

**REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS  
OF THE  
REGULAR BOARD MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
OF THE VILLAGE OF NORTHFIELD  
TUESDAY, June 21, 2022**

As provided by public notice, the Board of Trustees of the Village of Northfield met in the Council Chambers of the Village Hall immediately following the Committee of the Whole Meeting on Tuesday, June 21, 2022, for the Regular Board meeting. The meeting was called to order by President Greg Lungmus at 6:55 PM. The Village Clerk took the roll call.

PRESENT:   President       Greg Lungmus  
  
                  Trustees       Todd Fowler  
                                  Barnaby Dinges  
                                  Tom Whittaker  
                                  Tracey Mendrek  
                                  Charles Orth

ABSENT:   Trustee       Matt Galin

ALSO PRESENT:       Attorney Buzz Hill

**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 May 17, 2022 Village Board meeting
2.     Bills and Disbursements from May 1, 2022 to May 31, 2022, in the amount of \$ 516,347.32
3.     Consideration of an ordinance declaring miscellaneous computer equipment as surplus, and authorizing the Village Manager to dispose of it, as provided by law.

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. There were none.

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  
Dinges  
Whittaker  
Mendrek  
Orth

NAYS: 0

ABSTAIN: 0

ABSENT: Galin

**CONSIDERATION OF AN AMENDMENT TO SPECIAL USE ORDINANCES #09-1413 AND #10-1449 IN ORDER TO ALLOW SEASONAL OUTDOOR SEATING AND RELIEF FROM THE VILLAGE’S OFF-STREET PARKING REQUIREMENTS FOR HAPP INN LOCATED AT 305 HAPP ROAD**

Trustee Mendrek made a motion, seconded by Trustee Orth to approve an amendment to Special Use ordinances #09-1413 and #10-1449 in order to allow seasonal outdoor seating and relief from the Village’s off-street parking requirements for the Happ Inn Bar & Grill located at 305 Happ Road.

Community Development Director Gutierrez stated that the petitioner seeks to amend their Special Use Ordinances #09-1413 and #10-1449 to allow outdoor seasonal seating on the private sidewalk that is adjacent to the Happ Inn at 305 Happ Road. The petitioner is also requesting a variation to the Village’s off-street parking requirement in order to accommodate the additional seating. As part of the staff’s review, the Fire Department recommended the use of jersey barriers (or their equivalent) to separate the outdoor seating area from the parking lot’s main drive aisle. This drive aisle runs in front, immediately west of the shopping center building. On June 6, 2022, the Plan & Zoning Commission voted unanimously to recommend approval of the proposed special use and approval of the requested parking variation.

Director Gutierrez noted that one of the Plan & Zoning Commission’s conditions was that “Protective impact barriers shall be placed between the proposed seating areas and the drive aisle in front of the building and shall be subject to the approval of Village staff.” This condition had originally been drafted by staff to read “...subject to the approval of the Fire Department”. At the meeting, the petitioner objected to the use of a jersey barrier as they were concerned they would block the view of the display windows of the shops. In response, the Commission wished to have other Village staff involved with the review of the barriers. However, the only staff with the expertise to determine the barriers’ life safety adequacy is the Fire Department. For this reason, the draft ordinance was written to again require the Fire Department’s approval of the barriers.

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

Trustee Dinges complimented the staff and the Plan & Zoning Commission’s work to allow seasonal outdoor seating. He proposed allowing four additional 2-top tables, increasing the seating to 42.

Trustee Orth was in favor of allowing four additional 2-top tables, increasing the seating to 42.

President Lungmus confirmed that this proposed additional seating was in the area west of the Happ Inn's enclosed area. He noted that this was a pedestrian walkway so wanted to be sure that there would be enough room for people to walk with tables and waiters present.

Community Development Director Gutierrez stated that the applicant had requested these tables initially. Staff was concerned because to access these tables, you have to stand in the drive aisle. The applicant chose to take these tables out of their request.

