

The Village of Northfield

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

August 25, 2010

Mayor Milani called the meeting to order at 7:30PM following the Pledge of Allegiance. The roll was called by Robert Riedel with the following present: Mrs. Greenlee, Mrs. Selle, Mr. Nehez, Mr. Noack, Mr. Bolek and Mrs. Bowen. Law Director Brad Bryan, Police Lieutenant Mackie, Fire Chief Vojtush and Service/Building Department Superintendent Jason Walters were present.

Mayor Milani asked everyone at this time for everyone to bow their heads in condolences to John Bolek and the Bolek family with regards to Mrs. Laverne Bolek, John's mother, a long time resident Mrs. Bolek who recently passed away.

A motion to approve the minutes of the August 11, 2010 Regular Council meeting made by Mr. Bolek and seconded by Mrs. Greenlee. The motion carried with 5 ayes, 1 absent. Mr. Noack arrived at 7:45pm.

In the business of Petitions, Memorials or Remonstrances, Julianne Carsone of 278 Lowrie Blvd. thanked the Northfield Village Council, Mayor Milani, fire and police department for their support and professionalism during these times of mourning on behalf of the Albert Bolek family and her husband John Bolek. When Laverne Bolek passed away the response of the police and fire departments and the support they received was remarkable. Mrs. Carsone said to Chief Wentz, Chief Vojtush, Captain Buss that their departments should be commended. She thanked Mayor Milani and Council for the support that has been given to her husband John Bolek during these times. Resident at 8966 Cambridge, Sandy Pagano said she is concerned about the condition of the residents yards, in regards to not cutting grass, garbage kept in the front yards, etc..She is wondering if a beautification committee could be started to support those residents who do need plants planted or we can cut their lawn. Mayor Milani said that a lot of these properties are like this due to owners being out of state and we do know that we need to address these issues, and have been. Mayor Milani said a lot of these properties are owned by banks and we do have ordinances that once the grass is above 8", Jason Walters uses to cite these properties, but it can get very costly and then eventually ends up on the tax duplicate. Mrs. Pagano said she did call the service department and spoke with Lisa Rodriguez about the two properties with high grass and high weeds coming down Milford from Ledge Rd. 219 Stratford and also the corner lot. Mr. Noack said that he is the councilman in her district and she can call him whenever she sees anything like this. Mayor Milani also told her not to hesitate to contact the Village about it. Mr. Bolek said that the property next to Huntington Park is the worse property he has seen in the Village and is like a junk yard, along with the property with the blue tarp. Mr. Walters said that the one next to Huntington Park and the one with the blue tarp are two different properties. Mr. Bryan said that maybe for the elderly who need help with cutting grass, something can be discussed.

Mayor Milani reported the tent in Peppers parking lot is Jungle Safari to have a petting zoo 8/25-8/29 and they have received all of their permits from Jason Walters, and Chief Vojtush said that everything was good on his end also. Mayor Milani met with Howard Shafron yesterday and tried to encourage him to sell the Plaza. Mr. Noack asked why Mr. Shafron would not sell the Plaza, Mayor Milani said that Mr. Shafron said that he feels the price isn't right. Mr. Shafron said he feels that he can build the Plaza tenant base back up. Mr. Shafron said that the Market Place will be closing soon. Mr. Noack said in his opinion, if Mr. Shafron would sell the Plaza then he feels the Plaza would be filled. Mr. Bolek said that Plaza's do not work without a bank as a tenant. Mayor Milani said that he pointed out to Mr. Shafron that the appearance of the Plaza is not what they would like it to be. Mr. Bolek said that we need to look at the business that is moving into town where all of the employees are volunteers and won't pay taxes. Mayor Milani asked Mr. Riedel about the Thrift Nation having all of their employees listed as volunteers, and do we have any recourse. Mr. Riedel said that we can have Oscar Knicely and central collections go to Thrift Nation and have each person working there sign an affidavit stating that they are working there and get their social security numbers. Fire Chief Vojtush said that they will not be open until they get the approval on their fire alarm system, and they asked for a temporary occupancy and that was denied because of the life safety issues. Mr. Noack said safety comes first. Mayor Milani asked Chief Vojtush when did he think that they would be done with those issues, and Chief Vojtush said in a couple days if they get those issues resolved. Mayor Milani thanked Council, Service Dept., Fire Dept. Police Dept, and everyone else involved with the 75th Anniversary Diamond Jubilee celebration, it was a success! Mayor Milani thanked Northfield Park for the use of the track, and the dedicated race for the 75th anniversary. Mr. Bolek said that we can pay \$100 to get another copy of the anniversary blanket for the Village race. Mayor Milani told Council if would like to make a motion we could get seven copies of the group photo picture made up for everyone. Mr. Bolek said it would be nice to get the blanket and get a enlarged copy of the picture to hang at the

Village hall. Mrs. Greenlee told everyone to see her after the meeting if they would like a copy made of the group photo from the track.

