

VILLAGE OF NORTH SYRACUSE

Regular Board Meeting

Thursday, February 27th, 2014 @ 4:29 PM

North Syracuse Community Center

700 South Bay Road, North Syracuse, NY 13212

The Village of North Syracuse Regular Board Meeting began at 4:29 PM with Mayor Atkinson inviting everyone present to join in the Pledge of Allegiance.

INFORMATIONAL PUBLIC HEARING REGARDING THE VILLAGE CENTER PROJECT:

Mayor Atkinson began this by stating that this Informational Public Hearing is being held by the Village Board of Trustees of the Village along with CHA Consulting on presenting plans for improving the aesthetics and function of the Village Center's Main Street. The plans include introducing new elements such as new sidewalks, brick treatment, decorative lighting, street trees and granite curbs. The section of Main Street included in the plans extends from Ferguson Ave. (south) to Gertrude Street (north). Mary Burgoon explained that we have been working on this project for about (6) months now. The purpose of this plan is to outline various improvements to the area that is in the public right-of-way. These improvements will create a vibrant, charming, walkable shopping and business center. She continued to speak on having some goals. First, we are looking at the streetscape and improving upon what is there. The goal is to have a safe, pleasant and attractive place to walk, shop and conduct business. The speed of traffic is inconsistent, some lacks curbing, drainage, poles in the way, confusion of lines, etc. She continued talk of the Wilson Farms entrance and the problems of pedestrians walking; and the area on Main Street heading south towards Ferguson Avenue (currently, there is a sign that prohibits parking and the Village needs to improve on this). She continued to talk of the driveway in front of the Old Dollar Store whereas the driveway is very wide and the crosswalk is faded in front of the Old Post Office Building; this provides confusion. She continued to speak on the Utility Poles that stick out in the middle of the road. The Mayor, along with CHA, will have a meeting with National Grid to try and incorporate these in the sidewalk or remove them completely. She spoke of the "no curbing" throughout the Village which protects the sidewalks. She also mentioned on North Main Street that driveways are the extent of the whole property, no vegetation and cause confusion. All of this will improve the aesthetics, a more comfortable and safe pedestrian circulation, as well as improve the vehicular circulation by shutting driveways, narrowing driveways and putting curbs in. Mary continued to speak on the Church Street enhancements, that currently remains a dead-end street; which is a problem to the current properties as the Village continues to grow. The trucks that are making deliveries are having a difficult time turning around to get back out on Main Street. Church Street does not have any accommodations for



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pedestrians at all. Mary has briefly spoken with the County DOT and they are open to some of the suggestions that we have regarding the reopening of this street. She discussed two different options for opening up Church Street with one being adjacent to the Community Center and open up to Centerville Place. The second alternative is to reopen to South Bay Road but only a right turn out and a left turn in. This would be necessary to allow the Village Center to grow. She continued to speak on some suggested changes for Wilson Farms and Syracuse Realty. Mary focused on the building next to Syracuse Realty, where CHA did a rendering of what the building could be with a little paint and signs on it, as well as streetlights, curbing, vegetation and curbing to enhance the area. Once this is on paper, and this is our goal, we can enforce it. Mary opened this up for discussion. The Mayor thanked Mary for her presentation. The Mayor said this is paralleling the Village Center Plan/Renovations with the Save the Rain. The Mayor spoke of sitting down with the Village Businesses as we progress regarding the right of way to discuss the egress and get their input. Richard Kaszubinski, of 404 North Main St. spoke of the Village needing maintenance of the sidewalks, and did not feel we needed all new sidewalks. He was not in favor of the granite curbing as this is Rt. 11 and it gets plowed on the hour during snow season, whereas he does not feel it is practical to dig up concrete curbing for granite curbing. He has lived in the Village since 1980, and Rt. 11 is the best corridor he has seen in a long time. Jeff Bachstein of Bach Photo at 111 North Main St. spoke of a correction that North Main Street begins at Church St. not with Chestnut Street. Jeff was concerned if any traffic studies were done regarding the Wilson Farms entrance and exit. He continued to say it is nearly impossible to get out on Chestnut between 3:00 PM and 6:00 PM. The Mayor explained that they will do more research; there is not enough here with this plan to execute this right now. Jeff Bachstein also emphasized a concern of a tree and the size of a tree that would block his business. He also spoke of being in favor of a crosswalk in front of his area to the municipal parking lot. Mary Burgoon spoke of the communication they have with the DOT on the sidewalks and she will bring this to their attention also. Further discussion took place on the enforcement of the crosswalks and the Mayor spoke of the Police Chief addressing this in the spring. Trustee Fergerson inquired about the curbs and sidewalks nearing the Main Street School. Trustee Butterfield spoke of the crosswalks in the Village are ignored and they are not attended as they are in other Villages. Mary Burgoon said some other Villages have many more people at the crosswalk which is noticeable. The Mayor spoke of his workings with Gary Wilmer on different lighting for the crosswalks to draw attention to them. Trustee Butterfield also spoke of some of the visibility with the trees could be a potential problem and mentioned caution as we do the intersection near Wilson Farms. He would promote smaller shrubbery at the corner for better visibility. Mary spoke of "Utsate New Yorkers" are not trained to stop at crosswalks. Ozzie Crisalli of Syracuse Realty wanted the opportunity to mention he has been bidding work, putting financing together for (6) apartments on the 2nd floor – 1 bedroom and (6) apartments on the 3rd floor – 2 bedrooms – loft type apartments in the Old Post Office Building. The parking will be in the rear of the building; these will be apartments with higher



