that with all the foliage during summer it shields the light from the back yards. However, in winter when there is no foliage, one resident described the condition as like "living next to an urban city" while another commented he can turn off all his lights and read a book from the light coming from the dealership. He noted that the two need to be able to work something out with the lighting. He noted that the trees that will be added will not solve the problem.

Trustee Teichert asked what he meant when he said the trees will not solve the problem. Is that because there are not enough trees, they are not tall enough or too sparse?

Mr. Woodyatt responded that unless the trees are really huge, they won't block the light. He also noted that if the trees grow too much they will block the path that is back there.

Resident Philip Preston of Happ Road noted his property is probably the most impacted by the Fields expansion. He noted that he built his dream home on Happ and not long after Fields built its dealerships. He reported he attended the earlier meetings and voiced his concerns about the lighting. He feels Fields theory is to light up the lots and they will sell their cars. With regard to the trees, they are just sticks in the ground right now. The plan is to put in about 35 trees. When Fields put in the BMW dealership, Mr. Preston said he put in 30 12 foot white pines on his 112 ft. wide strip of land. What is planned for the entire length of Fields property is 35 6 foot trees. He noted that it is not realistic to believe that those trees will filter the light. He also noted that when he put in his trees, he put in underground irrigation. The area where the trees will be planted is an old railroad bed built on gravel which is hard to grow trees in. He noted that when he asked what Fields service hours are he was told it's until about 8:00 p.m. However, they have a sign that says they are open 24/7. Mr. Preston stated it is not a technology issue; it is a way of thinking that says, "the brighter we make it the more cars we think we will sell." He added that in terms of security issues, he said he had walked directly from his back yard into the back of the dealership. There isn't even a fence across the back of the dealership. The abandoned railroad tracks make the perfect access if I need new wheels for my BMW. If Fields was serious about security, they would contain the back of the property first rather than light it up. He further touched on an environmental issue. He further commented that his property has diminished significantly in value since Fields has built its dealerships.

Trustee Warga noted that he sat on Plan and Zoning and listened to people who came forward about Fields property and said he had not heard this type of testimony at those meetings.

Mr. Preston responded that he did not receive notice of the Plan and Zoning meetings.

Manager Sigman commented that there were people at the Plan and Zoning and Architectural meetings that raised lighting issues. She noted that over the years she has been at the Village, the lighting issue has been raised on a number of occasions and Fields has made several changes to reduce the impact. She also noted that the reason to put the trees on the top of the railroad right of way it is to use the height to give the maximum screening from the trees. She also added that the reason the trees are 6 feet is adaptability. The larger the tree, the harder it is to acclimate it to new situations. She added there is additional money from Fields to fill in where needed after the initial planting.

Mr. Preston noted that even the trees he planted do not have an impact.

Trustee Teichert asked Fields to respond to the comments on lighting.

Jeff Brown an architect with the JRB Group hired by Fields commented that they are looking into solutions and noted some of the changes made to the lighting over the years and the expenses incurred.

Trustee Gottlieb asked Mr. Brown about the service sign issue.

Mr. Brown noted that it is a matter than can be addressed and that they will look into alternative lighting for the back lot.

Trustee Gottlieb commented that in the spirit of cooperation if there are some solutions for the original BMW dealership that could help the neighbors, maybe the Village in the spirit of cooperation could take the money left from the plantings and donate it back to Fields to address those issues. He also commented that Fields has been a good neighbor and has dealt with any issues in good faith.

Following discussion and upon the following roll call vote, the motion was approved.

AYES:	Chapin	NAYS: 0	ABSTAIN: 0	ABSENT: 0
	Kozminski			
	Teichert			
	Frazier			
	Warga			
	Gottlieb			

CONSIDERATION OF A LOCAL AGENCY AGREEMENT WITH IDOT FOR THE OLD WILLOW ROAD BRIDGE PROJECT

Trustee Gottlieb made a motion, seconded by Trustee Frazier to approve a local agency agreement with IDOT for the Old Willow Road Bridge resurfacing and repair project.

