

MINUTES
of the
REGULAR BOARD MEETING
OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
VILLAGE OF NORTHFIELD
Tuesday, August 19, 2008 - 7:00 p.m.

The Board of Trustees of the Village of Northfield met in the Council Chambers of the Village Hall for the Regular Board meeting on August 19, 2008 at 7:00 p.m. The meeting was called to order by President John Birkinbine. The Village Clerk took the roll call.

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 Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting

Finance Director Steve Noble read the inscription on the certificate awarding the Village of Northfield a Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting. He noted this is the first year the Village had applied for the certificate and noted he felt that the Village would also be achieving this award for the current year.

President Birkinbine congratulated Director Noble and noted that this is a tribute to him and the finance staff and their accomplishments.

Attorney Hill noted that this is the seventh or eighth year that Northfield has been dismissed from a lawsuit filed annually because of discrepancies in financial reports of taxing bodies. Northfield has the most years in a row on Klein Thorpe and Jenkins list of not having to pay a penalty in that class action lawsuit.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS:

Trustee Gottlieb made a motion, seconded by Trustee Teichert, to approve Consent Agenda items 1 through 7 except item 3. Trustee Teichert asked that Item 3 be removed and discussed separately. .

1. Approve the Minutes of the July 15, 2008 Village Board meeting.
2. Approve the Bills and Disbursements from 7/8/08 to 8/8/08 in the amount of \$393,101.12.
4. Approve a resolution honoring Rot Van Ho upon his retirement after 23 yrs of service with the Village.
5. Approve a resolution extending the Post Office lease agreement for one year (12/1/08-11/30/09).
6. Approve a housekeeping Ordinance amending Ch. 12, Section 12-7, "Off Premises Signs" And Appendix A, C and D, to update "Safety Codes."
7. Approve adoption of the Skokie Valley Bicycle Trail Feasibility Study (along with Wilmette,

Northbrook and Glenview).

Upon the following roll call vote, the motion to approve items 1 through 7 except item 3 was approved.

AYES:	Chapin	NAYS: 0	ABSTAIN: 0	ABSENT: 0
	Charhut			
	Frazier			
	Gottlieb			
	Greene			
	Teichert			

With regard to Item 3, Trustee Teichert noted that last month there were reappointments and again this month 75% were re-appointments. He asked whether there are not enough qualified new people to make changes and how the process works.

President Birkinbine noted that those Board and Commission members whose terms are up and who have done a good job and have good attendance tend to get nominated again. There are no term limits that have been instituted for appointed Board/Commission members.

Manager Sigman agreed with President Birkinbine's comments and noted that prior Boards have felt that the continuity that happens over time is helpful and that the general turnover that occurs provides for new members. She noted there is a lengthy list of people who have expressed an interest in serving on Boards and/or Commissions. She explained that when a member's term is expiring, their record is reviewed and the Chair of the Commission is consulted about whether they would want to have the member reappointed or replaced. Then the member is asked if they are interested in continuing to serve.

Trustee Teichert agreed that continuity is good but also noted that new blood should be added.

President Birkinbine agreed that if there is a Commission that has become stagnant because they have the same members for 10 years or more, then, perhaps, new members should be considered. He also noted that interested members who can provide a history or have experience provide valuable knowledge.

Trustee Gottlieb noted that there is turnover due to residents moving out of the area or because they don't have the time to serve any longer. Then there is a core group of commission members that bring a depth of experience and if they are showing up and remain interested you would want to keep them on the Board/Commission.

Manager Sigman suggested putting together a report for the next Committee of the Whole meeting of each Commission which shows how long members have been on and how many years they have served.

Trustee Teichert noted that when he reviews the minutes of the various meetings of Boards/Commissions, he has found there are one or two members absent from the Commission.

He noted perhaps there could be guidelines established to consider whether a member should be reappointed or not.

Trustee Greene noted that he felt anyone who is interested in serving is entitled to run for an elected position on the Village Board. However, some of the other Boards and Commissions are very technical and require people who are experienced in the areas they are deciding on such as Plan and Zoning, Architectural, etc. He thought it is in the Village's best interest to make sure people that are qualified are serving on these Boards/Commissions.

Manager Sigman note that that is especially true for the Architectural Commission where they try to have at least one or two licensed architects on the Commission and is often difficult to find.

