

VILLAGE OF NORTH SYRACUSE

Regular Board Meeting

Thursday, March 12th, 2015 @ 6:29 PM

North Syracuse Community Center

700 South Bay Road, North Syracuse, NY 13212

The Village of North Syracuse Regular Board Meeting began at 6:29 PM with Mayor Mark Atkinson inviting everyone present to join him in the Pledge of Allegiance.

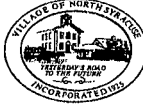
Public Hearing # 01:

Mayor Atkinson began by stating that this Public Hearing is being held by the Board of Trustees of the Village of North Syracuse to consider the 2015 Community Development Funds to be spent in 2016 in the Village of North Syracuse, and will hear all persons in support of such matters, or objections thereto. He noted that the (5) Five Year Plan will be discussed later in the meeting.

Mayor Atkinson stated that the Village typically has received \$50,000 in grants from the Onondaga Community Development; although the grant amount has recently dropped to \$30,000 per year. He continued that through discussions in the Staff Meetings, ascended the idea of using the funds to supplement the Streetscape Project. The conduit is already in place although we are unable to afford the decorative lamp poles. The proposal is to use these funds to install five or six more lamp pole lights.

Village Engineer Bouchard expanded that there are many projects that could qualify such as sewer/water study or improvements to facility, infrastructure, sidewalk, and parks. He added that the purpose of the public hearing is to get input from the public on ways the funds could be spent. Mayor Atkinson shared that he received an email from one of the citizens who expressed he would like a sidewalk extension on Chestnut Street. Mayor Atkinson explained that he has already reached out to the County Government in pursuit of that; he has submitted a plan and it is being addressed.

Mayor Atkinson asked if there were any questions, support, or objections for this public hearing. Pat Ferguson of 215 Main Street said she would like the funds to be spent well. Trustee Butterfield added that generally \$30,000 is not enough for significant construction projects and that he likes the Mayor's proposed plan. He inquired if there are plans for smaller scale projects such as park bathroom upgrades. Mayor Atkinson responded that such plans are in the (5) Five Year Plan to be discussed later. Deputy Mayor Henry asked if it would be beneficial to have our DPW department take on sidewalk extension projects. Mayor Atkinson noted that in-kind services have been done before but it may spread the department thin from all its other duties. He continued that the county reached out to him in regards to that project.



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Trustee Ferguson commented about the shaded areas on the map. Village Engineer Bouchard confirmed that the shaded areas on the map denote eligible areas. Trustee Ferguson continued that we have concentrated our efforts on north end and the center of the Village; he would like to see symmetry of distribution of funds by making sidewalk improvements in the south end of Route 11 from Ferguson to Taft Road. He continued that the County plans for surface improvements including curbing, sidewalk, paving, signage, and lights will soon be underway on South Bay Road from Northern Lights to Bear Road. Mayor Atkinson responded that the improvements to the aforementioned area are in the five year plan and that the Community Development funds of \$30,000 would not go far in addressing the area improvements in question.

Trustee Ferguson mentioned that he noticed in the agreement for the Lonergan Park Enhancement grant says it's a "reimbursement". He asked if we have to spend the \$250,000 first before we are completely made whole. Mayor Atkinson clarified that we are not making any expense unless we know that it will be reimbursed. Clerk Treasurer Kufel noted that the Save the Rain Project had the same wording in the agreement and there were no issues in receiving the funds.

Mayor Atkinson asked if there are any other comments. There was no response. He closed the public hearing at 6:39 PM.

Roll Call: Mayor Mark Atkinson, Deputy Mayor Chuck Henry, Trustee Fred Ferguson, and Trustee Gary Butterfield. Trustee Paul Linnertz is absent.

Personnel Present: Village Clerk/Treasurer Dianne Kufel, DPW Superintendent Gary Wilmer, Parks Director Teresa Roth, Codes Enforcement Officer Pam DiCarlo, Police Chief Crowell, Fire Chief Tim Ellis, Village Engineer Brian Bouchard, and Village Attorney Scott Chatfield.