Village Manager Sigman stressed that all of the proposed seats would need to be provided with the protection of jersey barriers or some sort of crash-rated barriers as part of the proposed ordinance.

Fire Chief Nystrand noted that jersey barrier is a generic term and several types of protective devices would meet the International Fire Code. These protective devices are not just concrete jersey barriers, noting there are even attractive planters that meet the crash rating specifications. He stressed that because of the demand, the business of offering different types of aesthetically pleasing barriers was thriving.

Trustee Mendrek asked if there was room to place the jersey barriers to the north side of Happ Inn's entrance and asked if the petitioner wants these four additional 2-top tables.

Bob Lopatin from Friedman Properties noted that the Happ Inn would love to have the additional 8 outdoor seats. They had eliminated this seating from their request because of the safety concerns but stated they had been there the last two years and there were no issues. He stated that they were happy to work with the Fire Department and stressed the importance of having attractive barriers in place that met the safety requirements.

President Lungmus liked the idea and aesthetics of outdoor dining but stressed that public safety using proper barriers surrounding it was of utmost importance.

Village Manager Sigman inquired if there would be enough space with the seating so someone with a wheelchair or walker could fit on the sidewalk, as required by ADA.

Community Development Director Gutierrez replied with these additional tables, the barriers would need to go into the pavement to some degree.

Trustee Fowler stated he supported this because he believed if these additional tables were up against the wall, there would be sufficient space for a wheelchair to get through. He stressed that approved, attractive safety barriers would need to be in place.

Trustee Mendrek asked the Village Attorney if there was anything from a legal standpoint the Village should contemplate about this issue.

Village Attorney Hill stated the Illinois Governmental Tort Immunity Act would purportedly give the Village Board immunity if there were to be an accident surrounding outdoor dining.

President Lungmus recommended, in order to protect the Village further, there should be a required hold harmless agreement regarding outdoor dining between the entities and the Village of Northfield.

Trustee Whittaker inquired if any of the costs surrounding outdoor dining could be waived for the three businesses, Happ Inn, Taco Nano, and Stormy's, that applied for a Special Use.

Trustee Mendrek responded that she appreciated the rationale about waiving the costs but thought it was a troubling precedent to set because how could the Village be fair and equitable in future situations.

Village Manager Sigman stated that in general public dollars cannot be used for private benefit. The Board can waive the fees and fines but public dollars can't be used for private improvements.

Trustee Whittaker asked if the Special Use \$1100 fee could be waived for the 3 businesses that applied for a Special Use.

President Lungmus was in favor of waiving the Special Use \$1100 fee to help with the initial expense of setting up seasonal outdoor dining to meet all of the Village's specifications.

Trustee Fowler stated that he preferred just going with the initial motion. After review and approval from the staff, the Happ Inn could then come back to the Board later to get authorization for the additional 8 outdoor dining seats.

Trustee Dinges believed the Board should consider waiving the Special Use fee for outdoor dining for all restaurants.

Community Development Director Gutierrez replied that there were two components to the Special Use fee. One is an \$1100 non-refundable fee and the other is a \$3500 escrow fee in which the out-of-pocket expenses are taken from for items such as the court reporter fee. Any portion of the escrow fee that is not used is returned to the petitioner.

Village Manager Sigman stressed that the fees were set based on the staff time it takes to process the applications. The Board has looked closely at these fees so each petitioner covers the costs, not the general taxpayers, associated with the time and work involved in the filings, preparation of the ordinances, etc. for each Plan & Zoning Commission case for a Special Use.

Trustee Mendrek inquired what portion of the fees would be waived for each of three businesses, Happ Inn, Taco Nano, and Stormy's.

Trustee Orth asked if the \$1100 Special Use fee for outdoor seating could be waived for all of the restaurants in Northfield.

