

**MINUTES  
of the  
PUBLIC HEARING and  
REGULAR BOARD MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
VILLAGE OF NORTHFIELD  
Tuesday, March 16, 2010 - 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, March 16, 2010 for a Public Hearing to present the proposed FY2010/2011 Village Budget and for the Regular Board meeting. The meeting was called to order by President Fred Gougler. The Village Clerk took the roll call.

PRESENT:	President Trustees	Fred Gougler John Chapin, Jr. Joan Frazier Brian Kozminski Fred Teichert George Warga
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ABSENT:	Terry Gottlieb
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**CONVENE TO PUBLIC HEARING TO CONSIDER THE PROPOSED FY2010/2011 VILLAGE BUDGET**

President Gougler noted that a week ago at the Budget Workshop, the Village Board had an opportunity to go through the proposed Village Budget for FY2010/2011 in detail. He opened the floor to public comment and questions. He added that it was not necessary to go through the Budget presentation again. He thanked Village Manager Stacy Sigman, Finance Director Steve Noble and all the Department Heads for their hard work in putting together a budget under such difficult circumstances.

There being no public questions or comments, President Gougler asked for a motion to adjourn the Public Hearing

**CONSIDERATION TO ADJOURN THE PUBLIC HEARING AT 7:05 PM**

Trustee Chapin made a motion, seconded by Trustee Warga to adjourn the Public Hearing and to convene the Regular Board meeting.

Upon a unanimous voice vote, the motion was approved.

**RECONVENE TO REGULAR BOARD MEETING AT 7:05 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, March 16, 2010. The meeting was called to order at 7:05 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  
   Fred Teichert  
   George Warga

ABSENT:                                      Terry Gottlieb

**APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS:**

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

1. Approve the Minutes of the February 16, 2010 Village Board meeting.
2. Approve the Bills and Disbursements from 2/5/10 to 3/3/10 in the amount of \$244,514.53.
3. Approve a resolution from IDOT for the maintenance of streets and highways for FY2009/2010.

Upon the following roll call vote, the motion to approve the Consent Agenda items 1 through 3 was approved.

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

**CONSIDERATION OF A BID AWARD TO LENNY HOFFMAN EXCAVATING FOR THE WILLOW-WALNUT WATERMAIN IMPROVEMENT PROJECT**

Trustee Teichert made a motion, seconded by Trustee Kozminski to approve the bid award to Lenny Hoffman Excavating of Wilmette, Illinois for the Willow-Walnut water main improvement project in an amount not to exceed \$322,870 with a 10% contingency.

Public Works Director Mike Nystrand stated that on Friday, March 10, 2010 there was a bid opening for a project to replace approximately 1,000 feet of water main on Walnut (the street behind the Village Hall) from the north side of Willow Road down Happ Road to remove a bad section of watermain and replace the fire suppression main that comes into the Village Hall which also serves the dentist's offices across the street and Starbucks. He noted they received eight (8) bids and of them Lenny Hoffman was the lowest bidder. Director Nystrand noted that Hoffman was the company used for the feeder main replacement project. He noted the Village has an accelerated completion date of April 23, 2010 so the main is in place before the Eden's Bank starts construction. He added that Director Kane had a meeting with the contractor of the Eden's Bank and they will work with us to implement the new streetscape plan on Walnut. Director Nystrand noted that the 10% contingency on the project is in case they have bad soil in the area and experience some remediation due to having a prior gas station on the property.

Trustee Teichert commented that he was impressed we had eight bidders and that the price came in so low.

Trustee Kozminski noted the price came in substantially below what was expected and added that our consulting engineer Gewalt Hamilton recommended the contractor who won the bid.

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

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

**CONSIDERATION OF AN AGREEMENT WITH GEWALT-HAMILTON ASSOCIATES, INC. FOR ENGINEERING SERVICES FOR THE WILLOW-WALNUT WATERMAIN IMPROVEMENT PROJECT**

Trustee Warga made a motion, seconded by Trustee Chapin to approve an agreement with Gewalt-Hamilton Associates, Inc. for engineering services for the Willow-Walnut watermain improvement project in an amount not to exceed \$27,200.