Finance Director, Robert Riedel asked for a motion to accept the financial statements and Mayor's court report for July 2010 as submitted. Mrs. Bowen made the motion and was seconded by Mrs. Greenlee, it carried with 6 ayes.

Law Director, Brad Bryan had no report.

Police Lt. Mackie had no report.

Fire Chief Vojtush had no report. Chief Vojtush discussed the purchase order he submitted to purchase replacement radios for the fire department due to the new frequencies that will be needed. Mr. Noack asked what is the cost, and stated that he feels it is very important for police and fire to communicate. Chief Vojtush said that the money was put in his budget this year and the cost for the portables is around \$8,200.00. Chief Vojtush said that the main frame is up and working, the trucks are setup and working. Mr. Bolek asked if we are leasing or buying. Chief Vojtush said he never even thought about leasing, but to purchase it is about \$300 per portable radio, for a 400mhz system. Mr. Bolek asked if there are any dead zones in the 150 that you won't have in the 400 in the Village and Chief Vojtush said you will always have dead zones but in town here you won't have many problems here in the Village. Chief Vojtush said that this is the second part of the phase in, and the third part is pagers for everyone. Mr. Bolek asked if the new truck will have the 500 system built in, and Chief Vojtush said no he is using the system out of the old truck since it is fairly new. In 2012 they will be addressing the wide and narrow band issue. Mayor Milani said that when he saw the purchase order for this purchase he talked with Mr. Riedel and looked to see if they could do this purchase in increments, even though it was budgeted for. Mayor Milani just wanted to afford Council to hear all of the information from Chief Vojtush regarding the purchase. Mrs. Selle said the price is around \$300 per radio when we purchase 20 radios, Chief Vojtush said that the price doesn't go up or down no matter how many we purchase. Mr. Bolek asked if they were on a fire scene if this system would enable them to talk through their helmets, Chief Vojtush said no. Mrs. Greenlee asked if half could be purchase this year and half next year, Chief Vojtush said he can't split up who gets a radio and who gets one with a pager, so he would like to purchase them all at once and the price will go up next year. Mr. Bolek said could we ask them to bill in January at the same price. Mr. Bolek asked if these were heavy duty in case they get dropped they won't get damaged, Chief Vojtush said no. Mr. Bolek asked if we bought into a maintenance contract, Chief Vojtush said no. Mayor Milani said that yes if they can bill us in January 2011 that would be great. Mr. Nehez asked if there was insurance on the radios, Chief Vojtush said no. Mr. Riedel said if it is encumbered today, so you have to pay it.

Darryl Chapman-Cameron from Little Caesars said that Mr. Bolek came into the store on Sunday morning. Mr. Chapman said that the employee that was working said that he felt like he was harassed. The manager on duty said Mr. Bolek was banging on the windows and yelling through the windows. Also Mr. Chapman said that he felt Mr. Bolek was just harassing them, because he talked to Mr. Bolek on the phone at 10:32a and he knew that they didn't have their permit so it was harassment. Mr. Mayor Milani asked what time that they open, Mr. Chapman said 11:00a. and this was at 10:23a according to the camera system. Mr. Chapman said once Mr. Bolek went in the store, Mr. Bolek said he never was in the store. Mr. Chapman said you had to be in the store because you talked on the cell phone, Mr. Bolek said the employee handed the cell phone through the door. Mr. Bolek said he wouldn't walk into the premises when the store was closed. Mr. Bolek said he saw 24 signs and we don't permit that, and anyone can ask a business to see their permit. Mr. Bryan asked why anyone has the right to walk into a business to see their permit, you have the right to ask, but if they don't want to show it to you, they don't have to. Mr. Bolek said he didn't make a scene and he just asked him, and the employee said why are you harassing me. Mr. Bolek asked to speak to the owner, and the employee said I am not going to tell you that and he kept saying well the mayor said if anyone has any questions we will tell you the same thing that we told the fire chief when he came that you have to see the Mayor Milani we will not answer any of your questions. Mr. Chapman said that is not what he said. Mr. Chapman said he spoke with Mayor Milani and the Fire Chief, and if any questions come up on those signs address it with the Mayor because the original understanding was we could put these up for 90 days, then later it changed to 90 days unless we had complaints. Mayor Milani said that he gives every business ample opportunity to self promote themselves, and as the ordinance says you can have up to 30 days period for two times per calendar year. Mayor Milani said that the 24 signs was over kill and he never authorized it, and when it was first brought to his attention that they were at the fire department and at the retirement community and he contacted the Building inspector Jason Walters and told him that they needed to have the signs taken down and Mr. Walters said that they removed them within an hour. Mr. Walters said that they will give them a grace period to put up the signs within the Plaza property, Mr. Walters said they are trying to promote their business and if anyone is pounding on their window it would be him and he said that the other day

