

**State of Illinois
County of Cook
Township of Northfield
Northfield Township Board of Trustees Meeting Monday, May 17, 2010
Reconvened from Tuesday, May 11, 2010**

The following board members were present:

Jill Brickman, Supervisor
Brendan Appel, Trustee
Carol Blustein, Trustee
Karen McCormick, Trustee
Mary Reynolds, Trustee

Also present:

Laura Fine, Northfield Township Clerk
Peter Amarantos, Northfield Township Road District Commissioner
Lucinda Fuller, Northfield Township Finance Director
Wally Kehr, Northfield Township Road District Foreman
Gene Bulmash, Bulmash Law Firm
Todd Shields, Pioneer Press

Supervisor Brickman reconvened the meeting at 5:03 PM. She explained the open item on the agenda is the approval of the Road District Budget Ordinance No. 0510-4. She said the motion is on the floor from the previous meeting.

Contractual Services

Trustee Reynolds mentioned she e-mailed Commissioner Amarantos various questions and received some answers prior to the meeting. She suggested reviewing the questions and answers with the board. The first concerns the \$40,000 line item for *Contractual Services*. She said the item relates to the potential build out of the Road District facility at 1928 Lehigh. She suggested since there is no time frame for the addition, the item be postponed for now and come back to it and amend it when it is deemed necessary. She recommended a zero be put in the line item. Trustee Blustein said in the past 3 years, \$10,000, \$45,000 and \$40,000 were placed in this line item, but nothing was spent. Commissioner Amarantos said the line item should stay. He added most of that money has already been spent. He said they are putting up LED lights in the garage, and they will receive an electrical bill. Trustee McCormick asked how much will the Road District be billed for the electrical work. Mr. Amarantos said he did not have an exact amount because of unforeseen problems and additional costs. Trustee Reynolds asked if there was a contract for the work so they could have an idea of the cost. Mr. Amarantos said he does not have the costs for the upgrades yet.

Trustee Blustein asked what he feels a reasonable amount would be for this line item, considering no money has been spent from this line item in the past 3 years. Mr. Amarantos said \$40,000 is reasonable because the design of the building will change due to the recycling program. Supervisor Brickman asked if the project will begin this year. Trustee Reynolds noted in Mr. Amaranto's written responses it said there is no time frame yet. Mr. Amarantos said that

there could be the opportunity towards the end of the year, so the line item should remain for the possibility.

Trustee Reynolds said since \$5,000 could have possibly been spent already, \$5,000 seems fair in this line item. If it turns out to be insufficient, the board can revisit it and amend it if more money is necessary. Mr. Amarantos said he does not like to budget that way. He wants to make sure there is money in the account that he can spend. Trustee Appel said he takes comfort in knowing the money is available, but Commissioner Amarantos does not have to spend it.

Trustee Blustein asked if it is possible to move money out of the reserves and into the budget. Ms. Fuller explained the process can take up to 6 weeks. Once you decide to make the change, you need to publish a month's notice of the meeting when the final decision will be made.

Trustee McCormick said that when you compare the Town Budget to the Road District Budget, the Town portion seems to look at past expenses and decide what needs to be done in the future. She said there are figures on the Road side that she is not comfortable with. Trustee Reynolds added that projections can be made based on past expenditures. She added there are unpredictable expenses like gas, salt and tires. She said the unincorporated areas definitely say they receive excellent service. She submitted \$5,000 for this line item.

Supervisor Brickman noted the board has the option of vetoing a line item, but she did not have a definitive answer on changing the amount of the line item. Trustee Blustein said she spoke with the president of TOI, and he said the board could change the amount.

Trustee Reynolds moved to amend Ordinance No. 0510-4 to change the line item for Contractual Services to \$10,000.

Trustee Blustein seconded the motion.

Roll Call:

Ayes: Trustee Blustein, Trustee McCormick, Trustee Reynolds (3)

Nays: Supervisor Brickman, Trustee Appel (2)

Motion carried 3-2

Office Equipment

Trustee McCormick said if Commissioner Amarantos plans to purchase a new copy machine, \$10,000 is reasonable.