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

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

**CONSIDERATION OF AN ORDINANCE PROPOSING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF SPECIAL SERVICE AREA (SSA) #10-1 AND PROVIDING FOR THE REQUIRED PUBLIC HEARING FOR LANDRETH LANE**

Trustee Chapin made a motion, seconded by Trustee Teichert to approve an ordinance proposing the establishment of Special Service Area (SSA) #10-1 and providing for the required public hearing for Landreth Lane.

Manager Sigman noted that the Village was approached by a resident of Landreth Lane, a private road, to have the roadway resurfaced as part of the Village's roadway project. This is something the Village has done with other private lanes. The residents on the private lane remain responsible for 100% of the cost but the SSA is a mechanism that allows them to have the cost distributed among the property owners in that area. It legally requires 51% of the residents in that area to agree to it. The Village policy has always required two-thirds. In this case they have signatures for 3 of the 5 homes. One of the other homes is for sale and the fifth home's resident is a person in their late 90s and the son is taking care of the estate from a distance so the other Landreth lane homeowners were not able to secure a signature. However, all of the residents will receive notice of the public hearing next month and will have an opportunity to come and object to it before

we adopt an ordinance and move forward.

Manager Sigman noted that it is important to note that this will probably be the last opportunity for quite a while for a private lane to come into the program because the Village does not anticipate doing any roadway projects for the next few years given the financial considerations and that the Village has allocated its future MFT funds to repay bonds for the roadway work done in 2009. The Village will be finishing up some of that work leftover from last year and we will be able to add Landreth Lane on to that project which is expected to cost \$55,000. They will be responsible for their share of the construction engineering and field supervision work.

Manager Sigman clarified her memo noting that in the State of Illinois, you can do an SSA that is done on a different basis such as equal split between the five homeowners but in Cook County, the Assessor's Office says their software for issuing tax bills does not allow them to do it in any other way but ad valorem which is usually something that does not work well for these infrastructure projects. Most households prefer to do it on a per household or per linear foot basis. Legally, the Village can do it this way but the Village then has to issue the bills to the residents and it is done on a two times per year basis.

Trustee Teichert asked what the Village's exposure is if a homeowner refuses to pay.

Attorney Duggan responded that we would put a lien on their property.

Trustee Kozminski asked where the \$55,000 amount comes from.

Manager Sigman responded that it is an estimate from our consulting engineer of Gewalt Hamilton. He estimated the Village's roadway work in the neighborhood of \$42,000 and we think it is roughly \$2,500 of construction engineering. Because this ordinance has a not to exceed limitation, we have to publish that so the homeowners in that area know the outside cost. Consequently, we bumped up the cost to \$55,000 to make sure we are fully covered.

President Gougler asked if we did this with Drury Lane.

Manager Sigman responded that we did this with Drury Lane, Old Hunt and with a number of homeowners for water and sewer improvements on the far north end of town. She noted that the Village has never had a problem with repayment.

President Gougler summarized noting that approval of this ordinance would allow the Village to have a public hearing next month with the opportunity for comment from the residents affected by this project.

Trustee Frazier asked if it will be the same contractor who did the Drury Lane work.

Manager Sigman responded "yes" because that contract is not closed out so we will be able to add it and they are willing to hold their costs at last year's rate for this project.

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

AYES: Chapin  
Frazier  
Kozminski

NAYS: 0

ABSTAIN: 0

ABSENT: Gottlieb

Teichert  
Warga

### **Board Update**

*Home Rule Task Force.* Trustee Frazier noted that the next meeting of the Home Rule Task Force is next week on March 25 and the Task Force will continue discussing the financial and non-financial implications of home rule. Trustee Frazier noted that she and Trustee Teichert have discussed looking at having a real estate transfer tax question on the referendum. She noted that having discussed this with Attorney Duggan, they cannot ask for a binding referendum but could put an advisory referendum question on the ballot. She further noted that the Task Force will be exploring this option. She noted they will also be discussing aspects of an educational campaign to inform residents on home rule and real estate transfer taxes.

Manager Sigman reported that she is researching limiting factors of home rule and whether communities that have adopted home rule have adopted any home rule limiting factor.

President Gougler also noted that the upcoming Town Hall Meeting should be discussed at the next Task Force meeting including the format.

### *Department Updates*

#### **Administration**

Manager Sigman reported that Traffic and Transportation Chair Bob Hayward will give the update on Willow Road and will be here soon to do that. She stated that she and Director Noble have been working on the Home Rule Task Force, finalizing the budget and getting ready for the Budget Hearing and educating staff on the status of the budget and the various issues.

