



**State of Illinois  
County of Cook  
Township of Northfield  
Northfield Township Board of Trustees Meeting January 12, 2010**

**Attendance**

The following board members were present:

Jill Brickman, Supervisor  
Brendan Appel, Trustee (arrived at 7:09)  
Carol Blustein, Trustee  
Karen McCormick, Trustee  
Mary Reynolds, Trustee

**Also Present**

Laura Fine, Northfield Township Clerk  
Patricia Damisch, Northfield Township Assessor  
Mary Lou Kratochwill, Northfield Township Staff  
Wally Kehr, Northfield Township Road District  
Eric Patt, Northfield Township Attorney  
Joseph Stanfa, T.O.C.C. President  
Carol Teschky, T.O.C.C.  
Bob Porter, T.O.C.C.

Supervisor Brickman called the meeting to order at 7:01 PM and led us in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Supervisor Brickman noted that although Trustee Appel was not present, a quorum was available to conduct the meeting.

**Approval of the Minutes**

Trustee Reynolds moved to approve the December, 2009 minutes.  
Trustee Blustein seconded the motion.

Trustee Blustein asked to amend the minutes to include, under 'Road and Bridge Bills,' that she asked Commissioner Amarantos how many linear miles \$385,000 for the Road Improvement Paving Project covered. He responded that he did not know.

Trustee Blustein also asked to reword page 3 paragraph 2 to 'Supervisor Brickman said the board should get back on task.'

Trustee Reynolds and Trustee Blustein accepted the amendments to their motion.

A voice vote to accept the minutes as amended was unanimous.

### **Township Officials of Cook County**

Joe Stanfa, President of T.O.C.C. and Bob Porter and Carol Teschky, also from T.O.C.C., attended the meeting to encourage Northfield Township to renew its membership with T.O.C.C. Supervisor Brickman explained the township did not renew its membership in previous years due to tight budgets. She added the board was able to benefit from the educational programs T.O.C.C. offered at the non-member rate. She said previous board members had issues with some of the T.O.C.C. meetings. She said many times, the meetings began around 8:00 PM, and they did not work well with people's schedules.

Supervisor Brickman noted Trustee Appel's arrival at 7:09 PM.

Mr. Stanfa explained T.O.C.C. is working in response to the issue of late meetings. He said the spring meeting will be held on a Saturday. He said T.O.C.C. is exploring new ways to benefit its members. For example, it has gone green with its new directory and e-mail communications to members. He said by using e-mail, it is much easier to disperse information to members and everyone gets the same information. He said we need to have as much information in our hands as possible so we can make good decisions for ourselves as a board and the people we represent. The organization is also creating new educational programs with expert speakers to serve its townships' needs.

Trustee McCormick asked about the rates for T.O.C.C. membership. Mr. Porter explained the membership fee varies by the size of the township, and the rate for Northfield is \$2,000 a year. The membership year is the same as the township fiscal year. Dues notices are sent out in February and are payable in the next fiscal year, usually April or May.

### **Recess Town Meeting Open Sewer Meeting Approval of the Sewer Bills**

Trustee Reynolds moved to approve the Sewer Bills.  
Trustee Blustein seconded the motion.

Trustee McCormick asked about the second Berryman Equipment Company bill on the Certificates of Payables for January 2010. The \$10,669 charge is for Emergency Services on the following dates: 12.25, 1.02 and 10.6. Trustee Blustein noted in the narrative included in the meeting packet it says January 6, not October 6.

Trustee Reynolds motioned to approve the sewer bills as corrected showing 1.06 instead of 10.6

Trustee Blustein seconded the corrected motion.

Roll Call:

Ayes: Trustee Appel, Trustee Blustein, Trustee McCormick, Trustee Reynolds, Supervisor Brickman (5)

Nays: (0)

Motion carried 5-0

### **Sewer Collection**

Trustee Brickman noted the .17 in interest.

### **Old Business**

#### **New Business**

Supervisor Brickman commended Wally Kehr for his hard work on Christmas Day and the weekend. Mr. Kehr explained that on Christmas, the pump at the Greenwood station sucked up the power cord and cut the wires. Township personnel had to manually pump at the station. He said this situation was a complete fluke, and when he talked to Berryman, he found out Berryman had never seen anything like this before.

Supervisor Brickman said that thanks to the efforts of the workers, the system users never noticed the problem. She thanked Mr. Kehr and asked that the board's appreciation be passed along to the other pumpers and their families.

### **Reconvene Town Meeting**

Trustee Blustein moved to approve the Town Fund Bills.

Trustee McCormick seconded the motion.

Trustee McCormick asked if the IMRF contributions will be paid out in a lump sum to make up for investment losses. Supervisor Brickman said that they have not yet discussed it, and it will be done in the next fiscal year. She added a lump sum being paid out in one year rather than over a number of years would make sense. She said there will likely be additional costs in future years, and that would compound the problem if we spread the payments over time.

Trustee Reynolds asked if the fee for the Costco membership is for one or more members. Supervisor Brickman said it is for the Executive Membership, which gives you cash back. Trustee Appel noted that the rebate checks from Costco are distributed in February. He said we will have to see if it pays off to keep the Executive Membership or if we should reduce the membership.

