

**REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
REGULAR BOARD MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
OF THE VILLAGE OF NORTHFIELD
TUESDAY, February 21, 2023**

As provided by public notice, the Village Board of the Village of Northfield met in the Council Chambers of the Village Hall immediately following the Committee of the Whole Meeting on Tuesday, February 21, 2023, for the Regular Board meeting. The meeting was called to order by President Greg Lungmus at 7:00 PM. The Village Clerk took the roll call.

PRESENT: President Greg Lungmus

 Trustees Todd Fowler
 Barnaby Dinges
 Tom Whittaker
 Matt Galin
 Tracey Mendrek
 Charles Orth

ABSENT:

ALSO PRESENT: Attorney Buzz Hill

BOARD ROOM DEDICATION

President Lungmus commented that the Village had recently completed a comprehensive renovation of the Village Hall Board Room, first-floor conference rooms, and lobby with new carpeting, dais, furniture, and signage. He thanked the following individuals for their hard work in completing the renovation.

- Project Managers/Design Team: Melinda Blake and Patti Morrell with Blakedale Interiors
- Audiovisual: Alec Gorecki with Frequency Audio Visual
- Electric: Dan Adams with Adams Northfield Electric
- Furniture and custom-built dais: Tom Jackson and Reggie Kerr with RJ Kerr, Inc.
- General contractor: Parker Bau and Justin Stamer with Parker & Company
- Information technology: Craig Williams with ClientFirst
- Painting: Dan Monkton with Dan Monckton Painting
- Village staff: Stacy Sigman, Holly Fabbri, and Melissa Jewett

CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

Village President asked the Clerk to read the Consent Agenda items into the record. Those were reported as follows:

1. Approve the Report of Proceedings from the January 17, 2023 Village Board meeting

2. Bills and Disbursements from January 1, 2023 to January 31, 2023, in the amount of \$544,822.29
3. Approve a Resolution authorizing maintenance of IDOT-controlled streets for 2023-25

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

President Lungmus asked if there were any Board members who wanted to comment on this matter.

President Lungmus asked if any member of the public wanted to comment on this matter. There was none.

President Lungmus requested a roll call vote to approve the consent agenda.

AYES: Fowler	NAYS: 0	ABSTAIN:	ABSENT:
Dinges			
Whittaker			
Galín			
Mendrek			
Orth			

CONSIDERATION OF A RESOLUTION TO JOIN THE COOK COUNTY UNITED AGAINST HATE CAMPAIGN

Trustee Orth made a motion, seconded by Trustee Fowler, for the consideration of the approval of a resolution to join the Cook County United Against Hate campaign.

Cook County Commissioner Scott Britton was in attendance and stated this is a Cook County initiative designed to unite communities and residents against hate. Numerous organizations in Cook County have already taken the pledge. Regionally, Wheeling adopted this, and Wilmette and Glenview are also considering it in February.

President Lungmus asked if there were any Board members who wanted to comment on this matter.

President Lungmus asked if any member of the public wanted to comment on this matter. There was none.

President Lungmus requested a roll call vote to approve a resolution for the Village of Northfield to join the Cook County United Against Hate campaign.

AYES: Fowler	NAYS: 0	ABSTAIN:	ABSENT:
Dinges			
Whittaker			
Galín			

Mendrek
Orth

CONSIDERATION OF A RESOLUTION TO ADOPT THE SHARED POLICING PRINCIPLES FOR THE NORTHFIELD POLICE DEPARTMENT

Trustee Whittaker made a motion, seconded by Trustee Orth, for the consideration of the approval of a resolution adopting the Shared Policing Principles for the Northfield Police Department.

Cook County Commissioner Scott Britton said the Shared Principles are a set of 10 standards being adopted by municipalities and their police departments to help shape the relationship between law enforcement and the communities they serve. These principles were developed jointly by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People and the Illinois Association of Chiefs of Police. The proposed resolution was reviewed and endorsed by Northfield Police Chief Lustig.

President Lungmus asked if there were any Board members who wanted to comment on this matter.

President Lungmus asked if any member of the public wanted to comment on this matter. There was none.

President Lungmus requested a roll call vote to approve a resolution adopting the Shared Policing Principles for the Northfield Police Department.