Meeting Expenses

Trustee Reynolds asked what the expenses will be with the new rules and regulations that go along with the adoption of the new Water Shed Ordinance. Mr. Kehr explained the ordinance is in its final review. He said there will be changes in how we operate the storm sewers and the sanitary district. Classes and meetings will be mandatory to learn how to follow the new ordinance. He said there will be seminars with the MWRD in addition to re-certification for employees. There are also meetings with Cook County for building and zoning.

Personnel Services

Trustee Reynolds noted that the first grants that have been developed are for the establishment of a primary township emergency operations center and equipping the facility to support its operations. She said this cannot happen right now because the township is not an emergency management agency. Commissioner Amarantos said all the board has to do is sign an ordinance. Trustee Reynolds said the ordinance has to come first. Trustee McCormick said it would have been nice if Commissioner Amarantos discussed the position with the board prior to moving ahead, as Mr. Dunne was hired as the Emergency Management Director before the board was notified. Therefore, Trustee Reynolds added, the problem is the township is not an Emergency Management agency and the work that has been done so far has been marred by the fact that the Road District didn't communicate with the Township Board.

Mr. Amarantos said the position was discussed at the Annual Town Meeting. He said he sees Emergency Management as a priority. He said he can hire who he wants to hire to start the program. He said we have two choices; you can come to court or we can have an opportunity. Trustee Reynolds said that doesn't feel like a choice. Commissioner Amarantos asked if he had come to the board before the hire, would this process be easier? Trustee Reynolds said it would be a discussion, yes.

Commissioner Amarantos said we can't rely on others to bail us out in an emergency. He said when we had a recent heavy rain, it was the Northfield Township Road District that closed Central Avenue because we couldn't get service from the state or the county, even though the road is controlled by the state and the services are controlled by the county police. Trustee McCormick asked how this relates to the hiring of Mr. Dunne. He said Mr. Dunne was out there to close the road and direct traffic. Trustee McCormick asked why we need to pay \$60,000 a year to somebody to direct traffic. Mr. Kehr said that morning many employees were taking care of the sanitary district and others were taking care of storm systems and closing down flooded roads.

Trustee Reynolds agreed that flood mitigation is worth working on, and the information provided to the board about the grants Mr. Dunne is pursuing gives the board a more complete picture. However she feels the title of Emergency Management Director is not appropriate since we are not currently an Emergency Management agency. She says she sees a salary of \$1,000 per month for the rest of the fiscal year for a grant writer is an appropriate salary.

Trustee Reynolds moved to amend the budget to reflect the line item changed to \$25,153.90. Trustee Blustein seconded the motion.

Trustee Reynolds explained that is what has been budgeted so far for this fiscal year plus \$1,000 a month for the remaining months for a grant writer to receive funding for flood mitigation. Trustee Appel said he thinks this would set a dangerous precedent to set the salaries for employees in the Road District. He added that although he has nothing positive to say about the position of Emergency Management Director, he does not feel it is up to the board to set salaries.

Trustee Reynolds said the real issue is the Road District does not have the jurisdiction to hire an Emergency Management Director. If he had the jurisdiction to do that, she said she would not have a problem with it. She said we do not have an ordinance to establish an Emergency Management Agency in the township, and there is a very set procedure for doing that. She said

she has a problem with the Highway Commissioner establishing the position when it is in the purview of the township. Trustee McCormick added there are benefits that could come of the situation. She suggested the board come up with a compromise to have those benefits to mitigate some of the flooding issues without supporting something they are not in the position to support because it has yet to be approved through the proper channels.

Supervisor Brickman said the flood control issue is a big issue, and there is some technical expertise needed to go after specific flood control monies that would be beyond a general grant writer. She suggested finding something between the proposed budget and the \$1,000 a month. Trustee McCormick said she is also concerned that because the job was not widely advertised, do we have the best person in place with the most expertise? Supervisor Brickman noted this is not our hire, and the Road District is a separate unit of government. She said if someone works for the Highway Commission, the Highway Commissioner does the hiring.

