

**CITY OF NORTHFIELD WORK SESSION MEETING
AUGUST 22, 2006**

This meeting was called to order by Carol A. Raph, Municipal Clerk. It was properly advertised under Public Law 75, Chapter 231.

ROLL CALL: Present: Carew, Kern, Martinez, Notaro, Schlachter, Turon, Mazzeo

Solicitor Alfred Scerni, Jr., Engineer Ed Stinson of Doran Engineering, CFO Marilyn Dolcy, City Administrator Jeffrey Bruckler, and Deputy City Clerk Kim Hodsdon were present.

Council President Mazzeo reviewed the agenda. Council discussed Ordinance 11-2006 as follows: Councilwoman Kern questioned if the Ordinance would remain on the agenda considering one of the other municipalities has chosen not to participate. Mazzeo responded in the affirmative stating that it was important to poll the residents of Northfield on the matter. He announced that he has formed a Shared Services Committee that will include two representatives of the School Board and that citizen representation may be a possibility. Mazzeo announced that a meeting with Linwood and Somers Point has been scheduled to discuss moving forward. He apologized to the School Board if his initial presentation of the matter was unclear. Kern stated that she would feel more comfortable if the parameters were better defined. Councilman Carew presented Council with a proposed resolution that would set more formal guidelines for the Shared Services Committee. Councilman Turon expressed his disappointment in how the Ordinance was first presented and that the language was ambiguous.

In response to Carew, Administrator Bruckler explained that Resolution 127-2006 was an agreement with the DOT to maintain stormwater residue on sidewalks along Route 9. Mayor Perri further explained the sidewalk project to Council and confirmed that the new walkways would connect to the School from both sides.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Councilman Turon offered congratulations to the Friends of Birch Grove Park on the success of their two recent events, stating that they were well-attended. He thanked all of the volunteers and corporate sponsors that were involved. He reported that he and Engineer Ed Stinson had inspected the area of Juniper and Cedarbridge and have identified some areas in need of repair. He stated that he has been receiving numerous calls from residents regarding the Mill Road project and has been directing them to call the County.

Councilman Martinez offered his thanks to the Karabashian Eddington Planning Group for meeting with City representatives to discuss the concept of solar power for

**CITY OF NORTHFIELD WORK SESSION MEETING
AUGUST 22, 2006**

municipal buildings. He reported that the potential of becoming a Green Community will be evaluated. He plans to give Council a presentation at the next meeting.

Councilman Schlachter offered a public apology for mistakenly announcing that the football field could be renamed and dedicated. The Shockey family were the original benefactors of the facility and the name cannot be changed. He offered his thanks to the Gurwicz family for their generous donation. He reported that the field is doing well despite some recent vandalism to the irrigation system. He asked that anyone with knowledge about the damage please report it to the Police Department. Schlachter offered his thanks to Bob DeBarth for his volunteer work; to Frank Vincent for donating supplies to the park facilities; and everyone involved in constructing the new batting cage. With donations of volunteer time and supplies, the project will be cost-free to the City. He announced that home games will be played at the field – the first one being September 16th. He congratulated the 8-year old, 9-year old and 10-year old Little League teams on their recent tournament victories.

Councilman Carew reported that the Building Department is doing well and he also offered his thanks to Bob DeBarth for his volunteer work.

Councilwoman Kern thanked the Police Department for organizing a successful National Night Out. The Municipal Alliance will be supporting Anti-drug programs and a Northfield soccer program in the upcoming year. She congratulated the Cultural Committee's concert series on another successful season. She thanked the volunteers who came forward to help organize the Family Fest, which will be held September 16th at Birch Grove Park from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm. The Flora Dickinson garden dedication service was a wonderful tribute. She stated that day-time hours for court are going well. She mentioned that St. Bernadettes Church hosted their 37th Annual Chicken Barbeque and congratulated them on keeping the long-time tradition. Adding to Schlachter's report on team victories, Kern recognized the Babe Ruth team and the Men's team.

Councilman Notaro announced that the Ordinance governing Waste Removal will soon be amended and that suggestions are welcomed. Regarding several congested City intersections, Notaro suggested that "Do Not Block Intersection" signs be considered as a remedy. Mayor Perri advised Council that a letter requesting a Traffic Study would need to be submitted to the State and should be accompanied by a letter of recommendation from the Police Department. Perri also advised Council that County Engineer, Joseph D'Abundo would answer questions regarding the Shore Road construction.