Trustee Gottlieb thought Manager Sigman's suggestion of a report on the various Boards and Commissions is good and would provide an overall view of the members and their length of service.

Trustee Frazier also commented that while it is good to have the experience it is good to get new ideas.

Resident Erv Hobson made a recommendation that people who are interested in being appointed be required to attend some meetings ahead of time.

CONSIDERATION OF ITEM 3 - COMMISSION RE-APPOINTMENTS/APPOINTMENTS.

Trustee Gottlieb made a motion, seconded by Trustee Teichert to approve the re-appointments/appointments as follows:

Plan & Zoning Commission

E. Leonard Rubin, reappointment to a term from 9/1/08 to 9/1/2012.

Bill Vaselopulos, reappointment to a term from 9/1/08 to 9/1/2012.

Architectural Commission

Steve Hirsch, reappointment to a term from 9/1/08 to 9/1/12.

Jason Felicione, appointment to a term from 9/1/08 to 9/1/12.

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

AYES:	Chapin	NAYS: 0	ABSTAIN: 0	ABSENT: 0
	Gottlieb			
	Greene			
	Charhut			
	Frazier			
	Teichert			

CONSIDERATION OF THE PURCHASE OF A LARGE 12 YARD DUMP TRUCK WITH ATTACHMENTS

Trustee Gottlieb made a motion, seconded by Trustee Frazier to approve the purchase of a large 12-yard dump truck with attachments from International Truck and Engine, Prairie/International Corp. for an amount not to exceed \$110,000.

Trustee Chapin noted that he had asked that this item be tabled at the July Board meeting and it was discussed at the Capital Improvement Projects meeting at which six of the Trustees were present. He noted that it was his understanding at that meeting that the Village would not be buying this truck at this price. He quoted from in the Board packet details that "it was worth keeping the truck until such time as the repair costs exceed the depreciation costs of the vehicle." He asked Finance Director Noble for his help on this. Trustee Chapin noted that if the Village is still depreciating a truck that is 13 years old the Village has long ago exceeded by maintenance costs the cost of depreciation.

Director Noble responded that the useful life on the books for this type of equipment is 12 years at which time it is fully depreciated. He noted this equipment was originally up for replacement last year. Director Noble further explained that the Village puts money aside each year or funds the depreciation of equipment so there is money at the end of its useful life to purchase a new truck or piece of equipment.

Trustee Chapin asked whether there are generally accepted accounting practices for depreciation.

Director Noble commented that there are but the Village is not governed by them because it is not a for-profit entity. He noted that the Village uses depreciation to help fund the replacement of the equipment when its useful life is up. He also noted that most companies don't fund their depreciations.

Manager Sigman noted that the detailed information notes how the truck is used and that it sits idling which adds to the wear and tear on the engine. She explained that at the Capital Improvement meeting there was consensus among the Committee members not to replace the truck. However, she added that the fleet manager who has been with the Village for almost 30 years has concerns regarding this truck. The Village can use it for another year as long as everyone understands, if it fails, it is not a piece of equipment that could be readily purchased the next day or month. It takes 6 to 9 months to order and receive it and have it operational. The Village's recommendation to replace the current equipment is based on the evaluation by our fleet manager.

Trustee Charhut commented that diesel engines are his business and area of expertise. He is very familiar with the current competition between the two systems for emission control being considered. He provides background information on the two systems. He further noted that the Village's truck has 2700 hours x 50 which is 135,000 miles.

Manager Sigman noted that it had been discussed that if this truck was not replaced and was not working during snowplowing, it is not that the work would not get done, it would just take longer since this is the Village's largest truck and used for the larger Village streets.

Trustee Greene noted that he estimates the Village would save about \$3,000 if this purchase is put off for a year and if including maintenance perhaps \$6,000 since the truck would be purchased next year.

Manager Sigman noted that if the truck is not purchased this year because of the emissions issue, they would really not like to buy it for a few more years until the emissions control issue is resolved.

Trustee Gottlieb noted that Trustee Greene has a good point. The Village has already allocated

the money for the truck and it is not whether they will or won't buy a truck, it is just this year or next year and later they may have to spend more because of the technology of the emissions equipment.

