

**REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
REGULAR BOARD MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
OF THE VILLAGE OF NORTHFIELD
TUESDAY, July 19, 2022**

As provided by public notice, the Village Board of the Village of Northfield met in the Council Chambers of the Village Hall immediately following the Committee of the Whole Meeting on Tuesday, July 19, 2022, for the Regular Board meeting. The meeting was called to order by President Greg Lungmus at 7:20 PM. The Village Clerk took the roll call.

PRESENT: President Greg Lungmus

 Trustees Barnaby Dinges
 Tom Whittaker
 Matt Galin
 Tracey Mendrek
 Charles Orth

ABSENT: Todd Fowler

ALSO PRESENT: Attorney Buzz Hill

President Lungmus expressed his condolences regarding the horrific tragedy at Highland Park on July 4th. He noted how everyone’s lives have been changed and that his heart goes out to the entire community. He thanked the Northfield Police Department and Fire/Rescue Department that assisted Highland Park at the scene and those that worked back home to make sure Northfield stayed safe. He stated that he had met with Police Chief Lustig to discuss security in public spaces and the measures that would be taken to try to prevent any future tragedies.

Trustee Whittaker stated how Northfield was blessed to have its wonderful police and fire/rescue departments.

Police Chief Lustig thanked President Lungmus for his President’s letter regarding the Highland Park July 4th tragedy and how comforting the letter was to the community. He noted that Northfield was not planning to close any public events for the remainder of the summer but will work to make sure that, at Market and Music, there will be a fully marked police car present on Willow Road. He stated that he had talked with the Park District and they are waiting until next year to determine what is appropriate for next year’s 4th of July activities.

Trustee Orth complimented all police and fire/rescue departments in the region.

President Lungmus stated that he and Village Manager Sigman were in contact with Highland Park Mayor Nancy Rotering and will continue to offer that community any support they need from Northfield.

CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

Village President asked the Clerk to read the Consent Agenda items into the record. Those were reported as follows:

- 1. Approve the Report of Proceedings from the June 21, 2022 Village Board meeting
- 2. Bills and Disbursements from June 1, 2022 to June 30, 2022, in the amount of \$ 800,955.02

Trustee Orth made a motion, seconded by Trustee Mendrek to approve Consent Agenda items 1 through 2.

President Lungmus asked if there were any Board members who wanted to comment on this matter. There were none.

President Lungmus asked if any member of the public wanted to comment on this matter. There was none.

President Lungmus requested a roll call vote to approve the consent agenda.

AYES: Dinges NAYS: 0 ABSTAIN: 0 ABSENT: Fowler
 Whittaker
 Galin
 Mendrek
 Orth

CONSIDERATION OF A RESOLUTION EXTENDING THE WASTE HAULING CONTRACT WITH WASTE MANAGEMENT OF ILLINOIS, INC. TO APRIL 30, 2024

Trustee Whittaker made a motion, seconded by Trustee Dinges, to approve a resolution extending the waste hauling contract with Waste Management of Illinois, Inc. to April 30, 2024.

Village Manager Sigman stated at the June 21 Committee of the Whole meeting, that the Board reviewed the Village’s exclusive waste hauling contract with Waste Management (WM). The current contract was for an initial seven (7) years with an option to extend up to an additional five (5) years in a series of one-year extensions. The initial term expires on April 30, 2023. The Board discussed whether to go out to bid or make use of the Village’s sole right to extend for the first of the five one-year periods. She stated that a detailed review was conducted of Northfield’s current WM rates and those were compared to other towns in the region. This assessment confirmed that the Village has very favorable terms with Waste Management and that the current market is very poor and very volatile. Based on that information the Board

directed staff to prepare a resolution extending our existing waste hauling contract with WM, one (1) year, through April 30, 2024.

President Lungmus asked if there were any Board members who wanted to comment on this matter. There were none.

President Lungmus asked if any member of the public wanted to comment on this matter. There was none.

President Lungmus requested a roll call vote to approve a resolution extending the waste hauling contract with Waste Management of Illinois, Inc. to April 30, 2024.