RESOLUTION # 037-15

APPROVAL OF BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Trustee Ferguson made a motion to approve the minutes from the February 26th, 2015 Board Meeting. The motion was seconded by Deputy Mayor Henry. The motion was approved with Trustee Ferguson, Trustee Butterfield, Deputy Mayor Henry, and Mayor Atkinson, all voting in favor of the same.

RESOLUTION # 038 -15

GENERAL FUND ABSTRACT APPROVAL

Trustee Ferguson made a motion to approve the General Fund Abstract # 20 in the amount of \$140,190.79 covering Voucher # 1123 to Voucher # 1186. The motion was seconded by Deputy Mayor Henry. The motion was approved with Trustee Ferguson, Deputy Mayor Henry, Trustee Butterfield, and Mayor Atkinson, all voting in favor of the same.



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RESOLUTION # 039 -15

SEWER FUND ABSTRACT APPROVAL

Trustee Ferguson made a motion to approve the Sewer Fund Abstract # 20 in the amount of \$55.00 covering Voucher # 12. The motion was seconded by Trustee Butterfield. The motion was approved with Trustee Ferguson, Trustee Butterfield, Deputy Mayor Henry, and Mayor Atkinson, all voting in favor of the same.

CITIZENS' VOICE: Pat Ferguson of 215 Main Street promoted Arbor Day that will take place on April 24th. She asked for a decision to be made on a type of tree and the name of the person to be memorialized. She encouraged all Board Members and Department Heads to attend the Arbor Day ceremony.

OLD BUSINESS:

RESOLUTION # 040 -15

DISCUSS/AUTHORIZE RFP FOR VILLAGE HALL MODIFICATION

Mayor Atkinson recalled that there were concerns about the first round of bidding for the Village Hall kitchen modification. The plan was modified and re-bid. He specified that one of the changes made was the exclusion of the stove from the plans. He continued that two contractors opted out from bidding the job and two contractors agreed to bid the job and all has been noted. Griffith Remodeling is the low bidder with a bid of \$8,660. The latest quotes were copied to the Board. Trustee Ferguson made a motion to award the job to Griffith Remodeling. The motion was seconded by Mayor Atkinson. The motion was approved with Trustee Ferguson, Trustee Butterfield, Deputy Mayor Henry, and Mayor Atkinson, all voting in favor of the same.

NEW BUSINESS:

PROCLAMATION PREECLAMPSIA AWARENESS MONTH IN MAY 2015

Mayor Atkinson said the Board received the proclamation that describes this dangerous condition that can lead to maternal and/or infant mortality or premature birth with significant health risks for the mother and baby. We have prepared a Proclamation that officially proclaims May 2015 as Preeclampsia Awareness Month. He proceeded to read the following proclamation aloud into record:



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PROCLAMATION

- WHEREAS, Preeclampsia, including HELLP syndrome and eclampsia, is a dangerous condition of pregnancy that can, in its severest form, lead to maternal and/or infant mortality or premature birth with significant health risks for the mother and baby, and*
- WHEREAS, As many as 320,000 cases of preeclampsia are diagnosed in America every year with approximately 25% resulting in severe, life-threatening consequences to a pregnant women and her baby, and*
- WHEREAS, Public education as to the signs and symptoms of preeclampsia, HELLP syndrome and eclampsia can help women recognize the condition and seek appropriate medical care, and*
- WHEREAS, Many citizens of the Village of North Syracuse, New York, have joined with the Preeclampsia Foundation to raise public awareness in order to minimize maternal and infant illness and death due to preeclampsia.*

NOW THEREFORE, I, Mayor Mark Atkinson, Mayor of Village of North Syracuse, New York, DO HEREBY PROCLAIM MAY, 2015, AS

PREECLAMPSIA AWARENESS MONTH

IN THE VILLAGE OF NORTH SYRACUSE, NEW YORK. BY THIS ACTION, LET IT BE KNOWN THAT WE SUPPORT THE PREECLAMPSIA FOUNDATION'S EFFORTS TO REDUCE MATERNAL AND INFANT ILLNESS AND MORTALITY DUE TO PREECLAMPSIA AND RELATED HYPERTENSIVE DISORDERS OF PREGNANCY.

