

The Village of Northfield

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

November 9, 2011

Council President, Beatrice Greenlee called the meeting to order at 7:30PM following the Pledge of Allegiance.

The roll was called by Robert Riedel with the following present: Beatrice Greenlee, Karyn Selle, Jesse Nehez, John Schlueter, John Bolek and Linda Bowen. Law Director Brad Bryan, Village Engineer Richard Wasosky, Police Chief Mark Wentz and Service, Building and Zoning Superintendent Jason Walters were present.

Beatrice Greenlee congratulated Councilman Jesse Nehez on his electoral win as the new Mayor of Northfield Village. John Bolek congratulated Beatrice Greenlee and Linda Bowen for their win on their Council seats.

A motion to approve the minutes of the October 26, 2011 Regular Council meeting was made by John Bolek and Linda Bowen seconded the motion and it carried with 5 ayes. Karyn Selle abstained.

There was no business of petitions, memorials and remonstrances.

Karyn Selle asked that if a Village resident age 69 yrs and his wife age 58 would fall within the senior snow plowing program if they have a doctors note since it states if the person is capable. Jason Walters stated that they first have to fall into the category of 65 yrs of age and we removed the disabled part. Jason Walters stated that it can be up to Mayor and Council on a case by case basis, but everyone did agree when I presented this during the last Council meeting. Jason Walters stated that he doesn't make those decisions. What can be done, is that if the resident doesn't qualify, then they can discuss it with Mayor and Council. Robert Riedel stated that Council agreed to have the doctor's excuse removed from the new application, because they wanted to handle case by case. Karyn Selle stated that it still says "capable", and Jason Walters and Robert Riedel both stated that it states also 65 yrs and older. Brad Bryan stated that you can give sole authority to the Mayor. Beatrice Greenlee stated, then it will be at the discretion of the Mayor? Jason Walters stated that Council and Mayor come up with a committee to handle the exceptions, but Jason Walters stated you will be opening up a can of worms. John Bolek stated that maybe they should create another form for the seniors who don't qualify, but would like to appeal. Beatrice Greenlee stated that they will put this into a committee and create the form.

Finance Director, Robert Riedel asked for a motion to accept the Mayor's Court reports for September and October 2011 as submitted. Motion was made by Beatrice Greenlee and seconded by Linda Bowen. John Bolek asked why there was such a big drop in collections. Robert Riedel stated to John Bolek that he would have to ask the clerk of courts. Carried with 6 aye votes.

Village Engineer, Richard Wasosky gave his report. (See attached) John Bolek stated that on Ledge Rd the Peppers trucks have destroyed it and we have a hard time plowing it. John Bolek stated that years ago, they used to have the semi-trucks go down Northfield

Road and into the development and not Ledge Road when Pick-n-Pay was there. John Bolek said otherwise we need to tell the owner of Peppers, he needs to pay for the repairs of Ledge Rd. Richard Wasosky stated that we would have to prove that they are doing the damage. John Bolek stated that even if the Village just plows, it becomes a sheet of ice. Jason Walters stated that they can't even plow it. Richard Wasosky stated that the solution would be to have a concrete base. John Bolek stated that the road has to be done, it can't wait any more. Richard Wasosky stated if you don't have the money, your choice is to plane it and put an overlay on it. John Bolek stated is that at \$9,000 fix? Richard Wasosky stated about \$50,000. John Bolek thanked Rich.

Beatrice Greenlee thanked Police Chief Mark Wentz and Anita Swensen for the outstanding Halloween party. Chief Wentz stated that the head count was around 498 over the three hour period. John Bolek stated that as the community ages, and there are less and less children, has there been any talk about not having Beggars Night and just having a party? Chief Wentz stated that is the one holiday that is enjoyed by all. Chief Wentz thanked Anita Swensen for all of her help and stated that it was a tremendous success. Renovations are almost complete on the police department. Chief Wentz stated that they are still looking at applicants for the part-time police officer, which would give him a total of 17 officers. Beatrice Greenlee stated that we should have a party when it is completed. Chief Wentz stated that they couldn't have done it if those companies didn't donate their time and materials. John Bolek asked if we did pay for the renovations what would the cost have been? Chief Wentz stated around \$50,000 and I can't thank them enough.

Law Director Brad Bryan had no report, he just wanted to congratulate Jesse Nehez on winning the Mayoral election. John Bolek asked if we were any further along on the foot and a half property by Pitluk Preserve? Brad Bryan said that there are some things that she needs to do, before it is presented to the Planning Commission, then brought to Council.