AYES: Fowler NAYS: 0 ABSTAIN: ABSENT:
Dinges
Whittaker
Galín
Mendrek
Orth

CONSIDERATION OF AN EXTENSION UNTIL AUGUST 31 FOR A TEMPORARY USE REQUEST FOR A MOBILE MRI TRAILER AT THE BLUE PEARL EMERGENCY ANIMAL CLINIC LOCATED AT 820 FRONTAGE ROAD

Trustee Mendrek made a motion, seconded by Trustee Galin, to consider the approval of an extension until August 31, 2023, for a temporary use request for a mobile MRI trailer at the Blue Pearl Emergency Animal Clinic located at 820 Frontage Road.

Community Development Director Gutierrez stated that in October 2022, the Village Board approved the temporary installation of an MRI trailer at the Blue Pearl Specialty and Emergency Pet Hospital (Blue Pearl) located at 820 W. Frontage Road. This approval was good through the end of May 2023 but they are now seeking an extension of that deadline to August 31, 2023. Staff had not observed any parking issues caused by the MRI trailer or received any complaints since its installation.

President Lungmus asked if there were any Board members who wanted to comment on this matter.

Trustee Mendrek inquired if the August 31st date would be sufficient. Community Development Director Gutierrez replied that they were confident this would be adequate.

President Lungmus asked if any member of the public wanted to comment on this matter. There was none.

President Lungmus requested a roll call vote to approve an extension until August 31, 2023 for a temporary use request for a mobile MRI trailer at the Blue Pearl Emergency Animal Clinic located at 820 Frontage Road.

AYES: Fowler NAYS: 0 ABSTAIN: ABSENT:
 Dinges
 Whittaker
 Galin
 Mendrek
 Orth

CONSIDERATION OF A CONTRACT WITH RJN GROUP ENGINEERING FOR THE 2022-23 MWRD INFLOW AND INFILTRATION CONTROL PROGRAM FOR \$69,500 SUBJECT TO THE VILLAGE ATTORNEYS' FINAL APPROVAL OF THE CONTRACT LANGUAGE

Trustee Whittaker made a motion, seconded by Trustee Dinges, to consider a contract with RJN Group Engineering for the 2022-23 MWRD Inflow and Infiltration Control program for \$69,500 subject to the Village Attorneys' final approval of the contract language.

Public Works Director Nystrand stated that in order to reduce sanitary sewer overflows and basement backups, the Village is mandated by the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago (MWRD) to comply with its Inflow/Infiltration Control Program (IICP). The IICP is a multi-year program with short-term and long-term components. The short-term work had to be completed by the end of 2019 and the long-term component started in 2020 and goes through 2024. RJN Engineering Group (RJN) of Wheaton, IL, has assisted the Village with this work over the past several years. In 2017-18, the Village and RJN completed the short-term field investigation work required by MWRD, based on which rehabilitation for the sanitary sewers was identified. The manhole rehabilitation design work was completed in 2020 and included the rehabilitation of 63 sanitary maintenance holes. The construction for this rehabilitation is planned for 2023 and is the primary component of the MWRD IICP for the Village's 2022-23 fiscal year. The engineering proposal covers the following work:

- Completion of the 2022 MWRD Long-Term Annual Report due on March 1, 2023.
- Construction observation services for the manhole rehabilitation

- The rehabilitation design of sanitary sewers identified during the 2017-18 short-term field investigation work.

RJN proposed to complete this work for a not-to-exceed fee of \$69,500. Staff recommended RJN be awarded the 2022-23 MWRD Inflow and Infiltration Control Program Engineering Contract in the amount of \$69,500, subject to the Village Attorneys' final approval of the contract language.

President Lungmus asked if there were any Board members who wanted to comment on this matter.

Trustee Mendrek asked how invasive the work would be for each of these manhole covers for homeowners. Public Works Director Nystrand replied that it is fairly similar for all but could vary based on what was found during the investigation and overall it would not be that invasive.

President Lungmus asked if any member of the public wanted to comment on this matter. There was none.

President Lungmus requested a roll call vote to a contract with RJN Group Engineering for the 2022-23 MWRD Inflow and Infiltration Control program for \$69,500 subject to the Village Attorneys' final approval of the contract language.

