

The Village of Northfield
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
May 24, 2006

Mrs. Greenlee called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM following the Pledge of Allegiance. Mayor Milani was unable to attend the meeting due to recuperation from minor surgery. The roll was called by Bob Riedel with the following present: Mrs. Greenlee, Mr. Barber, Mr. Nehez, Mr. Lewis and Mrs. Bowen. Mr. Stewart was absent. Law Director Brad Bryan, Police Chief Mark Wentz, Fire Chief Gary Vojtush, and Service/Bldg. Superintendent Jason Walters were present.

Mr. Riedel read a memo to Council (attached) from Mayor Milani stating that Council President Bea Greenlee will conduct the meeting in his absence. He also thanked Law Director Brad Bryan for his part in bringing about the successful outcome of the Louthan termination arbitration. A motion to approve the minutes of the May 10, 2006 Council meeting was made by Mr. Nehez and seconded by Mr. Lewis. It carried with 4 ayes and an abstention by Mrs. Bowen. There were no Petitions, Memorials or Remonstrances.

Finance Director Bob Riedel reported that Rich Wasosky had distributed copies of a resolution not included in tonight's agenda, and that he had since amended the dollar amounts for the total project cost from \$287,000.00 to \$231,250.00 and the maximum Macedonia would pay from \$185,750.00 to \$130,000. Mr. Riedel then reported that the Village's (Summa) health insurance premium is set to go up 17% on June 1st. Our union contracts specify an increase limit of only 13%. Consequently, it was decided that we will go with a plan requiring a higher co-pay for prescription drugs, while the rest of the plan benefits will remain the same. This will keep the increase at the specified 13%.

Law Director Brad Bryan reported that the arbitrator had upheld the termination of former Police Lieutenant Jeff Louthan. The arbitration is binding, and hence the decision is final. According to Brad, if Louthan were to sue the Village in court, it is highly unlikely he could win the case. Brad has not heard anything as yet about if or when an arbitration hearing for Lia Withrow-Calalesina will take place.

Police Chief Mark Wentz reported that the testing process for adding a full-time officer will continue. The Chief does not intend to rush into a decision, as he wants to ensure making the right choice. The two new part-time officers, Mullin and Kaetzel, are progressing very well. A physical fitness test is coming up on June 15th, and Chief Wentz is looking at a couple of part-time candidates.

Fire Chief Gary Vojtush had no report, but commented that the response time reported by Channel 5 for our Fire Department is inaccurate (5.5 versus our figure of 3.6). Even with the false figures, we rank tenth on the list. The correct 3.6 figure would put us first in Summit County, provided other communities' figures are correct.

Service/Building Superintendent Jason Walters reported that there is a glitch in the parking lot project for the Pitlock Preserve nature park. A neighbor is claiming to own part of the property, and work will have to be held off until a decision on the matter is made by the County. Jason reported further that the sign for Joseph Francus Drive will be put up soon, now that it has been approved, and that most of the ground carpet has been installed at the parks.

Mr. Bryan presented Mrs. Greenlee's Planning Commission report, a copy of which is attached. Planning Commission recommended Council approval of Ron and Cynthia Macko's Magnolia Avenue lot consolidation. Mrs. Greenlee made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Bowen, to approve the lot consolidation. It carried with 5 ayes. Planning Commission also determined that Nick Gale will be able to build on his Houghton/Electric property following surveying and the presentation of plans. He must appear before Planning Commission again to request a variance.

Mrs. Greenlee reported for the Finance Committee that the Pay Ordinance is on tonight's agenda. Brad read Ordinance 2006-20, an emergency Ordinance approving the payment of bills for the month of May, 2006. Mrs. Greenlee made a motion for passage, Mr. Lewis seconded, and the payments were approved with 5 aye votes.

Mr. Lewis of Roads and Public Works asked Council to be patient about progress on the parks, signs, flags, mowing, mulching, etc. The Service Department has been working hard, but was hampered by nine straight days of rain. There were no reports from Health and Welfare, Buildings and Grounds, or Wages and Working Conditions. Mrs. Bowen of Fire and Safety reported that a Fire Consortium meeting was held last night. As of right now, only the Village and Macedonia are on board. Northfield Center and Sagamore Hills are to meet within the next week to decide whether or not they will be part of the process.

At this time, Mr. Lewis made a motion to add Resolution 2006-21 to the agenda. Mrs. Greenlee seconded, and the motion carried with 5 ayes. Resolution 2006-21 is an emergency Resolution pledging cooperation by the Village of Northfield with the City of Macedonia in the matter of the Ledge Road improvements and authorizing the Mayor to execute all contracts with the City of Macedonia. A motion to amend the Resolution per Bob Riedel's report on page 1 of the minutes was made by Mrs. Bowen and seconded by Mr. Lewis. The motion carried with 5 ayes. Mr. Lewis made a motion to suspend the Three-Reading Rule, Mrs. Bowen seconded, and the motion carried with 5 ayes. A motion for passage was made by Mr. Barber and seconded by Mr. Lewis. It also carried with 5 aye votes. A motion to allow the Engineer to advertise for bids on the Ledge Road Project (with the contingency that Jason discuss the dip in the road by the water tower with Rich Wasosky and include that in the bidding) was made by Mr. Lewis and seconded by Mr. Nehez. It carried with 5 ayes.

There was no Old Business. In New Business, Mr. Nehez thanked Jason for taking care of the grass problem on Milford. Jason commented that there have been issues with the fence at the back of the parking lot. A guardrail will be installed and the fence repaired. Mrs. Greenlee wished Mayor Milani a speedy recovery.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:13 PM following a motion by Mrs. Greenlee and second by Mrs. Bowen. The motion carried with 5 ayes.

Respectfully Submitted by:

Cheryl Kennon, Administrative Clerk

Attest:

President of Council _____

Clerk of Council