AYES: Dinges NAYS: 0 ABSTAIN: 0 ABSENT: Fowler
Whittaker
Galín
Mendrek
Orth

CONSIDERATION OF AN ORDINANCE AMENDING AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 10 LANDSCAPING, SCREENING AND TREE PRESERVATION AMENDMENT TO CHAPTER 10, LANDSCAPE SCREENING AND TREE PRESERVATION, BASED ON RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE ARCHITECTURAL COMMISSION AND APPENDIX D, FEES AND FINES REGARDING THE VILLAGE’S TREE PRESERVATION CODE

Trustee Orth made a motion, seconded by Trustee Dinges, to approve an ordinance amending Chapter 10 Landscaping, Screening and Tree Preservation amendment to Chapter 10, Landscape Screening and Tree Preservation, based on recommendations from the Architectural Commission and Appendix D, Fees and Fines regarding the Village’s Tree Preservation Code

Community Development Director Gutierrez remarked at the December 7, 2021 and February 15, 2022 Committee of the Whole meetings, the Board reviewed draft amendments to the Village’s Tree Preservation regulations and directed staff to have the proposed amendments reviewed by the Architectural Commission. The Commission reviewed the proposed amendments at their April 11 and June 11 meetings. On June 11, 2022, they voted unanimously to recommend approval of the proposed amendments with the following revisions:

1. Heritage Trees should have the same 1:1 replacement ratio as other Protected Trees. Staff’s proposed amendments had a 2:1 replacement ratio. The Commission was concerned that some properties may not have enough room to accommodate a 2:1 replacement ratio for Heritage Trees and this ratio may lead to overplanting. This would be exacerbated as people try to avoid the larger fees for Heritage Trees.
2. The list of Heritage Trees should be narrowed to Oak, Hickory, Walnut, male Ginkgo, and Beech. The Commission felt these were the best of the best species and that this would also

reduce the financial burden on residents who may need to take trees down that were on the original list of Heritage Trees (American Elm, Maple, Bald Cypress, Hackberry, Osage Orange Sycamore, Ironwood, Linden, Buckeye, Catalpa and Coffee Tree).

3. Deciduous trees should be exempted from the sight visibility triangle restrictions, provided there are no branches lower than 6' from grade. The Commission was concerned that not allowing a tree within 10' of a residential driveway would unduly limit the number of parkway trees that can be planted between driveways on smaller lots.

In addition, the Commission recommended a public education program that would inform homeowners about: the tree preservation regulations; the value of trees; which species are desirable and which are nuisances; the importance of diversifying tree species; provide links to information resources such as the Morton Arboretum and the Arbor Day Foundation; encourage the installation of bio-swales and rain gardens, and clarify who is responsible for trimming parkway trees; i.e. that residents should not trim the parkway trees but should call Public Works for their expertise. The Commission suggested this could be accomplished with a tree preservation webpage and by promoting tree preservation at public events such as Market and Music. The latter could be accomplished with volunteers from the community such as a garden club or others. They also recommended notifying new owners about the tree preservation regulations. Finally, they suggested the Village consider widening the 50/50 parkway tree program to include selling homeowners trees at cost for planting on their private property.

Village Manager Sigman noted that for many years the Village did allow homeowners to use the 50/50 program to plant trees on their private property. However, there were a lot of complications associated with care, warranties, access, costs, and others problems that led to this being discontinued about 6 years ago.

President Lungmus asked if there were any Board members who wanted to comment on this matter.

Village Manager Sigman noted that Trustee Fowler was absent but had called her and wanted her to express that he was adamant about including American Elms and quality Maples on the list of Heritage Trees. She noted that the original list was comprised of species that the Morton Arboretum and the Chicago Botanical Garden considered Heritage Trees for this region.

Trustee Mendrek asked if the Architectural Commission narrowed the listing of Heritage Trees with the input of a forester. Gutierrez replied there was not a forester but there is a landscape architect who is a member of the Architectural Commission.

Trustee Orth said that a lot of time and thought was put into the original listing of Heritage Trees and was in favor of reverting back to it.

President Lungmus was in favor of keeping the original list of Heritage Trees that was sourced from the Morton Arboretum and Chicago Botanical Garden.

Trustee Mendrek was in favor of keeping the original listing of Heritage Trees.