he discussed with them about the excessiveness of the signs and they took them down within an hour. Mr. Walters said he is confused now, because we all talk about getting businesses in the Village, but you want me to hang them and every business on route 8 could be sited right now for signage, so we have to think about what we are doing. Mayor Milani said we need to have zero tolerance or we work with common sense, are we breaking the law, no. Are we bending the law, yes and I will continue to work with every business and give them the benefit of the doubt and we need to follow a chain of command. Mayor Milani said that Jason needs to be contacted or himself. Mr. Bolek said or C look at our ordinances which were written in 1964 and make them the way that we want them so that we don't "wink, wink" and tell businesses don't worry, we will take care of you, lets make our ordinances what we want them to be and so that we can tell the public that we are following the law. Mr. Bolek said that he has residents in his ward calling him saying that the town looks horrendous and can't wait for when the political signs to go up because it looks a heck of a lot better than it does now, and Mr. Bolek said he agrees. Mr. Noack asked how many calls he received, and Mr. Bolek said he received four calls. Mr. Bolek said Little Caesars had a sign up in March and he made a comment on the floor at the Council meeting that it was wrong that a sign was up when the business wasn't open, and Mr. Noack said leave it alone it's a non issue. Mr. Bolek said well now the public has thought for five months that they are in business. Mr. Noack said that we need these businesses in this town, Mr. Bolek said that we need to change our ordinances to reflect what we are doing not "wink wink", Mr. Noack said you can't be mean. Mr. Bolek said let's bring the ordinances in front of us, let's spend the time and get the books to what we want them to reflect not from what it is in 1964. Mr. Bolek said god bless them for wanting to be here and we wish them well. Mr. Bolek said that when Sherwin Williams and Handel's had their sales, they applied for the permit, got the permit and had their sale and 2 days later the signs were down. Mr. Bolek said it is Council's responsibility to sit down over the next couple of months and go through the laws. Mr. Walters said until we change the ordinances from the 60's if he goes around and follow the rules of today, Mr. Bolek said that will just be chaos. Mr. Walters said right, how do you pick one who is wrong and not another business. Mr. Walters said when he went to shut them down, there was no confrontation they complied. Mr. Chapman said when they open the store, they get a kit of signs and do the same thing with every store that they open, but next time they will check the books to see what the laws are to be sure. Mayor Milani said that Mr. Bolek is correct, these are the laws that we have to follow until we change them. Mr. Bryan said to Mr. Bolek to form a committee get some others to join and Mr. Bryan said he would help, Mr. Noack said he would like to be on the committee. Mr. Bolek said that it is a goal to get to the ordinances on these signs before the end of the year and the longer we drag this out the more influx we will have. Mayor Milani said this needs to be addressed now. Lt. Mackie said in the future anyone who has concerns to channel them to the department heads instead of approaching the businesses or residences regarding ordinances, which permits were or were not pulled so that confusion is not caused and we don't punish them for outdated ordinances. Mr. Noack said we need to make sure we don't overload Jason and the service dept with work. Mr. Bryan said the problem is that it is Jason's job to enforce the signs. Lt. Mackie said going to the department heads first will save the aggravation of not addressing the business or resident without know if they pulled a permit or got permission to park there when deviating from the norm and going to the department heads will solve that issue.

