

**SUMMARY NOTES
of the
REGULAR BOARD MEETING
OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
VILLAGE OF NORTHFIELD
Tuesday, September 15, 2009 - 7:00 p.m.**

The Board of Trustees of the Village of Northfield met in the Council Chambers of the Village Hall for the Regular Board Meeting on Tuesday, September 15, 2009. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by President Fred Gougler. The Village Clerk called the roll.

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

Presentation of a Resolution Honoring Margaret “Margy” Parcels for 10 years of Service on the Zoning Board of Appeals

President Gougler presented Margy Parcels with a plaque and resolution outlining her service to the community over the past ten years. Ms. Parcels commented on what a pleasure it has been for her to serve the community over the past 50 years that she has resided in Northfield.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS:

Trustee Chapin made a motion, seconded by Trustee Warga, to approve Consent Agenda items 1 through 3.

1. Approve the Minutes of the August 18, 2009 Village Board meeting.
2. Approve the Bills and Disbursements from 8/6/09 to 9/2/09 in the amount of \$291,223.10.
3. Approve a resolution honoring Christine Bell for 24-1/2 years of service in the Police Dept.

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

AYES:	Chapin Kozminski Teichert Frazier Warga Gottlieb	NAYS: 0	ABSTAIN: 0	ABSENT: 0
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CONSIDERATION TO APPROVE AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE FY2008/2009 VILLAGE BUDGET

Trustee Frazier made a motion, seconded by Trustee Teichert to approve an ordinance amending the FY2008/2009 Village Budget.

Finance Director Steve Noble gave an update explaining that there were two main areas where the Village exceeded its budget. The first was for \$34,406 dollars for an overrun associated with the storm event of 2008 and the second was for the increased cost of road salt which accounted for \$49,307. He indicated that overall the budget worked out well and that the Village came in under budget overall because of increased revenues predominately associated with RedFlex photo cameras. In the actual budget document, an amendment was needed for these two items.

Director Noble also noted the Capital Equipment Replacement Fund was 1.4% over budget due to the re-roofing of the Village Hall, Library and Post Office. The work had been scheduled to be completed and was budgeted for in 2007-2008 but due to weather conditions, it was delayed until after May and was finished in FY2008-2009.

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 TO APPROVE AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE VILLAGE CODE, CHAPTER 15, SEC. 15-23 TO PROHIBIT VIDEO GAMING

Trustee Chapin made a motion seconded by Trustee Kozminski to approve an ordinance amending the Village Code, Chapter 15, Section 15-23 to prohibit Video Gaming.

Village Manager Sigman discussed the proposed ordinance indicating that the Board had reviewed the concept at the Committee of the Whole meeting in August and recommended that an ordinance be drafted for the Board to consider which would ban this type of gambling in Northfield.

President Gougler stated that it was important to note for the record why the Board was against Video Gaming. He noted that there was concern over the impact this would have on policing activities in the Village; there was not a substantial financial incentive to adopt it and there was concern that the character of the community would be substantially changed if Video Gaming was implemented in Northfield.

Manager Sigman also indicated that in states such as George, South Carolina and North Carolina, they have actually abandoned video gaming after it was put into place.

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 AMENDING THE VILLAGE CODE, CHAPTER 17, ANIMALS & FOWLS, SEC. 17-6 REDEFINING DANGEROUS ANIMAL

Trustee Chapin made a motion seconded by Trustee Warga to approve an ordinance amending the Village Code, Chapter 17, Animals & Fowl, Section 17-6, which redefines “dangerous” animal.

Police Chief Lustig outlined the issues associated with this amendment noting that the current code only defines “dangerous animals” as an animal that attacks a human. However, there have been increased problems with people’s pets attacking other dogs and the ordinance amendment proposed, if approved, would give the Police Department additional control in resolving these issues. Currently, for this type of problem, they can only issue a ticket for “dog running at large.”

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

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

Discussion of Information Items and Updates

Sub-Committee Reports

Trustee Chapin updated the Board on the work of the Long Range Financial Planning Sub-Committee. He noted they have met on four occasions with a fifth meeting scheduled for September 29. A PowerPoint presentation summarizing the findings of the Sub-Committee’s study will be presented to the Board at their October meeting. He forewarned the Board and the community that the financial projections do not look good and that there would be some serious issues to address.

Trustee Gottlieb updated the Board on the Personnel Compensation and Benefits Sub-Committee status indicating that a third meeting of the Sub-Committee was to be held on Wednesday, September 16 at 8:30 a.m. and that there will be additional discussion with the consultant that was hired to evaluate our existing program. He noted he would report back to the Board when he had more information..

