

## Northfield Village Caucus

January 29, 2013

The meeting was called to order by Tracey Mendrek, Chair at **7:04** pm.

Caucus Members present at the meeting were:

Jim Appel	Ruth Lucchesi
Al Chircop	Finley Maxson
Jonathan Don	Tracey Mendrek
Kathy Estabrooke	Patrick O'Donoghue
Bettina Karlove	Keith Reed
John Kemper	Cricket Trutter-Hauf

Guests:

Jennifer Bishop-Jenkins	Jim Henderson
Ken Bley	Bettina Karlove
Ken Bond	Patrick McCarthy

Guest Speaker: Stacy Sigman

Tracey Mendrek introduced herself to our guests then presented the agenda. Jim Appel moved to approve, Ruth Lucchesi seconded the motion. Agenda unanimously approved. The October minutes were not presented at this meeting due to miscommunication and will be presented at the April meeting for approval.

Keith Reed, Membership Chair, addressed our current membership status. We currently have 30 members fairly well distributed by precinct. Nine (9) residents have voiced an interest in serving on the Caucus. Four (4) potential members are with us tonight. Ken Bly – Suffolk Road; Patrick McCarthy – Wagner Road; Ken Bond – Bosworth Ln; Jennifer Bishop-Jenkins. The remaining six (6) Jenny Wilson –Lagoon Dr; Thomas Bolling –Churchill St; Leonard Rubin – Sunset Dr; Chris Richter – Wagner Rd; Danny Castino – Eddy Ln;

Keith will contact each of the nine (9) residents to survey their level of interest. Keith moved to recommend the election of new caucus members for a two year term. Ruth seconded the motion. Caucus voted unanimously to approve the motion. The caucus will vote in the new members at the April meeting.

Keith addressed the caucus on a personal note. Keith informed us that Kerry Sabante, who was a Village Trustee and moved from Northfield 8-10 years ago, wife Audrey passed away. He bought a sympathy card for all who knew them to sign.

Jim Henderson was nominated by the Chair, Tracey Mendrek, to chair the officer selection committee. He presented the following officer slate to the caucus: The 2013-2015 officers: Tracey Mendrek, Chair; Al Chircop, Vice Chair; Ruth Lucchesi Treasurer; Kathy Estabrooke, Secretary.

Jim Henderson motioned to approve the slate as presented. Jim Appel seconded.

Bettina asked how often we elect new officers. The answer is every two years.

The caucus voted unanimously to approve the 2013-2015 slate of officers.

Tracey then presented and explained the Conflict of Interest forms to the caucus. They were distributed to those in attendance. Kathy will send to the remaining caucus for distribution.

Al addressed the caucus stating we are in need a Chair for the Nominating Committee. Al stated that the biggest role the caucus has is to slate Trustees. That job is done, and is now in the hands of the residents.

Tracey stated that we also need a Chair for the Survey Committee. We normally survey every two years, which we did last year, discussions should begin regarding the process.

Ruth presented the caucus income statement for the calendar year ending December 31, 2012. See attachment.

Finance Committee Chair, Mike Sollitt, has resigned the Caucus. Frank Charhut will be assuming this role. Tracey thanked him for volunteering.

Frank thanked Tracey for the honor of serving as the Finance Chair. He stated that he was the Finance Commissioner as a Village Trustee. Frank stated Village Budget planning is beginning shortly so his appointment is timely. Frank stated, one of the reasons that Northfield received our AAA rating is because of our reserve. He lauded Stacy and the current Board for sustaining the 6 month reserve that was instituted when he was a Trustee.

There was no By-law report. Bobbie Moore – By-law Chair will be available for the April meeting.

Tracey encourage each member to attend Village Board meetings. The Village website has the Village Board meeting dates/time. She stated attending the Committee of the Whole meetings, which are held prior to the Board meeting are very informative.

