

# The Village of Northfield

## SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING

December 31, 2010

Council President Beatrice Greenlee called the meeting to order at 12:00PM following the Pledge of Allegiance. The roll was called by Robert Riedel with the following present: Mrs. Greenlee, Mrs. Selle, Mr. Nehez, Mr. Bolek and Mrs. Bowen. Mr. Noack was out of town. Law Director Brad Bryan and Fire Captain Jason Buss were present.

In the business of petitions, remonstrances or memorials Walton Hills resident and business owner, Mr. Ken Olesinski of 18383 Orchard Hill, Walton Hills, OH 44146 wanted to find out about some facts if the Village of Northfield could provide the same service as Oakwood Village at the same price. Mr. Olesinski said that he heard that the fire Chief lives on the west side, and Mrs. Greenlee said that Chief Vojtush lives in Northfield Village, and he asked who the second in command was at the fire department, Mrs. Greenlee said that Captain Jason Buss is and that he was sitting here at the meeting. Walton Hills Safety Committee chairman, Denny Linville of 7640 Westlake Rd, Walton Hills, OH 44146 said that this contract was passed by a vote of 3-3 and the minutes were recorded to that meeting and all of the details of how the Mayor and Council behaved can be requested at the Walton Hills Village hall. Mr. Linville said that both communities can provide excellent service and they have had nothing but good experiences with Oakwood Village, but there were circumstances that came up that they had to re-consider their situation. Walton Hills Council President who will be sworn in on Monday as the Walton Hills Mayor, Kevin Hurst stated that he voted no on the Northfield issue only because it was brought to them at the last moment and he felt that they needed to be conducted in a more professional manner. Mr. Hurst said that his main concern is the residents and coverage and those questions have been answered and he said that whatever Northfield Village Council's decision is here today, will be Walton Hills decision and if it doesn't pass today Walton Hills will have a special meeting since they left it on three-readings and will go back to Oakwood, but if Northfield Village Council makes a decision today they will be satisfied with that decision. Mr. Hurst said that he is here to embrace that and do the best they can and conduct themselves professionally.

Mrs. Bowen of the Finance committee had Law Director Brad Bryan read Ordinance 2010-74, an Emergency Ordinance approving the payment of bills for the month of December, 2010. Mrs. Bowen made the motion and it was seconded by Mrs. Greenlee. It carrier with 4 ayes and 1 abstain by Mr. Bolek.

Mr. Bryan read Resolution 2010-75, an Emergency Resolution authorizing certain amendments to the annual appropriation ordinance. Mr. Riedel said that the last payroll of the year they had some sewer problems so they had to increase the salaries and wages in the sewer by \$2,400.00 and the increase in the police department was for the new cruiser. A motion to suspend the three-reading rule was made by Mrs. Bowen and seconded by Mrs. Selle, Mr. Bolek abstained. A motion for passage was made by Mrs. Bowen and seconded by Mrs. Greenlee and passed with 4 aye votes and 1 abstain from Mr. Bolek. Mr. Bryan read Resolution 2010-76, an Emergency Resolution authorizing the Mayor to enter into a contract with the Village of Walton Hills for the provision of fire and rescue services.. A motion to suspend the three-reading rule was made by Mrs. Bowen and seconded by Mrs. Greenlee, Mr. Bolek abstained. A motion for passage was made by Mrs. Greenlee and seconded by Mrs. Bowen, and Mr. Bolek asked for a discussion. Mr. Bolek asked for someone to explain this all to him and how this all came together and why it's coming together at the last minute of the year. Mr. Bolek said that it was stated last year when we went through this exercise that as the mayor stated, we were used as pawns and we were not going to get into negotiations in the future with Walton Hills because we felt we were being used and Mr. Bolek wanted to know why this all happened at the last minute. Mr. Bryan said that they had no intention of getting involved in providing service to Walton Hills, and he received a phone call from the Walton Hills law director two weeks prior when he was out of town to see if the Village would be interested. Mr. Bryan said he then contacted Mayor Milani and he said the interest was luke warm and last year we put a lot of effort and work into this and there was some concern that we were being used as a bargaining chip. Mr. Bryan said then the following Monday he had further discussions with the Walton Hills law director and he explained our reservations about getting involved and Mayor Milani was kept in the loop and Chief Vojtush didn't think that they would get involved. The Thursday before Christmas Mr. Bryan said he was presented with a contract and had discussions with Mayor Milani and they weren't able to discuss the contract with Chief Vojtush until Monday. Mr. Bryan said at that point there were concerns if we weren't able to start right away, there were issues on Walton Hills side if we couldn't start right away and if it was a March starting date it wouldn't work for them. Mr. Bryan said it seemed like a lot of the concerns were being addressed and they decided to have a meeting on Tuesday afternoon and Mr. Bryan informed all of the Council members who were in town prior to the meeting what was going on and in his mind the discussions were serious and it seemed like this would go forward. Mr. Bryan said they did meet that afternoon and they did come to an agreement and Mr. Bryan contacted council after the meeting and expressed to Walton Hills that last week to pass the agreement first to show that they were actually serious and this wasn't being used to negotiate with Oakwood and they did so. Mr. Bryan said that it certainly did come together a lot quicker than we wanted, and looking back it would have been better for everyone if we had a month and a half to look through this, but we didn't have that kind of time and had to make a decision if we could provide the service, if we wanted to provide the service and the price for which we could provide the service and Mayor

