

**State of Illinois  
County of Cook  
Township of Northfield  
Northfield Township Board of Trustees Meeting December 13, 2011**

The following were present:

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

Also present:

Laura Fine, Northfield Township Clerk  
Patricia Damisch, Northfield Township Assessor  
Peter Amarantos, Northfield Township Road District Commissioner  
Michele Wilson, Northfield Township Staff  
Lucinda Fuller, Northfield Township Staff  
Wally Kehr, Northfield Township Road District  
Mark Nolan, Northbrook Fire Department Chief  
Howard Silver, Northfield Township Real Estate Broker  
David Rahija, Glenbrook Hospital  
Seema Terry, Glenbrook Hospital

Supervisor Brickman called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM and lead us in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Public Hearing - Tax Levies**

The tax levies are for the Town Fund, General Assistance, Special Police District, Road District and Bridge and Road Improvement.

There were no comments from the public so the public hearing was closed..

**Recess Public Meeting**

**Open Town Meeting**

**Glenbrook Hospital**

Dave Rahija, the Vice President of Operations at Glenbrook Hospital said that instead of giving holiday gifts to employees, they decided to donate the money to local organizations. Mr. Rahija presented the board with a \$10,000 check for the township's Human Services Commission from the employees at Glenbrook Hospital. Mr. Rahija said the employees chose the Human Services Commission because it has the same mission as their group, to preserve and improve human life. He commended the township's Community Coordinator for the job she does publicizing the township's activities and the need that exists in our community.

Supervisor Brickman thanked Mr. Rahija on behalf of the board and said many different agencies will benefit from this donation.

## **Approval of the Minutes of the November 8, 2011 Board Meeting**

Trustee McCormick moved to approve the minutes of the November 8, 2011 board meeting.

Trustee Appel seconded the motion.

The minutes were unanimously approved on a voice vote.

## **Recess Town Meeting**

### **Open Sewer Meeting**

#### **Approval of the Sewer Bills**

Trustee Blustein moved to approve the sewer bills.

Trustee Appel seconded the motion.

Roll Call:

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

Nays: None (0)

Motion carried 5-0

## **Sewer Collections**

No discussion

### **Annual Sewer Charge for 2012**

Supervisor Brickman said any changes in the sewer fees are set this time of year. The Supervisor asked Road District Forman Wally Kehr if the present fee is sufficient or if the fee needs to be raised. Mr. Kehr said it would be sufficient to wait another year before increasing the charge. The board agreed, with the caveat that it is important to make increases incrementally rather than waiting and instituting very large increases.

## **Old Business**

Supervisor Brickman said Dan Creaney is already on the MWRD technical panel for which the board nominated Mr. Kehr. Because we are one of his clients, Mr. Creaney will update the board on how developments on the panel will impact the township.

Mr. Kehr reported that so far, one permit has been issued to a resident taking advantage of the overhead sewer program, and another 5 homeowners are working with plumbers to devise a plan for their homes. Supervisor Brickman added that information about the program will be included with the sewer bills going out in January.

Mr. Kehr also said the sewer truck will be sent back for maintenance. The truck has a hydraulic leak that is still under warranty.

## **New Business**

No Discussion

## **Reconvene Town Meeting**

## **Northbrook Rural Fire Protection District Appointment**

The president of the Northbrook Rural Fire Protection District, Bervin Peterson is retiring. Northbrook Fire Department Chief Mark Nolan is recommending appointing Dean Alexander to the vacancy. Mr. Alexander is a veteran who lives in Mission Hills.

Trustee Blustein moved to appoint Dean Alexander to the Northbrook Rural Fire Protection District and thanked retiring president Bervin Peterson.

Trustee Appel seconded the motion.

The motion was unanimously approved on a voice vote.

Trustee Appel thanked Mr. Alexander for his 20 years of military service.

## **Approval of the Town Fund Bills**

Trustee McCormick moved to approve the Town Fund Bills for December 2011.

Trustee Reynolds seconded the motion.

Trustee Appel noted last week's meeting was a board meeting, not a committee meeting. Ms. Fuller said she would add the trustees' payments for the meeting to next month's bills.

Trustee Appel noted the large township phone bill. He said he would look into a less expensive system for the township and forward the information.

Roll Call:

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

Nays: None (0)

Motion carried 5-0

## **Road and Bridge Bills**

Trustee Reynolds moved to approve the Road and Bridge bills for December 2011.

Trustee Appel seconded the motion.

Trustee Blustein asked about the bill for *Glenwood Tree Experts, Insecticide*. Mr. Kehr explained the Austrian pine trees were being attacked by a fungus and a moth, and the trees were being sprayed to protect them.