Trustee Mendrek stated that she was fine waiving this fee for the three petitioners that had applied but not okay applying it to all the restaurants. If any other restaurants applied in the future, the Board could decide to waive the fee at that time. She noted that she was personally in favor of a 50/50 fee split between the Village and the three petitioners.

President Lungmus and the other trustees were in favor of waiving the \$1100 Special Use application fee but not the escrow fee for outdoor seating for the three petitioners.

Trustee Mendrek made a motion seconded by Trustee Orth, to amend the initial motion to amend Special Use ordinances #09-1413 and #10-1449 to include three additional items that would 1) require a hold harmless agreement between the entity and the Village of Northfield, 2) allow up to 42 outdoor seating locations subject to verification by the Village of Northfield that there is adequate space for ADA compliance with the tables, and 3) waive the \$1100 Special Use fee for the Happ Inn Bar & Grill located at 305 Happ Road.

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 amend the initial motion to Special Use ordinances #09-1413 and #10-1449 to include three additional items that would 1) require a hold harmless agreement between the entity and the Village of Northfield, 2) allow up to 42 outdoor seating locations subject to verification by the Village of Northfield that there is adequate space for ADA compliance with the tables, and 3) waive the \$1100 Special Use fee for the Happ Inn Bar & Grill located at 305 Happ Road.

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

President Lungmus requested a roll call vote to approve an amendment to Special Use ordinances #09-1413 and #10-1449 in order to allow seasonal outdoor seating and relief from the Village's off-street parking requirements for the Happ Inn Bar & Grill located at 305 Happ Road.

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

**CONSIDERATION OF A SPECIAL USE TO APPROVE AN AMENDMENT TO SPECIAL USE ORDINANCES #12-1526 AND #20-1774 IN ORDER TO ALLOW SEASONAL OUTDOOR SEATING AND RELIEF FROM THE VILLAGE'S OFF-STREET PARKING REQUIREMENTS FOR THE TACO NANO RESTAURANT LOCATED AT 1743 ORCHARD LANE**

Trustee Whittaker made a motion, seconded by Trustee Mendrek, to approve an amendment to Special Use Ordinances #12-1526 and #20-1774 in order to allow seasonal outdoor seating and relief from the Village's off-street parking requirements for the Taco Nano Restaurant located at 1743 Orchard Lane.

Community Development Director Gutierrez stated that the petitioner, Taco Nano LLC., seeks to amend their Special Use Ordinances #12-1526 and #20-1774 to allow seasonal outdoor seating in front of their restaurant at 1743 Orchard Lane and across the street on the south side of Orchard. The petitioner is also requesting a variation to the Zoning Code's off-street parking requirement in order to accommodate the requested outdoor seating. As part of the staff's review of the proposed outdoor seating, the Fire Department recommended the use of jersey barriers (or their equivalent) to separate the outdoor seating area from Orchard Street. The petitioner did not object to installing jersey barriers or their equivalent and that was made one of the conditions of the Plan and Zoning Commission's approval. On June 6, 2022, the Plan & Zoning Commission voted unanimously to recommend approval of the proposed special use and approval of the requested parking variation.

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

Trustee Whittaker stated that the petitioner had noted that jersey barriers were already in place at Taco Nano.

Community Development Director Gutierrez stressed that the Fire Department would still need to check to see if these jersey barriers met their approval in light of the appropriate safety guidelines.

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

Trustee Mendrek made a motion seconded by Trustee Whittaker, to amend the initial motion to Special Use ordinances #12-1526 and #20-1774 to include two additional items that would 1) require a hold harmless agreement between the entity and the Village of Northfield, and 2) waive the \$1100 Special Use fee for the Taco Nano Restaurant located at 1743 Orchard Lane.

President Lungmus requested a roll call vote to amend the initial motion to amend Special Use ordinances #12-1526 and #20-1774 to include two additional items that would 1)

require a hold harmless agreement between the entity and the Village of Northfield, and 2) waive the \$1100 Special Use fee for the Taco Nano Restaurant located at 1743 Orchard Lane.

