

Northfield Village Caucus

July 18, 2012

The meeting was called to order by Vice Chairman, Al Chircop, in the absence of Tracey Mendrek at **7:02** pm.

Caucus Members present at the meeting were:

Jim Appel	Ruth Lucchesi
Frank Charhut	Finley Maxon
Al Chircop	Judy McDaniel
Dave Detlefsen	David McGregor
Jonathan Don	Bobbie Moore
Kathy Estabrooke	Patrick O'Donaghue
Emilian Geczi	Tom Pick
Bill Gould	Keith Reed
Jim Henderson	Cricket Trutter Hauff
John Kemper	David Woodyatt

Guests:

Eric Carlino

Al Chircop introduced himself as the Vice Chairman of the Northfield Caucus who would be conducting this meeting in the absence of our Chairman Tracey Mendrek.

Al presented the agenda for July 18, 2012 meeting. Patrick O'Donaghue motioned to approve the agenda, Jim Henderson seconded the motion. All approved.

Al presented the minutes from April 18, 2012 meeting. Jim Henderson motioned to approve the minutes, Patrick O'Donaghue seconded the motion. All approved.

Al asked for the Treasurer's report.

Treasurer report – Ruth Lucchesi:

- ✓ See exhibit 1 – June 30, 2012 balance

Ruth Lucchesi presented the balance sheet (see attachment). Contributions since January 1, 2012 total \$1,110 with interest of \$.22. Disbursements in the form of 5 checks totally \$2,172.95 leave the June 30, 2012 balance of \$1,234.92.

Membership report – Keith Reed:

The Committee has no new members to present. Eric Carlino, was in attendance to observe the caucus for possible membership.

Finance report – Mike Sollitt:

No report submitted

Platform report – Jim Henderson:

Creating the platform is an important part of what we do. It is what our Trustees follow.

Using the information obtained from the Caucus Survey, the committee interprets the results, creates and delivers the platform presented to you today.

Ruth Lucchesi moved to clean up the paragraph concerning cooperating with the various boards in the Village. The paragraph was amended to read:

“Any time an issue involves local parks or schools, the Village Board should actively cooperate with the Park District or School District board and administration on any proposals that affects the citizens of Northfield.”

Frank Charhut and Bobbie Moore seconded and approved.

A lengthy discussion ensued of the platform being too innocuous. Bobbie Moore described how the platform is a very good interpretation of the survey results. Although some may feel it is innocuous, it is subtle.

Motion to call the question by Jim Henderson, Pat O’Donaghue moved and Ruth Lucchesi seconded.

Vote on the modified platform, platform unanimously carried.

Jim Appel presented the Nominating Committee and stated that now that we have an approved platform and an approved application, we can begin the process of notifying those who stated an interest in the position of Trustee and/or Village President via the survey of the interviewing schedule. They will have until August 20th to submit their application.

The interviews will take place August 27, 2012 through August 29, 2012. All caucus members can ask questions to the candidates, but you must attend every interview session in order to cast a vote.

Current Trustee's George Warga, Brian Kozminski, and Jane Goldenberg can apply. Current Village President Fred Gougler can apply.

We will be slating:

- 3 - 4 year term Trustees
- 1 - 2 year term Trustee
- 1 - 4 year term President

We also need to fill:

- 1 - 4 year term Winnetka/Northfield Library Board
- 1 - 4 year term Winnetka Park District caucus
- 1 - 4 year term Winnetka/Northfield library caucus

Jim Appel handed out the list of potential candidates from the survey.

- ✓ See exhibit 2 -Northfield Caucus 2012 Expression of Interest

Al Chircop has sent an email to each of the potential candidates to solicit their level of interest. The members were asked if they know anyone on the list to please follow up with them to encourage them to apply.

A short discussion on the current Trustees followed.

It was asked that we take into consideration those who work downtown when scheduling the candidate interview times. Jim stated that depending on the amount of applications received, we would do our best to accommodate.

Jim Henderson introduced and read a motion to amend Caucus 2012-2013 Platform.