AYES: Fowler
Dinges
Whittaker
Galín
Mendrek
Orth

NAYS: 0

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT:

CONSIDERATION OF A BID AWARD FOR THE 2023 SANITARY MANHOLE REHABILITATION PROJECT TO EMERGIA, INC. IN THE AMOUNT OF \$162,000

Trustee Orth made a motion, seconded by Trustee Fowler, to consider a bid award for the 2023 Sanitary Manhole Rehabilitation Project to Emergia Inc., in the amount of \$162,000.

Public Works Director Nystrand noted that on Tuesday, January 31, 2023, the Village received five (5) sealed bids for the 2023 Sanitary Sewer Manhole Rehabilitation project. The proposals were opened and read aloud at the Public Works facility with the base bids ranging from \$139,000 to \$307,260 and the bids for additional alternative work ranging from \$19,993 to \$ 39,410. The lowest total bid was received from Emergia Inc. of West Chicago, IL, in the bid amount of \$162,000.00. The second low total bid was received from Archon Construction of Addison, Illinois, in the amount of \$185,217.00. RJN reviewed the bids and contacted the references Emergia Inc. provided. The references confirmed that they had satisfactorily performed and successfully completed at least two (2) contracts, of similar scope, within the past five years.

RJN Group, Inc. recommended that the Village of Northfield award the 2023 Sanitary Manhole Rehabilitation Project contract to Emergia Inc. in the bid amount of \$162,000. The FY2022/23 budget set aside \$239,825 for engineering and construction. The total project, for engineering (\$69,500 from the previous agenda item) and construction (\$162,000) equaled \$231,500.

President Lungmus asked if there were any Board members who wanted to comment on this matter.

President Lungmus asked if any member of the public wanted to comment on this matter. There was none.

President Lungmus requested a roll call vote to a bid award for the 2023 Sanitary Manhole Rehabilitation Project to Emergia Inc., in the amount of \$162,000.

AYES: Fowler	NAYS: 0	ABSTAIN:	ABSENT:
Dinges			
Whittaker			
Galín			
Mendrek			
Orth			

PUBLIC COMMENT

Resident Don Graf, 1535 Winnetka Ave. stated that his security camera had recorded several accidents and many close calls at the intersection of Lagoon Drive and Winnetka Avenue. The crosswalk is very unique, is a 2-way traffic funnel, and is a pivotal part of the only 4 lanes section of Winnetka Ave. in Northfield. These 4 lanes run less than 1000 feet near the crosswalk and end one half block east of Happ Road. People traveling eastbound in the 2 lanes of traffic have to funnel down and dangerously merge onto one lane just west of the crosswalk and it is a tight squeeze. Many people traveling in the one-lane westbound speed up right before the crosswalk and funnel out to take advantage of the second lane. There are numerous screeching brakes from these drivers due to pedestrians that have made it halfway across the crosswalk. It is extremely dangerous and many pedestrians have to wait in the middle for someone to stop so they can finish to the other side of the crosswalk. This is a common occurrence and accidents are simply waiting to happen. Graf commended Chief Lustig and the Police Department for their efforts in keeping the intersection safer. Graf stressed that installing upgraded crosswalk signs at this intersection is absolutely critical and the sooner the better. The reasonable expense and the safety upgrade are worth it.

Trustee Orth asked Mr. Graf if he had the videos that he previously posted on social media proving these dangerous encounters at this intersection.

Resident Betsy Harootzan, 318 Latrobe, thanked Chief Lustig and the Northfield Police Department for their presence on school days because there appears to be a decrease in speeding cars in her neighborhood predominantly by those commuting to New Trier and Loyola. She

stated that she was a long-time member of the Local Pedestrian Safety Committee, and she has been advocating for safer routes to school. She asked that a pedestrian-activated flashing beacon at the intersection of Lagoon Drive and Winnetka Avenue become a priority for the Village for the safety of school children and everyone else.

Trustee Whittaker commented that the Board had discussed earlier in the evening the importance of doing something at that intersection.

President Lungmus noted that this was a county road so the Village would need the support of County Commissioner Scott Britton to successfully do something at this intersection.

Resident Norma Hoerdemann, 194 Latrobe, wanted to reinforce that this intersection is extremely scary and noted that whatever could be done to help with its safety would be greatly appreciated.

Resident Dr. Marie Ciavarella, 1594 Mt. Pleasant, noted that only approximately 50% of drivers actually stop and the other half have to be very aggressive to cross this intersection. She wanted to ensure kids can walk or bike to school safely and appreciates the Board's efforts in making the intersection safer.