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

President Lungmus requested a roll call vote to approve an amendment to Special Use Ordinances #12-1526 and #20-1774 in order to allow seasonal outdoor seating and relief from the Village’s off-street parking requirements for the Taco Nano Restaurant located at 1743 Orchard Lane.

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

**CONSIDERATION OF THE AMENDMENTS TO SPECIAL USE ORDINANCES #11-1491 AND #12-1517 TO ALLOW SEASONAL OUTDOOR SEATING, REPEAL THE SPECIAL USE REQUIREMENT TO LEASE PARKING SPACES AT 330 WEST FRONTAGE ROAD, CLARIFY THAT FREE VALET PARKING SERVICE SHALL BE ON AN AS-NEEDED BASIS, AND ALLOW RELIEF FROM THE VILLAGE’S OFF-STREET PARKING REQUIREMENTS FOR STORMY’S TAVERN AND GRILLE LOCATED AT 1735 ORCHARD LANE**

Trustee Whittaker made a motion, seconded by Trustee Orth, to approve the amendments to Special Use Ordinances #11-1491 and #12-1517 to allow seasonal outdoor seating, repeal the Special Use requirement to lease parking spaces at 330 West Frontage Road, clarify that free valet parking service shall be on an as-needed basis, and allow relief from the Village’s off-street parking requirements for Stormy’s Tavern and Grille located at 1735 Orchard Lane.

Community Development Director Gutierrez stated that the petitioner, Stormy’s Tavern and Grille, seeks to amend their Special Use Ordinances #11-1491 and #12-1517 to allow seasonal outdoor seating (five picnic tables) in front of their restaurant, Stormy’s Tavern and Grille at 1735 Orchard, to repeal the current special use condition requiring them to lease parking spaces at 330 West Frontage Road; to clarify that the requirement to provide free valet parking service shall be on an as-needed basis; and to request a variation to the Zoning Code’s off-street parking requirement in order to accommodate the requested outdoor seating. As part of the staff’s review of the proposed outdoor seating, the Fire Department recommended the use of jersey barriers (or their equivalent) to separate the outdoor seating area from Orchard Lane. This was made one of the conditions of the Plan and Zoning Commission’s approval.

Director Gutierrez noted that on June 6, 2022, the Plan & Zoning Commission voted unanimously to recommend approval of the proposed special use amendments and approval of the requested parking variation. The petitioner did not object to installing jersey barriers, however, the Plan & Zoning Commission recommended having “village staff” review/approve the barriers rather than just the Fire Department, as they did for the Happ Inn. Stormy’s request was discussed after the Happ Inn request and Taco Nano’s request was discussed before the Happ Inn request. As with the Happ Inn ordinance, this ordinance has been drafted to leave the review of the adequacy of the jersey barriers to the Fire Department, as they are the only staff entity with expertise in this area.

President Lungmus asked if there were any Board members who wanted to comment on this matter. There were none.

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

Trustee Mendrek made a motion seconded by Trustee Whittaker, to amend the initial motion to Special Use ordinances #11-1491 and #12-1517 to include two additional items that would 1) require a hold harmless agreement between the entity and the Village of Northfield, and 2) waive the \$1100 Special Use fee for Stormy’s Tavern and Grille located at 1735 Orchard Lane.

President Lungmus requested a roll call vote to amend the initial motion to amend Special Use ordinances #11-1491 and #12-1517 to include two additional items that would 1) require a hold harmless agreement between the entity and the Village of Northfield, and 2) waive the \$1100 Special Use fee for Stormy’s Tavern and Grille located at 1735 Orchard Lane.

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

President Lungmus requested a roll call vote to approve the amendments to Special Use Ordinances #11-1491 and #12-1517 to allow seasonal outdoor seating, repeal the Special Use requirement to lease parking spaces at 330 West Frontage Road, clarify that free valet parking service shall be on an as-needed basis, and allow relief from the Village’s off-street parking requirements for Stormy’s Tavern and Grille located at 1735 Orchard Lane.