Milani was in favor of going forward with this opportunity and Chief Vojtush said he could make it happen and we could provide this service in a professional manner in the same way service is provided for our residents. Mr. Riedel went over the numbers and said that it makes sense to go forward with the contract. Mr. Bryan said that is how the time went. Mr. Bolek said that everyone was provided with a sheet listing estimated costs to cover Walton Hills, that figure is the same figure that we are charging them, and Mr. Riedel said yes. Mr. Bolek said we are not making any money on this contract and Mr. Riedel said that we are making money on the ambulance billing, Mr. Bolek said the \$69,000 and Mr. Riedel said yes all of the ambulance billing goes to the Village of Northfield. Mr. Riedel said he could only get ambulance numbers from Bedford and Maple Heights for 2008 which was \$69,000. Mr. Riedel said if we make \$50,000 then we won't have to take that out of the general fund to pay for the fire department building. Mr. Bolek said that the billing we be done by our current billing and Mr. Riedel said correct and the fee on that will be about 7%, Chief Vojtush said that is not in the numbers. Mr. Bryan said that the billing is estimated to be higher but we couldn't verify that so we went with \$69,000. Mr. Bolek asked Chief Vojtush about the \$40,000 listed on this sheet was to purchased 20 sets of fire gear, Chief Vojtush said yes, and Mr. Bolek asked if after the contract the fire gear was ours, and Chief Vojtush said yes it will be part of the fire Department. Mr. Bryan said down the road they will talk about if the fire district makes sense. Mr. Riedel said that at most they will have to hire 10 people due to turnover. Mr. Bolek said that we have already purchased the fire gear and you don't have to purchase the gear every year, so the second year is more financially feasible than the first year. Mr. Bolek asked how Northfield Village fire department communicate with the police department on their bands. Chief Vojtush said this year is the last part to replace the 150 frequency to 400 frequency which is what they are on and as far as calls going through, as of right now we have to have them call Macedonia to dispatch us. Chief Vojtush said he knew the problem would come up and talked to his radio guy last night, to try a mobile radio inside the building and he has a meeting to discuss this or maybe reprogram the Oakwood tones to ours. Mr. Bolek said that would be potentially bypassing the need to call Macedonia dispatch, and Chief Vojtush said yes. Mr. Bolek asked Chief Vojtush how long the response time was top to bottom, Chief Vojtush said approximately six minutes from here. Chief Vojtush said that from the fire station to the top of Dunham Rd hill is 10 minutes and that is unacceptable. Chief Vojtush said if they are out on a call they would be call through mutual aid to get a squad there quicker. Mr. Bolek asked if their cruisers were equipped with current AED's, and Chief Vojtush said he doesn't know that but has a meeting with the police chief today to go over all of that and maybe provide an EMT class for Walton Hills police officers. Chief Vojtush said that minimally if our two paramedics need help and need someone to drive a police officer can be sworn in as a member of the fire department and be allowed to drive the vehicle under state law. Mr. Bolek said the reason why is that you have four minutes and we need to make sure that those cruisers have AED's that are functioning. Chief Vojtush said that he is meeting with Walton Hills police chief today at 1pm. Chief Vojtush said that he has been on the phone with neighboring departments for mutual aid and they are more than willing to help