

The Village of Northfield

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

January 12, 2011

Council President, Beatrice Greenlee called the meeting to order at 7:34PM following the Pledge of Allegiance. The roll was called by Robert Riedel with the following present: Mrs. Greenlee, Mrs. Selle, Mr. Nehez, Mr. Noack, Mr. Bolek and Mrs. Bowen. Law Director Brad Bryan, Village Engineer Richard Wasosky, Police Chief Mark Wentz and Fire Chief Gary Vojtush were present.

A motion to approve the minutes of the December 8, 2010 Regular Council meeting, made by Mrs. Bowen and seconded by Mrs. Selle. The motion carried with 5 ayes, Mr. Noack abstained. A motion to approve the minutes of the December 31, 2010 Special Council meeting, Mrs. Selle asked for a correction to be made to page 3 of the minutes, to change the wording from "knock boxes" to "knox boxes" and a made by Mr. Nehez and seconded by Mrs. Selle. The motion carried with 5 ayes, Mr. Noack abstained.

In the business of petitions, memorials and remonstrances, Councilman Lennie Noack said that it is good to be back home and Mrs. Greenlee said it is good to have him back. Mr. Noack said that he was in Texas for the month of December to visit with his sister.

Council President, Mrs. Greenlee had nothing for the Mayor's report.

Finance Director, Robert Riedel asked for a motion to accept the financial statements for November and December 2010 as submitted and the mayor's court report for November 2010. Mrs. Bowen made the motion and was seconded by Mrs. Greenlee, it carried with 6 ayes.

Council president, Mrs. Greenlee had Law Director Mr. Bryan read Resolution 2011-01, an emergency Resolution confirming the Mayor's appointment of Ryan Barry as a part-time fire fighter with the Village's fire department. Mr. Nehez made a motion and Mrs. Greenlee seconded, to suspend the three-reading rule, it carried with 6 ayes. A motion for passage was made by Mr. Nehez and seconded by Mr. Noack and it passed with 6 ayes. Mr. Bryan read Resolution 2011-02, an emergency Resolution confirming the Mayor's appointment of Jeffrey Hall as a part-time fire fighter with the Village's fire department. Mr. Nehez made a motion and Mrs. Bowen seconded to suspend the three-reading rule, it carried with 6 ayes. Mr. Noack asked to have Jeffrey Hall stand up so that he knows who he is. A motion for passage was made by Mr. Nehez and seconded by Mr. Noack and it passed with 6 ayes. Mr. Bolek asked if each candidate as they come in front of Council could say if they are a paramedic or EMT and Mrs. Bowen said to Mr. Bolek that everyone has the list and Chief Vojtush said that they are all paramedics, and Mr. Noack said that is outstanding. Mr. Bryan read Resolution 2011-03, an emergency Resolution confirming the Mayor's appointment of Christopher Hrach as a part-time fire fighter with the Village's fire department. Mrs. Greenlee made a motion and Mrs. Bowen seconded, to suspend the three-reading rule, it carried with 6 ayes. A motion for passage was made by Mrs. Greenlee and seconded by Mr. Bowen and it passed with 6 ayes. Mr. Bryan read Resolution 2011-04, an emergency Resolution confirming the Mayor's appointment of Alec Keener as a part-time fire fighter with the Village's fire department. Mrs. Greenlee made a motion and Mr. Nehez seconded, to suspend the three-reading rule, it carried with 6 ayes. A motion for passage was made by Mrs. Greenlee and seconded by Mr. Noack and it passed with 6 ayes. Mr. Bryan read Resolution 2011-05 an emergency Resolution confirming the Mayor's appointment of Michael Kocmit as a part-time fire fighter with the Village's fire department. Mrs. Greenlee made a motion and Mrs. Bowen seconded, to suspend the three-reading rule, it carried with 6 ayes. A motion for passage was made by Mrs. Greenlee and seconded by Mrs. Bowen and it passed with 6 ayes. Mr. Bryan read Resolution 2011-06, an emergency Resolution confirming the Mayor's appointment of David Spraggins as a part-time fire fighter with the Village's fire department. Mrs. Greenlee made a motion and Mrs. Bowen seconded, to suspend the three-reading rule, it carried with 6 ayes. A motion for passage was made by Mrs. Greenlee and seconded by Mrs. Bowen and it passed with 6 ayes. Mr. Bryan read Resolution 2011-07, an emergency Resolution confirming the Mayor's appointment of Stephen Zadd as a part-time fire fighter with the Village's fire department. Mrs. Bowen made a motion and Mrs. Greenlee seconded, to suspend the three-reading rule, it carried with 6 ayes. A motion for passage was made by Mrs. Greenlee and seconded by Mrs. Bowen and it passed with 6 ayes. Mr. Bolek asked Mrs. Bowen where the document was listing the new fire fighters and Mr. Bolek said it wasn't in the mailboxes. Chief Vojtush said he did not bring a copy, and Mr. Bolek asked what was the reason that everyone didn't receive a copy, and Mrs. Bowen said that they received a copy at their fire and safety committee meeting the other night, Mr. Bolek said he is not part of that committee and Mr. Noack said that he was out of town. Mr. Noack asked Chief Vojtush if it was 17 guys and he said yes. Mr. Noack said that we have a good fire department. Chief