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

**CONSIDERATION OF A SPECIAL USE TO ALLOW THE CONSTRUCTION OF GARAGE SPACE TOTALING 1664.75 SQUARE FEET AND A SIDE YARD SETBACK VARIATION TO ALLOW A CAR COURT WITHIN 10' OF THE LOT LINE FOR THE PROPERTY AT 1386 WINNETKA ROAD**

Trustee Orth made a motion, seconded by Trustee Fowler, to approve a Special Use for the construction of garage space totaling 1,664.75 square feet and a side yard setback variation to allow a car court within 10' of the lot line, all for the property at 1386 Winnetka Road.

Community Development Director Gutierrez stated the petitioner is planning on building a new home at 1386 Winnetka Road. The proposed home would have two attached garages totaling 1,664.75 square feet of floor area. The property is located in the R-1 Single Family Residential District which requires a special use permit for more than 1,200 square feet of garage floor area. The petitioner is also seeking relief from the 15' required side yard setback. They were seeking to construct a raised car court with a 5' side yard setback. On June 6, 2022, the Plan & Zoning Commission voted unanimously to recommend approval of the proposed special use and approval of a 10' side yard setback.

Trustee Mendrek asked for a summary regarding the additional 5' setback.

Director Gutierrez replied that there were many challenges with the 15' required side yard setback. The next-door neighbor was at the meeting and objected to the 5' side yard setback because it was too close (predominantly due to stormwater concerns), but was assured that the side yard would not affect this and any storm water issues would be addressed at the engineering permit review. The Plan & Zoning Commission made a compromise for the petitioner and neighbor by recommending a 10' side yard setback.

President Lungmus asked if there were any Board members who wanted to comment on this matter. There were none.

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 Special Use for the construction of garage space totaling 1,664.75 square feet and a side yard setback variation to allow a car court within 10' of the lot line, all for the property at 1386 Winnetka Road.

AYES: Fowler  
Dinges  
Whittaker  
Mendrek  
Orth

NAYS: 0

ABSTAIN: 0

ABSENT: Galin

**CONSIDERATION OF THE AWARD OF A BID TO MYS, INC. OF PALOS HEIGHTS, IL IN THE AMOUNT OF \$295,710, PLUS A 10% (\$30,000) CONTINGENCY FOR THE REMOVAL OF THE OLD AND INSTALLATION OF THE NEW BOSWORTH PEDESTRIAN BRIDGE**

Trustee Fowler made a motion, seconded by Trustee Dinges, to approve the award of a bid to MYS, Inc. of Palos Heights, IL in the amount of \$295,710, plus a 10% (\$30,000) contingency for the removal of the old, and installation of the new Bosworth Pedestrian Bridge.

Village Manager Sigman noted that in 2020, a structural inspection of the Bosworth Pedestrian Bridge identified secondary structural steel members (floor beams, stringers, and diagonal bracing) that were in poor condition. After assessing the options, the Board elected to move forward with a full bridge replacement, including decorative railings to match the other ironwork in the downtown. The Village retained Christopher Burke Engineering (CBE) to prepare the design and bid documents, secure permits, and oversee construction. The two components of the construction portion of the project are bridge installation and bridge fabrication.

Village Manager Sigman noted that the bridge installation involves the removal of the existing bridge and the installation work associated with the placement of the new bridge, both components were part of this bid request. The project also includes work on the bridge abutments, electrical components, lighting, and approaches. Three bids were received. These bids ranged from \$295,710 to \$479,465. The lowest bidder was MYS, Inc. of Palos Heights, IL in the amount of \$295,710.

Village Manager Sigman remarked that staff is recommending approval of the lowest bid. To cover any unforeseen field issues, staff is also recommending a 10% contingency (\$30,000), for the installation portion of the project. If approved, the contingency would only be used for formal change orders and will not be used for additional expenses of the contractor in carrying out the contract specifications. Use of change orders and the payment from the 10% contingency will be subject to the Village Manager's written approval.