out if needed. Mr. Bolek said that Maple Heights is really the quickest. Mr. Bolek said have we had discussions with Maple Heights and Chief Vojtush said yes, they will respond if needed. Mr. Bolek said that it says in the contract that by March 1<sup>st</sup> we need to be on full board and Chief Vojtush said that he is planning to do it by the end of January and he said he has 95% of the applications where the applicants work part time or full time at other departments and minimal time and training will be perfect to bring them right in. Capt. Jason Buss said that a lot of these people are people that we know, they aren't complete strangers. Mr. Bolek said to be fully integrated you are looking at three new people, and Chief Vojtush said yes, Mr. Bolek said Oakwood did it with two and Chief Vojtush said we are looking at five people total three at our station and two at Walton Hills City Hall. Mr. Bolek said that we will not be using that site on Walton Rd, and Mr. Bryan said that Oakwood was renting that for \$15,000.00 per year. Mr. Bolek said he has not seen an ambulance sitting there for awhile now, and Chief Vojtush said during the bad weather they like to keep the vehicles inside. Mr. Ken Olesinski the owner of that business on Walton Rd said that the first year that Oakwood was there the Walton Hills Mayor came to him and asked him if he would contribute to make it easier on them, so he waved \$2,000.00 of rent for them and he said that he charged them \$650.00 per month, which is a little bit less than normal. Mr. Olesinski said that his income for 2010 was \$7,200.00, there electric bill is a little over \$100.00 per month, and their heat is is about \$40.00 per month and then they have a telephone, and that is their total expenses. Mr. Olesinski said that he heard someone said it was over \$20,000.00 per year and that is false. Mr. Olesinski asked what rate of pay will these new hires be at and Chief Vojtush said that they will be at the same rate we make here which is \$13.28 per hour. Mr. Olesinski said that at Oakwood they make \$18.00 per hour and he said that he is a believer of you get what you pay for and that is going to be a big commotion, is someone going to work for \$13.00 if they are really good. Chief Vojtush said that he has been a full time paramedic for the City of Parma and has to be on top of his game where he makes \$25.00 per hour, and he said he gives the same type of service here at his part time job making \$13.28 per hour and Mr. Bryan said that almost all of the department here has jobs elsewhere. Mr. Olesinski said he is not questioning their abilities, and everyone here is here because of one person and he isn't naming that person and it is a shame but unfortunately we won't have to do that in the future. Mr. Bolek said that since we are in somewhat of a transition ourselves between receiving a new fire truck and getting that on board, Chief Vojtush said they will be going next Wednesday or Thursday for the final inspection on the truck. Mr. Bolek asked if there is a possibility once we are through the transition, and the truck is signed and in service and is there any chance for a short period of time to take the current fire truck to take it to Walton Hills so that we will have a fire truck and ambulance there inside. Chief Vojtush said the only problem with that is there is no place to store it, and Mr. Bryan said it was in the condition of the grant that the current vehicle be taken out of service. Mr. Bolek said so we are looking at five additional employees on duty at all time, three here and two at Walton Hills, and Mr. Bryan said that people will be going back and forth where needed. Mr. Bolek asked if we will be putting Walton Hills or anything on our