Trustee Reynolds noted the legal services for November and December. Supervisor Brickman said there was a bill the township did not receive, so there was a past due

amount from the previous month. The board approved \$150 in December, but the actual amount was \$262.50. Since the township had not received the bill, the board only approved the \$150 bill that we had. The board is now approving the additional \$112.50 not billed the prior month and \$352.50 from this month. Attorney Patt added an itemized bill of charges is sent to the township every month.

Roll Call:

Ayes: Trustee Appel, Trustee Blustein, Trustee McCormick, Trustee Reynolds, Supervisor Brickman (5)

Nays: (0)

Motion carried 5-0

### **Road and Bridge Bills**

Trustee McCormick moved to approve the Road and Bridge Bills.

Trustee Reynolds seconded the motion.

Trustee Reynolds noted the board did not receive the overtime slips in the meeting packet like it had received for the last two meetings. Supervisor Brickman explained that Debbie was on vacation at the end of December, therefore we received the forms later than usual. Trustee Reynolds said the same procedure going forward in February that we had in December would be ideal.

Trustee McCormick asked if Sammy Aguirre is an old or new employee. Mr. Kehr said he is a seasonal employee who has been on the payroll for about three years.

Trustee Blustein asked Mr. Kehr about the charge for LA Signs. He explained the 42 road signs are fiber glass plastic sticks used to locate the shoulders of the roads, curbs and fire hydrants for snowplowing. They are also used for safety to mark ditches. He said he orders a large amount at a time so he will have them to replace the broken sticks, and it is less expensive to buy in bulk.

Trustee McCormick asked Mr. Kehr about the \$5,277.06 bill for Conserve Gas and Oil. Mr. Kehr explained it was for 55 gallon drums of motor oil for the vehicles.

Trustee Blustein noted the \$250 donation to Grad Night, a celebration for high school graduates. She asked if this is a donation the Road District had made in previous years. She added this is usually supported by private donors, not a tax-supported entity. Trustee Appel asked if a tax-supported entity should donate to a school which is another tax-supported entity. Supervisor Brickman said this is something the Road District has done in the past, and our board cannot make that decision as this is not our budget.

Trustee Appel asked Attorney Patt if this type of donation is permissible. Attorney Patt answered as long as the expense is within the Road District's budget, the board does not have a say in how they use their money.

Trustee Appel asked Supervisor Brickman if the board can deny the expenditure. Supervisor Brickman said you can vote 'no,' but the role of the trustees is only to make sure the expense fits into the budget.

It is noted that some of the board disapproves of the donation to Grad Night.

Roll Call:

Ayes: Trustee Blustein, Trustee McCormick, Trustee Reynolds, Supervisor Brickman (4)

Nays: Trustee Appel (1)

Motion carried 4-1

### **Matters Presented by the Public**

#### **Old Business**

The board thanked Assessor Damisch for the informative assessor's letter included in the meeting packet. Board members commended Assessor Damisch on the quality and the content of the quarterly report.

Assessor Damisch said her office aided in 420 exemption applications. Trustee Blustein asked Assessor Damisch why the property bills came out so late. Assessor Damisch explained the number of appeals has skyrocketed, slowing down the process.

#### **More Old Business**

Trustee Reynolds said at the prior budget workshop, Supervisor Brickman mentioned she was in contact with Pace and received information about the cost of how much a Pace bus for the township. Trustee Reynolds said that Supervisor Brickman found the cost fiscally impossible. Supervisor Brickman said that would be a correct characterization, as she did not see an extra \$65,000 in the budget to cover the cost.

Trustee Reynolds said she was concerned because this information was not brought to the board. Supervisor Brickman explained she met with Pace a year ago, when the old board was still in place. Trustee Reynolds said she has the information from the May orientation that this is something the board was going to pursue.

Supervisor Brickman explained that she talked with two other townships about their Pace programs, but she did nothing to develop a plan as it would be a lot of work for something that is not in the realm of possibility for our township based on our \$350,000 budget deficit.

Trustee Reynolds said there has been a break down in communications, as they did not discuss this earlier. Therefore, she contacted Mary Donner from Pace and discussed various programs. She asked if Supervisor Brickman could provide her with the paper work she completed. Supervisor Brickman said she would bring Trustee Reynolds the check list. Trustee Reynolds also requested a record of the number of people that use Dial-a-Ride. Supervisor Brickman said Liz has that list, and that could be available for the next meeting. However, she added that a \$2 discount on a cab ride is much

different than a dedicated bus that you may charge \$2 to use. She said since there is such a demand for transportation in our area, the increased usage would be very costly to the township. Trustee Reynolds said Ms. Donner may have some ideas for fixed routes. She suggested we collect information to see if this could work.

Trustee Appel asked Trustee McCormick if she had heard back from the Attorney General's office regarding the Ethic's Ordinance. She said she has not. She added it took a long time to get a response to her first letter, so she is hopeful she will hear something.

Trustee Appel moved to adjourn.  
Trustee Blustein seconded the motion.

The motion passed unanimously on a voice vote.

The meeting adjourned at 8:22 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Laura Fine, Township Clerk