

The Village of Northfield

FEBRUARY 26, 2020 REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Nehez at 7:30 p.m., and the Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mayor Nehez.

The **ROLL CALL** was read by Ms. Potvin. The following officials were present: Councilpersons Nick Magistrelli, Keith Czerr, Jennifer Domzalski, Renell Noack, and Gary Vojtush. Also present for the meeting were Law Director Brad Bryan, Police Chief John Zolgus, and Finance Director/Clerk of Council Jennifer Potvin.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: A motion to approve the Minutes for the February 12, 2020 Council Meeting was made by Ms. Noack and seconded by Ms. Domzalski. All were in favor of approval; none were opposed. The February 12, 2020 Minutes were approved.

PRESENTATION OF PETITIONS, MEMORIALS, AND REMONSTRANCES: None.

REPORTS OF MUNICIPAL OFFICERS:

Mayor Jesse Nehez – No report.

Finance Director, Jennifer Potvin – Ms. Potvin stated she is currently finalizing the proposed 2020 budget and preparing for meetings with the department heads. Ms. Potvin mentioned if anyone had any questions or concerns, to please let her know. Ms. Potvin stated it is an audit year for the Village, and that audit will take place later this year. Mr. Bryan asked Ms. Potvin when she would be ready to hold the Council budget meetings with the department heads. Ms. Potvin stated she could be ready for them next week. Mr. Bryan stated the plan is to have a first reading on the budget at the March 11, 2020 Council Meeting and suggested the meetings take place sometime prior to the March 11 Council Meeting. Ms. Noack suggested a Fire and Safety budget meeting on March 11, 2020 at 6:30 p.m. All Councilmembers agreed they could attend at that time. Mr. Walters confirmed Tuesday March 3, 2020 at 6:30 p.m. for the Service Department budget meeting.

Law Director, Brad Bryan – Mr. Bryan stated the bid opening for the Fire Station Addition and Renovation Project took place on Monday at 4:00 p.m. Council has been provided with copies of the bid result sheet. The low bid was over \$600,000 below the architect's estimate, which is good news. The architect is performing due diligence on the low bidder and will have a recommendation for Council soon. Mr. Bryan stated the bid should be awarded after the architect's recommendation is received and the budget discussions have progressed.

DEPARTMENT HEADS:

Police Department, Chief John Zolgus – Report Attached. Chief Zolgus announced, as of February 29, 2020, Officer Catania will be retiring from the Department. Officer Catania has been with the Village for eighteen years and worked part-time on the weekends. Officer Catania was loved by the community.

Fire Department, Chief Jason Buss – Chief Buss will be at the next Regular Council Meeting.

Service Department, Jason Walters – Mr. Walters stated he is finishing up his budget requests. Mr. Walters suggested that Council should make a decision as to how the Village would like to proceed

with the purchase of the playground equipment. Mr. Walters stated the playground equipment in Parma is available for purchase for \$5,000, and its value is worth \$5,000. His low end guesstimate of the cost of purchasing, tearing down, transporting, and reassembling the equipment is around \$40,000, which is cheaper than the quote received for the new equipment. Mr. Walters stated comparing the equipment is not an apples for apples comparison, since the Parma equipment has wear and tear and the playground structures are completely different equipment. Mr. Walters advised he feels the Village should purchase new equipment. There are a lot of variables that come along with the Village actually tearing down and transporting the previously owned equipment. The new equipment for which the Village has a quote is comparable with the existing structure at Smith Park with the wow factor of the big tower. Mr. Walters stated the equipment from Parma doesn't have that wow factor that the children here enjoy. Mr. Walters feels there are a lot of concerns with purchasing used equipment, and he would rather purchase new. He understands the decision will be determined by the final budget.

Mr. Vojtush stated he has been in contact with Miracle Recreation Company, who was the original company who sold and installed the equipment in Parma. Mr. Vojtush stated he called two companies that Miracle Recreation uses to install equipment and is working on a quote from those companies. Mr. Vojtush stated the equipment was in great condition, and he would provide the numbers to Council as soon as he received them.

Ms. Noack stated she and Chief Zoligus went to look at the used equipment over the weekend, and it is an excellent value for the Village. Ms. Noack stated she would like to look at the budget and equipment that can accommodate special needs and compare those costs after the budget is in place.

Mr. Vojtush stated he was recently on vacation and came across some excellent playground equipment for special needs children. He emailed the playground equipment company that supplies the special needs equipment for playgrounds for information.

Mr. Magistrelli stated the Village is moving along at the right pace and not just jumping into it. He added he is comfortable with taking the time to review all the options.

REPORTS OF THE MUNICIPAL BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS:

Planning Commission, Alan Higgs – Mr. Bryan stated there will be a meeting on March 18, 2020 at 7:30 p.m. to approve the plat for the development on the old Snell properties. Mr. Bryan added there shouldn't be any issues with the plat. The lots are being consolidated. Mayor Nehez stated this is the site for the future Dollar General store.

Recreation Board, Mayor Nehez – Mr. Nehez stated there will be a meeting on Wednesday March 4, 2020 at 6:30 p.m. at Village Hall to discuss Easter activities for the adults and children.

Cemetery Board – No report.

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES:

Finance Committee, Mr. Magistrelli - Mr. Magistrelli thanked Ms. Potvin for the preparations for this evening's Finance Committee Meeting. Mr. Magistrelli added there have been a lot of conversations about playground equipment and budgets. Now is the exciting time of the year, and he thanked his Committee for being able to attend and have a great meeting.

Roads/Public Works, Ms. Domzalski – No report.

Health and Welfare, Mr. Czerr – No report.

Wages and Working Conditions, Mr. Vojtush – No report.