Tracey introduced Stacy Sigman, Village Manager to the members. Stacy began by giving a view of Northfield. In 2006, Northfield was declared a natural disaster area twice. We were twice affected by the largest floods and two (2) great snow storms. In 2010, Northfield adopted Home Rule. Home Rule allows us to adapt to many situations that before Home Rule we couldn't control.

Our biggest celebration is our AAA bond rating. This affects the rate at which the Village can borrow money.

The Village has local adjudication. We share this with Glenview and because it is local we can control the process.

We still have a challenge with foreclosures. It's hard to find out who the legal property owner is.

The Village has hired a lateral transfer officer. Because we have Home Rule, hiring a lateral transfer saved us \$100,000 because the officer only needed moderate training. So the officer was up and running in four (4) months.

The Village has stayed in compliance with the tax cap.

Willow Rd CAD ended in April. CAD worked hard to keep three (3) lanes. IDOT had right of way so we have four (4) lanes. We do have most of our wishes we wanted with the three (3) lane configuration in the four (4) lane configuration Such as 10' lanes, 30 mph speed limit, medians, integrated traffic signals, crosswalks with pedestrian signals, sidewalks on both sides, improved exits to 94. Five and one half (5-1/2) million dollar storm water retention with two and one half

(2-1/2) million dollars in pipes to the river and two and one half (2-1/2) million neighborhood ties.

Lorig construction won the bid for Willow Rd. The family lives in Northfield and their children go to school here.

We believe it will be an April or May start. This is a two (2) year project.

Utilities will be relocated first. Temporary pavement will be placed will be constructed on the south side. No detours are planned. They will begin on the north half from Waukegan to Edens. The south lanes will follow. When the lanes are complete the medians will be constructed.

We will see the road, curbs, gutters and sidewalks in the first year. In the second year we will see lights, signals, and plantings.

The Village will be in constant contact during the processing. The Village Website and e-Blasts will be used to inform the residents. Stacy will be reaching out to all municipalities, park districts and school districts affected by the construction to make them aware.

November 6<sup>th</sup> was the first reading of the new electrical aggregation. Rates are fifty-six percent (56%) lower than ComEd. Stacy reminded us that if we opt for the aggregation and then go back to ComEd and stay sixty (60) days, you can't move to another supplier for one (1) year.

Planning & Zoning - We have the lowest vacancy rate we've seen in years. Potential occupants love Northfield because we are small so our permit process is shorter.

Some of our new businesses are:

- PC Nation, Frontage Road – 75 new jobs and one half (1/2) million in tax revenue.
- Blue Pearl, Frontage Road – Moved from Northbrook to Northfield
- Dunkin Donuts, Willow Road – New construction
- Taco Nano, Orchard Road

Kraft Foods - We kept them but didn't have the money to attract them like Chicago. But what we did do, was sit with them to understand what they needed. There are twenty-two (22) hundred employees. They shop here, they live here.

We realized a twenty percent (20%) increase in sales revenue. This brings us back to the 2007 levels.

Our average cost of services is twenty-five percent (25%) lower than neighboring communities.

The Board is working on Storm Water plans. We received some grant money that we used to camera our whole system and fixed issues that were identified. The Meadowview system is completed.

One hundred percent (100%) of the public Emerald Ash Borer trees have been removed. There is still some planting that needs to be done in the Spring to finish the project.

Bids for all sidewalks will go thru the consortium it helps with the construction cost to be a part of a consortium, but where we are really realizing the saving is in engineering costs.

We will be sharing a ladder truck with Glenview. This will save the Village eight hundred thousand (\$800,00) dollars. Glenview will have it prime and we'll be back up. They'll house it for the first ten (10) years and then Northfield will house it for the remainder of its life.

Stacy then asked for comments or questions from the audience.

Guest Patrick McCarthy asked if there was an escrow account for the Willow Road project. Stacy answered that everything is in the contract.

The contract is a binding agreement with IDOT it states that once they start building the road, they must use the current plants and cannot deviate.

The conversation turned to Willow Road traffic. Stacy reiterated that there will be no detours. People may choose not to use Willow Road so Winnetka Avenue may see more traffic.