Departmental Updates

Village Manager Sigman gave an update on three areas. She explained that State capital bill money had been appropriated for the Village of Northfield to assist with storm water projects. She is currently working with the Village of Winnetka to develop a plan to improve flooding both in Northfield and Winnetka in the Meadowview area. She was hoping that was something that could move ahead in the near future and that possibly some of the money from the capital bill could go toward that project. She indicated that she was working with Public Works Director Mike Nystrand on a plan to identify \$400,000 worth of projects and they would bring that back to the Board with the possibility of some of the capital funding being used on a cost share program.

Manager Sigman then updated the Board on the ComEd issue. She was pleased to report that there were three issues the Village was hoping to resolve with ComEd and that all the issues have been resolved. Beginning that Monday, ComEd has begun removing all of the dead vegetation from the corridor. They planned to either mulch it in place or totally remove the dead vegetation. Once the soil is back to a normal state which is usually within 45 to 60 days after an herbicide has been applied, ComEd has agreed to come back and replant the corridor with native grasses and prairie plantings. That will take place sometime this fall. In addition, ComEd will work with the Village on a three to five year plan to insure the native plantings take hold. Second, ComEd agreed to change its policy on notification relative to transmission lines and within the next six weeks, they expect to have a revised policy adopted. When it is completed, they intend to distribute it through the Northwest Municipal Conference (NWMC) and the Illinois Municipal League (IML). At a minimum they agree they will provide municipalities with 21 days notice which is the same standard that is currently applied to distribution lines. Finally, in the Village Center, ComEd has agreed to work with the Village to survey and categorize all of the trees. They have moved off their initial position that all trees that have the potential of growing over 10 feet tall would have to be removed. Rather, we are working with the parameter of 30 feet and 45 feet, depending on the particular line and location of the tree. The Village forester was able to meet with Village staff in the field earlier in the day and he is positive that close to 100% of the trees would be able to be preserved.

Manager Sigman also updated the Board on the Safe Routes to School program. She was disappointed to report at that at the moment the Federal money awarded the Village for the program has been suspended and that none of the Safe Routes to School projects will be moving ahead at this time. It has been indicated that eventually the funding will be put in place and that all the projects awarded funding will move ahead. However, no time frame has been given.

Director Anne Kane provided an update on the BP gas station site. She noted that the second tract of legal work had been filed with the circuit court and is moving forward. In addition, there has been a contract purchaser for the site that wants to build a bank. Because the plan deviates from the Downtown Master Plan, a special Downtown Master Plan Committee meeting has been called for Thursday evening to review the concepts of the developer and to provide initial feedback on whether that plan is appropriate. If that Committee likes that plan, it would require both an amendment to our Downtown Master Plan and the Zoning Code. Director Kane also reported that the Edens Bank has been progressing with the demolition of the former Citgo gas station in conformance with the agreement. The building was taken down a week ago and, as of today, they began removing the large tanks on that site. Their plan is to hopefully submit for a grading and drainage permit this year with the actual building plans moving ahead in spring.

Chief Nystrand updated the Board on the number of fires the Fire-Rescue Department handled over the last month and indicated that two members of the Department will be graduating with their degree and certification for Paramedics. Manager Sigman noted that one of those

graduates is also a member of the Public Works Department which will add tremendous flexibility to the staffing of the ambulance. Chief Nystrand indicated that the construction projects were moving ahead and that the Village's street rehabilitation program started effective Monday. He reported that this project is substantially behind the contract time since all work was to have been completed by October 2. The Village has been struggling to get a definitive schedule from this contractor. However, our contract with them calls for liquidated damages so if they cannot complete the project by the required October 2 date, we believe we are in a good position to act on the liquidated damage provisions in the contract. Chief Nystrand also reported on the lift station noting that the project is underway. All of the new pumps are in and it is in the final stage of completion.

Chief Lustig provided an update on Police Department activities. He noted that the Park District sponsored State Fair and RibFest was a big success this past weekend. They experienced no problems during the event and worked closely with the Park District on policing and securing the area both before and after the event. Chief Lustig also noted that tonight they were also working on a dangerous case involving a person who is a threat to himself and the Police Department and they are in the process of intervening to make sure he can be safely treated.

ADJOURN TO EXECUTIVE SESSION

Trustee Chapin made a motion, seconded by Trustee Teichert to adjourn to closed session at 7:50 p.m. to discuss on-going 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

Trustee Chapin made a motion, seconded by Trustee Warga to return to open session at 8:05 p.m.

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

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

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Board, Trustee Teichert made motion, seconded by Trustee Chapin to adjourn the meeting. By voice vote all approved and the meeting was adjourned at 8:06 p.m.