

**CITY OF NORTHFIELD BUDGET WORK SESSION  
MARCH 5, 2013**

At 4:00pm, this meeting was called to order by Mary Canesi, Municipal Clerk. It was properly advertised in the Press of Atlantic City on March 2, 2013, in accordance with Public Law 75, Chapter 231.

**ROLL CALL**

Present: Mr. Carew; Mr. Dewees, Mr. O'Neill, Mr. Perri, Mr. Polistina,  
Mr. Travagline; Mrs. Brown

Also in attendance were Mayor Vince Mazzeo, CFO Dawn Stollenwerk, and Deputy Municipal Clerk Mimi Marlor.

**FLAG SALUTE**

The flag salute was led by Mayor Mazzeo. Following the flag salute a moment of silence was observed.

Council President Brown deferred to Councilman Polistina for an update on the Fire Department.

Councilman Polistina stated that he looked at overtime for the past year and it was not related to the absence of part-time staff. Most was storm-related and associated with responding to fires. He does however feel we need additional staffing, and recommended a full-time position as opposed to two part-time. The starting salary for full-time is \$35,000 with 14 steps.

In response to an inquiry from Councilman O'Neill, CFO Stollenwerk stated that the total overtime for 2012 was approximately \$17,000 and there were 700 comp hours.

Mayor Mazzeo suggested two part-time positions, and that the overtime be monitored to determine actual needs. Council President Brown recommended two part-time.

Stollenwerk referred to the summary sheet distributed to Council; as presented the budget called for a 6/10 of one cent increase. The accompanying spreadsheet shows the progressive usage of surplus or reduction in expenses required to get to zero.

Councilman Travagline referred to recommendations for operating expense reductions suggested by Councilman O'Neill. Discussion ensued amongst all present with regard to reducing operating expenses. CFO Stollenwerk explained Northfield's history of budget stability, and that funds cannot be transferred to support an underfunded line until November. Councilmen Polistina and Carew were strongly

opposed to the reduction and to continued use of surplus as revenue. Mayor Mazzeo was opposed as well.

Councilman Perri stated his opposition to using surplus as revenue; he said it falsely masks year over year increases in costs and that hard costs should be realized.

At 4:55pm, Council President Brown announced a five minute recess. She resumed the meeting at 5:03pm.

Council President Brown scheduled another budget meeting for March 14<sup>th</sup> at 4:30pm, and stated that the budget discussion will continue at the March 12<sup>th</sup> work session of Council.

CFO Stollenwerk presented a request from Birch Grove Park Supervisor for an increase in hours for one snack bar attendant; it is already in the budget but Stollenwerk said the Park Supervisor is looking for the approval to proceed. The increase is from one day per week to three, and will total \$3,200 per year. Stollenwerk clarified that all Park expenses except salaries are paid from the Trust.

Council President conducted a straw poll; the majority were in favor.

Council President Brown opened this meeting for any member of the public to speak on any topic.

Robert Pantazes, 1 Madison Avenue, asked if his street was budgeted for repair. Council President Brown indicated it was not, but stated that she would have the Engineer look at his street. Pantazes referred to the 1/3 of the Mill formula, and the Library's use of the money; he suggested the same for parks and recreation fields.

Seeing no others wishing to speak, Council President Brown closed the public session.

Councilman Travagline stated that he does not want to take appropriations down to bare bones; he wants to cut where it makes sense.

At 5:21pm, on motions properly made and seconded, this meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Canesi, Municipal Clerk