



9546 Brandywine Road, Northfield Center, OH 44067
Phone: (330) 467-7646 Fax: (330) 650-0815 www.northfieldcenter.com

FISCAL OFFICER
Andy LaGuardia

TRUSTEES
Russell F. Mazzola, Chair
Paul G. Buescher, Vice-Chair
Richard H. Reville

ADMINISTRATOR
Steve Wright

**NOTICE & AGENDA
NORTHFIELD CENTER TOWNSHIP
BOARD OF TRUSTEES WORK SESSION
August 19, 2019-6:00 pm
(Draft as of August 8, 2019)**

**Please silence all electronic devices.
No decisions will be made at this Work Session.
There will be no public comments at this Work Session.**

A Sign-in Sheet is available at the beginning of the meeting and will be attached to the official Meeting Minutes.

The Public was notified of this meeting by Facebook, Twitter, an e-mail Sunshine Law notice to the Township’s Meeting Notification List, the NCT web site calendar, and the electronic sign.

The purpose of this Work Session is, primarily, for the Safety Services Committee to present and discuss the implications of its police services/protection research and resultant report. The full text of the report is attached to this agenda.

A. THE CHAIR CALLS THE WORK SESSION TO ORDER AT ____ P.M.

ROLL CALL: Richard H. Reville, ____; Paul G. Buescher, ____; Russell F. Mazzola, ____.

B. THE PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

C. DISCUSSION:

D. TRUSTEE _____ MOVES FOR ADJOURNMENT.

Trustee _____ seconds the motion.

_____ moves; _____ seconds.

Discussion: _____

ROLL CALL: Richard H. Reville, ___; Paul G. Buescher, ___; Russell F. Mazzola, ___.

This Report is submitted in the context that commencing in 2021 and going forward NCT will be operating in a deficit for policing services with the Sheriff.

A. Currently, the following levies are used to provide funding for police services/protection for NCT:

- 1. 6100-Police Fund: \$225,110/year
- 2. 6101-Police Fund: \$469,753/year
- 3. 6200-Police Protection: \$154,273/year

Total Revenue \$849,136/per year

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
NCT Revenue (including carryover)	\$970,000	\$947,126	\$897,222	\$819,449	\$712,941
Sheriff Contract costs plus increases	\$872,009	\$899,039	\$926,909	\$955,643	\$985,268
Remaining funds (black) or deficit amounts (red)	\$97,990	\$48,086	-\$29,686	-\$136,194	-\$272,326

CARRYOVER MONIES COMING FROM SURPLUS.

B. Committee met with Sheriff and company on May 1, 2019, to see if they can cut costs in order to stay within NCT budgetary parameters [appx. \$850,000]

- 1. Notes/Report regarding the discussion with the Sheriff were provided to NCT Trustees during May 6, 2019 regular meeting (accessible via NCT website).
 - a. **Result:** Sheriff unable to cut any costs (states they are operating in a deficit), therefore NCT will be operating in a deficit by 2021 even with carryover surplus monies unless a monies are reallocated from the JED or General Fund, or levy is passed to cover the additional costs referenced above. Sheriff stated that if contract terminated, Sheriff would provide services on a month-to-month basis.

II Safety Committee has been requested by NCT Township Trustees to inquire with neighboring communities as to their interest in providing policing services for NCT within NCT budget (appx. \$850k).

- a. **MACEDONIA MEETING:** Scheduled meeting with Mayor Nick Molnar on May 14, 2019. Committed advised by Mayor that he had discussed contracting for policing services for NCT with Police Chief of Macedonia for better services than is currently being provided:
 - i. Macedonia can provide policing services, via contract with more officers patrolling at a cost estimated to be 1.2 million per year.
 - ii. Committee advised Mayor of Macedonia (and all other police departments contacted), that NCT residents are satisfied and comfortable with the Sheriff services (ie., 1 deputy and 1/3 deputy 24/7) plus other services as referenced in the 2017 Sheriff Contract on record with NCT via the NCT web site.
 - iii. **Result:** NCT not seeking increase in services or to make lateral movement for same costs charged by Sheriff, but interested in obtaining policing services for NCT that are at minimum what the Sheriff currently provides but within NCT budgetary parameters (ie. Appx. \$850,000 per year). Macedonia unable to meet NCT policing budget.

