

## MINUTES FROM NORTHFIELD VILLAGE CAUCUS MEETING (4/30/2024)

The meeting was called to order at 7 PM in the Village Park District conference room. A motion made by Mark Gantner to approve the minutes of the January 30, 2024 meeting was seconded by Kathy Estabrooke and duly approved by a majority of Caucus members present. Those present were: Bev Smith, Dennis Culloton, David Woodyatt, Michael Cohen, Mark Gantner, Becky Newport, Carol Ritchell, Kathy Estabrooke and Amanda Knight. Guests present were Village Chief Bill Lustig, Tracey Mendrek, Tom Whittaker, John Donnelly, Yvonne Hurlbutt, Chaya Rubenstein, Patii Morrell, Sue Kelly and Adam LeFebure.

The Treasurer's report was given by Mark Gantner who indicated our bank balance remained at \$836.36.

Our guest speaker was Police Chief Bill Lustig who made the following comments: The Village has just hired a female officer, the first in the last 9 years; the total police force is now up to what he considers to be the minimum necessary, although he is concerned that 3 of our current officers were previously employed by the Chicago Police Dept. and they may decide to return to these former jobs; all the Village police officers will be required to wear body cameras beginning January 1, 2025; he also mentioned that unused prescription drugs can now be disposed of in a container in front of the police station which will be monitored by a video camera; Chief Lustig said that any of our residents are still too careless in leaving their cars unlocked or leaving their keys in the cars and Northfield still has many thefts of cars primarily by Chicago area gang members, many of whom are young kids who are difficult to prosecute under current law; that many Village residents are concerned about the migrants now coming to Northfield to live and/or beg on our streets and whose children are not attending school, but the Chief said that the police can't do anything "unless a law is broken".

Trustee Tracey Mendrek reported that about 91 Northfield residents were recently informed that they have a problem with lead in their water system and that they will be expected to correct the problem with the assistance of the Village who will pay a portion of the repair costs; she also said that the new Village Manager is "communications-focused" and that we should see some improvement in communications between the Village and its residents. A couple of suggestions that came out of the Caucus' recent survey were that many residents would like to go back to quarterly water bills and that the Caucus and/or Village should do more resident surveys.

David gave the Oversight Committee report and said that the April 16<sup>th</sup> Trustee meeting was mostly routine with thanks being given to the interim Village Manager; it was also reported that the cannabis facility on Waukegan Road is now expected to open by Memorial Day; and that the current Village budget does not include a fountain for a Village roundabout. There was a short discussion about what the Caucus should do with the recently completed survey and the consensus seems to be that many survey respondents want better communications between the Village and the residents, particularly in updating projects such as the cannabis location, roundabout questions and frequency of water bills. Since more frequent updates to current issues on the website was something the Village Board could address more immediately than other issues, a motion was made by Kathy Estabrooke and seconded by Becky Newport that a note requesting more frequent updating of the Village website be sent to the Board. This motion was

passed by a majority of the members present.

Regarding New Business, Chairperson Smith pointed to a need for a Platform Committee chairperson and for a Northfield resident to serve on the Library Caucus. Beverly distributed some proposed changes to the Platform that we may consider at our next Caucus meeting.

Regarding Old Business, Dennis Culloton distributed detailed copies of his thoughts on election readiness which included his ideas for good communications with residents and the cost of such things as lawn signs and mailings.

Beverly then put the Caucus into executive session for the purpose of considering for membership five guests who were attending at least their second Caucus meeting. The five were Patti Morrell, Sue Kelly, Chaya Rubenstein, John Donnelly and Adam LeFebure. A motion duly made and seconded to admit the five new Caucus members was passed by a majority of the Caucus members present and the executive session ended.

A motion duly made by Dave Woodyatt and seconded by Mark Ganter to adjourn the Caucus meeting, was passed unanimously by those members present and the meeting ended at 8:55 PM.

MINUTES PREPARED BY ACTING SECRETARY DAVID WOODYATT.

*David Woodyatt*