Director Kane informed the Board that in accordance with State and Federal law, the Village conducts bi-annual bridge inspections on the three bridges that are under the Village's jurisdiction on Meadowbrook Drive, Sunset Road and Old Willow Road. Last year's inspection revealed that there are some leaks in the joints of the Old Willow Road Bridge which are accelerating the aging of the beams and asphalt. The recommendation was to replace the bridge overlay with a concrete overlay. The Village initially intended to cover this through the MFT project, however, when the stimulus

package was approved by President Obama earlier this year, there was a priority placed on bridge repair projects. The Village does not have any roadways under its jurisdiction that are considered federal aid routes that would be eligible for stimulus funding through the millions of dollars given to IDOT and the local agencies for road improvement projects. Therefore, Pat Glenn of Gewalt Hamilton identified our bridge project at \$100,000 would be eligible and meets the “shovel ready requirement.” The Village received the promise of 100% funding for this project while other communities in the NWMC were only funded at 80% because they are larger in scope and scale.

Director Kane noted recent discussions with the Engineer confirm that they are still confident that the \$100,000 estimate is going to cover this bid project. In order to get on IDOT’s bid letting for September and have the Federal Highway Administration allocate these funds, we need to have the President execute this Local Agency Agreement.

Trustee Frazier asked if new guard rails would be part of the bridge project. She asked if it would be possible to incorporate some design element to make the bridge more “charming” and noted the bridge replaced in Winnetka over the train station calling it a thing of beauty.

Director Kane responded that the initial design she has seen is an engineered solution and any enhancements will change the cost on the project. She added she will aspire toward some directive finials.

Trustee Warga noted that the bridge was reconstructed in 1997 or 2000 and asked if this is premature aging.

Director Kane said it is but the Village would have to go after IDOT since they constructed it. She noted that she did not think that will be a possibility.

Trustee Warga also asked if the reconstruction will close the bridge to traffic.

Director Kane responded “yes.”

Trustee Warga then asked if the work would affect the flow of the river.

Director Kane responded it would not because the work is all on the surface of the bridge. There would not be any under bridge work.

Trustee Kozminski expressed appreciation for the great job finding the money.

President Gougler asked the timeline for the project.

Director Kane responded that there is a September letting and work is expected to take place in spring 2010.

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

AYES:	Chapin	NAYS: 0	ABSTAIN: 0	ABSENT: 0
	Kozminski			
	Teichert			
	Frazier			
	Warga			
	Gottlieb			

CONSIDERATION TO APPROVE AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING ISSUANCE OF UP TO \$2 MILLION IN GENERAL OBLIGATION (ALTERNATE REVENUE SOURCE) BONDS

Trustee Chapin made a motion, seconded by Trustee Warga to approve an ordinance authorizing issuance of up to \$2 million in General Obligation (Alternate Revenue Source) bonds.

Director Noble noted that the ordinance before the Board is the last step before issuing up to \$2 million in bonds for street improvements. The Board has previously taken action to adopt an ordinance authorizing the issuance of the bonds, publishing notices of the bond sale in the newspaper as well as conducting a public hearing of our intent to issue the bonds. The ordinance tonight includes the parameters in which the Village Manager may proceed in accepting bids on the bonds. The Village is scheduled to hold a competitive bond sale on July 15, 2009. If the bid on the bonds falls within the parameters as set forth in the ordinance, the Village Manager would have the authority to accept the best bid and execute the bond order. He noted that the bond timetable has been included with the cover memo and noted staff took a lot of care in putting together the timetable to provide the Village with maximum flexibility. The Village would issue the bonds after the construction bids are open and evaluated by our construction engineers. In addition, the Village will only execute the bond sale if market conditions are favorable and if the best bid meets the parameters established in the bond ordinance. This means that on July 21, the Board can award the construction contract to the lowest bidder, knowing that the construction bids have been reviewed and are acceptable and that the financing is in place. Director Noble added that also attached with the ordinance is the offering document which is what will be circulated to the municipal bond community for those interested in purchasing our bonds. The Village's financial advisor John Miller with Ehlers & Associates, who prepared the preliminary official statement, is here if there are any questions about the document, the competitive bid process or anything concerning the municipal bond market.

Trustee Chapin noted that he had heard that general municipal credit ratings had been lowered by Moody's or Standard and Poor's in the past several months. Has that happened to Northfield?

Director Noble responded that it has not happened to Northfield but we will be receiving a new credit rating in early July or two weeks before the award. He noted that in some instances, the municipal credits have actually gone up a little because of the new rating system since we are no longer mixed in with all the corporate ratings. Municipalities have a much lower default rate than corporate bonds do.