Guest Jennifer Bishop-Jenkins asked will the storm water project that is included with the IDOT construction help the east side storm water issue. The answer was the IDOT project won't but they are working to fix a pipe on the east side.

The question was asked about school safety in light of Newtown. Stacy said that the Village is working with the schools. Schools have hired safety advisors study their programs.

Bettina Karlove asked if the Board has taken into consideration that we won't have "red light revenue" during construction while creating the budget. Stacy said they have. The red light cameras will come down first and will be down during construction and probably won't go up for at least a year after construction. They will need to study the traffic flow and it's possible that they won't go up if the study deems them unnecessary.

With no more questions, Tracey thanked Stacy for giving a State of the Village to the caucus and stated if there is any more business. Having none Tracey asked for a motion to adjourn.

Ruth Lucchesi motioned for adjournment. Jim Appel seconded. The motion was approved. The meeting adjourned at 8:20p

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen A. Estabrooke  
Secretary – Northfield Village Caucus

**Conflict of Interest Disclosure as submitted by Al Chircop September 15, 2011**

"The Northfield Caucus recognizes that individuals who are volunteer members of the Caucus have other involvements and activities in the Community, some of which are for economic compensation. Some of these activities may also espouse views that are contrary or at significant variance with the Platform. In recognition of these potential conflicts, the Northfield Caucus expects of its members:

1. Disclosure by a Caucus member of a "relationship" which creates a conflict of interest or may have an appearance of a conflict of interest or has the prospect of embarrassing the Northfield Caucus.
2. Disclosure by a Caucus member of a paid activity resulting from a Platform position.
3. Disclosure by a Caucus member of a paid or non-paid activity by the member or their immediate family of an activity that is counter or non-supportive of Platform position.

Disclosure will take two forms: an early confidential disclosure to an Officer of the Northfield Caucus and secondly, a requirement to disclose the conflict if determined to be so, in any public position (including meetings of the Caucus) taken by the individual on the subject.

Caucus Members will be asked to disclose annually their membership on committees/groups that have an interest in Village government on or before the 10<sup>th</sup> day of January. Examples of these types of committees/group are, but not limited to, Planning and Zoning Commission, Village Center Task Force and Illinois Department of Transportation Community Advisory Group (CAG)."

**I have the following real or apparent conflicts of interest with the following organizations:**

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Signed: \_\_\_\_\_  
Date \_\_\_\_\_

***All information will be kept confidential and on file with the Secretary of the Northfield Caucus.***

Northfield Caucus  
P. O. Box 8034  
Northfield, IL 60093-8034

Accounts Held At  
Northview Bank Trust  
Northfield, IL 60093

Income Statement  
for the Calendar Year  
Ended 31 Dec 2012

1 January 2012 Beginning Balance

2,297.65

Revenue	Contributions	1,310.00
	Interest	<u>0.43</u>
		1,310.43

Expenses	ck 1011	USPS Survey mailing	862.40
	ck 1012	USPS Box Rental	68.00
	ck 1013	Web Master Maint	510.00
	ck 1014	Zoomerang License	199.00
	ck 1015	Survey Printing	533.55
	ck 1016	Yard Signs	335.00
			<u>2,507.95</u>

31 December 2012 Balance

1,100.13

Contributors include:

Armel	Anne
Ash	Stephen & Laura
Bell	Christine & Brian
Birkinbine	John & Sarah
Buenger	Theodore & Barbara
Burrow	Ryan & Tiffany
Campbell	Michael & Heidi
Charhut	Frank & Diane
Cibul	Georgia
Doherty	Patrick & Jeanne
Fishman	Robert & Kathy
Henderson	James
Howard	John P.
Karnes	Evan
Kenny	John
King	Jean
Kinnich	Elizabeth
Libbey/Lee	Heather/David
Moore	Barbara & Bill
Paul	Wendy
Pollack	Michael & Berna
Reed	Keith & Beth
Rescorl	Leslie
Warga	George