Trustee Mendrek made a motion seconded by Trustee Whittaker, to amend the initial motion to keep the original larger list of Heritage Trees (including Oak, Hickory, Walnut, male Ginkgo, Beech, American Elm, Maple, Bald Cypress, Hackberry, Osage Orange Sycamore, Ironwood, Linden, Buckeye, Catalpa and Coffee Tree) to an ordinance amending Chapter 10 Landscaping, Screening and Tree Preservation amendment to Chapter 10, Landscape Screening and Tree Preservation, based on recommendations from the Architectural Commission and Appendix D, Fees and Fines regarding the Village's Tree Preservation Code.

AYES: Whittaker
Galín
Mendrek
Orth

NAYS: Dinges

ABSTAIN: 0

ABSENT: Fowler

President Lungmus asked if any member of the public wanted to comment on this matter. There was none.

President Lungmus requested a roll call vote to approve an ordinance amending Chapter 10 Landscaping, Screening and Tree Preservation amendment to Chapter 10, Landscape Screening and Tree Preservation, based on recommendations from the Architectural Commission and Appendix D, Fees and Fines regarding the Village's Tree Preservation Code.

AYES: Dinges
Whittaker
Galín
Mendrek
Orth

NAYS: 0

ABSTAIN: 0

ABSENT: Fowler

PUBLIC COMMENT

Kathy Estabrooke a resident from 1620 Mount Pleasant stated that in her neighborhood, a new resident had cut down a gorgeous old oak tree. She and her neighbors were very upset about it. She pleaded with the Board to work to stop this sort of thing from happening in the future. Director Gutierrez commented that the tree had to be removed due to where the utility service lines needed to be installed for the home, which the Code allowed. However, after approval of the recent Tree Amendment Ordinance, a tree like this would be much more costly to cut down in the future.

DEPARTMENT UPDATES

Administration

VM Sigman noted that there is continued work on the Happ Road Phase II Project. Staff was working with the consultant to get 60% engineering drawings which will be the first set that goes into County and IDOT for review. This project is moving along really well and in the next couple of months, they will be homing in on the land acquisitions and easements. For the Skokie Valley Trail, Attorney Hill worked with the Village of Wilmette to adjust the intergovernmental

agreement and this will be presented to the Board in August. The contract for Skokie Valley Trail is still awaiting IDOT's approval so none of the work on this has been able to move forward. Staff plans to present the renovation design of the board room and the revised Goals and Objectives at the Committee of Whole meeting in August. Later this week, there will be a kickoff meeting with the signage consultant to coordinate with them on some way-finding signs for the Village. The goal is to bring some signage drawings and ideas back to the Board in October.

Community Development Department & Building Department

Director Gutierrez reported there is an application expected for the Zoning Board of Appeals meeting on September 6. The 2166 Drury homeowners want to put on an addition in the rear of the home that would require a rear yard variation.

The Architectural Commission expects an application for a façade change for a commercial building on Northfield Road. There were changes made to the facade, but these were not in the approved plans which only applied to interior renovations. The applicant was informed that it was necessary to present these façade changes before the Architectural Commission. There is usually no Architectural Commission meeting in August but they are going to try to schedule one to review these façade changes; otherwise, it will be postponed until September.

Finance Department

Finance Director Morley stated that the General Fund had a surplus of \$145,000 versus a predicted budget deficit of \$535,000. Expenses were lower than budgeted by \$418,000. The Water fund has a surplus of \$86,000 with revenues \$39,000 higher than budget and expenses \$44,000 lower than budgeted. The Police Pension has \$241,000 in YTD revenues versus the budget of \$195,000 and expenses were \$145,000 versus the budget of \$150,000. The Police Pension shifted to the State of Illinois in June. In May, there were \$14.5 million in investments - \$10 million was in the IL Fund, and in June, \$6 million was shifted to Fifth Third and \$4 million to Northview.

Fire-Rescue & Public Works Departments

There was no report.

Police Department

Chief Lustig thanked the Board for all of their support.

President Lungmus thanked Chief Lustig and his department for helping to keep Northfield safe.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business or issues to come before the Board, Trustee Orth made a motion, seconded by Trustee Whittaker to adjourn the meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:59 PM.

