

The Village of Northfield

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

May 11, 2011

Mayor Victor F. Milani called the meeting to order at 7:30PM following the Pledge of Allegiance. The roll was called by Robert Riedel with the following present: Mrs. Greenlee, Mrs. Selle, Mr. Nehez, Mr. Bolek and Mrs. Bowen. Mr. Noack was absent. Law Director Brad Bryan, Police Lt. Jamie Mackie, and Village Engineer, Richard Wasosky were present.

A motion to approve the minutes of the April 27, 2011 Regular Council meeting. The motion for passage was made by Mr. Bolek and seconded by Mrs. Bowen. The motion carried with 5 ayes.

In the business of petitions, memorials and remonstrances, Sabrina Pines, a resident who lives at 298 Lowrie Blvd. stated that she knows that there have been problems with the vandalism and spray painting a couple weekends ago. She said that she wanted to voice her concerns whether this was just juveniles or a gang. Ms. Pines also said between 9 and 9:30 am., a purple Stratus is going down the street with the radio blasting, she asked if someone could check into it. She also said that the vacant house behind her has some diseased trees that need attended to. She said that Jason Walters has cut some of the branches down that were hanging over the swing set and that he has been really great. Mayor Milani said that we just hired two more police officers and put up a \$250 reward for the vandalism. Lt. Mackie asked what time of the day was the loud music? Ms. Pines said in the evening. Lt. Mackie said to get the best description you can of the vehicle and the direction they are traveling. Lt. Mackie said, they will try to target that area during that time frame to deal with the situation. Lt. Mackie said that they are offering a \$250 reward for the vandalism and does not believe this is a gang issue. They feel that it is a juvenile issue. Lt. Mackie said that it is very frustrating to the police department. They know it is the taxpayers money, and it is a lot of man power, for the service department to clean up and keep up with replacing the signs. He said that they do not take this vandalism lightly. Lt. Mackie said that he has instructed all of the officers to get out and have face to face contact with the people. Lt. Mackie said to Ms. Pines that she didn't have to wait for a council meeting to voice her concerns, that she could contact him directly about these matters.

Charla Mozina a resident of the Village is upset about speeders, cars running through stop signs, and children walking about in hoodies. She asked if there was a block watch. Mrs. Greenlee said that there used to be a block watch and she said it is up to the residents to start one. Ms. Mozina stated that she would like to be more active and form a block watch. She said that every day she walks around her property and checks her house, and vehicle for vandalism.

Charla Vanni a resident of 255 Lowrie, whose house was vandalized by being spray painted with obscenities. Ms. Vanni stated that she and her husband are scared and at a loss on what to do and will call the police if they need them from now on.

Anne Beramelli, resident of Nordonia Hills and teacher listed some local mayor's who support the levy. She wondered when Council and Mayor Milani will be out to support the school levy. Mayor Milani said that for the athletic levy, he and Mayor Kuchta marched up and down Rte 8 to support the levy. Mayor Milani said that it isn't his job to tell the people how to vote. He said that when he feels there is a need for a levy, he supports it. Ms. Beramelli said that there is a need. She stated that the Village will see the home values go down. She said that she is embarrassed that not a single community leader came out to support the levy. She said that you are speaking of a 32% turnout which needed to be corrected from last meeting of 80% to 20%. It was more like 57% 23%. Ms. Pines said that a lot of residents are asking themselves why did we build that stadium when we need teachers. Ms. Beramelli said she is scared for her community and school district. She said that we can't be the only community that has public offices that refuses to come out and support the levy. Mr. Bolek said that someone came to us a couple weeks ago and asked us to support the levy and no one here did. Mr. Bolek said that she came back the next meeting and yelled at us and reprimanded us for not supporting it. Ms. Occhionero said she did not, and Mr. Bolek said yes she did! She said she asked if she could read a letter and Mr. Bolek said that she came down very hard on us because no one supported it. Ms. Occhionero said that is not accurate and Ms. Beramelli said it is in the minutes what you actually said. Ms. Occhionero said to Mr. Bolek that he is a very dishonest person. Ms. Beramelli asked Council if they are going on record saying that they are not supporting the schools because that is what she is understanding!

Dana Matthews, the President of the Nordonia Hills Educators Association stated that it is very sad to her that we have a juvenile problem in this area. We need good families and good parents to help, the educators can't do it on their own. The next step that Nordonia Schools will take will be a minimum school day of 4 hours if the levies keep failing. She said that the future of our cities and our states hinges on schools. She said that she is not just a stupid teacher that spends nine months a year with kids. She then read a quote out of Crains Business; "These defeated levies coupled with the estimated in three billion in cuts imposed by the Kasich administrations proposed budget, means unprecedented additional pressure on Ohio Schools. And the problem is that everyone with half a brain, knows that our state's future hinges on how we prepare our children". She said that she knows

that everyone here, has half a brain. Ms. Matthews said that she is asking Council and Mayor Milani to stand up for their schools.