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end finishes. This will be a fully secured building. He is currently negotiating with a medical billing office for the main floor. He presented some large scale shop drawings containing a view of what is forthcoming. The Mayor closed this informational public hearing at 5:25 PM and requested a 5 minute recess.

Roll Call: Mayor Mark Atkinson, Deputy Mayor Chuck Henry, Trustee Gary Butterfield, Trustee Fred Ferguson and Trustee Paul Linnertz were all present.

Personnel Present: Village Clerk/Treasurer Dianne Kufel, Parks Director Teresa Roth, Police Chief Michael Crowell, DPW Superintendent Gary Wilmer, Codes Enforcement Officer Pam DiCarlo, Village Engineer Amy Franco, and Planning Engineer Mary Burgoon.

RESOLUTION # 035-14

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Trustee Ferguson made a motion to approve the minutes from the February 13th, 2014 Board Meeting. Trustee Butterfield seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

RESOLUTION # 036-14

GENERAL FUND ABSTRACT APPROVAL

Trustee Linnertz made a motion to approve the General Fund Abstract #19 in the amount of \$69,615.46 covering Voucher #1047 to Voucher #1120; the motion was seconded by Trustee Ferguson. The motion was unanimously approved.

RESOLUTION # 037-14

SEWER FUND ABSTRACT APPROVAL

Trustee Linnertz made a motion to approve the Sewer Fund Abstract #19 in the amount of \$55.00 covering Voucher #16; the motion was seconded by Trustee Ferguson. The motion was unanimously approved.

RESOLUTION # 038-14

BUDGET TRANSFER

Trustee Ferguson made a motion to transfer \$2,669 from A3410.445 – Fire Dept. Building Maintenance to A3410.270 – Fire Dept. Station 1 – HVAC. The motion was seconded by Deputy Mayor Henry. The motion was unanimously approved.

RESOLUTION # 039-14

BUDGET TRANSFER

Trustee Ferguson made a motion to transfer \$463.00 from A3410.426 – Fire Dept. Pagers to A3410.240 – Fire Dept. Radios and Pagers. The motion was seconded by Deputy Mayor Henry. The motion was unanimously approved.



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CITIZENS' VOICE: No response.

NEW BUSINESS:

RESOLUTION # 040-14

DISCUSSION/AWARD CLEANING BID FOR COMM. CTR./VILLAGE HALL

The Mayor Atkinson made a motion to award the cleaning bid to Immaculate Commercial Cleaning for the Community Center for \$12,000 annually from 4/01/14 thru 3/31/15 and \$5,400 annually for the Village Hall from 4/01/14 thru 3/31/15. The motion was seconded by Trustee Ferguson. The motion was unanimously approved.

RESOLUTION # 041-14

APPROVE/APPOINT TEMPORARY PT FILL-IN DEP. VLG. CLK.TREAS.