President Gougler noted that T&T Chair Bob Hayward had arrived and introduced him and thanked him for the good job he has been doing and his leadership.

### **Traffic and Transportation Committee Update by Chair Robert Hayward**

Mr. Hayward reported that 12 months ago he stood before the Board and reported that we were losing the battle over Willow Road and he noted it is amazing what can happen in 12 months. During that 12 month period, things have continued to spiral downward with regard to the economy and employment. During the same time our initiative with regard to Willow Road has moved along. About 12 months ago, Traffic and Transportation put before the Board a plan of intergovernmental cooperation between the school district, park district, Village and a grass roots community effort. Funding was secured from all four of those bodies and the grass roots group will be reaching out to the community once again to continue the initiative. Twelve months ago, newspapers were reporting that Northfield was an obstructionist, causing delays, that we are dysfunctional and on the wrong side of the issue. The Committee worked their collaborative effort or their three-prong approach of public relations, legislative initiative and legal assistance. September 24 or 25 was an important day because that morning, Senator Schoenberg, IDOT and other politicians who support the illogical and

reckless plan they are trying to push through our town read an article in the Chicago Tribune from their editorial Board that had looked at our plan and said, "build it today." It is the same independent editorial Board that looked into the University of Illinois Board of Trustees about preferential placement of some students and you can see what kind of controversy came out of that. He felt the editorial Board's opinion carried a lot of weight when they looked at our plan and agreed with it and told the politicians to build it. Mr. Hayward noted that ever since that time, all the articles then have highlighted how the State is in disrepair, how it we can not fund schools, can not fund various programs, that Illinois has 12% unemployment and that the State is paying high consultant fees to design this fanatical reckless plan for Willow Road while there is a shovel-ready project that is one signature away and fully supported by IDOT, the community, is functional and could be built tomorrow at a fraction of the cost of the new plan saving \$20-\$25 million. The money saved could be used to help stop the bleeding in Springfield. We are on the right side of the coin in all respects with the media. We finally have turned the ship around and it is sailing in our direction. From a legal standpoint, as you know, we hired a top notch lawyer who has done what we have asked him to do and we have IDOT and all the other factions where we want them and when they don't, we let them know it. He also noted he serves on CAG and all those who live in Northfield and are tax payers and sitting through the meetings is one of the most painful things to endure and noted that the next CAG meeting is on April 15 which is deeply rich in irony since on that day we are all asked to write a check to the State for wasting tax dollars on a "dance" that is sort of meaningless. Mr. Hayward noted that the next 12 months are critical; we need to continue our three tier approach – legislative, legal and public relations. We are winning the public relations battle; we are winning the legal battle and the time is right to move forward with the legislative initiative. He stated that he appreciates the Board's support, the community outreach and their overwhelming support. IDOT had their Open House in Northbrook and many Northfield residents showed up with children. When we call them to come, they come. He reported that the overwhelming majority of the community is behind the three lane solution.

Trustee Teichert asked for more information on the legislative initiative.

Mr. Hayward noted that they brought the same process that they did to the legal and public relations by hiring the right legislative consultant to help us out. They are working downstate on a several month basis and it is on-going. Opportunities are being recognized and seized.

Trustee Frazier asked what is AICirca Inc.

Manager Sigman reported that it is the new legislative consulting team that was hired.

President Gougler reiterated that Mr. Hayward's leadership, his passion for this project and his ability to bring together so many diverse groups of people and revitalize this effort is a remarkable accomplishment in his view especially since having served in this role ten years ago. He noted that their efforts have been very productive.

Trustee Kozminski added that the process does get wearing and it is difficult to keep going and keep fighting day after day. He noted that he too thought it was energizing to see the constant

stream of Northfield people coming into the IDOT Open House for three hours. Families were coming in taking their time to state their case and make their argument for Northfield because they thought it was so important. It was heartening to see that many Northfield people come out.

Mr. Hayward noted that those who did not have an opportunity to comment at the Open House can go to the IDOT website and provide their comments until the end of the week.

Trustee Frazier asked if the Traffic and Transportation Committee has been successful in getting IDOT to issue more complete minutes of the CAG meetings.