Resident Kim Orth, 1655 Orchard Lane, stated that she uses the forest preserve frequently. She noted because there is no sidewalk on the north side of Willow Road, east of Lagoon, you are forced to cross the street if you want to get to the forest preserve and it is an extremely dangerous intersection. She researched the traffic pattern in the county and 7400 cars drive on Winnetka Road daily. She also noted that when construction of the bridge on Winnetka Road starts, the problems will explode. President Lungmus asked Trustee Fowler about this sidewalk issue on the north side of Willow Road. Trustee Fowler replied that the forest reserve charges an exorbitant amount of money per year.

Trustee Whittaker asked Mr. Graf if he could share with the Board some of the videos he had taken at this intersection and he said that he would.

Resident Alison Schroeder, 176 Latrobe, noted that trying to make a left-hand turn to get to the Marie Murphy School up against the New Trier traffic is nearly impossible and there are numerous teen drivers. She wanted to reinforce the need for better safety.

Resident Joe Cwick, 1575 Harding Road, stressed that this intersection was a serious safety issue.

Resident Ben Eberline, 144 Lagoon, seconded what everyone else was saying about this intersection noting that at least a temporary solution needs to be put in place.

Trustee Orth addressed the Board and the public stating that he took on a special project himself because of a lack of staff, time, and money to address the Lagoon/Winnetka intersection issue.

He noted that he had an email exchange with Brian Roberts at the Cook County Department of Transportation Highway Project Development Bureau regarding the safety concerns at this intersection. Brian Roberts stated in an email that the County has approved the use of rectangular rapid flashing beacons at the crosswalk of Lagoon Drive and Winnetka Avenue. To install these devices, the Village would need to secure an approved permit from the CCDOT. Trustee Orth noted that he printed from the Cook County website all the materials need to move forward with this. As part of the permit process, a review of the cut sheets of the actual devices and installation plans would be put together by the contractor and/or engineers. He stated that he had contacted several companies and had a quote from Tapco and their bid on the materials for the project ranged from approximately \$10,000 - \$11,000 for four different types of devices (solar, completely electric, combination solar and electric.) He investigated devices in the surrounding area and found that most communities use Tapco, whose products meet federal, state, and county requirements and other mandated standards. He spoke to Dan Mann from Meade Electric, a Cook County-approved electrician, who stated the installation would be from \$3,000- \$5,000. Trustee Orth increased that estimate to \$10,000 to cover unexpected expenses which makes it approximately \$10,000 for the parts and \$10,000 for the installation. The installation cost for the base for these devices is \$600 - \$1,200. Trustee Orth stated there are no traffic studies required by the County or the State. He spoke to several engineers in the region and they estimated that the engineering associated with this project would cost between \$5,000 and \$10,000. Trustee Orth stressed that this project cannot be delayed and cannot wait until the Winnetka Bridge project is complete. He noted that getting Cook County's approval on the overall project, which he estimated to cost a total of \$35,000, should be pursued.

Resident, Ann Olk, inquired about the cost of the Village Board Room. Village Manager Sigman replied that it was approximately \$225,000. The resident stressed the importance of getting the project done.

Village Manager Sigman noted that she has been working with Cook County for the last four years on Phase I and Phase II of Happ Road. The team she has been working with at Cook County told her that these devices could not be done without Phase I and Phase II Engineering which takes years and adds significant costs. She stressed that if there is something from Cook County which says differently, that will be great. Sigman said that she would be happy to explore this further.

President Lungmus said that he loved that Trustee Orth explored this and that a deeper investigation on this project would take place.

Resident Kim Orth, 1655 Orchard Lane, reiterated the need that something needed to be done and that you could not put a price on a child.

Resident Alison Schroeder, 176 Latrobe, stressed how the stop signs at Frontage and Winnetka had made a difference which is only a half block away from this dangerous intersection.

Trustee Orth noted that had been in talks with the County that solar-powered flashing stop signs were going to be installed at Frontage and Winnetka Ave.

Village Manager Sigman asked Trustee Orth for a copy of the correspondence that he had with Cook County so she could forward this to her contact at Cook County.

Trustee Mendrek emphasized the Board was cognizant of the urgency of this request. She inquired about the next steps for staff and asked in the Friday updates that the Board get an update so there is a better understanding of how quickly this could be done.