Given under my hand and seal of the
Village of North Syracuse this
12th day of March, 2015.
Mark S. Atkinson, Mayor



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Mayor Atkinson then presented the signed and sealed proclamation to Syracuse Promise Walk for Preeclampsia Walk Coordinator Lorelle Lashway and Co-Coordinator Michelle Pendergast Romano.



Left: Michelle Pendergast Romano, Mayor Mark Atkinson, Lorelle Lashway

DISCUSSION OF DOG PARK AT HERITAGE PARK

Mayor Mark Atkinson explained that there has been an exploration of an idea to make a dog park in the Village. Heritage Park was identified as the best Village park to be transformed into an off-leash dog park. He continued that after multiple staff meeting discussions regarding cost information, benefits, and signage, we added a public opinion poll on the website. The poll results have been largely in favor of the park. He continued that there have been reviewing ways to fund it such as corporate sponsorship and grant opportunities. He added that the estimated cost he received from Parks Director Roth to create the dog park will be about \$16,800. Conversation also took place regarding Heritage Parks and the event held for Pet 911. Mayor Atkinson asked if there were any



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questions or comments. Trustee Ferguson acknowledged he reviewed the budget items Parks Director Roth presented.

RESOLUTION # 041 -15 2015 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT FUNDS – RESOLUTION FOR APPLICATION

The Board has received the application that has a revision to the “shaded” area. Village Engineer Bouchard said that the Community Development Funds was once \$50,000, subsequently dropped to \$35,000, and most recently to \$30,000, which is what is believed is currently available. He said that we can submit more than one application plan for these funds. Trustee Butterfield said some of the existing sidewalks on Route 11 are in poor condition. He suggested we use DPW’s in-kind services to remove the sections and use the funds to contract services to repair the sidewalks, thus stretching the funds. Trustee Ferguson added that there are wheelchair-bound people whom frequent the location near the Malta House and those sidewalks could be improved. Trustee Butterfield said that there are some spots toward Taft Road that could be improved. Mayor Atkinson noted that there have been ongoing improvements to the Village Center’s sidewalks and asked DPW Superintendent Wilmer if sidewalks projects can be performed at this time due to weather. DPW Superintendent Wilmer responded that there is a location south on Sandra Lane that gets flooded with water and he has received complaints about that. Mayor Atkinson said he will always prioritize safety related improvements and repairs. DPW Superintendent added that he can provide in-kind services up to (100) one hundred feet, if an area exceeds that length in required repairs than the job should be contracted out in full. Mayor Atkinson made a motion to submit two separate applications: (a) for decorative lights installation and (b) for spot repairs on sidewalk from Ferguson down to Sandra Lane. The motion was seconded by Trustee Butterfield. The motion was approved with Trustee Ferguson, Deputy Mayor Henry, and Mayor Mark Atkinson, Trustee Butterfield, all voting in favor of the same. Village Engineer Bouchard concluded that the plans are required to also be in the (5) Five Year Plan. He noted that even if the applications are rejected, it is advantageous to have the plans also included in the (5) Five Year Plan so that it can be resubmitted in the future year.

RESOLUTION # 042 -15 AUTHORIZE (5) YEAR PLAN – RESOLUTION FOR COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

The Board received the last (5) Five Year Plan and the newly drafted (5) Year Plan. Mayor Atkinson asked if there were any questions or comments on the proposed plan. Village Attorney Chatfield added that bullet point five should also state “sidewalks”. Mayor Atkinson made the correction. Trustee Butterfield said that he attended the first meeting for the Complete Streets / Re-Greening Initiative Committee in which there was a discussion of the creation of bike paths and although the plans do not specify “bike paths” he assumed that the curbing, sidewalk, and paving improvements will cover

paths. Mayor Atkinson noted it is reasonable to make that assertion. The (5) Year Plan as follows:



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1. Heritage Park – Parking Lot and Dog Park
2. Centerville Park – Install Bathrooms
3. Drainage/Paving Concerns – Specific areas within Village
4. Lonergan Park Enhancements – All that is mentioned in the Al Stirpe Grant
5. Paving Improvements, sidewalks, and curbing on Main St. (from Taft Road to Bear Road)

Mayor Atkinson made a motion to authorize CHA to update our (5) Year Plan not to exceed \$1,000. The motion was seconded by Trustee Butterfield. The motion was approved with Trustee Ferguson, Trustee Butterfield, Deputy Mayor Henry, and Mayor Atkinson, all voting in favor of the same.