Mr. Jeff Luce a resident of Northfield Center stated that the only way to get the necessary operating funds is a levy. He is asking for some public support. He said that he has heard rumors that some people that were given levy signs in Sagamore Hills, were told to not put the signs in their yard. Mr. Bryan said we cannot put campaign signs on Village property. Mayor Milani said that everything begins down in Columbus and the Village was cut 20% this year, which is roughly \$60,000, which amounts to a cop and a half. Mayor Milani said that for the past 12 years the funding for education has been illegal. Mr. Luce said it is was deemed unconstitutional not illegal. Mayor Milani said it wasn't popular with his residents for him to be marching up and down Rte 82, but he said he felt there was a need.

Konni Stagliano, a teacher from Nordonnia Schools said that she was very thankful to all of the Nordonnia teachers for how her daughter graduated from Nordonnia with her scholarships. Ms. Stagliano stated that the gifted program has been cut and that a family of one of her student's moved due to that fact. She had another student's family send her a letter, stating that their child was pulled from Ledgeview and enrolled in St. Barnabas, due to the cuts, until they sell their house and move to a better school district. She said that she was standing here asking for support, and what they can do as educators, and community members to get Council and Mayor to support the levy.

Mayor Milani thanked everyone for coming to the Council meeting and speaking regarding the school district levy. He said that he is a graduate of Nordonnia High School, as well as his son, and has been involved in the past. Mayor Milani asked if it was his understanding that they will be putting this back on the ballot again. They said yes, in August as an emergency levy for about 7 mills. Mayor Milani said that he would be lying, if he didn't say what was happening in Maple Heights and Garfield Heights could happen here! All they are saying is that if the residents see the Mayor and Council support the levy, then they will support it. Mr. Bolek stated that the average household income in Northfield Village is around \$30,000, and of the four communities, we are poorest. We have a ton of vacant properties, a ton of people on fixed incomes that go to food pantries. Mr. Luce said that they will be back next Council meeting for an answer if they will support the levy or not. Mayor Milani said he has never been afraid to answer and Mr. Luce agreed. Mr. Luce said he is asking what they need to do, to get the political support. Mayor Milani thanked everyone again for coming out to speak at the meeting. Mayor Milani said that he has lived here for 51 years. His son chose to go to Nordonnia, due to the fact it is where his father, uncle, and grandfather went to school. Mayor Milani said that he cannot go into people's pockets and drag it out of them. But he said what he can ask for the leaders to come out, as he has done in the past, marching up and down Rte. 8 with Mayor Kuchta. Mayor Milani said he does agree with Mr. Bolek that out of the four towns, we are the poorest. Mayor Milani said that what he thinks happened last time with the levy, is that the residents feel that they just passed a levy for the football field and now they are asking for more.

Law Director, Brad Bryan thanked everyone for coming but said they were getting a little bit off of the protocol. Mayor Milani said that he appreciates everyone for coming out to speak and they are more than welcome to come back.

Mayor Milani reported that the second internet cafe opened over the weekend, by Wing Warehouse. He asked Brad Bryan how many more cafe's were in waiting. Mr. Bryan said that there are three working to get open. He is not sure about a fourth one if they still intending on open because he hasn't heard much from them. Mayor Milani said that Jason Walters and Lisa Rodriguez sent out notices to all Village business owners regarding the upkeep of their sidewalks. Jason will keep up on this situation. Mayor Milani said kudos to Jason and Lisa for handling that situation.

Finance Director, Robert Riedel asked for a motion to accept the Financial Statements and Mayor's Court report for April 2011 as submitted. Motion was made by Mrs. Bowen and seconded by Mrs. Greenlee and carried with 5 aye votes.

Village Engineer, Richard Wasosky gave his report. (See attached) The small government grants are being awarded this month, and he said that he will call them tomorrow and let them know that we are giving the money back and it will be given to someone else. Mrs. Greenlee said unfortunately we can't afford it. Mr. Bolek said the last time Council met, Jason Walters spoke to them about the sewer ditch on Ledge Rd by Peppers. There is an issue of it being low and the road is soft, and when they try to dig it out, the road collapses. He asked if they could do a project where the property owners of the apartments and the shopping center property be assessed to do this project. Mr. Bolek stated that Mr. Walters said that the plans were done a long time ago and it is just a problem. Mr. Wasosky said that the plans are from the 1980's and the project never went forward. The plans included the sewer all the way down the north side of the road down to Milford and that would cure the problem. Ledge Rd is eligible for the permissible license taxing, but there is only a couple thousand dollars in there because it was spent on Route 8. Mr. Riedel said if the Route 8 project is coming up in 2015 maybe we need to save some of that monies, and Mr. Wasosky said that the state is responsible for the paving. Mr. Bolek said if we get the majority of that frontage paid for by the property owners since there aren't many homes there. Mr. Wasosky said if we can get the property owners to agree on the assessments then that will be fine.