- ✓ See exhibit 3 - Platform Amendment Draft 120611c

Patrick wanted to remove the government consolidation portion of the amendment and discussion was held about the pros and cons of consolidating governments.

Jim Henderson would not accept the amended proposal.

Keith Reed wanted to amend the wording of the government consolidation portion of the amendment, but Jim would not accept.

Discussion began on whether the 67% of budget fact was a true number and whether tax levies were used to offset the mandatory increase in expenditure. Al

said we need to verify the 67% figure and levy information before we consider the amendment and our challenge is we don't have a way to do that today.

Patrick verified the number on the Village of Northfield website as 67.5%

Keith Reed presented that the Village actually does have control over benefits and salaries and this amendment states that it does not.

This ended the formal discussion.

The motion on the floor was to amend the amendment, but Jim Henderson chose not to accept, so the amendment went to the floor as presented.

The vote tally:

Yes 7

No 10

Abstain 3

Motion defeated.

Ruth moved to invite Steve Noble to our next Caucus Meeting.

Frank thinks we should have something more specific in the platform but, not as specific as the amendment presented. Al said this is a constructive conversation but, in reality as long as bonds are where they are all Villages will be in trouble.

Jim Appel amended Ruth's motion to ask Mike Sollitt to create a subcommittee to engage in a study on controllable costs.

Ruth approved of Jim's amendment of her motion. Bobbie seconded. Motion unanimously carried.

Informative items:

Biannual meeting October 11, 2012

Patrick motioned to adjourn, Jim Appel seconded.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:21p

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen A. Estabrooke
Secretary – Northfield Village Caucus

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

Income Statement for the Calendar Year Ended 31 Dec 2012

1 January 2012 Beginning Balance			2,297.65
Revenue	Contributions		1,110.00
	Interest		<u>0.22</u>
			1,110.22
Disbursements	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
			<u>2,172.95</u>
30 June 2012 Balance			<u><u>1,234.92</u></u>

Contributors include:

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

**Northfield Caucus
2012 Expressions of Interest**

Village Residents who have expressed an interest in becoming more active:

Name	Last Name	Number	Street
Eric	Carlino	375	Old Farm Road
Carolyn	Kenly	110	Sunset Ridge Road
Jane	Demler	83	Coventry Road
Gene	Jablonowski		
Annie	Cobb	1870	Grove Drive
Michael	Jayko	1870	Grove Drive
Stephen	Dowdle	15	Old Hunt Road
Ken	Bley	2014	Suffork Road
Patrick	McCarthy	320	Wagner Road
Martha	Boudewyns	201	Riverside
Jenny	Wilson	204	Lagoon Drive
Stephen	Brodsky	3030	Arbor Lane #103
Tom	Fitzgerald	1875	Old Willow Road
Kevin	Flynn	17	Rolling Ridge Road
Thomas	Bolling	326	Churchill
E. Leonard	Rubin	270	Sunset Drive
Justine	Fowler		
Walter	Glogowski	1873	Bosworth
Carol	Fitzgerald	1875	Old Willow Road
Chris	Richter	299	Wagner Road
Nathan	Beau	191	Latrobe
Emilian	Geczi	1725	Northfield Square, Apt D
Evan	Karnes II	209	Sunset Ridge Road
Michaela	Rowland	1718	Northfield Square
Kenneth	Bond	1854	Bosworth Lane
Melinda	Zibart	268	Lagoon Drive
Daniel	Castino	125	Eddy Lane
John	Gregorio	45	Maple Row
Judith	Gleason	510	Briar Lane

Please let either Jim Appel (jwappel@sbcglobal.net) or Al Chircop (archco@comcast.net) know if you have a personal acquaintance with any of the individuals above.

Process Steps: Nominating Committee will send application form and copy of approved Platform, follow up with personal contact to determine interest.
Applications to be submitted by August 20
Interviews between August 27 and 30

Please treat this list with respect - no circulation and no copies outside the Caucus

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.