

**CITY OF NORTHFIELD BUDGET WORK SESSION
MARCH 30, 2010 – 6PM**

At 6:00pm, this meeting was called to order by Mary Canesi, Municipal Clerk. It was properly advertised according to Public Law 75, Chapter 231.

ROLL CALL

Present: Kern, Martinez, O’Grady, Perri, Smith, Vain, Carew

FLAG SALUTE

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

Council President Carew explained that a resolution to authorize a raffle license for the Charity League has been added to the agenda. Due to an oversight on the part of the Charity League, there was a delay in submitting their license application to the City Clerk; the City Clerk has confirmed that all statutory requirements have been met.

RESOLUTION

60-2010 To Authorize a Raffle License for the Charity League

Councilman Perri motioned, Councilman Martinez to adopt resolution 60-2010.

Roll call: Mrs. Kern – yes; Mr. Martinez – yes; Mr. O’Grady – yes; Mr. Perri – yes; Mr. Smith – yes; Mr. Vain – yes; Mr. Carew – yes. Motion carries.

2010 BUDGET

Mayor Mazzeo stated that at the end of the last budget meeting we were \$350,000 over the 4% tax levy cap, but due to losses in State aid this figure has increased to \$517,000. Meetings with department heads have been ongoing; options are being discussed. The Library Board has approved a \$55,000 return of funds via the Moriarty bill; State Librarian approval is still needed. Mayor Mazzeo outlined concessions made by the Police Department and President Carew reviewed those made by Public Works and the Fire Department.

President Carew noted a \$100,000 increase in sewer flows and suggested increasing sewer fees from \$280 to \$300; the last increase was 2004. CFO Dolcy provided a recap of expenses related to sewer department, including infrastructure improvements. A proposal for the purchase of electric energy from a 3rd party supplier that could potentially save \$34,000 a year is being reviewed by the Solicitor.

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Discussion ensued with regard to various other options for reducing expenses; CFO Dolcy noted that any reductions will have to be permanent to have sustainable impact on the budget. Mayor Mazzeo suggested talking with departments again; Carew announced the next budget meetings would be Tuesday and Thursday, April 6th and 8th.

President Carew opened the public session.

Craig Tanzola, 10 Magnolia Court, opposes an increase in sewer fees, and suggested vending machines outside the ball fields as a revenue source.

Tom Wolfe, 317 Davis Avenue, opposes any reduction in force for police or fire, and suggested parents assume the roles of crossing guards.

Scott Pollak, 1600 Shore Road, shop steward for PBA local #77, asked about using additional surplus funds. President Carew replied that we use about 50% annually, this year a little bit more. It is not fiscally responsible to use more due to increases in uncollected taxes.

Dave Sarnoff, 305 Douglas Avenue, Margate, owns two businesses in Northfield. He suggested fund raisers to offset the tax levy cap.

Chris Sacco, 207 West Glencove Avenue, suggested annual events to capitalize on the popularity of the bike path Birch Grove Park, and to bring revenue to the City.

Marty Peary, 18 Henry Drive, suggested rescheduling all field activities to daylight hours to reduce energy costs and reallocation of the \$200,000 dedicated for lights to something else.

George Clark, PO Box 500, Northfield, suggested insulating the building to save money and exploring solar energy options.

Seeing no one wishing to speak, President Carew closed the public session.

At 7:42pm, on motions properly made and seconded, this meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Canesi, Municipal Clerk