Service, Building and Zoning Superintendent Jason Walters stated that they started leaf pickups and the motor for the lift broke. Got it fixed and started this morning when the electrical went. Then they took it to Doheny and had it fixed again. The engine is still good, but the small things are what is going wrong. Jason Walters stated that two more catch basins were done. They found a huge sink hole on Huntington by Crankcase. The cost of the plate is \$1,900 for one small 1", 8'x10'. John Bolek asked if it was possible to have a company come and pump sand into it? Jason Walters stated no, the pipe needs to be fixed. Jason said that he isn't budgeted for this plate but has to purchase it. Jason said that he is going to band-aid it for the winter and spend \$1,900 for the plate. John Bolek asked if they could take a torch and write the Village's name across it. Karyn Selle asked about pricing and financing on a salt truck so that we may get an idea? Robert Riedel said that union talks aren't done yet so how can he get a budget to everyone, and as he stated at the last council meeting, a quarter of a million dollars needs to be cut out of this years numbers, for next year. Jason Walters said that it is about \$80,000 at state bided prices. Robert Riedel said that if they wait until next year when the other truck is paid off. Jason Walters said that if we are in that bad of shape, then we need to not talk about leaf pick up and senior snow plowing, and start to cut part time employees. He said that he can name other cuts that can be made. Karyn Selle stated to Robert Riedel that do we know 100% that we can't get a loan? Robert Riedel said that he can't give anyone any numbers until you let him know what is going on for next year. Robert Riedel stated that the wages are the biggest part of the budget and if we don't have those numbers yet, how can I give you an estimate of what you have available. John Bolek stated that with the numbers we encumbered in this years budget, we didn't put an additional \$100,000 or \$200,000 aside? Robert Riedel stated no. John Bolek stated that authorized distribution on all of the revenues that we were expecting this year. Robert Riedel stated that we are going to be down on the revenue we estimated, and has been telling everyone this, for months. Jason Walters stated he has been telling them for three years that he needs a salt truck, and he said he has been told every year to take the salt truck out of the budget. John Bolek stated that at some point Jason is going to take that truck out of service because it just is not safe for his guys to ride in, bottom line, it isn't safe to put his guys in it. John Bolek stated that it is our job to find out how to pay for it. Jason Walters stated that he is at the point where he is trying to run his department and is in charge of the sewer, buildings, lands, storm and sanitary sewer, roads, building and zoning department. Jason stated that he brings these items to who needs to approve it and he doesn't know what else to do. Jason Walters said that for three years he has been told to take the salt truck out of his budget and he has brought this to Council's attention many times and it has fallen on deaf ears. Karyn Selle stated that at one time they discussed renting out the vactor truck. Jason Walters stated no, it is a dangerous piece of equipment and you need training. John Bolek stated that what they were trying to say, is sell that machinery and use the money to get the salt truck. Jason Walters stated that they should ask Robert Riedel about what they used to spend on AKE to handle the lines. Robert Riedel agreed with Jason and stated that they used to spend a couple thousand each time we called them. Jason Walters stated that on the average they have spent \$50,000-\$80,000 per year with AKE at one time and over the past couple years they haven't even spent \$10,000 over the past three years with them. Jason stated that the vactor machine has already paid for itself. Jason said to give his guys the equipment and they will work. Jason stated that he has great equipment, and his department has come a long way with equipment. Robert Riedel asked Jason if he had a salt truck? Jason stated that as of today, he has no salt truck. Jason said that he has the F550 that was in the accident, has a small hopper on it that he uses for the parking lots. Jason said that if he had to use that small hopper to do the whole Village, his time would go from 2 hrs to complete with two trucks, to 6 hours with the small hopper on one truck. Robert asked if Jason could just do the intersections? Jason stated that he pretty much is down to spot salting. Karyn Selle asked if Council could have a work session next Wednesday to discuss this vehicle. John Bolek asked if we were to purchase a salt truck, would it be a 5 year lease? Robert stated yes, normally it is a 5 year lease. Brad Bryan stated that approximately \$20,000 a year. Council agreed to have the meeting on Wednesday, November 16, 2011 at 7:30pm to discuss the salt truck purchase.

Beatrice Greenlee of the Planning Commission had no report. Jason stated that he received a call from a firm regarding the property on Meadow Ln. and plans will be coming to us soon. Rich stated that he did receive an email this morning regarding plans for that property.

Linda Bowen, of the Finance committee stated that there will be a Finance Committee meeting at 6:30pm on Monday, November 21, 2011.

Karyn Selle, of the Roads and Public Works Committee had no report.

