



VILLAGE OF NORTH SYRACUSE

Regular Board Meeting

Thursday, April 23rd, 2015 @ 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 Mark Atkinson inviting everyone present to join him in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Mark Atkinson began by moving item “A” of New Business to address this first.

AWARD FOR POLICE OFFICER OF THE YEAR

Mayor Atkinson said recently Police Chief Crowell has initiated a new Program – “Police Officer of the Year Award.” Police Chief Crowell has put a policy in place that recognizes and commends those members who distinguish themselves by meritorious services. Police Chief Crowell said nominations for this year were unanimous from Sergeant Comerford and Sergeant Stassi. He expanded that nominations are based on Officers that can consistently demonstrate exceptional achievement and have genuine commitment for the profession, agency, and public. The criteria for nominations include attendance, productivity, letters of merit, good judgement, decisiveness, sensitivity, drive, performance, representation of the agency, teamwork, leadership, humility, strong commitment to the community, policing, and problem solving. Police Chief Crowell declared that Geoff Linstruth is the 2014 Police Officer of the Year. Mayor Atkinson congratulated Officer Linstruth and presented him with his certificate.



From left: Officer Geoff Linstruth, Police Chief Michael Crowell



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Public Hearing # 01 FY 2015-2016 Tentative Budget:

Mayor Mark Atkinson began this by stating that this Public Hearing is being held by the Board of Trustees to present the Tentative Budget for FY 2015-2016. Mayor Atkinson said this has been a difficult budget for us, as the last few years have been, and there may be many more difficult ones to come. He continued that we held a zero percent increase for the past two years. Although there will be a modest increase this year. He thanked Clerk Treasurer Kufel, Board of Trustees, and Department Heads for all their hard work which is reflected in the minimal increase in the budget. He highlighted that there are two areas of which we had no control over the cost increase which are employee pension and healthcare. Mayor Atkinson noted we are experiencing technical difficulties with projecting the information on the laptop.

Clerk Treasurer Kufel said that the tentative 2015-2016 budget reflects a .3% increase total from tax levy from last year to this year. It is different for each town. Town of Cicero is based on full evaluation. Town of Clay is on assessed value with an equalization rate. These impact the increase or decrease of the tax based on the equalization rate. She continued that overall the spending has been minimized. She directed everyone to review the printed budget and welcomed them to contact her after the meeting should they have questions. She directed them to page three of the packet and noted it shows the decrease and increases in spending comparing from last year to this year. She highlighted that much of last year's expenditure were attributable to the Streetscape Project. She said that the revenues have remained about the same. She continued that the renegotiation of the contracts has had an impact on group health insurance and employees are contributing more toward their insurance than before. The Board has chosen to stabilize the amount that is being expensed every year for the retirement system based on how actual retirement bills; we've been taking from our fund balance to augment that difference. She directed everyone to the back of the packet for fund balance information, general fund, fire reserve, justice court reserve. She said this area also shows how much we are taking from fund balance to augment the increase in the retirement system and shows what were are taking to support some of the capital expenses that the departments wanted. Specifically, \$81,000 of capital expenses are being afforded through the fund balance and the Fire Chief's vehicle is being supported by the fire reserve. She concluded that the fund balance is healthy. She welcomed questions. There were no questions.

Mayor Atkinson asked twice if anyone wanted to speak in favor or against this proposed budget. There were no responses. Mayor Atkinson closed this public hearing at 4:41 PM.

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

Personnel Present: Village Clerk/Treasurer Dianne Kufel, DPW Superintendent Gary Wilmer, Parks Director Teresa Roth, Police Chief Crowell, Fire Chief Tim Ellis, and Village Engineer Amy Franco.



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RESOLUTION # 062-15

APPROVAL OF BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Trustee Ferguson made a motion to approve the minutes from the April 9th, 2015 Board Meeting. 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 # 063-15

GENERAL FUND ABSTRACT APPROVAL

Trustee Ferguson made a motion to approve the General Fund Abstract # 23 in the amount of \$95,520.72 covering Voucher # 1315 to Voucher # 1379. 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.

RESOLUTION # 064-15

BUDGET TRANSFER

Trustee Ferguson made a motion to transfer \$1,500.00 from A7140.1 Playground Payroll to A7181.445 Community Center Building Maintenance to cover an unexpected expense with the fire sprinkler system at the Community Center with funds not used with the camp/parks payroll. 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.

RESOLUTION # 065-15

BUDGET TRANSFER

Trustee Ferguson made a motion to transfer \$1,600.00 from A3410.422 Fire Department Electricity to A3410.12 Fire Department Administrative Assistant to cover shortfall, budget increased with a part-time Clerk and part-time Administrative Assistant. The motion was seconded by Trustee Butterfield. The motion was approved with Trustee Ferguson, Deputy Mayor Henry, Trustee Butterfield, and Mayor Atkinson, all voting in favor of the same.