RESOLUTION # 043 -15

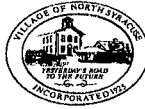
AUTHORIZE QUALITY OF LIFE GRANT

The Board was copied on this “fast-moving” grant opportunity. Mayor Atkinson said Village Engineer Franco was able to make contact with the County and the criteria are basically simple. This was also previously discussed in the staff meeting. The Quality of Life Grant has a value up to \$200,000. He continued that the idea was to focus on park improvements. Village Engineer Bouchard said this will be a very competitive grant because there are essentially no pre-qualifiers other than it has to benefit the community and add to the quality of life within the community. Mayor Atkinson expanded that the benefits need to extend to the County and not just for the Village. Heritage Park is a frisbee golf course which people from all over the county come to use and another park is widely used for sliding. Parks Director Roth said she needs to work CHA to expand on the said plans and note the prioritizing of the plans. Trustee Ferguson made a motion to enter into an intermunicipal agreement with the County and to authorize CHA to put the package together and apply for the Quality of Life Grant not to exceed \$1,000. Village Engineer Bouchard said this is the grant that will include the dog park and Heritage Park as a whole including parking lot improvements. The other would be a separate application adding bathrooms at Centerville Park. The motion was seconded Deputy Mayor Henry. The motion was approved with Deputy Mayor Henry, Trustee Ferguson, Trustee Butterfield, and Mayor Atkinson, all voting in favor of the same. Subsequent information was provided that the entire county will receive a total of \$200,000.

RESOLUTION # 044 -15

AUTHORIZE WILLIAMSON LAW BOOK CODES AGREEMENT

The Board was copied on this agreement which is the same as last year for phone support for the BCE Codes System utilized for all tracking of properties in our Codes Department. Trustee Ferguson made a motion to authorize the Mayor to sign the agreement covering 4/01/15 – 3/31/16 for \$363. The motion was seconded Deputy Mayor Henry. The motion was approved with Deputy Mayor Henry, Trustee Ferguson, Trustee Butterfield, and Mayor Atkinson, all voting in favor of the same.



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RESOLUTION # 045 -15

AUTHORIZE WILLIAMSON LAW BOOK ACCOUNTING AGREEMENT

The Board was copied on this agreement which is the same as last year for phone support for the Financial System that the Village uses for monthly/annual financial reports. Trustee Ferguson made a motion to authorize the Mayor to sign the agreement for 4/01/15 – 3/31/16 for \$847. The motion was seconded Deputy Mayor Henry. The motion was approved with Deputy Mayor Henry, Trustee Ferguson, Trustee Butterfield, and Mayor Atkinson, all voting in favor of the same.

RESOLUTION # 046 -15

AUTHORIZE WILLIAMSON LAW BOOK PAYROLL AGREEMENT

The Board was copied on this agreement which is the same as last year for phone support for the Payroll System that the Village used. Trustee Ferguson made a motion to authorize the Mayor to sign the agreement for 4/01/15 – 3/31/16 for \$665.50. The motion was seconded Deputy Mayor Henry. The motion was approved with Deputy Mayor Henry, Trustee Ferguson, Trustee Butterfield, and Mayor Atkinson, all voting in favor of the same.