Village Manager Sigman noted that the lowest construction bid came in at \$112,933 over the engineers' estimate of \$182,777. In an attempt to find lower-cost alternatives, staff and the engineering team assessed all available options. Unfortunately, given the current market, they did not believe that exercising any of those options (i.e. re-bidding or waiving the bid process) would likely result in substantially lower costs but rather would delay the project in a rising cost market. Additionally, such delays would push installation into the colder months which would clearly result in increased costs. Therefore, in light of the current poor condition of the bridge, staff recommends that both contracts be awarded and the balance in the 2019 Bond Fund cover the higher than anticipated contracts. Staff and the engineering team will work with the contractor, after the bid award, to attempt to identify potential cost reductions to bring the project more closely in line with the original budget. The law does not permit us to negotiate any component of the project with the low bidder until the actual award is made.

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

Trustee Whittaker inquired about the disparity of quotes among the bidders on the removal of the existing bridge structure ranging from one at \$20,000, one at \$25,000, and one at \$126,000.

Village Manager Sigman said that the two outliers in the bidding process are the engineer's original bid and the highest bidder. There is not a large difference in the line item costs between the 2nd and 3<sup>rd</sup> bidders. She stressed that Public Works Director Nystrand, the structural engineer, as well as herself, did not feel comfortable extending the bridge replacement beyond next spring. There were 3 changes made to the design of the new bridge since last spring that increased the cost. These changes included Trek decking to extend durability, a decorative deck railing, and electrical connections.

Trustee Orth asked about the new bridge's life span and Village Manager Sigman replied "about 30 years".

Chief Nystrand noted that Trek decking was a better material on the bridge's deck for safety reasons because the currently treated lumber becomes moldy and very slippery.

Trustee Mendrek inquired if the existing bridge would be removed prior to the newly fabricated one being ready.

Village Manager Sigman replied that there would be a short window of time between the removal and replacement of the bridges. She noted that the fabricated bridge should be ready by late fall and the replacement would take place sometime in November or early December.

Chief Nystrand stated that November or December is a good time to replace the bridge because most of the leaves have fallen making it easier for the crane operator to maneuver and fewer people are walking downtown due to the cooler weather.

President Lungmus remarked that he did not believe the costs would go down in the future and that the new bridge was needed because of safety issues so he was in favor of moving forward.

Village Manager Sigman also noted that the money in the 2019 Bond Fund was supposed to be expended within 3 years which works out well to not carry over any into next year.

President Lungmus asked if there were any other 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 award of a bid to MYS, Inc. of Palos Heights, IL in the amount of \$295,710, plus a 10% (\$30,000) contingency for the removal of the old, and installation of the new Bosworth Pedestrian Bridge.

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

**CONSIDERATION OF THE AWARD OF THE BRIDGE FABRICATION CONTRACT TO CONTECH ENGINEERED SOLUTIONS OF LAKE ZURICH, IL IN THE AMOUNT OF \$152,000**

Trustee Orth made a motion, seconded by Trustee Fowler, to approve the award of the bridge fabrication contract to Contech Engineered Solutions of Lake Zurich, IL in the amount of \$152,000.

Village Manager Sigman stated that CBE identified a prefabricated bridge that works for this location. They collaborated with the manufacturer to customize the railing and add a composite decking. The final quote to manufacture and ship that bridge is \$152,000 from Contech Engineered Solutions of Lake Zurich, IL.

Trustee Fowler inquired about the warranty on the bridge and Village Manager Sigman said she would investigate this.

Trustee Dinges noted that it would be good use time-lapse photography to make a record of the removal and installation of the pedestrian bridge.

President Lungmus asked if there were any other Board members who wanted to comment on this matter. There were none.