Vojtush said that we have come a long way with the fire department and this is basically part of the next step for the department to grow by helping out neighboring communities. Chief Vojtush said that the contract with Walton Hills has allowed us to add these extra personnel which helps Walton Hills and us, this will be a win win for everybody. Chief Vojtush administered oath of office to all seven new fire department candidates and welcomed them to the fire department.

Village Engineer, Richard Wasosky gave his report. (See attached) Mr. Nehez said at one time weren't we talking about filling that ditch in next to Houghton Rd, and Mr. Wasosky said yes back around 1991 but the property owners didn't give the permission for the easements. Mr. Noack asked if any trees would be killed, and Mr. Wasosky said usually just the first line of trees. Mr. Nehez said the reason he is asking is that where it is located now it is hard to expand on the service department lot, in case in the future we ever decide to expand, with that being like that you can't use the property to it's full capacity. Mr. Wasosky said that Mr. Nehez is correct you have to design around the sewer, the alternative would be to run it along the south property line of the service department and then go due north towards the ditch, but the problem is where the salt shed is, is all fill, which once you start digging you might run into problems. Mr. Noack said according to Mr. Walters that salt shed is not very strong and Mr. Wasosky said yes the fill is bad, and to do that you need support for the pipes and that will cost more money. Mr. Noack said that we need to watch what we spend. Mr. Nehez said if we move the line to the location of where the fill is bad, do you just abandon the other line and Mr. Wasosky said you can or put fill in it. Mr. Nehez said the only reason this makes sense to him is that in the future we will have to expand some time and there isn't much land left in the Village to build anywhere else, so that is why this makes sense to move this. Mr. Noack asked what the cost of the job is and Mr. Wasosky said \$440,000 including the work on Houghton. Mr. Wasosky said with the condition of the soil the way it is, and they start digging and we run into problems it will run into lots of money and Mr. Noack said that is why we shouldn't get into that and Mr. Wasosky said you really don't want to open up that can of worms. Mr. Noack said with the police and fire department coming up with raises and Mr. Bolek said that no one is getting raises this year, everyone is on a freeze and Mr. Noack said he must have missed that meeting and Mr. Bolek said that we have been saying for six months no raises for anybody. Mr. Nehez said it was just an idea and if we can't do it, then we can't do it and Mr. Wasosky said it is a reasonable alternative to look at. Mr. Noack said when he was in charge of roads and public works committee he went and looked at the salt shed and it didn't look good. Mr. Nehez said that the only choice we have of where to run the pipe and Mr. Wasosky said that isn't a realistic choice, you could always run a pipe right next to the building but on the east side of the building we don't have much room at all and these become very costly and from an economic point of view it is not a good solution. Mr. Wasosky said at this point and time if you had to expand the service department building you would have to do the building around the pipes. Mr. Wasosky said that the project should be under construction by July 1, 2011 or we may lose the funding for the Beach Ave/Houghton Rd Outfall sewer project, we can do a loan of 40 years at 4%, \$7,500 up front and \$12,000 per year for the 40 years. Mr. Bolek said that the sewer top at the corner of Kennedy and McKinley is busted off and was put back over most of the hole in the tree lawn and with the plows they could push it off and have a huge hole and can't do much about it due to the weather, someone tried to put it back the best they could, but it needs to be rebuilt. Mr. Wasosky said that is something that Jason will need to schedule and they won't be able to do that until the spring time.

