

AKRON BEACON JOURNAL: JANUARY 21, 1930

## **NORTHFIELD SPLIT APPEARS IN FIGHT FOR TOWN POSTS**

**C.W. Seiberling May Withdraw Estates of Political Battle**

### **COUNCIL SEATS INVOLVED**

The village of Northfield was rife with political discussion Tuesday following the threat of withdrawal from the village of the estates of C.W. Seiberling, vice president of Seiberling Ruber Co., and other estates opposed to the rule of Mayor William J. Burns, who was reelected after a bitter fight last November.

Political strife in the village was revived last night when three of the members of the council met to elect another councilman of the views. The meeting was attended by Cletus Roetzel, attorney representing Seiberling, who was there to advise the three that one of their number had been elected illegally and that election of another councilman could not be held legally.

## **Questions Grimm's Election**

Before attending the session Roetzel had obtained permission to file suit in the court of appeals to "inquire into the right of Harry Grimm to serve as councilman". Hearing on the suit will be held before the appellate court judges next Tuesday.

In the meantime, Mayor Burns controls the council.

The three Burns men chose Grimm on Jan. 10 to succeed Vincent Hubbard, who was forced to resign on the ground he sold gasoline to the village. Grimm last night voted with the other three despite Roetzel's warning and elected Louis Blaha to succeed Pitt Pratt, who resigned at the time Hubbard did, on Jan. 10. Blaha is also a Burns man.

## **\$54,000 is Distributed**

The councilmen followed up the election by distributing \$54,000 in the general fund, which has been declared to make Northfield "the wealthiest municipality" in the state, as it furnishes more money than the council can find places to put it.

Among the expenditures ordered last night was the erection of a fire house to cost \$4,000, a volunteer fire department with a chief, two lieutenants, and 40 members, salaries for two paid deputies for Marshal Henry Smith, and two more subject to call. Smith previously had served as a one man-fire department for the village and had no deputies.

AKRON BEACON JOURNAL: OCTOBER 31, 1930

## **NORTHFIELD VOTERS BALLOT ON SECESSION OF BACKYARD**

Residents Flock to Poll To Decide If

Wealthy Property Owners May Separate Estates From Village

By G.E. Hancock

With all the panoply of poll books, curtained booths, election officials and grave-faced challengers, Northfield voted today on the proposition of whether or not a few property owners in one section of the town would be permitted to detach a liberal slice of Northfield's backyard and set it up as a separate entity.

The special election resulted from petitions duly signed and presented calling for a showdown on the issue of secession. To the west of Northfield are several large estates owned by Cyrus Eaton, C.W. Seiberling, W.G. Marshall and other wealthy property owners. In the same area are a number of prosperous farms. When it was proposed in the village to place a question regarding expenditure of over \$200,000 for a waterworks system on the ballots this fall, the estate owners and small farmers objected and decided to detach their holdings from the town.

## **Mayor Predicts Defeat**

"They will not be successful", said Mayor William (Bill) Burns emphatically. "While the town officials here are not particularly concerned over the matter, we have checked the thing carefully and it is apparent that the detachment crowd will not be able to muster enough votes."

At the polling place, a little out-building on the Witt place west of town, the issue was still obscured by doubt this noon. The constant procession of voters testified to the grim determination of both sides in the fight.

George Fronek, former Cleveland coal dealer, who has extensive holdings in the district and is a resident of Northfield, declared that the detachment effort is assured of success.

## **Employees Not Instructed**

"There are enough of us who will be hard hit by the proposed water works bond issue to taken this action", he said.

Unprejudiced observers, however, pointed out that the employees of the large estates owned by Seiberling and Marshall had been told by their respective employees to "votes as they please".

Seiberling indicated that he had not interceded but said that he had voted early today. Mr. And Mrs. Cyrus Eaton drove up to the polling place early this morning and smilingly cast their votes.

The status of the proposed water works bonds issue was explained by Mayor Burns.

