Northfield Caucus

AGENDA

July 18, 2012

Clarkson Park, 7:00 PM

1. Approval of the Agenda
2. Approval of the April Meeting Minutes
3. Treasurer's Report – Ruth Lucchesi
4. Membership Committee Report – Keith Reed
5. Finance Committee Report – Mike Sollitt
6. Platform Committee Report – Jim Henderson
    - Revised Platform document is attached and a motion to adopt a new platform will be made during the report
7. Nominating Committee Report – Al Chircop
8. Report of Committees – if needed
    - Communications Committee, Chair Dave Detlefsen
    - Bylaws Committee, Chair Bobbie Moore
9. New Business – Motion to amend the Platform as presented in item #6 follows. Motion will be made by Caucus Member, Jim Henderson
10. New Meeting Date – Biennial Town Hall Meeting – October 11, 2012
11. Adjournment – 8:30 pm

Platform Amendment Draft 120611c

TO: **Northfield Village Caucus Member Colleagues**
FROM: **Jim Henderson, Caucus Member**
SUBJECT: **Motion to Amend Caucus 2012-2013 Platform**

Background:

Nationally, state and local government spending and budgets are increasing at rates and to levels which are not affordable or sustainable by available tax revenues. State legislatures mandated salary and benefit levels for government employees (state, municipal and education) which are well above current tax revenue receipts, causing the need for substantially increased taxes, reduced employee and service levels. We can, and should, seek Illinois legislative reform of these failing employment mandates. Based on past actions, we cannot expect that the legislators will represent taxpayer interests over public employee / union interests. In that case, we should attempt to improve this financial circumstance in our own local village government. Northfield can, and should, seek to gain control of its own employee financial relationships. We should be allowed to offer our employees what we choose to offer: affordable, competitive and fair. That freedom will include the option to offer higher compensation and benefit for superior managers and workers. Our concern is systemic financial failure imposed by the state, not the quality, competence and capability of all our current Northfield employees and managers. It is important that the Northfield Village Caucus exercise fiduciary responsibility on behalf of taxpayers and residents by the following actions: 1) Recognize that we have this problem 2) Convey this recognition to the community and to the trustees through the platform and 3) Request attention, diligence and solutions to this problem by trustees.

Proposed Northfield Village Caucus 2012 Statement Under Category 2. Financial Responsibility:

The most serious financial issue to impact the village budget is the increase in retirement pension and healthcare benefit funding mandated by the State of Illinois for local government employees. State of Illinois control of these employee benefits and the prevailing public union wage levels eliminates local resident control of approximately 67% of the budget. In 2012 additional tax levies under the home rule powers were used to offset the mandatory increase in expenditures. The Village Board should investigate all ways as possible to take control of these costs. Options include: private contracting, part time employment, outsourcing and government consolidation or restructuring.