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 award of the bridge fabrication contract to Contech Engineered Solutions of Lake Zurich, IL in the amount of \$152,000.

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

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

There were no public comments.

## **DEPARTMENT UPDATES**

### *Administration*

VM Sigman noted that she would be attending a meeting later in the week to get more information on the design of the renovation of the Council Chambers. She continues to work on the Happ Road project and the Skokie Valley Trail project while Melissa is on maternity leave.

### *Community Development Department & Building Department*

Director Gutierrez reported that the Architectural Commission will be meeting on July 11 to continue their discussion on the proposed Tree Preservation Ordinance. They will also be reviewing a variation to the sign code for Pella Windows & Doors in order to allow more than one permanent sign on the east façade of the building at 500 Central Avenue.

### *Finance Department*

Finance Director Morley stated it was the end of the fiscal year. As an overview of the year, the general fund ended very strong with a surplus of \$1.2 million. The Village had originally budgeted a loss of \$370,000. Revenues were \$1.7 million higher than budgeted and expenses were \$97,000 higher than budgeted. Water and sanitary on the revenue side were 1.2% higher than the budget (\$42,000) and the expenses were \$450,000 below the budget. This is largely due to the infrastructure projects that are being rolled forward to the upcoming year. The water and sewer day-to-day expenses are very much in line with the budget. Water purchased from Winnetka increased 12% over the prior fiscal year. For the calendar year, the Police Pension Fund had a negative return of 8.51%. All of the Police Pension Fund assets are being transferred to the state as of June 24.

On June 17, the Village moved \$10 million out of the Illinois Funds. Of this, \$4 million was invested in Northview and \$6 million was invested in Fifth Third Bank. Interest rates over the past several years have been very low but have been ticking upward and the Illinois Funds, are now at .5%, whereas in Northview, it is 15 basis points more. Morley stated that she, along with President Lungmus and Village Manager Sigman, had interviewed three investment firms with the goal of earning more money on the Village's excess funds. They chose to go with Fifth Third Bank and transferred \$6 million to them where the money is laddered out through March 2025. Instead of earning .5%, the money will earn approximately 3% or \$300,000. Village Manager Sigman noted the investments were in CDs and treasuries so there is very little risk and the money will be laddered in 3-month segments so there will always be accessible funds if needed. The \$4 million that was invested is more liquid and these reserves might be needed because of the anticipated delay in property taxes from the state, as well as the state's holiday on taxes on food. The state said that would make up for these lost taxes but they have not said how or when. President Lungmus noted that he was pleased that the Village was finally earning some interest on its cash reserves.

*Fire-Rescue & Public Works Departments*

Chief Nystrand stated there have been staffing issues with the Fire/Rescue Department. They have two new hires and are currently doing the appropriate paperwork and background checks.

In Public Works, they have two seasonal employees who have helped with meter readings and repairs on water control valves. Chief Nystrand went out to the old Willow Road Bridge after getting complaints about the guard rails. He heard water running and so he investigated further, called in a leak detection service, and found a significant crack on a feeder main. His department was able to make the repair. President Lungmus complimented him on finding and rectifying this issue.

*Police Department*

Chief Lustig reported that staffing continues to be an issue and currently there are two vacancies. Many officers are working 16-hour shifts. The latest officer candidate declined the offer and took a position in Colorado so they are trying to expedite the next candidate review. There was a recent residential burglary. The home was obviously targeted because construction people were inside the home and items were taken that should have been locked up and out of sight. The Chief had a recent meeting with the school superintendent to discuss a recent school security audit done at the school and they talked with his staff and him about some of the recommendations made. This fall, the police department will be more active in doing more programs there and making more visits than what was done in the recent past.

**ADJOURNMENT**

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

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

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

Upon completion of the Closed Session, Trustee Fowler made a motion, seconded by Trustee Orth to re-open to the regular meeting session.

**ADJOURNMENT**

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

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

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

The meeting was adjourned at 9:15 P.M.