

Northfield Caucus Endorses Village of Northfield Bond Referendum on March 15, 2016

(February 17, 2016) Jonathan Don as Chair of the Northfield Village Caucus issued a statement of Caucus support for the forthcoming Village of Northfield Bond Referendum.

The Village of Northfield Trustees have voted in favor of putting forward to the Village electorate a comprehensive multi-year plan to address long term needs and structural improvements to Northfield's roads, storm sewers, sidewalk and pedestrian needs as well as fund required enhancements in public life safety facilities. The total budget for these improvements is \$8.5mm. \$1.0 million will be funded by the Village's reserves and \$7.5 million is proposed to be funded by a long term bond issued by the Village. Voting on this referendum will occur on March 15, 2016.

The Northfield Village Caucus encourages all members of the electorate to vote on March 15th and endorses a "yes" vote in favor of this referendum. The Village administration and trustees have demonstrated sound discipline in prioritizing the needs of the Village. The proposed improvements are consistent with the Caucus's view on the needs of the village as put forward in the recently approved "2015-2016 Northfield Caucus Platform". Well maintained infrastructure, including good roadways and focus on pedestrian related needs are important to the Village residents. Storm water control and

management is an ongoing challenge for the Village. The recent improvements executed in connection with the Willow Road rebuild have provided relief to Northfield residents. The proposed improvements to storm water facilities on Winnetka Road will extend these benefits to more residents and road users. The mandated changes to the 911 system require a long term investment in building efficient and state of the art life safety systems. The Caucus believes that collectively the proposed improvements reflect the continuing community commitment to maintaining and enhancing Northfield as a welcoming and attractive place to live and work.

The Caucus also endorses the funding of this program of improvements through the proposed bond issue. The Village has adhered to its commitment to retain the highest possible investment grade debt rating which assures access to low cost funds, and demonstrates a continuing philosophy of fiscal responsibility.

Several years ago when Home Rule was introduced, there were concerns on how maturely the Village administration would handle its newly acquired powers. Today, the Northfield Village Caucus views the process, decision making and prioritization as reflecting a disciplined and professional approach to ensuring the continued attractiveness of the community.

The Village Board will conduct two public information meetings at Village Hall on Tuesday, February 23, 2016 at 7 p.m. and Saturday, February 27, 2016 at 9 a.m. to help residents understand the choices and make an informed decision. In closing, the Northfield Caucus encourages all village voters to cast their ballot on March 15th and to support the referendum.