Mr. Bryan said you can do it, you just have to follow the procedures. Mr. Wasosky said just up to the school the cost is about \$100,000.00

Police Lt. Mackie gave the report. (See attached)

Mrs. Greenlee, of the Planning Commission had no report. Mayor Milani asked if the two new officers are active. Lt. Mackie said that over the next week they will receive an accelerated program to get them into the schedule since their highly experienced officers. Mayor Milani said that he knew that Chief Wentz and Lt. Mackie have been working 6-7 days per week and he thanked them for that. Mayor Milani asked Lt. Mackie if the people at Lee Eaton have worked with us on the parking issue. Lt. Mackie said no, but they are working on the issue. Lt. Mackie said that he spoke with Chief Golden this afternoon and he has been working with the school and has had some conversations with them, but we are as good as we are going to get, for the remainder of the school year. Mayor Milani said that he has heard that some of the parents are arriving 45 minutes to an hour early for pick-up. Lt. Mackie said yes. They are working on the line up situation so that children don't have to walk through the cars waiting for pick-up. Mr. Bolek said then it becomes a parking lot on Ledge Rd. Lt. Mackie said he has been working a lot with officer Rizzo and Chief Golden to solve some of the situations. Mrs. Greenlee stated if Norhfield Center has the same problem, because they have had backups to the library. Lt. Mackie said he couldn't answer that. He knew that they were in the process of working on that. Mr. Bolek thanked Chief Wentz for the work that he has done and the time he has put in regarding the vandalism in Ward D. Everyone is going on the concept that it is a juvenile and in all reality, it might not be. Lt. Mackie said that it might be. Mr. Bolek said that you can tell whoever is doing this, has a real problem with the police department. Lt. Mackie said it looks like it is retaliatory. Mr. Bryan said that some of it could be imitating what has gone on in years past. Lt. Mackie said he will be working with Lisa Rodriguez to put the reward information on the Village website. The police is also working with students at the schools, and also circulating reward fliers to the local businesses. Lt. Mackie said the police department has been being proactive regarding this issue. Mr. Bolek said that he has spoken with Jason Walters regarding the vandalism of the signs. Mr. Walters said that they had to purchase new signs, because when they tried to clean the signs, it destroyed the reflective material on the sign. Lt. Mackie said he is looking at some outdoor cameras to setup, but money is a concern. He stated that they are working hard with Jason and the service department. Lt. Mackie said that there is about an hour to an hour and a half window of time that we have to catch them. Mr. Bolek said that the purple car goes up and down Lowrie visiting someone.

Mrs. Bowen, of the Finance committee said that there will be a Finance Meeting on May 25, 2011 at 6:30pm.

Mrs. Selle, of the Roads and Public Works Committee stated the gates are now being closed at the service department after hours. The service department is working on replacing all of the vandalized signs over the next couple of days. They are doing some grinding and patching on Kennedy. The sidewalks along Rte 8 is going well.

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

Mr. Nehez, of the Building and Grounds Committee said that the garden club has been working at the fire station and there is talk of them planting a couple more trees.

Mr. Noack, of Wages and Working Committee was absent. Mayor Milani reported that Councilman Noack is in Bedford hospital waiting to be transferred to the Veterans Hospital at Wade Park.

Mr. Bryan read Proclamation 2011-38, an emergency Proclamation honoring and celebrating Renell Noack on her departure as District 8 President of the VFW posts. A motion for passage was made by Mrs. Greenlee and seconded by Mr. Bolek. Carried with 5 ayes. Mrs. Greenlee said she is going to deliver the Proclamation to Mrs. Noack in Newton Falls at the surprise gathering.

There was no old business. In the new business, Mr. Bolek said that on his way to the meeting tonight the Snell property sidewalk was being swept, but there are quite a few that are being ignore. He said it does look better in quite a few places. Mayor Milani was that he was surprised to see the dentist next door cleaning up his sidewalk. Mr. Nehez applauded the people who were at the meeting for standing up for a job that they love and giving the community more information on the levy, he stated he is willing to listen. Mr. Bolek and Mrs. Greenlee both said they don't think that anyone here is against them. Mr. Bolek said that the public doesn't like these special elections, the school levies should be with the primary elections, so that more people will show up to vote. Mr. Bolek said until the community gets behind this, it isn't going to pass. Mr. Bolek said the problem isn't the teachers, they give their best every day, it is an administration problem. Mr. Bolek and Mr. Nehez said that they wouldn't mind sitting down with them and getting more information regarding the levy.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:03PM following a motion by Mrs. Greenlee and seconded by Mrs. Bowen. The motion carried with 5 ayes.

Respectfully Submitted by;

Attest:

Lisa M. Rodriguez, Administrative Clerk

President of Council

Clerk of Council