

**CITY OF NORTHFIELD BUDGET WORK SESSION  
APRIL 6, 2010**

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.

**2010 BUDGET**

Mayor Mazzeo announced that the amount taken from surplus for the 2010 budget has been increased to 54% since the last budget meeting. Mazzeo is opposed to increasing the sewer fees. He said concessions from the Police Department total \$229,000; those from Public Works and the Fire Department are not yet in writing but as per President Carew they have been agreed upon. The Moriarty package for the return of \$55,000 will be reviewed by library board at their next meeting.

Carew announced that the Fire Department has given back between \$70,000 and \$80,000; we should get between \$12,000 and \$15,000 from FEMA for the December storm. February storm numbers are still pending. CFO Dolcy stated that we are at \$10.70 under the levy cap.

Mayor Mazzeo explained the decision making process with regard to the proposed elimination of 5 crossing guard positions and thanked those affected for their years of service. He stated there will need to be more budget cuts next year and planning should start as soon as this budget cycle is complete. He asked that all cuts that have been made in each department be documented and provided to Council.

Further discussion ensued with regard to further options for increasing revenue and decreasing expenses, for this year and beyond.

**RESOLUTION**

Councilman Vain motioned, O'Grady seconded to adopt resolution 61-2010.

**61-2010** Authorization for the Mayor of the City of Northfield to Execute a Memorandum of Understanding with Mainland PBA Local No. 77 for the Purpose of Achieving a Resolution to the Anticipated Economic

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Shortfall Besetting the City for 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.

**ORDINANCE**

Councilwoman Kern motioned, Smith seconded for the introduction of ordinance 5-2010, to be read by title only.

**5-2010**           An Ordinance Revising Sewer Rents and Charges Under Article II of the Northfield City Code, Sections 93-52 and 93-53  
*Introduction/No Public Input/Published in the Press 04/10/2010*  
*Public Hearing/Final Adoption 04/27/2010.*

Full copies of the ordinance are available to the public at no cost in the office of the Municipal Clerk between 9am and 4pm.

Councilmen Martinez and Perri said they oppose the ordinance. Discussion ensued amongst Vain, Perri, and Carew. Carew explained that costs to operate the sewer department have gone up as have flow-fees to the ACUA; fees to residents have not been raised in 5 years.

Roll call: Mrs. Kern – yes; Mr. Martinez – no; Mr. O’Grady – no; Mr. Perri – no; Mr. Smith – yes; Mr. Vain – yes; Mr. Carew – yes. Motion carries by the affirmative vote of the majority of members present for the introduction of ordinance 5-2010.

**PUBLIC SESSION**

Council President Carew opened the meeting to any member of the public wishing to speak.

Robert Webb, 218 West Revere Avenue, opposed putting lights at the fields and commented on the expense of boots for police officers.

Robert James, 1600 Shore Road, Chief of the Northfield Police Department, stated that police officers buy their own uniforms.

Debbie Doherty, 405 Chestnut Avenue, said the City should not lay off employees; school children should be a priority.

Ray Adams, 238 Mt Vernon Avenue, inquired about layoff notices given to

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employees and asked if they would have right of recall. Mayor Mazzeo confirmed that they would.

Janice Davis, 425 Davis Avenue suggested issuing tickets as a means of increasing revenues.

Kim Hegenbart, 710 Hollywood Drive said more discussion about eliminating jobs was warranted.

Rose Vetter, 23 Haddon Avenue, asked why the volume survey for guard posts was done in the winter.

Debbie Wescoat, 1708 Tilton Road, reads a list of posts that have been eliminated so far this year and a list of reasons why school guards are an important part of the community.

Peri Pantazes, 1 Madison Avenue, said grants area available to fund crossing guard salaries.

Lyn Perri, 7 Haddon Avenue, President of Northfield Rescue Squad, said shared service EMS is not working successfully.

Mary Sundra, 2115 Shore Road, thanked Council for getting a bus stop near her home moved. She urged that another survey of crossing guard post volume be done during peak times.

Craig Tanzola, 10 Magnolia Court, suggested raising the fire inspection fees to be more aligned with other towns. He is opposed to taking more money from surplus.

Mark Doherty, 405 Chestnut Avenue, urged Council to reconsider eliminating crossing guard posts.

Debbie Doherty, 405 Chesnut Avenue, objected to the wording of a notice from the code enforcement officer about a toilet she left out at the curb.

Lynn Perri, 7 Haddon Avenue, inquired when a list of budget cut would be made be available to the public. Council President Carew replied that would be after the budget is adopted.

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

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Council President Carew announced that the budget meeting scheduled for April 8<sup>th</sup> will be canceled.

At 7:40pm, on motions properly made and seconded, this meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Canesi, Municipal Clerk