Trustee Gottlieb asked what our rating is.

Director Noble responded that Northfield is currently rated AA. He anticipates that the rating will be maintained and thought the interest rates on the bonds would be about 4%.

President Gougler questioned whether we are following the timeline presented.

Director Noble noted that there was a minor delay since this ordinance was originally to be presented to the Board last month. The Village had an opportunity to qualify for Federal stimulus

money for these projects, and still does, so staff delayed the bond sale for a month.

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

AYES:	Chapin	NAYS: 0	ABSTAIN: 0	ABSENT: 0
	Kozminski			
	Teichert			
	Frazier			
	Warga			
	Gottlieb			

CONSIDERATION TO APPROVE WILLOW ROAD FUNDING REQUESTED BY THE TRAFFIC AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

Trustee Kozminski made a motion, seconded by Trustee Warga to approve the expenditure of up to \$100,000 by the Traffic and Transportation Committee for use on the Willow Road initiative subject to the approval of the Village President for any expense or contract in excess of \$1,000.

Manager Sigman introduced the Chair of the Traffic and Transportation Committee Bob Hayward who will give their presentation to you this evening. The Traffic and Transportation Committee has been working over the past several months to develop a plan on how to best facilitate and make sure the modifications made to Willow Road are ones that work for the Village of Northfield. As you are aware, IDOT has started the Phase I process so T&T is working on an intergovernmental initiative with the School and Park District Boards seeking their cooperation in responding to IDOT.

T&T Chair Bob Hayward provided an overview of the presentation that he and President Gougler will give to the School and Park District Boards and NSAG, a grassroots organization working on Willow Road issues, over the next couple of weeks on funding the intergovernmental initiative necessary to achieve a wider, safer and better Willow Road. He noted that IDOT is designing a highway not next year, or four years but now and the time to act is now. Without the immediate pro-active action by the Village IDOT will get their way with a 5-6 lane highway which will negatively impact the safety of our children, residents and further decrease the value of our properties, increase traffic and noise and forever change the character of the Village. Mr. Hayward noted that the same residents that elected the Board members to their positions overwhelmingly showed opposition to widening Willow Road in the 2008 Caucus survey. The supermajority of the residents who responded to the survey said that they wanted their elected officials to “fight” against anything wider than three lanes. So in the residents’ eyes this is the most important issue facing the Village. In the Caucus survey, it beat out 10 other choices combined including Village finances, home rule, capital improvements, and town center redevelopment. He noted that is why the Traffic and Transportation Committee has agreed to lead this initiative on behalf of the Village and Board. In the past eight months working with President Fred Gougler and former Village President John Birkinbine, they have worked tirelessly to assemble the best, most cost efficient team to support the initiative. All they need now are the finances.

Chair Hayward added that over the next few weeks, he and President Gougler would be seeking the financial support of the School and Park Boards and NSAG. To do so, he said that he needs to deliver a strong message to each of the organizations for the Village Board. He needs to demonstrate that the elected officials reflecting the will of the majority support the Willow Road initiative and, more importantly, have stepped up with strong financial backing. He quoted an Albert Einstein quote. He noted that once we act together, the possibilities are numerous and we will win this issue and stop reacting to people who don't care about our community and just want to run a highway through our town.

Trustee Teichert noted that in the latest NWMC Transportation Newsletter for the financial year 2010, they show that IDOT has \$1 million for Phase 2 of Willow Road. Is that quicker than we anticipated?

Manager Sigman responded that IDOT put out the Request for Proposal as a combined Phase 1 and Phase 2 project and awarded the contract that way. By IDOT's own estimation in our meeting with them, the timeline for Phase 1 is 24 months and another 24 months for Phase 2. She noted Village staff feels that timing is optimistic.

Chair Hayward added that IDOT is also going to have to deal with the Context Solution Law which IDOT admits they have not had to do in the past.

Trustee Frazier asked if Mr. Hayward has any sense of whether the Park and School Boards would be able to make the contributions they are being asked for.

Chair Hayward responded that the Boards and NSAG have all been involved in the Traffic and Transportation's conversations over the last couple of months.

Trustee Frazier noted she likes the T&T goals but what if they don't get all the funding they hope to get, do you still feel the contribution you are asking from the Village will advance the cause.