RESOLUTION # 066-15

BUDGET TRANSFER

Trustee Ferguson made a motion to transfer \$1,900.00 from A3410.423 Fire Department Gas to A3410.12 Fire Department Administrative Assistant to cover shortfall, budget increased with a part-time Clerk and part-time Administrative Assistant. 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.

CITIZENS' VOICE: None.



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OLD BUSINESS:

DISCUSSION OF HERITAGE DOG PARK

Mayor Atkinson said we have been discussing many times at our Staff Meeting about possibly creating a dog park at Heritage Park. He continued that we posted a public poll on our website and the responses are overwhelmingly in favor of the dog park. He concluded that Parks Director Roth has applied for a Quality of Life Grant to fund this park. This item will be kept under "Old Business" as we continue to update on the progress.

NEW BUSINESS:

RESOLUTION # 067-15

DISCUSS/APPROVE ADOPTING THE FY 2015-2016 VILLAGE BUDGET

Mayor Atkinson asked if there are any questions about the budget. There was no response. Mayor Atkinson made a motion to adopt the FY 2015-2016 budget. The motion was seconded by Trustee Ferguson. The motion was approved with Trustee Ferguson, Deputy Mayor Henry, Trustee Butterfield, and Mayor Atkinson, all voting in favor of the same.

ATTORNEY REPORT: Absent.

ENGINEER REPORT: No report.

DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS:

Police Department: Police Chief Crowell reported that the new finger print system has been installed and was funded by Assemblyman Stirpe's office. He noted that the New York State Accreditation will be taking place on May 11th thru May 14th. He is confident we will meet the Assessor's requirements.

Fire Department: Fire Chief Ellis introduced newly elected Assistant Chief Liberatore and Deputy Chief Strong. He said he was re-elected as Fire Chief. He said their annual open house is recruitment focused and will take place on April 25th from 11:00 AM – 3:00 PM at Station 2. On April 26th will be the Ladies' Auxiliary Pancake Breakfast at Station 1 from 8:00 AM – noon. He asked that people encourage others to come.

Highway Department: DPW Superintendent Wilmer said his team has been trying to switch to spring services mode but we have still had some cold and sometimes snowy days in the spring thus far.

Parks & Recreation Department: Parks Director Roth said there will be a tree planting ceremony and dedication for Arbor Day on April 24th at 11:30 AM at Memorial Park. She promoted Earth Day



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Clean up for the Village is being held on April 25th and she is looking for volunteers to assist with this event. They will meet at 9:00 AM at the Community Center. She noted that she has fewer volunteers for this event than she usually has had and that there is considerable amount of debris to clean up. She said that Papa John's has donated pizzas; and Renovation Church has donated coffee, juice, and donuts to volunteers for this event. The Summer Program flyers and information is posted on the website; registration begins May 1st. Boater safety course will be held on May 30th and it is an eight hour class.

Codes Department: Codes Enforcement Officer DiCarlo said another hair salon has opened up called Romeo's and it located in the A-Z building. This there week were quite a few stop work orders; one business was closed for working without a certificate of compliance. Miracles Hair Salon on South Bay Road is working to bring the building up to code.

Clerk/Treasurer – Clerk Treasurer Kufel asked to make sure all departments turn in all requisitions as we are nearing the end of this fiscal budget year.

DEPUTY MAYOR/TRUSTEES REPORT:

Trustee Fergerson: Said the next Public Safety meeting will take place on June 1st, 2015 at 4:00 PM. He said they have been encouraging businesses to get generators. He noted that the Masonic Memorial Temple Corporation will have their emergency generator operational by the end of June. He congratulated the new Fire Department Officers that were recently sworn in.

Trustee Linnertz: Absent.

Trustee Butterfield: Noted there were some trip hazards noticed on the pedestrian sidewalks on Main Street and he spoke to DPW Superintendent Wilmer about it. He mentioned there were talks about leaving the sidewalks at the Grotto alone in the Streetscape Project. Mayor Atkinson said he will finalize those plans with Village Engineer Franco next week.

Deputy Mayor Henry: Thanked all the Department Heads for their hard work on the budget. He also praised Police Chief Crowell for the new program to recognize outstanding Police Officers. .

MAYOR'S REPORT:

He said the flower donations are going very well and believes this is reflective of the businesses noting the beautification efforts in the Village. He said he met with Town of Clay to outline procedural details of the Animal Control Shared Services agreement.



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VFW will be having an open house on April 25th from 1:00 PM – 5:00 PM to welcome the newly refurbished upstairs banquet room.

OCRRA letter stating that they received excellent A-bonding from Standard and Poor's which will result in tremendous saving on the bond debt service.

We have been looking at a grant opportunity to help fund our plans for Chestnut Street. He met with Mary Burgoon from CHA about this.

Trustee Butterfield made a motion to adjourn at 4:51 PM. 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.

Respectfully submitted,

Dianne M. Kufel
Village Clerk/Treasurer