Service/Building Dept. Superintendent Jason Walters gave his report. (see attached) Mrs. Selle asked if CVS entrance was the Village responsibility or theirs and Mr. Walters said it is on his list to fix, but he can't touch the spots in their driveway. Mr. Walters said if you want him to go after every business, then he will do it, but it's not helping anybody. Mr. Walters said a lot of these business issues are before his time here and he has been here for 15 yrs. Mr. Walters said that the Cell phone business has had to be talked to many times regarding his signs, he has a simple sign now, but he has a hard time pulling in business. These are issues that we need to think about especially while the economy isn't great and it is hard to go in and talk to these businesses and ignore their reasons. Mr. Nehez said this is definitely something that Council needs to look at. Mayor Milani said even if we were to change some things, now is the time to tweak these ordinance. Mr. Bolek said he didn't know that the digital Sunoco sign cost \$60,000 and we have to be very cognoscente of the size and expense. Mr. Walters said that some people think when they have the Mayor's approval that everything is ok, but Mr. Walters has to look at it first. Mr. Bolek asked Mr. Walters regarding Ray Yurik's back yard issue from his last report. Mr. Walters said that is is not resolved yet. Mr. Bolek said that the backboards at the playground look very nice. Mr. Walters said that the fencing around the park needs replaced. Lt. Mackie said that he receives a lot of compliments from residents regarding the parks now. Mr. Bolek asked Mr. Walters over the next couple of weeks to identify the time frame of the Village leaf pickups. Mr. Walters said that he will be putting that in the papers in early September. Mr. Nehez asked if they were going to do one pass, and Mr. Walters said yes due to the expense of the fuel, man hours and Mr. Riedel said depending on the weather over time could be involved. Mr. Walters said that now they start in early November. Mr. Nehez asked if he will have any of his seasonal workers to help with leaves, Mr. Walters said he still has C.J. Timm through the leave season, but will still have John DeBrouse after that since he is part time.

Mrs. Greenlee of the Planning Commission had not report.

Mrs. Bowen of the Finance committee had Brad Bryan read Ordinance 2010-51 an Emergency Ordinance approving the payment of bills for the month of August, 2010. Mrs. Bowen made the motion and it was seconded by Mrs. Greenlee. It carried with 6 ayes. Mrs. Selle asked Mr. Riedel what the bill for the city of Macedonia was, and Mr. Riedel said it is for quarterly dispatch. Mr. Bolek asked if the donated monies for the 75th anniversary were merged into our revenue accounts and paid out. Mr. Bolek said that Mayor Milani went around and collected donations and were the deposited in a separate account. Mr. Riedel said under revenues they are listed under 75th contributions, and also Council setup the appropriations through the park fund. Mayor Milani said that all donations he received were turned over to Mr. Riedel.

Mr. Walters thanked Mayor Milani and Council for treatment of his grandmother regarding his great-grandfather during the 75th anniversary.

Mr. Noack of Roads and Public Works Committee was absent.

Mrs. Selle from Health and Welfare had no report.

Mr. Nehez of the Building and Grounds Committee reported that the service department guys have done a great job with the mulch at Huntington park, everything looks great.

Mr. Bolek of Wages and Working said that the union has requested on October 18, 19th and 20th at 10am to meet regarding negotiations, and Mr. Bolek said that they will narrow down a date by tomorrow. Mr. Walters said that they are requesting all three days, if you can settle within the first day then fine. Mayor Milani said to Mr. Bolek as soon as he looks at his schedule to narrow down a date to contact Mr. Bryan.

Mrs. Greenlee of the Fire and Safety committee had no report. Lt. Mackie put a letter in all of Council's mailboxes regarding the old cell phones that were replaced to be donated to Cell Phones for Soldiers.

Law Director, Brad Bryan read Proclamation 2010-52, Introduced by the Mayor and Council as a whole. A Proclamation honoring and congratulating Marion Sieber on her 100th birthday. Mrs. Greenlee made the motion and Mrs. Bowen seconded and it passed with 5 ayes. Mr. Bryan read Resolution 2010-53; An emergency Resolution directing the finance director to certify delinquent sewer maintenance bills to the county fiscal officer for placement on the tax duplicate. A motion to suspend the three-reading rule was made by Mr. Bolek and seconded by Mrs. Selle. A motion for passage was made by Mr. Bolek and seconded by Mrs. Selle and passed with 5 ayes.

In the old business, Mr. Nehez said that Mr. Riedel told him that the projects were approved through NOPEC so sometime over the next month or so we will see the lights done at the Village Hall and the insulation done at the service garage. Mr. Bolek and Mr. Nehez asked how they are able to get all of the work done, and Mr. Walters said they just do. Mr. Nehez said that he also hopes that Mr. Noack is ok and asked Mrs. Greenlee and Mayor Milani keep them updated on his medical status. Diane Giacom said that the over the next couple months will be the end of the one year free updates on the Village website so if there are any major changes that need to be made please get them to her. Mayor Milani said that she has done an outstanding job with our website.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:08PM following a motion by Mrs. Greenlee and seconded by Mrs. Bowen. The motion carried with 5 ayes.

Respectfully Submitted by; _____

Lisa M. Rodriguez, Administrative Clerk

Attest:

President of Council

Clerk of Council