It was noted that a letter was sent to IDOT and we are awaiting their response. We have asked that a court reporter be present at all future meetings to take a complete record of the meetings. What they have done to date is just a whitewash and was probably done by a public relations person. Our legal consultant sent them a strong letter regarding this matter.

Trustee Kozminski related that there was a court reporter at the IDOT Open House and his wife who is a CAG member made the comment about not having a court reporter at the CAG meetings. The court reporter handed her a card advertising her services.

Mr. Hayward thanked President Gougler, the Board and Trustee Kozminski, who also serves on the Traffic and Transportation Committee, for all their support and hard work.

### *Return to Department Updates*

#### Community Development Department

Director Kane reminded the Board and those attending the meeting that April 15 is Census 2010 date. She reminded everyone that it is a short ten question form that everyone is getting and should take only a few minutes to fill out.

She noted that The Happ Inn is seeking an amendment to their special use. They are hoping to use some of the space previously occupied by Sherwin's which closed months ago for a banquet room. She added that based on conversations about parking brought up previously, she stressed that it is critical for The Happ Inn to address the parking issue. The Department provided them with a lengthy comment letter yesterday and we are hopeful they will be able to successfully address the comments and concerns noted. They have hired a company to do a parking impact analysis. Hopefully, the Plan and Zoning Commission will be in a position to recommend approval of the amendment at their April 5 public hearing which means the matter will most likely be on the Board's April agenda.

The other matter is that the Stephan Company came in with some extensive plans for upgrading their HVAC unit and they are working on permits for that.

Trustee Teichert asked if work on U Dawg U has been started.

Director Kane noted that it has and that they are gearing up for a mid to end of May opening.

Trustee Frazier asked if since The Happ Inn is only planning to use the back of Sherwin's whether the space can be bisected that way.

Director Kane responded "yes" and noted that the plan shows they would use the central

hallway to guide the guests back to the banquet room so that it would be very private and they would not have to go through the restaurant. She added that it works out very well.

Manager Sigman added that it still leaves a nice retail space in the front for some other tenant.

President Gougler asked for an update on the Winnetka Avenue bridge over the Eden's.

Director Kane reported there has been no action and will contact the contractor to find out where the project is and report to Manager Sigman.

President Gougler responded it is a big safety issue especially for kids that use the sidewalk to get to New Trier. He also asked about Eden's Bank and whether there is any idea when construction on the project will start.

Director Kane reported that in January the architect indicated that when the ground thaws, the project would begin.

### Finance Department

Director Noble reported that this year the Village will begin a wellness screening program for employees. It is funded in part by our insurance premiums so not only would we have a reduction in our insurance premiums this year but it is also going to fund this program. We will have screeners come in one day in May. It is a voluntary program for the employees if they want their blood drawn and have their cholesterol checked or blood pressure taken and answer a few wellness questions. We can try and keep people healthy and if we identify a problem, hopefully, they will follow up with their doctors. It is a completely confidential program.

Director Noble also noted that the first meeting with the auditors will be next week – a pre-audit conference. The fiscal year is not over yet but the Village is already planning for the audit next week. He also noted that data was sent to the company that prints our vehicle sticker applications. That will be coming out the first week in May.

Manager Sigman added that this month, the Village received the best sales tax revenue that we have seen in a long time. We saw a nice big jump. The average for the last year or year and a half had been about \$120,000-\$125,000 while for December it was \$161,000.

Trustee Chapin asked for an update on the collection of past due water bills from Long Meadow.

Director Noble responded that one person moved and they have not been able to track them down. The resident who came before the Board on several occasions is making steady monthly payments now. One other resident who had a fairly large balance, made a large payment and a couple of progress payments and now is falling a little behind again. Mr. Noble noted that he looks at the more recent problem as a current issue rather than an issue from 2 to 2-1/2 years ago.

### Public Works and Fire-Rescue Departments

Director Mike Nystrand reported that the Fire-Rescue call volume is down and noted that two

students are doing well at paramedic school; also, the Department is working on switching to a Red Center for dispatching.