DEPARTMENT UPDATES

Administration

Village Manager Sigman had no further updates.

Community Development Department & Building Department

Community Development Director Gutierrez stated that on March 1st, the Zoning Board of Appeals will review a front yard variation request at 331 Sunset Ridge Road. On March 6th, the Plan & Zoning Commission will be reviewing the request for a 2-lot subdivision at 2260 Bracken Lane, which had previously been consolidated a couple of years ago. The owner wants to sell the property. Bloc Cannabis Dispensary at 161 Waukegan Road will be starting demo work on the exterior and interior later in the week after receiving their permit last Friday. The Village is still waiting for them to pull their building permits.

Finance Department

Finance Director Morley said that the revenues for the General Fund are doing very well. Taxes and building permits are coming in higher than anticipated. Property taxes are lagging because they were sent out later by Illinois and the County but are expected to all come. In terms of revenue as far as cash position, there is \$13.8 million with \$7 million in liquid cash. Regarding the Water Fund, there are less than 100 water meters that need replacing. Postcards will be sent out to residents next week that still need to have a change out but some of them are snowbirds so there might be a wait until they get back into town. A lot of work has been put into the budget and the new OpenGov software. There have been a lot of challenges but significant progress has been made. She thanked the Board for allowing them the extra time to work on the budget.

Fire-Rescue & Public Works Departments

Fire Chief Nystrand noted that since the last meeting, Fire-Rescue had 100 calls for service and work continues on the staffing issues. Training continues with the neighboring towns. Work is being done on the budget.

In Public Works, staff continues to manually read a small percentage of water meters that have not been changed out yet. There have been a few snow-plowing storms and water main breaks have been repaired when they occur. A couple of fire hydrants were hit in town and those have been replaced. The department has been removing dead trees, doing routine maintenance on sanitary and storm sewers, and working on the budget.

Trustee Orth asked how many water meters needed to be changed out. Village Manager Sigman replied that there were less than 100 and noted the Village was trying to follow up with

individual phone calls to those residents that still needed to replace their meters before shutting off their water. If after numerous letters, personal phone calls, and then a second follow-up phone call, the Village will have to unfortunately red tag and subsequently shut off the water.

Trustee Dinges asked if the water meter was being done in-house. Village Manager Sigman replied that the outsourced company is still managing the water meter replacements.

Police Department

Chief Lustig referenced the Ten Shared Principles that Cook County Commissioner Scott Brittan had talked about earlier in the meeting. He stated that the Northfield Police Department had done this in practice for a long period of time and he was excited that it was official. He noted that the Northfield Police Department was culturally diverse and five different languages were spoken. The Board of Police Commissioners met with the final two candidates and they made a conditional offer of employment which is contingent on a psychological and background check. He noted that the staffing situation was improving. He noted that the day before there was a significant incident on the North Shore where there was swatting, which means that an agency or dispatch center gets a call for service that demands a lot of police attention. He commented that it worked because someone from another state called and said that a gunman had entered the Northshore Country Day School. Numerous agencies responded including Northfield. This was a hoax and is being investigated.

Trustee Orth thanked Village Manager Sigman and the Board for listening and stressed he was not trying to undermine what the Village has done but just trying to move forward and resolve the issues at the intersection at Lagoon Drive and Winnetka Avenue.

There being no further discussion or issues to come before the Board, Trustee Whittaker made a motion, seconded by Trustee Orth to adjourn the meeting and go into Closed Session to discuss the employment, compensation, and performance of a specific employee or Legal Counsel pursuant to 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(1).

Trustee Galin asked if the identities of the people could be disclosed in Open Session. Trustee Fowler noted that he did not know what this was all about.

Trustee Whittaker stated that it was to discuss a situation and how it was professionally handled.

Upon the following roll call vote, the motion was not approved.

AYES: Dinges	NAYS: Fowler	ABSTAIN: 0	ABSENT:
Whittaker	Galín		
Orth	Mendrek		
	Lungmus		

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business or issues to come before the Board, Trustee Orth made a motion, seconded by Trustee Fowler to adjourn the meeting.

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

AYES:	Fowler	NAYS: 0	ABSTAIN: 0	ABSENT:
	Dinges			
	Whittaker			
	Galín			
	Mendrek			
	Orth			

The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 PM.