Trustee Chapin asked Trustee Charhut if the information he provided was indicating that the purchase of the truck should wait until it is determined in the market place what emissions system will be used in most trucks.

Trustee Charhut responded that he intentionally stayed away from inferring a way to go and only stated facts. He further commented that he thought the Village should buy the truck. The money has been budgeted and for the next 10 years there will be new pollution laws. With the new emission system, the per hour cost of operating the new engines is unknown at this time. So you may buy the right one and may not – it will depend on how technology goes. He stated that as Stacy noted earlier, he would be in favor of buying the truck now.

It was noted that if the Village buys the truck this year it would be buying a 2009 model which would not be bound by the new emissions regulations.

Upon the following roll call vote, the motion was approved 5 Ayes to 1 Nay.

AYES:	Charhut	NAYS:	Chapin	ABSTAIN:	0	ABSENT:	0
	Gottlieb						
	Greene						
	Frazier						
	Teichert						

CONSIDERATION OF AN ORDINANCE DECLARING A 1995 INTERNATIONAL TRUCK AS SURPLUS PROPERTY

Trustee Greene made a motion, seconded by Trustee Gottlieb to approve an ordinance declaring the 1995 International dump truck #1610 as surplus property and authorize staff to sell the truck as provided by law.

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

AYES:	Chapin	NAYS:	0	ABSTAIN:	0	ABSENT:	0
	Gottlieb						
	Greene						
	Charhut						
	Frazier						
	Teichert						

CONSIDERATION OF A BID AWARD FOR THE 2008 SANITARY SEWER SLIP LINING PROJECT

Trustee Gottlieb made a motion, seconded by Trustee Teichert to approve award of a bid for the 2008 Sanitary Sewer Slip Lining project to Insituform Technologies USA, Inc. in the amount of \$260,118.30 with a 5% contingency.

President Birkinbine asked about the slip lining process and whether there comes a time when it is not necessary to do because all pipes have been slip lined.

Manager Sigman responded that in theory this is correct. Articles have been written that slip lining lasts for 100 years but recently engineers have been saying more like 30-40 years. The Village currently has about 40% of its system slip lined at this time.

Trustee Frazier asked what the 5% contingency fund is for.

Manager Sigman noted that it is for unexpected repairs that may be determined when the system is televised.

Trustee Frazier then asked if in her experience, a 5% contingency has been adequate.

Manager Sigman noted it has been less than 5%. Slip lining has very few unknowns. It is a fairly clean and easy process. The only unknown is repairs to the system that are needed before the slip lining is done.

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

AYES:	Charhut Gottlieb Greene Chapin Frazier Teichert	NAYS: 0	ABSTAIN: 0	ABSENT: 0
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Board Update

Willow Road

Manager Sigman noted that Willow Road was discussed at the Committee of the Whole meeting. There is a Traffic and Transportation Committee meeting scheduled for next week. They will be discussing their role and how to work with the Board and NSAG.

Dominick's

Work on the Dominick's continues to progress. They anticipate opening Sept. 12 or 13.

Downtown Redevelopment

Staff continues to work with various interested parties regarding the downtown redevelopment. We have found the attorney whose firm represents BP and we hope to get their assistance in getting that site developed. She also noted that she has directed the Community Development Department to research code provisions regarding maintenance on shuttered businesses to push clean up of the BP and other gas station site. The Village will also be reviewing codes that apply to residential properties that are in foreclosure.

Education Demonstration – Reverend Meeks – Police Dept.

Manager Sigman mentioned that Chief Lustig is at the meeting tonight to discuss that Reverend Meeks is planning to come to Northfield and Winnetka to demonstrate on the disparity in education on what is paid per student in Chicago districts and top schools. He announced he would visit New Trier

East and West and Sunset Ridge School and that there would be 3000 or more people coming to Northfield. Manager Sigman noted that Reverent Meeks heads a church that has a membership of 25,000 and a typical service is attended by 20,000. Chief Lustig has been working night and day with the schools and school boards to make sure the demonstration are safe. It is planned for September 2, the Tuesday after Labor Day which is the first day of school for Chicago schools.