Chair Hayward responded "absolutely". He added that if we as a Board and community do nothing what will happen to this town is something that he does not want to witness. He said that we will deal with the hand dealt us and the money we have will be put to the best use possible. But if there is no funding and no one supports the initiative, then he doesn't know why he would spend all his time doing this or all the other people would either. It is absolutely critical that we have funding to do what we can to put forth our plan for Willow Road. Mr. Hayward discussed how the T&T selected the consultants they are working with.

Trustee Chapin noted that while he listens to him and gets very excited, he is also very concerned. He stated that in the past the Board allocated \$100,000 to be spent by the Village President and there was no accountability. He listened to the consultant's plan who stated that he would have an answer by March 1, 2009. It is long past the date, there was no accountability and we spent a lot of money. He asked Mr. Hayward how he was going to be accountable to the Board if money is allocated again.

Mr. Hayward noted that everyone on the Traffic and Transportation Committee was

appointed by the Village Board and is accountable to the Board. They operate within the power and authority of the Board. He noted that some of the activities they will be engaged in over the next few years are best communicated one on one and noted that any member of the Board is encouraged to call him direct. He also noted that President Gougler will be very close to the project and Trustee Kozminski is on the T & T Committee. There are a lot of people involved in this effort that Board members will have personal contact with.

President Gougler also responded to Trustee Chapin's comment on accountability. He noted that it falls under his jurisdiction since he has the authority to approve expenditures. He assured Trustee Chapin and the Board that they will be given a full accounting of all the expenses incurred in the project and it will be handled different than it was before.

Trustee Chapin responded that he has a listing of where the money was spent, what he wants to know is the value that was received for \$36,000.

President Gougler again assured that there will be a complete accounting.

Trustee Kozminski also responded that Chair Hayward and Manager Sigman have done a great job putting a team together on what it will take to have a seat at IDOT's table. As president Gougler noted, IDOT is spending money and working on their side of it, regardless of feelings on the issue. This is what it will take to have a seat at the table and a good job of putting together experts together has been done. We are going about it in a better way than in the past.

Trustee Chapin then asked how this expense is going to be funded. A positive vote for this \$100,000 breaks our budget and we are only in the second month of the new budget.

Manager Sigman noted that of the original \$100,000, there is currently \$68,000 that has been expended. This year we had budgeted some additional dollars in the budget. Therefore, about \$36,500 additional dollars than what is budgeted in the FY2009-10 budget is needed so the existing budget may need to be amended. Typically we don't do a budget amendment until the end of the year because we may be under or over in other budgeted expenditures and/or revenues. So it could require a budget amendment and, if that is the case, then the expense would come out of the Village's reserves.

Trustee Chapin asked if anything else has been considered to produce funds for this purpose other than reserves.

Manager Sigman responded that staff had a very difficult time and made a lot of cuts to balance the budget we have. She did not know what other cuts the Board would like staff to make and in what areas to make up that difference.

Trustee Kozminski noted that this issue affects safety and property values and some of the most fundamental issues the Board is called to do to protect the residents so if they have to go to reserves then this is the kind of thing that would justify it.

Trustee Warga noted that having spent a lot of time in Caucus meetings and with the particular survey you referenced, the message is very clear what our residents want.

Resident Kathy Estabrooke of Mt. Pleasant Street noted that the T&T has engaged the

School and Park Boards. She asked how T&T is engaging the east side of the expressway. She noted that they are not directly impacted by the Willow Road widening but are vested in it.

Mr. Hayward responded it is IDOT that is forcing the Village to get involved since they will not leave Willow two lanes. He noted that T&T has expressed to IDOT that their meetings must be noticed to all Northfield residents and engage all regardless of whether they are east or west of the expressway. So in IDOT's mind all residents are stakeholders who have an opportunity to attend the public forums and have their voice heard. He also encouraged residents to get involved in the NSAG grassroots group.

Ms. Estabrooke noted that if they don't involve the east side, they are missing 150 homes.

Trustee Chapin asked how long the \$100,000 allocation will last.

Chair Hayward responded that until he knows the level of involvement from the School and Park District, he will not know the total funds they will have. He did note that he and President Gougler have discussed how the funds will be used and for what.

Trustee Chapin asked if T&T and Mr. Hayward would be back asking for more money.