Law Director Brad Bryan had no report.

Chief Wentz gave his report. (see attached) Chief Wentz said that he was fortunate to secure one of the new license plate readers since it was open to only the first 20 agencies and they have come down in price, the quote he received in May was \$20,000 and now they are a little over \$17,000 at no cost to the Village and when we receive it, it will go on #830. Mr. Bolek asked how that has been working out for us and Chief Wentz said that we are still having some software problems and they have been working with TAC computers who offered us their software for the units free of charge, we are kind of a guinea pig with them since it wasn't working with the ELSAG software so when their representative comes in we are going to have a sit down with them to see if it is something we are doing or is it something that their software isn't just up and running. Mr. Noack asked how the radio dispatch has been doing, and Chief Wentz said they are doing wonderful even though they were short handed but they are using some part time dispatchers and they aren't missing any calls and have done very well. Mrs. Greenlee asked Chief Wentz if he would like to elaborate on the lady who complained about the traffic at Lee Eaton Schools. Chief Wentz said that the lady lives in the Village and had a complaint about the traffic backup on Ledge Rd and the pick up times at Lee Eaton Schools and it was a concern to the schools also prior to losing the busing. Chief Wentz and Lt. Mackie met with Chris Woolter the assistant principal and went over their diagrams of the school and tried to come up with some solutions for them and they did make several recommendations for them to use but they didn't follow through and use them, which might have helped to alleviate some of the problem. One thing was for the teachers to park along the side of the eastern end of the parking lot and not use one of the rows that they were using, and bring cars in in a double row. Chief Wentz said that they also discussed having the school busses enter from the western end parking lot but under state law they couldn't do that. Chief Wentz said that the first couple weeks they had an officer assessing the situation and directing traffic if needed, but it is hard to get a guy out of the station to get over there, but Chief Wentz said he did ask the officers when to go over and watch and have a presence there and they have returned and said there is a natural backup but haven't seen anyone going left of center. Chief Wentz said that they had an issue with an off-duty Parma Heights officer who took it upon himself to direct traffic in plain clothes and yelled at a few of the drivers so we

took care of that since he wasn't an Northfield Village police officer. Chief Wentz said that the lady who complained asked why a Macedonia officer couldn't come and help, and Chief Wentz said that they are short man power also. Mrs. Greenlee said that the lady also sent that email to the school board so maybe they will address the situation. Chief Wentz said that there was truth to most of it but a lot was paraphrased what he said and Chief Wentz doesn't know how it was taken by the board. Mr. Nehez asked what was going on with the car that was seized and Chief Wentz said that they gentleman had an appearance and he was formally indicted and had a hearing on January 7th but we don't have the results yet and then Mr. Bryan will be notified and Mr. Bryan said that there is a sizable amount of loan on that vehicle. Chief Wentz said he and Mr. Bryan have spoke a couple times about this matter and he said that there probably won't be a decision made until end of January or beginning of February from the courts. Mr. Bolek said that he is very concerned about this personnel update, to chart someone for being incompetent, Mr. Bolek said he understands it is a departmental thing, but to put it in writing, and any time he writes someone a ticket, if he was that person's attorney he would be bringing that up since it is public record, and now you have eliminated his effectiveness as a police officer. Mr. Bryan said that the letter that was sent, that charge was not included in the final findings. Mr. Bolek said that this is the same problem we have had before, this issue isn't going away and it is continuing on and Chief Wentz said that they are documenting it daily, Mr. Bolek said it is a bad situation and and Chief Wentz agreed. Mr. Nehez asked how everything else has been at the police department, and Chief Wentz said good. Chief Wentz said he has been to Home Depot and Lowe's and took photographs of the department makeup and hasn't heard anything from them yet. Mr. Nehez asked about the lady who stopped in who does comedy, and Chief Wentz said yes she was interested in putting something together for donations, but Chief Wentz said he hasn't heard back from her.