Perri questioned the status of installing new fencing at the Public Works building. Administrator Bruckler responded that he had received quotes, but they were over the threshold. He stated that the funds were budgeted in Buildings & Grounds, not in

**CITY OF NORTHFIELD WORK SESSION MEETING
AUGUST 22, 2006**

Capital. Council President Mazzeo commented that he would like more time to review it. Councilman Turon stated that the building is in poor condition and safety matters should be considered first. He requested that he be copied on all related matters. On motion of Notaro, second of Carew, all in favor to bid for a new fence at the Public Works building. Motion carries.

Council President Mazzeo requested that the Capital Projects be on the agenda for September. Any questions or recommendations should be directed to Administrator Bruckler, CFO Dolcy, or himself. He announced that the City has collected \$12,500.00 in Recreation Fees to date.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Perri asked Administrator Bruckler to follow up on a study that was to be presented to the County regarding the City Garage. Regarding the recent water restrictions, Perri stated that the water company could not meet the demands of the City. It is a serious problem and they are still asking for voluntary water restrictions. He announced his support for the City to take over maintenance of the Bird Sanctuary, stating that it is a win/win for the City. He acknowledged that the construction projects are an inconvenience to residents and reported that Emergency Management and the Fire Department had responded to a main gas line incident as well as a hazardous material incident. He gave an update on the various constructions projects currently underway and updated Council on the Basin Restoration plans for Sutton Woods. The restoration will begin with the Basin at Zion Road.

Mayor Perri reported that digital cameras are being used in police cars on a 30-day trial basis. Having been approached by residents of Zion Road requesting that the Police Department do more to control speeding, Perri acknowledged the dangerous intersections in that area. He gave the July Police Department Report as follows: Total adult arrests – 34; Juveniles arrested – 4; Drug offense arrests – 6; Total calls for service – 1583; Investigations opened – 53; Recovered stolen property - \$2000.00; Motor vehicle summons issued – 267; DWI arrests – 6; Summons issued as a result of MV accidents – 27; MV accidents investigated – 44.

Perri read a letter written by Eileen Ruzzo who offered her thanks to the Police Department for their professional and caring response to a recent incident. He offered his personal thanks to the department for their excellent response.

Regarding the intersection of Zion and Oak, Councilman Carew asked if it were possible to install either a 4-way stop or a traffic light. Discussion ensued with the Mayor explaining about County jurisdiction and Councilman Schlachter suggesting that the City Administrator consult with the Linwood, as they have done something

**CITY OF NORTHFIELD WORK SESSION MEETING
AUGUST 22, 2006**

similar. Carew stated that the City has done due diligence and it's time to ask the County for assistance.

PUBLIC SESSION

Council President Mazzeo opened this meeting to the public and asked if anyone from the public wished to speak.

James McGlynn of 3302 Dolphin Avenue came forward to address the issue of consolidation. Stating that senior citizens who live on a fixed income are in support of the concept, he encouraged Council to consider a broad range of possible shared services. He recommended that Council refrain from appointing anyone with a vested interest in the outcome, stating that anything that would lower costs/taxes must be considered including school boards and educators, and suggested that the committee should be representative of the average taxpayer.

Robert Webb of 218 West Revere Avenue came forward and expressed support for the shared services issue, stating that it should be left up to the taxpayers to decide.

Robert Lindquist of 2218 Zion Road came forward as an unofficial representative of the Zion Road residents who live between Cedarbridge & Mill Road. He asked for increased enforcement of the speed limit and stated that he had 26 signed letters from residents who are very concerned about the safety of neighborhood children. He plans to contact the County for assistance.

Norman Hirschfeld of 10 Wilson Drive expressed his interest in becoming part of the Committee.

Joan Sooy of 1st Street came forward to support the issue of consolidated services stating that elected officials have a duty to find out what the taxpayers want.

Seeing no one else from the public wishing to speak, Council President Mazzeo called for a motion to adjourn.

Motion by Turon to adjourn, second by Kern. All present in favor; this meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol A. Raph, RMC/CMC
Municipal Clerk