Chair Hayward again noted that he does not know the total he has to work with nor all the activities that will be planned and how effective they will be. He hopes that he would not have to come back but will be back if they have not accomplished what needs to be done.

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

AYES:	Gottlieb	NAYS:	Chapin	ABSTAIN:	0	ABSENT:	0
	Kozminski						
	Teichert						
	Frazier						
	Warga						

CONSIDERATION OF A VILLAGE GATEWAY SIGN PROGRAM

Trustee Teichert made a motion, seconded by Trustee Frazier to approve a Village Gateway Sign plan.

Director Kane noted that one goal of the Community Development Department is the development of a Gateway Signage program which was in last year's budget. A Gateway Sign Committee was appointed which included Trustee Joan Frazier, Pat Karr, Chair of the Architectural Commission, Barbara Wick and Margie Surplus of the Garden Clubs, and staff members Linnea O'Neill, Planner, Dick Knutson from Public Works and me. Working with the Hitchcock Design Group, the Gateway Sign Committee came up with a two-tier plan intended to recognize different gateways, roads, etc. and how they play different roles in drawing visitors into the community. Because of this thinking, they felt having a primary sign and a secondary sign seemed most appropriate. Director Kane noted that the sign plan does not include a priority listing for where the

Committee would like signs first and the order for primary and secondary signs as funds are allocated in future budgets. That list would be incorporated in the Gateway Sign plan packets that were distributed so that staff will know where subsequent dollars should be spent. She noted that the sign panels consist of just the word "Northfield" with the field grasses underscoring it. There was a lot of discussion at the meetings on the bird in the logo. However, the scope of the contract with Hitchcock did not involve a rebranding or logo redesign for the Village. Short term the committee was comfortable with just using the Northfield word but long term if funds are available and there is a desire by the Board to have the logo redesigned, the panels could be removed from the sign with new panels inserted. Director Kane reported the new Gateway Sign plan was presented to the Architectural Commission this month which they approved and forwarded to the Board.

Trustee Teichert commented he was not impressed by the design and thought it too generic and not charming.

Trustee Frazier noted that there was a lot of discussion on the redesign of the logo to eliminate the duck. As part of the Committee, Trustee Frazier said that the group agreed that what they came up with might not be the optimal look but they recognized the need to get signs out to replace the current crumbling signs and this look developed coincides with the look of the Community Events Sign as well as the sign at Willow and Waukegan Roads that everybody likes. Because of budget constraints, the Committee determined they could paint the sign and when more funds are available and the Board determines it wants to change the logo, the signs could be repainted. One idea she liked from the Hitchcock Group was to emphasize the "field" part of Northfield. It was discussed that the new signs should be put up at Willow and Forestway and along Frontage Road so people know when they are in Northfield.

Trustee Warga noted he like the idea of having some flexibility in the solution. He suggested that perhaps there be a contest for upper level students in the community to give their input and we might get some good ideas.

Trustee Kozminski noted that the post signs are very nice and go well with all the private roads.

Trustee Gottlieb asked what funds are available now.

Director Kane responded that this year, \$10,000 was allocated. The sign committee is hoping that the primary sign at Forestway and Willow Road will be installed this year. The original estimated cost was \$15,000 for installation by Hitchcock Design Group. Representatives from the Friends of Northfield Foundation were part of the Committee so perhaps the Committee can partner with various local groups and organizations for donations. Also, it was noted that perhaps the Public Works Department could help as they did with the Community Events sign. She noted that the cost for the secondary signs will be more in keeping with the Village's budget.

Resident Barbara Wick of Middlefork Road, who participated on the Gateway Sign Committee, clarified that as well as being associated with the Garden Club she has sat on the

Friends of Northfield Foundation for a long time. She agreed with what Trustee Frazier reported and Director Kane and noted that the Committee was very sensitive to identifying Northfield's boundaries. Members of the Committee on the Garden Club also really like the entry sign at Fox Meadow and were dealing with the reality that there is not funding or space for that type of sign at other locations. She noted that the Garden Clubs and Friends of Northfield Foundation were very grateful to Public Works Department for finding the creative skills to make it possible to create the Community Events Sign. She noted she hoped the Board will approve the Gateway Plan and said she would advocate with the Friends of Northfield Foundation to help raise funds to complete the signs.