vehicles any where since it was an issue last time, and Chief Vojtush said that he has no problem with that, and has been thinking about doing that and he feels that it is better relations. Mr. Bolek asked if it is our intent, if this does pass today, to do a community mailing to let everybody know in Walton Hills know that we will be handling their service. Chief Vojtush said he has had a couple of conversations with a couple of people in Walton Hills and someone said that they would like to put a flier together, Mr. Bryan said we should defer to what Walton Hills wants. Mr. Bolek said one of the big issues the last time we went around with this, are the Knox boxes. Chief Vojtush said that it isn't even in the contract, and Mr. Bolek said that it is in the contract. Chief Vojtush said that it states in the contract that the residents are responsible for paying that. Mr. Bolek asked if we are going to have the keys, and Chief Vojtush said that there is one key for each town with their own code. Chief Vojtush said that we cannot incur any costs regarding this and in the contract it states that they will pay for it. Mr. Bolek said that there was an issue since we were not completely reaching the minimum staffing requirements the worse case scenario March 1<sup>st</sup>, are they then looking at a supplemental with another community to fill that gap. Mr. Bryan said that is the reason Chief Vojtush has been calling everyone else to be on alert, and Chief Vojtush said they started last night at midnight with the five on duty. Mr. Nehez asked how that went, and Chief Vojtush said that they had one call about 1-1/2 hrs ago at Walton Manor. Mr. Bolek asked if conversations with Northfield Center and Sagamore went ok, and Chief Vojtush said that they came up yesterday to look at grant information with Jason Buss and they seemed fine, and the same with Macedonia. Mr. Hurst said that he has complete and total knowledge and time and mileage per hour charts if anyone would like to look at them, and Valley View's fire station is three to four minutes away as well. Mr. Brian Spitznagel sits on the Walton Hills safety committee with Mr. Hurst and Mr. Linville and he empathizes this everyone here today that this did come up very fast and also that the Village of Northfield did not want to be used as pawns in this. Mr. Spitznagel said that when they initially put out bids, Oakwood Village was the only entity that brought a bid back to them. Mr. Spitznagel said that Mr. Linville, Mr. Hurst, and himself through the safety committee had meetings with Mayor Gottschalk and Walton Hills law director had meeting with him and their law director Paul Brown to see if there was some change or revisions in wording or fee structure and Oakwood was opposed to anything, Mayor Gottschalk said this is it and this is what you have. It was that point with the safety committee gave our attorney, Mr. Melling went to talk to Mr. Grau and to also see if there were any other communities interested. Walton Hills wants to be more of a player in a regional fire and ems service type thing where they can provide more service to the area around them also. Mr. Spitznagel said that they are seriously looking into grants, for extending their village hall and putting a one or two bay house there, currently they had installed an electrical outlet to plug in the ambulance. Mr. Spitznagel said in regards to Mr. Bolek's questions regarding the police department, they have always been their first responders no matter who did their service, and they are equipped with the AED's and oxygen and they also have the training. Mr. Spitznagel said historically no matter who has provided their service they are usually the first ones there any ways. Mr. Bolek said do they have a pediatric AED as well, and Mr. Spitznagel said he was not sure. Mr. Bolek said that if they don't have them, then we need to get them for them. Mr. Spitznagel said like Mr. Hurst said, there were a few people that did vote no mostly on the basis of that this did come up fast, and was looking at the information. Mr. Spitznagel said that he himself did vote yes, and he did look at the two contracts, the cost of the contracts, the terms of the contracts and the level of service, that Northfield has more people available with the people on stand by to respond, and Oakwood did sign a contract with Glenwillow which they will also be doing them and that further dilutes Walton Hills service. Mr. Spitznagel said that speaking for himself, Mr. Linville and Mr. Hurst that they are all excited to be working with Northfield if we so choose. Mr. Bolek said that the contract states that the first response for traumas will be shifted over to Metro for traumas, Chief Vojtush said that they have been with University helicopters, but the situation will dictate whoever they can get their faster and we do work a lot closer with UH. Mr. Bolek said that the contract says shell, use Metro. Mr. Bolek asked where are the helipads designated, he said that he understands that life flight and UH will create their own helipad as needed, but where are the spots that are designated, Chief Vojtush said he doesn't have those locations yet but he hears that there are quite a few, and should get them in the meeting today. Chief Vojtush said for Metro you need 100 x 100 and UH you need 75 x 75, and you can relatively put them just about anywhere. Mr. Bolek said will our first responder vehicle be responding also, and Chief Vojtush said as needed, if it is a minor injury then no, but if it is a major cardiac call then yes. Mr. Bolek said that when he is in the dip on Dunham and Alexander every calls drops or whenever he turns the corner by Walton Hills town hall he loses his call every time and he said he is on a 3g system, and when he switches to a 4g system with the same carrier he doesn't lose the calls. Chief Vojtush said that they know the problem is out there and no system will be perfect. Chief Vojtush said depending on the weather you might not getting any service. Chief Vojtush said that he wants to try the mobile aspect first and his ultimate goal is to get our channel put on their console if they have openings and if they don't have any openings on their console possibly we could move our channel to where Oakwood was at. Mr. Bolek said if the channel doesn't work, do we have the ability to give dispatch in Walton Hills a portable to dispatch to us, Chief Vojtush said a portable doesn't work inside the building. Mr. Riedel asked Chief Vojtush if they received maps of Walton Hills and Chief Vojtush said yes and they have gps on every truck, and Capt. Jason Buss said that they have one big map of Walton Hills with all of the addresses on it. Mr. Bolek said he has a big concern the chemical issues on Krick Rd and making sure that we can handle it, especially when they had that fire years ago. Chief Vojtush said that the new truck is coming with foam, and the fire department will contain everything until haz mat team gets there. Mr. Bolek said that there is no truck being stationed in Walton Hills so we are running them from Northfield, and that lady that died last year was six houses away from the town hall. Chief Vojtush said that you don't know the things that could have been and you could second guess that situation forever. Mr. Bolek asked Chief Vojtush what the annual fire calls per year were, and Chief Vojtush said that he thinks it was around 80, which includes false alarms and co detections etc. Mr. Bolek said