Trustee Blustein also asked about the bill for Dan Creaney. Mr. Kehr explained they are working on a plan to prevent flooding issues. They are looking into a rain garden plan to retain some of the water runoff from going into the sewers and the roadways.

Roll Call:

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

Nays: None (0)

Motion carried 5-0

## **Committee Membership**

Trustee Blustein moved that going forward committee membership should be reserved for board members.

Trustee Reynolds seconded the motion.

Trustee Blustein said that in the private sector, and in her experiences in the public schools, employees are not involved in vital functions, especially fiduciary responsibilities. She said that residents elected the board to make decisions and set fiduciary policy. Therefore, Trustee Blustein said she feels committee membership should be reserved for board members.

Supervisor Brickman said in her experience as a school board member at a private school, it is not unusual to have employees on committees, but not as voting members. The Supervisor said she feels it would be a mistake not to include employees, as employees could be important resources for the committees. The Supervisor added a compromise would be to have employees as committee members, but not as voting members. She said that the board would not be abdicating its fiduciary responsibilities since those actions must go through the board.

Trustee Reynolds said she feels that there should be a collaborative effort with the board and employees, however, a committee should be made up of board members.

Trustee Appel noted that Assessor Damisch is on the relocation search committee, and she is not a trustee on the board. He said he feels that excluding employees from boards would be an overreach, as the board would move into Executive Session before discussing money.

Trustee Blustein amended her motion to include board members and elected officials.

Supervisor Brickman noted if the employees were not on the committees, they could only sit in on committee meetings on their personal time. The Supervisor said that she does not see this as a breach of fiduciary responsibilities, and employees would have no power of action on fiduciary decisions.

Trustee Blustein maintained her point that the board should solicit employees for input, but when a committee structure is necessary it should be done as a board.

The amended motion is as follows: To disallow employee participation as committee members. The only people allowed to be committee members would be elected officials.

Roll Call:

Ayes: Trustee Blustein, Trustee Reynolds (2)

Nays: Supervisor Brickman, Trustee Appel (2)

Abstained: Trustee McCormick (1)

Motion failed for lack of a majority.

### **Presentation of Assessor Budget**

This budget is for informational purposes only.

Trustee Blustein asked what percentage of the pay for the deputy assessor comes from the Town Budget and what percentage comes from the Assessor's Budget. Ms. Fuller explained it is arbitrary, as it all comes out of the same budget. Supervisor Brickman explained that all employees work in all areas, and during appeals time, much of the time is spent on assessor duties.

### **Adopt Ordinance Regarding Tax Levies**

Supervisor Brickman noted the public hearing regarding tax levies has already taken place.

### **General Town Fund**

Trustee Reynolds moved to adopt the levy for the General Town Fund for 2011. Trustee Appel seconded the motion.

Roll Call:

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

Nays: None (0)

Motion carried 5-0

### **Road District**

Trustee McCormick moved to approve the Road District Levy for 2011. Trustee Appel seconded the motion.

Trustee McCormick questioned some of the figures. She said the initial levy for the Emergency Management Director was \$60,000 and now it is \$76,275. Ms. Fuller noted the error and said that 2 numbers were reversed. The \$76,275 is for office help for Debra Wierzbicki's salary plus a portion of Lucinda Fuller's salary. \$60,000 is for the Emergency Management Director.

Trustee McCormick withdrew her motion.

Trustee Appel seconded the withdrawn motion.

Trustee Reynolds moved to approve the draft Road District levy with the changes to the line items of *Office Help* and *Emergency Management Director*.

Trustee Appel seconded the motion.

Roll Call:

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

Nays: None (0)

Motion carried 5-0

### **Road Improvement Levy**

Trustee Reynolds moved to approve the Road Improvement levy for 2011. Trustee McCormick seconded the motion.

Roll Call:

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

Nays: None (0)

Motion carried 5-0

Supervisor Brickman thanked Ms. Fuller for all of her work on these issues.

**Matters to be Presented by the Public**

Supervisor Brickman said Tom Norton brought in a nice donation to the pantry this week.

**Old Business**

No discussion

**New Business**

Trustee Appel asked Ms. Fuller how the financial numbers look for the year. Ms. Fuller said the budget is on track, however reserves are a bit low.

Trustee Blustein asked for an update on the Pantry Advisory Board. Supervisor Brickman said the first meeting has been scheduled, and she will ask Ms. Curcio to send the board an update.

Supervisor Brickman said the Food Pantry's Winter Holiday Appeal has been successful. Since December 12, the appeal has raised \$67,000. The goal is \$105,000. The Supervisor noted 680 families are relying on the pantry.

Trustee Blustein moved to adjourn.

Trustee Appel seconded the motion.

The motion was unanimously approved on a voice vote.

The meeting adjourned at 7:28 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Laura Fine, Northfield Township Clerk