### **Explains Bond Issue**

"There was no thought of penalizing the owners of these large estates by forcing this water works plan", he said. "People here in the immediate vicinity of the center thought it might be possible to have the convenience and protection of an adequate water supply by sinking some wells and installing a few mains. There was no thought of extending the service in an expensive fashion, Engineers have said the total cost would be about \$230,000 and the village would have to pay about \$50,000. The idea was to put the matter to vote this fall. If the system was wanted, it could be defeated."

The area involved in the detachment vote includes about 6,000 acres. It embraces about 72 per cent of the unimproved roads and is responsible for about half of the tax duplicate credited to the present village, The Summit County half of the ground occupied by the much discussed Northfield dog racing plant is included.

"If detachment succeeds, we'll have dog races again", said one town official. "There will be no opposition to operation of a racing plant within the village limits if Eaton, Seiberling, and their crowd are out of the picture".

AKRON BEACON JOURNAL: JANUARY 19, 1935

## **NORTHFIELD SILENT ON PROPOSED SPLIT**

Mayor Kusta, Others Refuse to Comment on Separation Move

Greatest secrecy was being maintained by public officials here today over the origin and purposes of a movement to separate the north end of this village from what is called the "village center".

Despite introduction in council of a resolution calling for the separation, Mayor George Kusta and the whole roster of officials refuse to discuss the matter.

### **McConell, Titus, Silent**

G. McConell, its sponsor, and Solicitor T. Paul Titus, declined to reveal what is behind the proposal. Kusta flatly denied the maneuver is in any way connected with the Northfield Dog Track, which lies in the north end of the village.

Kusta laconically asserted "There is much to be said for either side. I prefer to stay on the fence".

Council members named J.J. Zednick as president for the year, and retained Titus as solicitor. Kusta has appointed George Honey as street commissioner, Stanley Pleveny as fire chief, and Harry Eddy and William Weinman as deputy marshals.

(This article was transcribed by Ms. Sharon Naylor)

**Akron Beacon Journal - April 10, 1935**

## **NORTHFIELD BALLOT RESULTS CERTIFIED**

### **Believe Secession Vote Meets All State Law Requirements**

Northfield town officials and petitioners in the newly-created Northfield Center township, were advised today by Assistant County Prosecutor Robert Pflueger that results of the recent election had been certified to the Secretary of State.

By terms of the election, the Northfield Center portion of the old town corporation seceded from the village limits. The suggestion had been made that the proceeding might not be legal inasmuch as the state law governs the size of townships. Pflueger declared, however, that he believed the voters had acted properly.

Transcribed by Sharon Naylor

Akron Beacon Journal - December 10, 1935

## **NORTHFIELD CENTER AWARDED CITY HALL**

**Judge May awards Title in Controversy with Northfield, Sagamore Hills.**

Northfield Center township had obtained sole possession of the village hall Tuesday in a decision by Probate Judge Dean F. May which ended a four-year fight between Northfield Village, Northfield township and Sagamore Hills village.

Judge May also ruled that \$70,000 worth of improvement bonds, which are in default, must be paid by the three village and township units and while \$7,403 owed to Sagamore Hills must be paid by Northfield Village, a period of 10 years will be granted to retire the debt.

Possession of the city hall and allocation of the debts has been complicated since 1931 by the various secessions and village divisions, Judge May held the hall and real estate cannot be divided.

Transcribed by Sharon Naylor

Akron Beacon Journal - June 10, 1936

## **JUDGE ORDERS NORTHFIELD CASE**

### **SETTLED IN 5 DAYS**

Northfield Center township's historic contest with Northfield Village for the fire engine, one broken down auto, the aged township seal, and what not, will be over in five days, or else ----

The "or else" is decreed by Probate Judge Dean F. May who had the dispute on his hands 13 months as a result of the township's split from the village.

As a final decision on what equipment belongs to which division and compensation for this and that, Judge May announced that:

Northfield Village will have just **five** days to get a certified check for \$429 on his desk for delivery to the township.

The township will have the same period to certify a check for \$177.89 in favor of the village.