Fire Chief Vojtush read his report. (See attached). Chief Vojtush said that he was contacted by Congressman LaTourette's office that the fire fighter grant did go through this year in which they received \$61,000 approximately for turn out gear, washer and dryer and some other equipment. Mrs. Greenlee and Mr. Noack said great job! Mr. Riedel asked what our cut on that and Chief Vojtush said 5%. Mr. Bolek said with these appointments today will be able to meet our goal of what we are trying to accomplish with Walton Hills by the end of this month and Chief Vojtush said we have already met the goals for Walton Hills every single day since we started and this just will make it a little easier. Chief Vojtush said some of the guys have been working quite a bit of hours and they are getting a little tired of being here and this will help, and he also has another 10 guys to interview for the department and then it will be 17 all together. Mr. Nehez said that he likes Chief Vojtush's idea of putting "Servicing Walton Hills" on the trucks, and Chief Vojtush said he has had talks with Councilman Linville about this and he has said that Walton Hills will help for paying to put that on the vehicles. Chief Vojtush said that Councilman Bolek mentioned about the jaws of life and he has had conversations with Walton Hills Mayor about funding for that and Chief Vojtush has also had talks with Ford about them donating one of their sets. Chief Vojtush said that there is a farmer who is interested in the old fire truck. Mr. Noack said that is good, as long as we make money off of that and Chief Vojtush said he is trying. Mr. Nehez said he enjoyed meeting all of the people at the fire and safety committee meeting and everyone was very professional and he enjoyed what they had to say about themselves. Chief Vojtush said he is trying to have another one possibly next week or before the next council meeting so that we can get the rest of these guys by the end of the month. Chief Vojtush said these 17 guys are all trained and all on a department somewhere else so they are an easy transition. Mr. Riedel asked if Chief Vojtush had gotten with Life Force management regarding about separating the bills and Chief Vojtush said it was done last week and is effective as of the beginning of the year. Mr. Riedel said that he should give Council the breakdown monthly also.

Mrs. Greenlee of the Planning commission had no report.

Mrs. Bowen of the Finance committee said that there will be a Finance meeting on January 26, 2010 at 6:30 p.m.

Mrs. Selle of the Road and Public Works Committee said that everyone got a report from Mr. Walters prior to the December 29th, 2010 council meeting and as you all know we are getting slammed with snow. Mrs. Selle said that she spoke with Mr. Walters today and he assured her that the crews are getting their rest and they should be done by 8p tonight. Mrs. Selle said that they are plowing snow and fixing the repairs on those trucks.

Mr. Bolek of the Health and Welfare Committee had no report.

Mr. Nehez of the Building and Grounds Committee said that they had a buildings and grounds committee meeting on December 15th and Mrs. Greenlee wasn't able to attend and only himself and Mrs. Selle were there and they had a quite lengthy discussion over architectural standards and landscaping standards for commercial buildings. Mr. Nehez said they also discussed signs and colors, size and height and the discussion was very good. Mrs. Selle said that was a preliminary meeting and Mrs. Greenlee said anything like that needs to go to the planning commission and then they make a recommendation to council and Mr. Nehez said correct.

Mr. Noack of Wages and Working said he is glad to be home and had no report at this time.

Mrs. Greenlee of the Fire and Safety committee said she enjoyed the meeting where they met the candidates the other night and they all work for another department and she doesn't see any problems with them and some of them have their screenings done. Mr. Riedel said two have their drug test done, and besides those two they all need drug tests and physicals and two of them have their background checks done. Mr. Bryan said that all of the legislation was conditional on that.

In the old business, Mr. Bolek asked Mr. Riedel what the carryover was for the year and Mr. Riedel said that everyone has a copy of the financial statements and the total is on the far right.

In the new business, Mr. Nehez said that he has had a lot of people in his ward tell him that they are glad to see the police cars back on the roads back there and they really appreciate it. Mr. Noack said the same thing for him that people have called him and said what a great job they are doing. Mr. Nehez said that a lot of them have said that with such a presence that maybe people won't be riding their dirt bikes up and down the roads this year. Mr. Noack said that is because of Chief Wentz. Mrs. Greenlee said she has spoke with Mayor Milani two or three times recently and he is going through therapy very well and he would rather be here but he will be coming back soon. Mrs. Bowen asked when he is expected to come home and Mrs. Greenlee said that she couldn't answer that and Mr. Noack and Mr. Bryan both said that Mayor Milani told them a couple of weeks.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:32PM following a motion by Mrs. Greenlee and seconded by Mrs. Bowen. The motion carried with 6 ayes.

Respectfully Submitted by; _____
Lisa M. Rodriguez, Administrative Clerk

Attest:

President of Council Clerk of Council