DISCUSSION OF PUBLIC HEARING FOR THE TAX CAP OVERRIDE

Mayor Atkinson said the tax cap formula is complicated, not a flat 2%. He affirmed they have figured it out and do not anticipate being over the tax cap. He added that he is confident with the Clerk Treasurer's budget in which this is reflected. Thus, he will not be moving to make a motion to schedule a public hearing for this. Trustee Butterfield said that per the NYCOM conference he attended he believes that we should make a public hearing even if we do not foresee going over the tax cap as an insurance for us in case something catastrophic occurs and we need to spent funds in an unforeseen emergency or if there is a sudden change to the tax cap formula itself. He continued that if there are no changes we just rescind our resolution. Mayor Atkinson responded that they called NYCOM and were advised not to do it if we are under the tax cap, which we are.

RESOLUTION # 047 -15

SCHEDULE PUBLIC HEARING FOR THE FY 2015-2016 TENTATIVE BUDGET

Mayor Atkinson made a motion to schedule a Public Hearing to present the Tentative Budget on Thursday, April 23rd at 4:29 PM. He noted that the Budget will be distributed to the Board prior to the Public Hearing and requested that any concerns to be relayed to him prior to that date. The motion was seconded by Trustee Ferguson. The motion was approved with Deputy Mayor Henry, Trustee Ferguson, Trustee Butterfield, and Mayor Atkinson, all voting in favor of the same.



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ATTORNEY REPORT: Village Attorney Chatfield spoke of the challenge the DPW is experiencing regarding vehicles parked on the street that impede snow plows from clearing the street. Additionally, there have been issues concerning residential areas that look like parking lots with excess of vehicles on properties which do not foster a visually aesthetic look of a residential area. During the staff meeting he noted several solutions all of which would require an amendment to the code. He said that setting limits on vehicles is problematic and suggested perhaps a percentage of the property to be used for parking. Codes Enforcement Officer DiCarlo noted that percentage limits are challenging to enforce and require accurate measurement. DPW Superintendent added that if a residence has a two car garage then it should hold a maximum of three vehicles. Village Attorney Chatfield welcomed Trustees' input. Trustee Butterfield noted that if someone is having a party, it should be noted that they won't be penalized for an occasional event like that. Although, he continued, that if someone has a hobby of repairing cars it could be problematic if the lot is holding multiple cars. Village Attorney Chatfield asked the Board to consider people who park vehicles on the grass in front of the house. Trustee Butterfield affirmed that we should consult NYCOM for a possible solution Mayor Atkinson tasked the Board Members to continue to review this situation for a reasonable solution. He does not expect this will be resolved any time soon. Village Attorney requested to know with exactitude what the problem they are seeking to fix so he can fashion a remedy. He asserted that he understands that the problem in question is the actual or potential proliferation of automobiles parked all over people's properties. He continued that the issue is not about vehicles being parked in the driveway as long as they are not interfering with the function of the highway department. There is no concern to limit or prohibit the number of vehicles on their properties. Mayor Atkinson asserted that is correct. He continued that he has no problem with someone parking a seasonal recreational vehicle on their property. He does feel some aesthetics should be maintained in relation to people who have excessive vehicles on their properties. Codes Enforcement Officer DiCarlo noted that there is another situation she is aware of a property that has multiple recreational vehicles on site in front of the house and that perhaps the code should state that multiple recreational vehicles should be stored to the back of the house. Village Attorney Chatfield says he has been defending a man charged of having too many recreational vehicles on the front of his house. His client has utility trailers not recreational vehicles. Thus, he is confident he can accurately define the code. Mayor Atkinson asked that Village Attorney Chatfield continue to review this matter.

ENGINEER REPORT: Village Engineer Bouchard mentioned that all the resolutions made tonight are due next week and thus in this tight schedule, CHA will be reaching out to Department Heads as early as tomorrow for review of the plans. He spoke of attending the Complete Streets/Re-Greening committee meeting. He continued that the Complete Streets portion is to create walkable and bike-able, pedestrian-friendly community. Through a series of meetings taking place over a year, we will be creating a supplement to the Comprehensive Plan that will have a lot more detail about the walkability, specs of the Village, and how we can connect our Village to opportunities outside of our



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Village. There will be opportunities to connect our Village to other areas, which will be ideal for lengthy bike routes. Pedestrian crossings will be reviewed. This document will be used for grant opportunities. Mayor Atkinson thanked Village Engineer Bouchard for being on this committee. Village Engineer Bouchard replied as a resident of the Village he is glad to be a part of this.

DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS:

Police Department: No report.

Fire Department: Fire Chief Ellis thanked the residents and specifically Boy Scout's of America Troop # 150 for clearing fire hydrants last week. Engine 8 will be back in service March 20th. Featured Fire Fighter of the month based on performance and attitude is as follows:

January 2015	-- Michael Lovetere
February 2015	-- Mark Hogan
March 2015	-- Dan Melie

He added that the Fire Fighter recruitment weekend is on April 25th and 26th. Total alarms to date are as follows: 163 alarms, 104 fire, 59 EMS.

Highway Department: DPW Superintendent Wilmer spoke of keeping up with the demands of keeping the streets clear through the storm. He continued that there was a sewer back up due to grease that took three days to clear. He said that his department has also been patching holes and addressing water main breaks.

Parks & Recreation Department: Parks Director Roth promoted the Easter Egg Hunt on March 28th at the Community Center; residents must register through our office. Earth Day for the Village is on April 25th. The Al Stirpe Grant is in its final stage. Mayor Atkinson asked about the Village garage sale. Parks Director Roth said that it will take place in May.

Codes Department: Codes Enforcement Officer DiCarlo said she will be meeting with the owner of Park Lane Apartments to discuss maintenance problems. She said she spoke to the Owner of Citgo and will be conducting a final inspection so that they can re-open. She said that there is a new pizza place open called Gianni's which claims to be the best pizza in town. She thanked Deputy Mayor Henry, Trustee Butterfield, and the Fire Department in assisting with the boilers and issues at Park Lane that occurred this week. She said that the Vietnamese Noodle House is now open.

Clerk/Treasurer – Clerk Treasurer Kufel reported that she will be moving funds from JP Morgan Chase to M&T Bank because they will begin charging service charges. She also made mention of the



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constituents receiving refund check as long as we remain within the guidelines for the tax cap freeze.

DEPUTY MAYOR/TRUSTEES REPORT:

Trustee Linnertz: Absent.

Trustee Ferguson: Called attention to a chart he created showing the state taking a larger part of the court revenue than the Village. He mentioned that the North Syracuse Chamber of Commerce has changed its name to Plank Road Chamber of Commerce as of March 1st. This should be reflected on our website. He concluded that the next Public Safety meeting will take place on June 1st, 2015 at 4:00 PM.

Trustee Butterfield: Said that he is also a member of the Complete Streets/Re-Greening Committee. He said the Sign Committee will be meeting on March 17th. They are working to make improvements and yet maintain a quaint look for the Village. He noted that Fred Wilmer will be retiring soon.

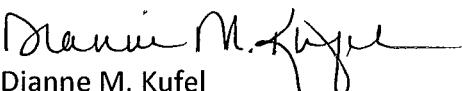
Deputy Mayor Henry: Said he is pleased with the new website and the increased traffic.

MAYOR'S REPORT:

Mayor Atkinson said that he is pleased with the website. He complimented Clerk Treasurer Kufel for moving the funds to a local bank that will not charge us service fees. He continued that Flower donations are going well. He said although he had contact Boy Scout of America Troop # 157 (and had not heard back) he is pleased that Troop # 150 was able to the Fire Department to clear fire hydrants throughout the area. He is grateful for their efforts. He promoted Meals On Wheels Pasta night on Thursday March 26th: \$7 in advance or \$8 at the door. VFW will be having an open house on April 25th to welcome the newly refurbished upstairs banquet room.

Trustee Butterfield made a motion to adjourn at 7:46PM. The motion was seconded by Trustee Ferguson. The motion was approved with Deputy Mayor Henry, Trustee Ferguson, Trustee Butterfield, and Mayor Mark Atkinson, all voting in favor of the same.

Respectfully submitted,


Dianne M. Kufel
Village Clerk/Treasurer