2. **SAGAMORE HILLS:** Scheduled meeting with Sagamore Hills Police Chief David Hayes on June 12, 2019.
 - a. Met with Trustee, David DePasquale, Attorney Jeffrey Snell and Chief David Hayes for review and discussion. According to Chief Hayes (Police Chief of Sagamore Hills for over 15 years), not interested in providing police services to NCT via a contract (like NCT has with the Sheriff), for the following reasons:
 - i. Contract is based upon estimated costs so there is difficulty in budgeting due to actual costs expended per year;
 - ii. The staffing is specific for what is contracted for which limits patrols;
 - iii. Equipment is not owned by Township;
 - iv. Sagamore Hills controls its cost to be within its budget;

- v. A Police District would be best considering the size of the communities and present budgets.
 - b. Sagamore Hills would be interested in exploring the concept of entering **into a district for police services with NCT**, for the following reasons:
 - i. Townships can share Fire/EMS services by forming a Fire District so can do the same with Police Departments (See O.R.C. 505.48 Township police district);
 - ii. Ownership and decision making, including budgeting beneficial to both communities as the Trustees have more budgeting input, and cost increase control;
 - iii. Usually combined coverage means more staffing and flexible staffing (will be able to provide better services to residents), based upon population;
 - iv. The Townships own the purchased equipment as assets;
 - v. The combined Townships would have roughly a starting budget of \$2,500,000. Sagamore Hills Township population is 2/3 of the area to be policed and their budget appx. \$1,666,666, (66%), thus Northfield Center's cost would be appx., \$833,333 (33%). Sagamore Hills would incur the initial hiring and training costs and pay for actual costs of the services.
 - c. **Result:** Sagamore Hills has an impressive police department that can provide policing services (1 1/3 deputies 24/7 plus other services), at a cost (if a Police District is formed) within NCT budget. This is also a system that would permit NCT to own assets and participate in cost control efforts. According to the Ohio Revised Code, adjacent Townships can form these types of districts easily via an agreement and approval by Trustees. Committee recommends this approach for a long-term plan for policing services.
3. **NORTHFIELD VILLAGE:** Scheduled meeting with Chief John Zoligus and Lt., Brian Zajac at the Northfield Village Police Department on July 2, 2019.

a. Met with the Chief and Lieutenant (who discussed contracting for policing services with Police Chief) for review and discussion.

- i. Discussed providing policing services for Northfield Center (would bring on 4-5 officers) Northfield Village has an impressive police force. Made it clear that any contract must be within NCT budget (appx. \$850,000);
- ii. Chief asked Sergeants for their opinion about providing NCT with policing services. All in favor of doing so;
- iii. Dispatching and Jail provided by Macedonia at an additional cost;
- iv. Currently Northfield Village has: 2 detectives; 2 school resource officers; a canine unit; 4 field training officers; (Have basically all services that Sheriff provides);
- v. 4 year turn over on vehicles – (just purchased new Tahoe);
- vi. Chief will meet with Law Director and provide a proposal in a few weeks.

b. **Result:** Northfield Village has an impressive police department that can provide policing to NCT at a cost within NCT budget. Stated they are interested in providing NCT with policing services. Services will not fall below what is currently being provided by Sheriff (1 and 1/3 deputy provided 24/7).

4. **BOSTON HEIGHTS:** Scheduled meeting with Chief Ray Heatwell and Mayor Bill Gonyea at the Boston Heights Hall on July 23, 2019.

a. Meeting to assess seriousness of NCT Safety Committee in requesting if there would be interest in Boston Heights providing policing services to NCT, at a cost within NCT Budget and at a minimum patrol consistent with what Sheriff is providing.

- i. Boston Heights has less of a population than NCT but is bigger (over 6 miles);

- ii. Currently, Boston Heights has 7 part-time officers and 4 full-time officers will be going towards getting more full-time officers.
 - iii. Mayor will discuss with the Boston Heights Safety Committee to see if this idea should be investigated further.
 - b. **Result:** Should receive a proposal of some sorts within a period of time but it is undetermined. Safety Committee proposes to wait a few weeks to see what Boston Heights interest and costs would be, if any.
- .
5. **Recommendation:** Safety Committee recommends a work session be set and open to the public to discuss the Results of the Safety Committee in proceeding forward with whether or not to cancel the Sheriff Contract and proceed with proposals with other communities. Need to request confirmation that if Sheriff contract cancelled, Sheriff will provide services on a month to month basis at current costs until other community ramps up or is ready to commence patrols. Currently, the Committee recommends: i) for a long-term plan to form a Police District with Sagamore Hills or other community would be ideal, or ii) for a short-term plan (3-5 years), to contract with Northfield Village for their services. Safety Committee sees this as a great option that should be acted upon sooner than later as the Sheriff contract provides for a termination date no later than September 30, of each year or it will roll over for another year.