

# The Village of Northfield

## REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

January 11, 2023

The Meeting was called to order by Mayor Domzalski at 7:30 p.m.

The **ROLL CALL** was read by Ms. Potvin. The following officials were present: Mayor Jennifer Domzalski and Councilpersons Jesse Ferko, Renell Noack, Nick Magistrelli, Alan Hipps, and Kevin Lewis. Also present for the meeting were Finance Director/Clerk of Council Jennifer Potvin, Law Director Brad Bryan, Police Chief John Zoligus, Fire Chief Jason Buss, and Engineer Dan Collins.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Ms. Noack made a motion that was seconded by Mr. Hipps to approve the Minutes for the December 14, 2022 Council Meeting. Roll call vote: Mr. Ferko-yes; Ms. Noack-yes; Mr. Magistrelli-abstain; Mr. Hipps-yes, Mr. Lewis-yes. The Minutes were approved.

**APPOINTMENT OF COUNCIL PRESIDENT PRO-TEM:** Ms. Noack made a motion that was seconded by Mr. Lewis to appoint Mr. Hipps Council President Pro-Tem for 2023. Roll call vote: Mr. Ferko-yes; Ms. Noack-yes; Mr. Magistrelli-yes; Mr. Hipps-yes, Mr. Lewis-yes. The motion was approved.

**SPECIAL PRESENTATION:** A presentation was made by Chris Burnham from the Summit County Development Finance Authority and Jason Dodson of Roetzel & Andress on the Akron-Summit County Clean Energy Special Improvement District and Financing Program for commercial and institutional properties. The gentlemen explained the program provides below market rate financing to commercial and institutional entities for making energy efficient improvements to their facilities. There would be no cost to the Village to join the District, but the Village itself would have to undertake a small project in the \$500 to \$3,000 range in order to make the Village a part of the District and permit Village businesses to apply for projects under the program.

**REMONSTRANCES:** Ellen Bertel from the Historical Society of Old Northfield returned to ask if the Village could post the Society's meeting dates on the Village website. She also asked if the Village was able to discuss making a donation to her organization. The Mayor stated the Village is in the process of starting its annual budget discussions and the Society's request will be brought up in conjunction with those talks.

### **REPORTS OF MUNICIPAL OFFICERS:**

**Mayor Jennifer Domzalski** – Mayor Domzalski reported Sgt. Zambach notified her he is retiring this winter. She thanked him for his many years of service. The little libraries have been a wonderful addition to the Village and are very popular. The Village received a \$1,500 Community Events Grant from NOPEC that the Recreation Board will put to use. The Mayor encouraged everyone to switch to the paperless option for receiving and paying Village sewer maintenance fee bills.

**Finance Director, Jennifer Potvin** – Ms. Potvin stated she had no report this evening.

**Law Director, Brad Bryan** – Mr. Bryan stated he had no report this evening.

**Engineer, Daniel Collins** – Mr. Collins reported the bidding schedule for the Fire Station Addition and Renovation Project will be delayed by about two weeks due to comments received from the Summit County Building Department in connection with the updated plans. The bid opening is now tentatively scheduled for Friday February 23 at 1:00 p.m. Mr. Collins stated the Village has been getting a lot of questions about the construction schedule for the gun range in the Plaza. He stated the permits are currently being sought from the County, and the developer is hoping to submit final plans to the County in the late spring.

#### **DEPARTMENT HEADS:**

**Police Department, Chief John Zolcus** – Chief Zolcus stated he is working on buttoning things up from last year and formulating this year's budget. He announced he is planning to retire in February. He will give the Mayor an exact date after he meets with the pension board later this month. He stated he feels it is time to move on and let someone else lead the Department.

**Fire Department, Jason Buss** -- Chief Buss noted he forgot to update the station project bidding date information in his report, and thanked Mr. Collins for providing the new dates. He stated the Santa Event went great and was well received by residents. He thinks it was the best Village event in which he has been involved. He thanked everyone who worked to make it possible. The Mayor commented it was a wonderful day. She was amazed by all of the joy on the children's faces. The Mayor was able to ride the truck and wear a Santa hat. Mr. and Mrs. Claus were great.

**Service Department, Jason Walters**– Mr. Walters was not present for the Meeting. Mr. Lewis reported the Cloudpermit system went live on January 1. Residents and contractors can now apply for, pay for, and receive permits online through the system. There are 204 seniors in the driveway program this winter. It takes about 37 man hours to plow that many driveways. There were 56 zoning violations written last year to businesses and residents. The price of road salt has risen this year to \$74 per ton, which will cost the Village around \$66,000 this year. It was \$39 per ton last year, costing \$38,000.

