

STATE OF ILLINOIS)
COUNTY OF COOK) SS
TOWNSHIP OF NORTHFIELD)

May 12, 2009

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE TOWN OF NORTHFIELD TOWNSHIP
BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

The regular Northfield Township Board of Trustee meeting was held on May 12, 2009 at the township offices, 3801 West Lake Avenue, Glenview, Illinois. This meeting followed immediately after a Public Hearing on the budget and appropriation ordinances for 2009-2010.

The following Board members were present:

Jill Brickman	Supervisor
Cathleen Baker	Trustee
Robert Dunne	Trustee
Elizabeth Coy	Trustee
Karen Nystrom	Trustee

Also present were the following:

Scott Spears	Northfield Township Attorney
Sandra Sinyard	Northfield Township Clerk
Patricia Damisch	Northfield Township Assessor
Lucinda Fuller	Northfield Township Staff
Michael Downing	Northfield Township Resident
Mary Reynolds	Northfield Township Resident
Karen McCormick	Northfield Township Resident
Carol Bluestein	Northfield Township Resident
Laura Fine	Northfield Township Resident
Tom Norton	Northfield Township Resident
Brendan Appel	Northfield Township Resident
Mary Lou Kratochwill	Northfield Township Staff
Michele Wilson	Northfield Township Staff
Peter Amarantos	Northfield Township Highway Commissioner
Wanda Tarnowska	Northfield Township Staff
Leah Dunne	Northfield Township Resident
Nicky Stannard	Northfield Township Resident

Public Hearing

Supervisor Jill Brickman called the hearing to order at 7:00 P.M. Mrs. Sinyard, Clerk, acted as secretary.

Mrs. Coy informed all present of the Cook County Assessor's notification that all Cook County properties will be re-assessed in hopes of bringing real estate taxes down. In reality, this action will probably only bring property tax amounts down by 5%. Public interest and discontent will likely result from this announcement. This fact, coupled with the closing of Assessor branch offices, will produce heavy appeal traffic at Northfield Township.

The Finance Committee recommended hiring one additional part-time person for Assessor work. Mrs. Coy, however, feels that the future volume of residents seeking help from our Assessor's office demands more than the above part-time help.

Mrs. Baker questioned what a full-time salary for an assistant to the Assessor would be. The conclusion was an amount of \$30,000 whether for full-time or divided between two part-time staffers.

Hiring for the above position would have to be in time to train this person to be functioning by the fall opening date for appeals.

Mrs. Baker suggested cutting back on the projected budget amount for legal services by \$3,000.00 to help cover funds needed for a new assessor office position.

Ms. Nystrom suggested shifting monies from the relocation expansion reserves budget for the same purpose. She also thought using some computer support funds might be considered.

Ms. Brickman suggested using \$1,500 from both computer support and relocation expansion budget amounts, and \$2,000.00 from legal services, making a total of \$18,000 available for the proposed additional salary/salaries.

Mr. Dunne preferred to leave all the budget line items as is, and identify where the funds might come from if and when needed.

Ms. Coy suggested listing the above "salary funds" under miscellaneous expenses, with an indication below it that explained its intended use if necessary.

Ms. Brickman felt that the staff salary line item was more appropriate for listing of additional salary funds. She also offered that \$3,000 would be an adequate additional cushion for said cost this year, as filling the position would not be necessary for a few more months. The legal services budget amount might not need to come into consideration.

When Road and Bridge budget funding came up for questions and comments, all were informed that a version of this budget (without final adjustments) was available by the required date of posting for public review at the Township office. Ms. Nystrom mentioned that she was frustrated that she didn't know the final figures for this budget until a few days ago.

Mary Reynolds, township resident, offered that the duration of capital outlay needs to be stated in the Road and Bridge budget, page 2. Highway Commissioner Pete Amarantos estimated that four years from this date could safely be written into the ordinance.

The annual Road District open house will be replaced in the budget by the recycling events.

There being no further discussion on any of the budget items, the Public Hearing was recessed at 7:30 P.M. and the Town meeting was called to order.

Roll call

Clerk Sinyard conducted a roll call to establish a quorum.

Approval of minutes

Mrs. Baker moved to approve the April 14, 2009 minutes with corrections. Ms. Nystrom seconded the motion.

Corrections made to the minutes were:

- Spelling of attendee's first name- Charlie Stemwedel
- Spelling of attendee's last name- Dave Susellis
- Delete extra period after second line at top of page 4

On voice vote the amended April minutes passed.

Town sewer meeting

Ms. Brickman recessed the town meeting and called to order the meeting of the town sewer board.

Approval of sewer certificates

Ms. Nystrom moved to approve the sewer bill certificates as presented. Mrs. Coy seconded the motion, and on roll call vote as follows: Mrs. Baker, Ms. Nystrom, Mrs. Coy, Ms. Brickman, Mr. Dunne, Yea: (5) Nay: (0), the motion carried.

April Northfield Township Sanitary Sewer District collections amounted to \$12,541.51.

Highway Commissioner Amarantos reported that the Greenwood Road project is on temporary hold due to Sanitary District negotiations; which negotiation should be complete within a few weeks.

The sewer meeting was recessed.

The town meeting was reconvened.

Approval of the budget

Mrs. Baker moved to approve the General Town budget ordinance as published in draft form with the following changes:

- Add \$3,000 to the "salaries-office staff" line item
- Change "computer support" line from \$8,000 to \$6,500, and "relocation expansion reserve" line from \$25,000 to \$23,500.