Trustee Chapin asked if the duck on the sign at Willow and Waukegan Road is the Village bird. He noted that the Northfield School has the Eagle which has a more majestic connotation.

Manager Sigman commented that years ago the Village adopted the Village logo with the grass and the duck as the official Village logo.

Trustee Chapin noted that the sign at Willow and Waukegan Road needs painting.

Trustee Gottlieb offered the idea that perhaps if we sold uniform bricks or blocks people would purchase them and we could raise the money needed.

President Gougler complimented everyone for their creative ideas and noted that the Board supports recognizing the boundaries of Northfield.

Following discussion and upon the following roll call vote, the motion was approved.

AYES:	Chapin	NAYS: 0	ABSTAIN: 0	ABSENT: 0
	Kozminski			
	Teichert			
	Frazier			
	Warga			
	Gottlieb			

Manager Sigman thanked Director Kane and her staff and Mike Nystrand and the Public Works Department, Trustee Frazier and the representatives of the community for the time and effort they put into this project.

Discussion of Information Items

Manager Sigman noted that the Village met with IDOT on June 5 and they have begun their Phase 1 work. They have been in Northfield doing their traffic evaluations including parking and traffic counts. She noted the traffic signal at Sunset Ridge and Willow. A short time ago staff noticed a dramatic change in the traffic moving through that intersection. They have been working with IDOT to determine if the timing on the light was working properly. It was determined that the signal was not operating correctly. IDOT worked with our Traffic Engineer Gewalt Hamilton to get the signal re-programmed. It was reprogrammed and we believe it is now working properly.

The Traffic and Transportation Committee has been working diligently on the plan to raise money. They will be meeting with the park District on June 23, the School Board on July 14. No date has been set yet with the North Suburban Awareness Group (NSAG). The next regular T&T

meeting is June 24.

As the Board knows, Stacy reported two sub-committees have been formed to look at the Long Range Financial Plans for the Village and Personnel Compensation and Benefits programs. President Gougler and she will be meeting next week with the chairs of those sub-committees to organize and then outreach to the rest of the Board members to determine meeting dates.

Manager Sigman noted that she had an opportunity to meet with Winnetka and Kenilworth and will begin working on a study to look at a joint 911 center. They will look at how that might impact the three communities. They are waiting to hear if Kenilworth plans to be part of the study. She also mentioned that she had been meeting with the Library Board and their Executive Director to discuss renewal of their lease which is up in 2010. In addition, she noted that the Village has submitted for a road grant with hopes of getting \$1.2 million toward our roadway projects from the reinvestment act. We have been working with Representative Coulson on this and encourage you to contact her to solicit her help on this. Finally, Manager Sigman reported staff has been moving along on the adjudication process. She and other staff members have taken tours of some of the other municipalities to see how they are running their system; an ordinance is being developed and a sample RFP. The Village will consider putting this out when we are ready to hire an adjudicator. We also had a meeting with the software vendor that runs the program that helps track tickets. The next step is to run a cost benefit analysis to determine what it might cost to implement the program in Northfield. One other interesting fact is that staff has met with Winnetka on possibly doing a joint adjudication system to see if there is some economy of scale to run it together. It gets particularly complicated because they are home rule while we are non home rule and there are different statutory requirements on notices.

Manager Sigman asked all the Department Heads to update the Board on a couple of things that are happening in their Department.

Director Nystrand related that when Union Pacific railroad abandoned service they left a lot of old railroad ties along the right of way which they promised to come back and pick up. We got tired of waiting so Public works took them out, cleaned it out and re-graded and seeded the area near Willow Road. They have made some of the stormwater repairs that were on the list in the Gewalt Hamilton study; they have completed inspected bridges and Public Works is continuing to work with Gewalt Hamilton on the Willow Road watermain project. In the Fire-Rescue Department they responded to about 87 calls last few weeks and described some of the calls.

Trustee Chapin noted that Willow road east of Bess Hardware is getting very rough and asked if there is any remedy.

Director Nystrand noted that they are getting quotes to have it patched. They have been in contact with pavers and it should be done in the next couple of weeks.

Trustee Teichert asked about Happ Road between Willow and Winnetka.

Director Nystrand reported that Manager Sigman sent another letter to Cook County to fill

the potholes.