Supervisor Brickman said she is not comfortable with \$1,000 a month based on working 10 hours a week. She said it strikes her as low when we see what jobs are valued at. Trustee McCormick asked if the job is full-time, part-time or more of a consultant. Commissioner Amarantos said he is more than a grant writer, and he is full-time. Supervisor Brickman suggested a compromise of half-time. She said working with overlapping agencies can be a very time consuming, cumbersome process. She said working 10 hours a week could take a long time to make any progress. 20 hours a week sounds more realistic than 10.

Trustee Blustein asked if the board needs to withdraw the motion. Supervisor Brickman explained the board has to vote on that motion and have a new one.

The question before the board is to change the line item from \$60,000 to \$25,153.90 and to explore the issue further before the next budget.

Roll Call:

Ayes: None (0)

Nays: Supervisor Brickman, Trustee Appel, Trustee Blustein, Trustee McCormick, Trustee Reynolds (5)

Motion failed 0-5

Supervisor Brickman explained if the positions is 20 hours a week, it would come to the \$16,153.90 already paid plus nine months at \$2,000 a month for a total of \$34,153.90.

Trustee Reynolds moved to amend the Ordinance No. 0510-4 line item for the Emergency Management Director to \$34,153.90 and that we explore this further as soon as possible. Trustee Blustein seconded the motion.

Roll Call:

Ayes: Supervisor Brickman, Trustee Appel, Trustee Blustein, Trustee McCormick, Trustee Reynolds (5)

Nays: None (0)

Motion carried 5-0

Contractual Services

Trustee Blustein asked about the line item for striping. Commissioner Amarantos said streets will be striped after they are resurfaced. There may also be some intersections that need to be re-striped.

Recycling Events

Commissioner Amarantos explained we are losing state funding for recycling tires. We now have to pay \$3 per small tire.

TV Storm Sewer Lines

Mr. Kehr said this is an emergency line item. In case there is a problem, he needs to be able to put a camera through or slip line the area.

Stone and Aggregate

Trustee Reynolds asked why stone is needed for construction. Mr. Kehr explained if you have to replace a pipe under the streets, you have to take out and redo the street and put stone on the side of the road.

Capital Outlay, Paint Can Crusher

Trustee McCormick asked why the Road District needs another paint can crusher. Mr. Kehr said so many cans come in at the recycling events, and they take a long time to crush. Supervisor Brickman said the paint can crusher drains the paint, crushes the can, and enables you to recycle the paint and the can.

Addition to 1928 Lehigh

Trustee Reynolds said since there is no time frame on this, she moved to amend Ordinance No. 0510-4 to reduce the budget by this line item. She said if the board needs to revisit this budget in August, we can bring it up at the July meeting.

Trustee Blustein seconded the motion.

Supervisor Brickman said this line item does not trouble her because since it was levied, the money will be included in tax bills anyway but will not be spent unless the addition is built. Money not spent will go into reserves, so the result will be the same for the taxpayers. She added given the way the recycling program has taken off, this is becoming a more important part of what the Road District needs.

Roll call to eliminate the line item:

Ayes: Trustee Blustein, Trustee McCormick, Trustee Reynolds (3)

Nays: Supervisor Brickman, Trustee Appel (2)

Motion carried 3-2

Supervisor Brickman said there is a motion to approve Ordinance 0510-4 with amendments reducing *Contracted Services* from \$40,000 to \$10,000, reducing *Emergency Management Director* from \$60,000 to \$35,153.90 with an agreement to explore this further as soon as possible, and the amendment to remove the line item of \$300,000 for the *Addition to 1928 Lehigh*.

Roll Call:

Ayes: Supervisor Brickman, Trustee Appel, Trustee Blustein, Trustee McCormick, Trustee Reynolds (5)

Nays: None (0)

Motion carried 5-0

Ordinance No. 0510-5 Northfield Township Road District Road Improvement Fund

Trustee Appel moved to approve Ordinance No. 0510-5.

Trustee Reynolds seconded the motion.

Roll Call:

Ayes: Supervisor Brickman, Trustee Appel, Trustee Blustein, Trustee McCormick, Trustee Reynolds (5)

Nays: None (0)

Motion carried 5-0

Trustee Appel moved to adjourn.

Trustee Blustein seconded the motion.

The meeting adjourned at 7:10 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Laura Fine, Northfield Township Clerk