Mrs. Coy seconded the above motion.

Ms. Nystrom asked the Township Finance Director, Ms. Fuller, for the total amount of the Highway Commissioner's salary for this year. She added that in her judgment it should be \$57,672. She was told that that was correct, and that payment was split equally between the two road funds.

Using this information, Ms. Nystrom found the proposed Road District funding for the above salary to be more than the 50% allowed-the line item listed \$38,110. Ms. Fuller was asked to research this amount. After consulting her records, Ms. Fuller confirmed the amount of \$57,671.48 as being correct for the fiscal year Highway Commissioner salary.

The General Town Fund budget ordinance passed on roll call vote as follows: Mrs. Coy, Mrs. Baker, Ms. Nystrom. Ms. Brickman, Yea: (4) Mr. Dunne Nay: (1).

Ms. Nystrom moved to approve the General Assistance Fund budget ordinance as presented, seconded by Mrs. Coy.

The motion passed on roll call vote as follows: Mrs. Baker, Ms. Brickman, Ms. Nystrom, Mr. Dunne, Mrs. Coy Yea: (5) Nay: (0).

At this point Mr. Dunne wished to clarify his "Nay" vote on the General Town Fund budget ordinance passage. He feels that the Township newsletters are becoming less and less necessary to distribute by mail due to the possibility of sending news electronically. Cost-wise and environmentally he felt that this is the preferable way to get our news out.

Mrs. Baker moved to approve the Road District budget ordinance with the following changes: Change the Highway Commissioner salary amount to \$28,836.00. Add the words "through Feb. 28, 2015" to the capital outlay section, 1928 Lehigh line item.

Mr. Dunne seconded the motion.

The motion was tabled while Ms. Fuller researched the amount of the yearly base salaries paid to highway staff. Ms. Nystrom requested this information in order to decide how to vote on the above motion's passage.

Mr. Dunne moved to approve the Road Improvement Fund budget ordinance as presented, seconded by Ms. Nystrom.

The motion passed on roll call vote as follows: Mr. Dunne, Ms. Brickman, Mrs. Coy, Mrs. Baker, Ms. Nystrom, Yea: (5) Nay: (0).

Mrs. Baker moved to approve the Special Police District Fund budget ordinance as presented, seconded by Mrs. Coy.

The motion passed on roll call vote as follows: Mrs. Coy, Ms. Nystrom, Ms. Brickman, Mrs. Baker, Yea: (4) Mr. Dunne Nay (1).

Reappointment of Glenbrook Fire District Trustee

Mrs. Coy moved to reappoint Tom Norton as trustee for the Glenbrook Fire District, seconded by Mrs. Baker. The motion passed on voice vote.

Northfield Township Lease

The Board was informed that the Passport Plaza building has been sold to Northfield Township High School District 225. Management wants the Township to stay for at least another lease term (3-4 years). In the future District #225 will be using this building for students.

Matters to be presented by the public

Ms. Stannard who lives on Glenshire in Glenview is concerned that flooding will result from redevelopment of a property on the block. Ms. Brickman took the address of the property and will give the information to County Commissioner Gregg Goslin's office for follow up with the County Building and Zoning Department.

Mr. Norton asked what can be done about abandoned buildings that are now a problem with weed overgrowth and animals. It was recommended that those being impacted by this problem call and report it to Gregg Goslin's office since the county has jurisdiction.

Road District budget approval

Ms. Fuller reported that next year the crew of six highway employees should earn \$378,000, which she rounded up to \$380,000.00 for ease in figuring. She estimated \$15,000 for three seasonal workers, then mentioned that some of the overtime paid is reimbursed by the sewer district if the work is sewer-related. \$85,000 was left in the budget for overtime salaries.

Upon questioning, Commissioner Amarantos guessed that \$25,000 to \$30,000 was paid for overtime this past year.

Approval of Road District budget

Mrs. Baker's motion to approve the Road District budget ordinance was voted on by roll call as follows: Mrs. Baker, Ms. Brickman, Mr. Dunne, Mrs. Coy, Yea: (4) Ms. Nystrom Nay: (1).

Approval of Road and Bridge certificates

Mr. Dunne moved to approve the Road and Bridge certificates as presented, and Mrs. Baker seconded.

The motion passed on roll call vote as follows: Mrs. Coy, Mrs. Baker, Mr. Dunne, Ms. Brickman, Yea: (4). Ms. Nystrom, Abstain: (1)

Approval of Town Fund certificates

Ms. Nystrom moved to approve the Town Fund bills as presented, seconded by Mrs. Coy.

The motion passed on roll call **vote** as follows: Mr. Dunne, Ms. Brickman, Mrs. Coy, Ms. Nystrom, Mrs. Baker, Yea: (5) Nay: (0).

Old business

Ms. Brickman reported that at her request, Attorney Joel Levin, who served as general counsel to the Illinois Reform Commission following his retirement from a career as an assistant United States Attorney has agreed to serve as head of the Township Ethics Committee if asked to do so. The Ethics Committee establishment process will take place at the June Board meeting.

New business

Ms. Brickman thanked the outgoing trustees for their service to the community.

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Board, Ms. Nystrom moved to adjourn at 8:13 P.M. Mrs. Baker seconded the motion, which passed on voice vote.

Minutes submitted by Sandra R. Sinyard.