Trustee Frazier asked about roadwork on Bosworth. Manager Sigman had mentioned that it would be worked on near Bristol. She questioned whether that is the full scope of the project.

Director Nystrand responded currently yes. He noted that they had reviewed all the roads and the priorities with Gewalt Hamilton who did a village-wide study.

Chief Lustig reported on a survey done by RedFlex on the intersection at Willow and Happ/Central as well as at Frontage Road and the Edens Expressway. They determined the numbers were not significant enough to warrant cameras. He talked about other significant police calls the Department has been working on including a party where some guests' tires were slashed. He discussed manning the New Trier Graduation and party

Trustee Chapin asked for an update on burglaries.

Chief Lustig reported that there have been no new burglaries in the past couple of weeks.

Director Kane reported on the Community Development Department noting they got a submittal from Eden's Bank in accordance with the settlement agreement approved last month. Once they have the Architectural Commission's approval, they are required to demo the current structure in a 30 day time frame. Hopefully, before the end of summer the gas station at that location will be removed. She also noted that yesterday marked the second deadline for the demolition of the BP station. It is still standing so a new citation will be issued for that property. She reported that the Village received notice of a possible annexation by Rolling Ridge residents. However, the Northbrook Rural Fire Protection District is asking for lost revenue and the Village received formal notice from their Attorney. The residents' representative from Rolling Ridge has requested a draft of an Annexation Agreement but they may choose not to seek annexation since the Fire Protection District has requested allocation of funds. Director Kane also reported that she regularly contacts the IDOT consultant regarding repair of the bridge over the Eden's on Willow Road. She asked for a written status report. Director Kane noted that there is a Plan and Zoning Commission planned for the next month. One of the items that will be discussed is the change in ownership for Rex's Gas Station and there is also a request for a Baseball Academy to operate an instructional facility on Northfield Road immediately south of Dominick's. It was a proposal brought forward 10 or 12 years ago. She also reported that construction continues at the new restaurant, The Happ Inn Bar and Grill. Some inspections have been conducted and they intended to open sometime after the 4th of July.

Director Noble reported on the Finance Department noting that he has been closely tracking revenues. The Village received two allotments of sales tax so far and we are down about 10% over last year reminding the Board that Dominick's was closed last year at this time. He also reported that intersection improvements at Willow and Waukegan Road that Northbrook requested in order to add a designated turn lane on southbound Waukegan Road that turns west onto Willow will impact our red light cameras and our revenues. IDOT has taken the position that the RedFlex

cameras have to be removed from that intersection for the entire duration of the construction. At first staff thought they might be down for a couple of weeks or even stay up during the construction. But that is not the case. And that intersection pretty much subsidizes Willow and Wagner as far as generating the revenue to cover the rental of the cameras. Currently we are projecting a monthly loss of income at that intersection of anywhere from \$40,000 to \$45,000. We have heard there will be at least 6 weeks of construction time. The only bright spot is the contractor has a provision that he has to pay Northfield \$150 a day which will cover the cost of the camera rental. We will not make any revenue at all during construction.

President Gougler asked how long we project the cameras will be down.

Manager Sigman reported that IDOT says six weeks but we project two to three months

President Gougler noted that that means \$100,000 to \$150,000 in lost revenue.

Manager Sigman noted that since the contractor has a \$150 a day charge, they are motivated to get it done as quickly as possible but we have no control on how long it takes.

On a brighter note, Director Noble reported that vehicle sticker sales are going well. Over 3,000 have been sold in the last five week generating about \$150,000 in revenue. Sales will wind down at the end of the month. For residents who have not bought their stickers, he plans to pursue them aggressively to get them to comply with our ordinance.

Trustee Chapin asked if the Board had approved a fee increase on the vehicle licenses.

Director Noble responded "no". He noted that it was looked at but it was determined that to get any significant impact a fairly substantial increase would need to be passed.

ADOURN TO EXECUTIVE SESSION AT 9:30 PM

Trustee Chapin made a motion, seconded by Trustee Warga to adjourn to closed session to discuss pending and imminent litigation.

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

AYES:	Chapin	NAYS: 0	ABSTAIN: 0	ABSENT: 0
	Kozminski			
	Teichert			
	Frazier			
	Warga			
	Gottlieb			

RETURN TO OPEN SESSION

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Board, by voice vote the meeting was adjourned at 9:45 p.m.