In Public Works, crews cleaned the storm drainage ditch that runs in the Village's right of way from Walgreens north to behind Temple Jeremiah. Director Nystrand noted that a member of the Department attended a pre-construction meeting downtown for the Winnetka Road bridge over the Skokie River. He also noted that he had just received a set of plans from IDOT that they will be redoing the Willow Road bridge over the Eden's this summer and lanes would be reduced to one lane in each direction. He remarked that when they close the southbound Eden's ramp, the detour will be Willow Road to Waukegan and Waukegan to Dundee.

Trustee Teichert remarked that IDOT is working on the spur at the same time.

Trustee Frazier asked whether they will be redoing the sidewalks and the fence work on the bridge over the Eden's.

Director Nystrand reported that it appears per the plans that the sidewalks will be redone but the fencing and railing will not be.

Trustee Frazier noted that the sidewalks seem so narrow.

Director Nystrand agreed noting that when they plow the sidewalks they have a problem because it is not wide enough for their machine. He noted that he plans to contact the IDOT engineer to see if they can widen the sidewalks on the bridge to make them safer.

Trustee Frazier added that she gets worried about kids on their bikes on that sidewalk because there is no room for error. It is very scary. So any extra margin would be great. She also noted that she would prefer a more decorative fence rail there.

President Gougler asked about a water main break at Christian Heritage Academy and whether it was the cause of some of the lost water.

Director Nystrand reported that two weeks ago two public works employees were out at the Montessori School which is behind Christian Heritage Academy. They were doing a meter re-install and they heard water gushing. They poked around and picked up some manhole covers for the sanitary sewer and storm sewer and found a significant amount of water running into both the sewers. They were going to fix the break on Saturday but Teddies Hair Salon is so busy on Saturdays, they went out early Sunday to repair it. Since the repair, they have been closely monitoring the water usage with the Scada System and there is a significant drop in the pumpage so we are hoping it is one of the key components to our unaccountable water loss. He noted they have been way off for about two years and although crews have been out looking for leaks and main breaks they had not found it previously. He congratulated the two Public Works employees who were astute enough to hear the water gushing and investigated.

Manager Sigman asked Director Nystrand to tell the Board the magnitude of the drop in usage noticed.

Director Nystrand deferred to Director Noble who noted that Dave Zare Public Works Superintendent thought it was about 100 gallons a minute.

Trustee Chapin asked Director Noble to translate that into dollars.

Director Noble estimated it would be about \$80,000 a year if it was 100 gallons a minute for an entire year. However, the break could have happened two days before it was discovered, two weeks, or two months. We know now that the overnight pumpage using the new Scada system put in for the amount of water being taken in and pumping out through out reservoir is way down.

Trustee Frazier stated that that was a lot of water to be absorbed into the ground.

Director Nystrand reported that the water was going into the sanitary sewer so it was being treated by the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District and the storm sewer so it was taking the path of least resistance. Because these pipes were taking in the water, it was difficult to detect the water main break.

### Police Department

Police Chief Lustig reported that members of the Police Department met with the New Trier Graduation Committee yesterday starting the process for the graduation events on May 30. There will be about 1,039 seniors that will graduate. His department will begin training chaperones. In July 2009, a company in town lost over \$100,000 due to employee theft. After a lengthy investigation, detectives were able to build a case and arrest a subject. That case was closed. The Department also had a unique experience; about two weeks ago there were three separate shop-lifting incidents at Dominick's in the same day. They were not related. One person was trying to steal almost \$900 of alcohol.

### *Upcoming Meetings*

Manager Sigman reported that the only meeting coming up next week is the Home Rule Task Force meeting at 4:59 p.m. on Thursday, March 25 and then there is a little bit of a break for Spring Break. Nothing is scheduled that week. The next IDOT CAG meeting is April 15 at New Trier High School in Northfield. Tomorrow is the Traffic and Transportation meeting and one of the engineers is giving some ideas on different roadway designs and things the CAG members can be pushing.

### **ADJOURN TO CLOSED SESSION**

Trustee Chapin made a motion, seconded by Trustee Kozminski to adjourn to closed session at 7:50 p.m. to discuss the sale of Village property and current litigation issues.

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

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

### **RETURN TO OPEN SESSION**

Trustee Chapin made a motion, seconded by Trustee Kozminski to return to open session at

8:44 p.m.

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

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

### **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the Board, Trustee Teichert made a motion, seconded by Trustee Frazier to adjourn the meeting. By voice vote all approved and the meeting was adjourned at 8:45 p.m.