Fire and Safety, Ms. Noack – Ms. Noack stated the Committee held a work session this evening to review and discuss the police services proposal from Northfield Center. No decisions have been made.

Buildings and Grounds, Mr. Hipps – No report.

LEGISLATION:

2020-08, An Emergency Ordinance Amending Section 258.04(a) of the Codified Ordinances Relating to Holidays for Full-Time Employees (First Reading) A motion to suspend the three reading rule was made by Ms. Domzalski and seconded by Mr. Magistrelli. All were in favor; none were opposed. The motion was adopted. A motion for passage was made by Mr. Vojtush and seconded by Mr. Magistrelli. All were in favor; none were opposed. The Ordinance was adopted.

2020-09 An Emergency Resolution Authorizing the Mayor to Enter into an Agreement with HMM Restoration Ltd. for the Village Hall East Wall and Stairs Area Project (First Reading) A motion to suspend the three reading rule was made by Mr. Vojtush and seconded by Mr. Magistrelli. All were in favor; none were opposed. The motion was adopted. A motion for passage was made by Mr. Vojtush and seconded by Ms. Noack. All were in favor; none were opposed. The Resolution was adopted.

OLD BUSINESS; NEW BUSINESS; ANNOUNCEMENTS: Mayor Nehez stated he is strongly against contracting with Northfield Center Township to provide it with police protection services. He stated there is no information that would make him change his mind. Mr. Vojtush stated he was not comfortable with staffing Northfield Center with just one officer. That level of staffing poses a risk for the officer. Ms. Domzalski pointed out the Township proposal pays \$150,000 less than the Sheriff's Department is currently being paid to perform the work. Mr. Czerr stated he thinks Chief Zoligus is a better judge of what to do than the Mayor or Council. Chief Zoligus stated he feels the Village could handle it, and there could be potential profit, but he is ok with whatever the governing body of the Village wants to do. Mr. Magistrelli stated if the Village were to ever consider it, the numbers on the proposal are low. Chief Zoligus stated the Village could make a counter offer. Ms. Noack asked if she should reach out to Northfield Center with a counter offer or should Council just decide if it is interested in pursuing this matter at all. Mr. Bryan agreed with Ms. Noack that a decision needs to be made to either counter or decide there is no interest at all.

Mayor Nehez stated he agreed with Mr. Vojtush that one officer is not enough, and he would not send one officer out there by himself. Ms. Noack stated she would counter with requiring at least two officers and amending the budget. Ms. Noack stated she would want to relook at the numbers after a year. Ms. Domzalski stated there is a lot of missing information that is needed to make a decision. Mr. Bryan stated Macedonia reviewed the contract and wasn't interested in doing it for the price the Sheriff's Department is currently being paid. Mr. Vojtush added that it would cost an additional \$200,000 to add an additional officer salary wise. Mr. Bryan stated there are significant costs that the Village would have to incur that aren't even calculated in the Township's estimate.

Mayor Nehez stated we are always willing to help our neighbors, but he has to do what is best for the Village residents. Mr. Vojtush stated dispatch would be responsible for additional calls, and the Village would incur more costs for dispatch. Those costs need to be considered as well. Ms. Domzalski stated she would be interested to see what the counter amount should be and then decide if the Village should make an offer. Mr. Bryan stated the Village's insurance premiums would also go up, and there would be additional expenses if the Village got sued for something that happened in Northfield Center. Mayor Nehez stated Northfield Center, Macedonia, and Sagamore Hills jumped into a Fire agreement. Council should consider the problems they are having with that agreement. Mayor Nehez added he would not be willing to jump into an agreement period. Mr. Czerr stated he thinks the Village should

consider it, look at the numbers, and see if it would be advantageous to help them out, even if it cost more money to help them.

Ms. Noack stated she would like to come back with one counter. Ms. Domzalski stated she would like to prepare a counter for Council to visualize and discuss before deciding what to do. Mr. Bryan stated that seeing then numbers could help you decide if you would want to submit a bid or not. Ms. Domzalski stated that way we can review the numbers and see exactly what everything costs and then decide if the Village wants to submit a bid or not. Ms. Noack stated they have a deadline in April and asked whether Council wanted to hold another work session. Mr. Bryan stated he and Chief Zoligus could get together and come up with a breakdown of what it would cost to provide the service. Mayor Nehez stated he thinks it's very noble of Council, but he cannot do it under any circumstances. Mr. Bryan stated the Mayor and Council need to decide whether taking on this additional responsibility is in the best interests of the Village or not.

Ms. Noack stated she would like to thank Lisa Rodriguez and Tiffany Novak at the Service Department for all the help they have been providing with the tickets and flyers for the egg hunt. Ms. Noack added the Recreation Board will be able to finalize everything at its next meeting.

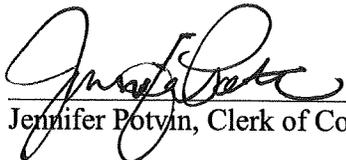
Mayor Nehez thanked Ms. Noack for all her hard work with the Banner Program. Ms. Noack responded that she spoke with Lisa Rodriguez today, and people have been enquiring constantly about the banners. She stated if people wish to participate, please do so soon, because the project deadline is approaching and space is limited.

Mayor Nehez thanked Mr. Vojtush for coming to the Service Department earlier in the day and helping out with the Easter Egg Hunt.

Executive Session, Mayor Nehez – None.

ADJOURNMENT: A motion to adjourn was made by Ms. Domzalski and seconded by Ms. Noack. All were in favor; none were opposed. The meeting was adjourned at 8:12 p.m.

Approved by Council.



Jennifer Potvin, Clerk of Council