Chief Lustig provided more details on the expected demonstration and plans for the day. Chief Lustig noted his conversation with Reverend Meeks in which the Reverend Meeks revealed his reason for coming to the area and for becoming a Senator was to bring attention to the educational disparity between Chicago public schools and suburban schools. The demonstration is his way of bringing attention to this issue by having children register at Sunset Ridge and the New Trier schools. Chief Lustig noted that in planning for the event, the Police Department had to take into consideration that they had to be mindful not to violate Freedom of Speech rights, Civil rights, constitutional rights and any other rights. He further described how the police and schools were planning for the event.

There were various questions from the Board members which Chief Lustig addressed.

Trustee Gottlieb asked that the Board Members be kept in the loop on the progress of the plan for this demonstration.

Burglaries – Police Dept.

Trustee Chapin asked if there is anything new regarding area burglaries.

Chief Lustig responded that there were three different groups working in Northfield. There were cat burglars working on the north and south ends of town. He/she was an opportunist that would walk in open doors and take purses and wallets and leave. It was cyclical and it is believed it could be a college student. This is the third summer Northfield has been hit. What changed is the mode of operation. In the past the burglar always stayed north of Willow Road. This year he came south (a block from the Chief's house). The second type of burglar is the rouse type of burglar which hit a house on Happ Road. The resident got a knock on the door, the guy holding a phone said they would be picking up something from her yard. She noted the Village did not alert her and he told her to come and take a look. She walked around to the back of the yard; he signaled to his accomplice who came out of their car and went into the house and took her wedding ring, \$1,000 in cash and other jewelry. What has changed this year is the Landmark and Meadowlake burglar who was also an opportunist. One situation in that area turned into a home invasion. Then last week a woman from Glencoe went into her home and interrupted a burglary. Witnesses saw the burglars go into the 7-11 on Green Bay and Winnetka and Glencoe surrounded them and arrested them. Northfield Police interviewed them to see if they had connections to burglaries in Northfield. They did not provide any information however the mode of operation was similar to the 12 Landmark burglaries where someone broke in using the sliding door and had taken some technology equipment. When that burglar was arrested in Glencoe, Northfield's burglaries stopped. What made it difficult to police this burglar was that he went to the north side of town, waited a week, went to the south side of town,

waited a week and then went to homes in the center of town making it difficult to police. Chief Lustig reported that there have been no new burglaries in the past 4-5 days. However, he reported that Wilmette had a number of residential burglaries last week. He noted that in many cases entrance was gained through open doors.

Civic Events Sign

Manager Sigman noted that work has begun on the sign structure and progress is being made.

Willow Road

Manager Sigman reported there work has been completed on the east section east of the Edens but that work is not moving as fast on the west side. She noted they are patching and cutting out areas where the potholes and substructure is very bad and patching that before moving on to the milling and grinding. At the same time, Winnetka Avenue will be patched by the County and they were scheduled to start today.

President Birkinbine noted that he had talked to Winnetka Talk reporter Chris Petersen about the inaccuracies in Senator Schoenberg's newsletter and misleading comments about the time frame for the Willow Road project which made it seem as though work on the new road would start this summer even through there is a 48 month time frame to do Phase I and Phase II engineering. He also mentioned to the reporter that he should ask Senator Schoenberg about the "independent study" the Senator mentioned since no one is aware of this study or ask why it was not made available to the Lakota group.

Manager Sigman noted that President Birkinbine has asked that the next newsletter outline some of the facts and inaccuracies stated by Senator Schoenberg and others. One of the issues that will be discussed is that Northfield has been "delaying the project."

President Birkinbine noted that he emphasized this to the reporter saying that if anything, Northfield has been trying to speed things along for the last decade not delay them. And that it has been the administration in Springfield and Senator Schoenberg who have delayed the Willow Road project.

There was discussion about a Letter to the Editor sent to the Winnetka Talk that was filled with inaccuracies. President Birkinbine noted he planned to respond with his own letter to correct the many inaccurate statements made. It was noted that the Winnetka author of the letter had an electronic version of a 1998 Winnetka Talk article noting that Northfield had \$500,000 to use to fight a four-lane Willow Road which indicates he is someone not just concerned about the road but there is more to it.

President Birkinbine noted he felt that the Village can challenge the writer of the letter as well as Senator Schoenberg to show that there is not one instance where the Village has delayed the project. He noted that the Village does not have the power to delay the project.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Board, Trustee Chapin made a motion to adjourn the meeting and, by voice vote, all agreed and the meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.