Trustee Linnertz made a motion approving the appointment of Julia Getman as a temporary part-time fill-in for Deputy Village Clerk Treasurer at \$15.00 hour, averaging 24 – 30 hours per week, not to exceed 3 months, effective March 3rd, 2014. The motion was seconded by Trustee Linnertz. The motion was unanimously approved.

ENGINEERING REPORT: No report

DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS:

Police Department: Police Chief Crowell had no report.

Highway Department: DPW Sup't. Gary Wilmer spoke of the thawing and his department doing cold patching. The Mayor spoke of the roads being a lot better in the Village than outside of the Village.

Parks and Recreation: Parks Director Teresa Roth mentioned the candy bingo from 6 PM to 8PM that is open and free to the public.

Codes Enforcement Department: Codes Officer Pam DiCarlo spoke of D&L Mfg. of Gateway Park Drive is looking at putting an addition on and she has been in touch with the DEC. She also said Dog Daze is doing a repair on their building after the vehicular accident. The zoning map meeting went well on Feb. 25th and will be sent off to Clough Harbor to finalize.

Clerk/Treasurer: Dianne Kufel made mention of the budgets submitted and has a first model prepared with the list of capital items separate. Also, Dianne spoke of the Comptroller's Office



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completing their audit. The overall report does not appear to be lengthy, she gave us an outbrief with a few recommendations. I was pleased with the overall findings and hopefully the Board will be also.

DEPUTY MAYOR/TRUSTEES REPORT:

Trustee Linnertz: No report.

Trustee Ferguson: mentioned the next Public Safety Meeting to be held on Monday, March 3rd, 2014 at 4:00 PM at the Community Center. He continued to say that Deputy Mayor Henry and Trustee Ferguson are attending training in Public Critical Incident Management at OCC. Trustee Ferguson also made mention of the coalition fee or membership fee that all the local governments are paying to be a member of this MS4 Stormwater Coalition. We are all paying \$3,600 towards this coalition. Another words, the City of Syracuse pays \$3,600 and we pay \$3,600. This was brought up at the Mayor's meeting; although it is split equally between all, an unfair distribution, should be done on a "per capita".

Trustee Butterfield: No report.

Deputy Mayor Henry: he mentioned the EOP meeting to be held at the Fire Station on Tuesday, March 4th at 2:00 PM. Tim Ellis recommended the meeting taking place in the Emergency Operations Center at Station 1.

MAYOR'S REPORT:

Mayor Atkinson spoke of attending the CNY Parks & Rec. Annual Event with Teresa, and one of the programs, the Pet Rescue 911 Fund was identified as a program winner. This was a nice effort. The Mayor continued to say that at our next Village Board meeting we will be having a public hearing on the 2014 Community Development. This originally was always a grant for \$50,000 but recently has been dropped to \$35,000. The Public Hearing will generate ideas and projects that are a priority to the Village. The Mayor also mentioned that Diverse Foods has recently applied for the RPTL 485B – happy to see a local business can benefit on this tax exemption. Mayor spoke of the additional VIP monies that the Mayor's group has been working hard and focusing on a distribution of additional sales tax money. We have most recently received an additional \$34,000. This works so nice and works hand in hand with our grant application that we complete at the end of the year; putting forth our anticipated expenses that supports this sales tax money. It appears that we will also receive another \$34,000 in July. The Mayor encouraged the Trustees to emphasize the importance of this additional sales tax money when speaking with our County Legislators, Casey Jordan and Jim Corl. He

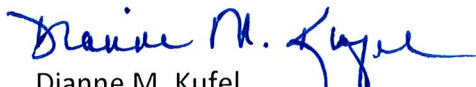


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mentioned his focus this next week will be on the upcoming budget and will be contacting the departments to clarify a few items. The Mayor spoke of the Comptroller's Audit and it has been completed. A final meeting took place with an informal outbrief. In summary, a few things to look at; but overall quite happy with the operation here in North Syracuse.

Trustee Butterfield made a motion to adjourn at 5:45 PM. The motion was seconded by Trustee Fergerson. The motion was unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,


Dianne M. Kufel
Village Clerk/Treasurer