that he would like to see if we do go forward with this that some how what we do end up signing off on that we commit to Walton Hills is that the record keeping of calls and things like that become their property and no matter what happens with us they will always have a right to know what happened, Chief Vojtush agreed and said he has always had an open door policy with everything. Mr. Bryan said that we committed to say that we would do the same reporting. Mr. Riedel said that there will be a separate billing procedures, a separate account number with the billing that we do with the agency, so that everything will be going through there on the ems calls and you will separate the fire calls on your end. Mr. Bolek said let's say that an ambulance bill for a Northfield Village resident is \$800 and through our third party we bill insurance, and if insurance pays us \$100 and they are a resident of Northfield Village we don't go after them for that extra money, and Mr. Riedel and Mr. Bryan said the same thing will apply for Walton Hills. Mr. Bolek said that we won't go after the Walton Hills people for the difference, and Mr. Bryan said that we have to treat everyone the same. Mr. Riedel said that he will use a different account for the revenue from the Walton Hills ambulance monies. Mr. Bolek said that it would have been nice to see the jaws of life put in there and Chief Vojtush said that it there is an understanding with Mayor Milani that when we sell the engine that is to go out of service, that money to be put towards the purchase of a new set of tools, so we are going to look at that after the first of the year. Chief Vojtush said that everyone can see that the costs are what they are, there is nothing hidden in there and we are here to help. Mr. Bolek asked if the squad depreciation was a yearly cost regardless of how many runs and Chief Vojtush said correct, he is looking at more wear and tear, and they rotate the squads so that they get used the same amount of time. Mr. Nehez asked how many miles are on the old squad, and Chief Vojtush said that the 2004 has about 18,000 miles and the 2007 has about 13,000. Mr. Bolek asked what the approximate population was in Walton Hills, and Mr. Riedel said 2,400 and Mr. Bolek said a little bigger than half of our size, and Chief Vojtush said it is a very big area and he firmly believes that we can do this. Mr. Bolek asked about search and rescue with all the crevasses and deep valley's and park environment and Chief Vojtush said that every part of their town is going to be an issue with us because we have never had to deal with it before but his Captain and him have had discussions about rope rescue, and you can call in special rope rescue teams in those situations. Mr. Nehez asked what the cost was to bring in one of those teams and Chief Vojtush said who ever calls the team in will get charged for the service. Mr. Bryan said you have the business make the call, and Mr. Bolek said that they safety director can make the call, Chief Vojtush said that he is not not going to make the call if the service is needed. Mr. Linville said that he does have a historical study for records for the fire and ems calls that were carried out by Maple Heights for some 14 years, and the equipment markings he feels it is a great idea to have Walton Hills on the Northfield Village equipments and he said he will support helping Chief Vojtush covering that cost, but he said he is a single councilman. Mr. Linville said that he respects Mayor Milani's opinion and the use of the Northfield Village fire department in the fall of 2009 and that was the creation of our own ems department and there were very strong opinions and thoughts that we were not ready for that at that time, and he said he was among that group and it was never disproved that his opinions or thoughts were incorrect or wrong. Mr. Linville said that in terms of search and rescue we do have a canine unit too that has performed those search and rescue that will be available. Mr. Linville said that he is very excited over this and has know and been talking with Chief Vojtush for 18-24 months and has a great deal of confidence in him and has visited Northfield fire house and it's organization and he has no compunction with Northfield Village helping our community. Mr. Linville said that this fire district thing is a very good thing that could help save Walton Hills from regionalism predators. Mrs. Selle said that her husband is on the fire department and it has been brought to her attention that there is some concern if she is able to vote for this or not or if she needs to abstain. Mrs. Selle said she has spoke to Mr. Bryan as well as doing research on her own through the Ohio ethics commission this is not an issue and because this is not an issue personal to her husband, his personal salary and not singling out her husband she is able to vote today. Mr. Bryan did agree with her statement. Mr. Bryan asked for passage for the motion on the floor and it passed with 4 aye votes and 1 abstain from Mr. Bolek.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:02PM 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