#### **REPORTS OF THE MUNICIPAL BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS:**

**Planning Commission, Mr. Hipps** – Mr. Lewis made a motion that was seconded by Ms. Noack to re-appoint Mr. Hipps as the Village Council Planning Commission Representative. Roll call vote: Mr. Ferko-yes; Ms. Noack-yes; Mr. Magistrelli-yes; Mr. Hipps-yes; Mr. Lewis-yes. The motion was approved.

**Recreation Board, Mayor Domzalski** – The Mayor reported the first meeting of the year was held on January 4. It was long but productive. The entire schedule for the year was planned. The Adult Easter Egg Hunt will take place on March 31 and the Children's Egg Hunt will be on April 1. Both Events will be at Smith Park and will be similar to last year with a few upgrades. There will be movies in the Park from June through October. The Board is looking for suggestions. The next meeting will be on February 1 in the Council Chambers. There is a possibility the location will change, and if it does, an announcement will be made. Mr. Lewis asked if all of the Board

spots were filled. The Mayor stated there is one vacancy that is being advertised. The deadline for applying is January 20.

**Cemetery Board, Ms. Noack** – Ms. Noack stated the Village is off the Board this year due to the rotation schedule, and Macedonia is back on. The annual budget was approved at the December Meeting. This years' projects include sealing the asphalt, installing electricity and security cameras at the main gate to help prevent vandalism, and painting the garage. In May, the Cemetery will participate in Wreaths Across America and put wreaths on all of the graves. The Cemetery is working on figuring out the cost and planning a ceremony.

**REPORTS OF THE STANDING COMMITTEES:**

**Finance Committee, Mr. Magistrelli** – Mr. Magistrelli stated he had no report.

**Roads and Public Works, Mr. Lewis** – Mr. Lewis stated he had no report.

**Health and Welfare, Mr. Ferko** – Mr. Ferko stated he had no report.

**Wages and Working Conditions, Mr. Vojtush** – Mr. Vojtush was not present.

**Fire and Safety, Ms. Noack** – Ms. Noack stated she had no report.

**Buildings and Grounds, Mr. Hipps** – Mr. Hipps stated he had no report.

**LEGISLATION:**

**Resolution No. 2023-01, An Emergency Resolution Authorizing the Mayor to Renew the Village's Agreement with the Summit County Public Defender's Commission for Indigent Representation in Stow Municipal Court (First Reading)**

The legislation was read by title by Mr. Bryan. A motion to suspend the three reading rule was made by Mr. Hipps and seconded by Ms. Noack. Roll call vote: Mr. Ferko-yes; Ms. Noack-yes; Mr. Magistrelli-yes; Mr. Hipps-yes; Mr. Lewis-yes. The motion was approved. A motion to adopt the Resolution was made by Ms. Noack and seconded by Mr. Ferko. Roll call vote: Mr. Ferko-yes; Ms. Noack-yes; Mr. Magistrelli-yes; Mr. Hipps-yes; Mr. Lewis-yes. The Resolution was approved.

**Ordinance No. 2023-02, An Emergency Ordinance Establishing Section 238.16 of the Codified Ordinances Relating to a Charge for Dishonored Checks or Payments (First Reading)**

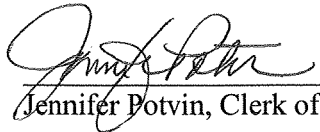
The legislation was read by title by Mr. Bryan. A motion to suspend the three reading rule was made by Ms. Noack and seconded by Mr. Lewis. Roll call vote: Mr. Ferko-yes; Ms. Noack-yes; Mr. Magistrelli-yes; Mr. Hipps-yes; Mr. Lewis-yes. The motion was approved. A motion to adopt the Ordinance was made by Ms. Noack and seconded by Mr. Ferko. Roll call vote: Mr. Ferko-yes; Ms. Noack-yes; Mr. Magistrelli-yes; Mr. Hipps-yes; Mr. Lewis-yes. The Ordinance was approved.

**OLD BUSINESS; NEW BUSINESS; ANNOUNCEMENTS:** Mayor Domzalski reported the Grand Opening for Ground Xero has been scheduled for February 1. Onyx's Grand Reopening will be February 6 from 5:00 to 7:30. There will be raffles and food. She is glad to have Onyx back. Ms. Noack stated the Village is currently taking applications for the Veterans' Banner Program. The cost is \$150, and the deadline for participating is March 31. Ms. Noack thanked the Mayor and everyone else involved with the Village holiday gathering. The Mayor agreed it was a great night.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:** None.

**ADJOURNMENT:** Mr. Hipps made a motion to adjourn that was seconded by Mr. Lewis. Roll call vote: Mr. Ferko-yes; Ms. Noack-yes; Mr. Magistrelli-yes; Mr. Hipps-yes; Mr. Lewis-yes. The Motion was approved. The Meeting was adjourned at 8:38 p.m.

Approved by Council.

  
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Jennifer Potvin, Clerk of Council