John Bolek, of the Health and Welfare Committee had no report. John Bolek stated that he is still trying to get in touch with the lady from the health department so that she may come and speak.

Jesse Nehez, of the Building and Grounds Committee stated that Police Chief Mark Wentz did an excellent job with the police department renovation.

John Schlueter, of the Wages and Working Committee stated that the service department contract negotiations has been postponed back to the middle of December. Brad Bryan stated that the contract was extended. John Bolek asked why Mayor Milani and Law Director Brad Bryan would sign a contract without bringing it to Council for approval? John Bolek stated that

the Mayor doesn't have the authority to enter into a contract without Council approval. There is no one on this Council that would have voted no, but he wanted to know why it wasn't brought to the attention of Council. Brad Bryan stated that it is an extension to the negotiation period to avoid the strike, and nothing has changed and that this is common practice. The contract stays status quo. Jason Walters stated that there were two sides that were not going to come together at all. Brad Bryan stated that all it is that we are agreeing too, is to maintain status quo without a contract for this period of time. John Bolek stated that he understands that situation, but he is on a committee and no one told him. John said that there is no communication from the Mayor. Mayor Milani and Brad Bryan signed off on that, and no one told him, he wanted to know why. John Bolek stated that the Mayor doesn't have the legal authority to do that. John Bolek stated that it is wrong, and probably illegal. Brad Bryan stated that he disagrees, and his understanding was that it was put in everyones mailbox. John Bolek stated that it wasn't put in his mailbox and still isn't in there, so someone is lying to you Brad! Jason Walters asked Councilman Schlueter if he was aware, and John Schlueter stated yes. Karyn Selle stated that she agrees with John Bolek, we need communication.

Beatrice Greenlee of the Fire and Safety Committee stated that the fire department is doing a food drive for the food bank in the Village.

Mrs. Greenlee had Brad Bryan read Ordinance 2011-61, third reading. An emergency Ordinance amending Chapter 1280 of the Codified Ordinances related to political signs. Brad Bryan stated that his recommendation is to turn it over to the Planning Commission. John Bolek stated that 90% of the signs on Northfield Rd. are in violation, on what we are asking to approve. If we are not going to enforce the 10' setback on the right of way then we need to do some work on this legislation. Jason stated that he had received many calls regarding the mayoral signs for both parties. John Bolek stated that he feels this needs to be tabled. Brad Bryan read Proclamation 2011-66, an emergency Resolution confirming the Mayor's appointment of Sam Ingrassia to the position of advanced maintenance man with the Service Dept. A motion to suspend the three reading rule was made by Beatrice Greenlee and seconded by Karyn Selle and a motion for passage was made by Karyn Selle and seconded by Beatrice Greenlee and it carried with 6 ayes. Brad Bryan read Proclamation 2011-67, an emergency Resolution confirming the Mayor's appointment of John DeBrouse to the position of part-time maintenance 4 with the Service Dept. A motion to suspend the three reading rule was made by John Bolek and seconded by Beatrice Greenlee and a motion for passage was made by John Bolek and seconded by Karyn Selle and it carried with 6 ayes. Brad Bryan read Proclamation 2011-68, an emergency Resolution confirming the Mayor's appointment of Charles Timm to the position of part-time maintenance 3 with the Service Dept. A motion to suspend the three reading rule was made by John Bolek and seconded by Karyn Selle and a motion for passage was made by John Bolek and seconded by Beatrice Greenlee and it carried with 6 ayes. Brad Bryan read Proclamation 2011-69 an emergency Resolution confirming the Mayor's appointment of Dave Predovic to the position of temporary, part-time, seasonal employee with the Service Dept. A motion to suspend the three reading rule was made by John Bolek and seconded by Beatrice Greenlee and a motion for passage was made by John Bolek and seconded by Karyn Selle and it carried with 6 ayes.

In the old business Linda Bowen stated that they are receiving completed applications for the block watch. Chief Wentz stated that they will post some of the fliers in the local businesses to make the residents aware of it. Jesse Nehez asked if the signs were up on the streets? Linda Bowen stated that some were up. Chief Wentz stated that on the longer streets, you might have to put up more signs. They will be the size of the "no parking signs". Linda Bowen stated that the karate place offered to use their business for meetings, if they can't utilize the Village hall.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:55pm. following a motion by Beatrice Greenlee and seconded by Linda Bowen. The motion carried with 6 ayes.

Respectfully Submitted by;

Attest:

Lisa M. Rodriguez, Administrative Clerk

President of Council

Clerk of Council