



VILLAGE OF NORTH SYRACUSE

Regular Board Meeting

Thursday, July 24, 2014 @ 4:30 PM

North Syracuse Community Center

700 South Bay Road, North Syracuse, NY 13212

The Village of North Syracuse Regular Board Meeting began at 4:30 PM with Mayor Mark Atkinson inviting everyone present to join him in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call: Mayor Mark Atkinson, Deputy Mayor Chuck Henry, Trustee Gary Butterfield, and Trustee Fred Ferguson. Trustee Paul Linnertz was out of town.

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

RESOLUTION # 153-14

APPROVAL OF BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Trustee Ferguson made a motion to approve the minutes from the July 10th, 2014 Board Meeting. The motion was seconded by Trustee Butterfield. The motion was approved with Mayor Mark Atkinson, Deputy Mayor Henry, and Trustee Butterfield, all voting in favor of the same.

RESOLUTION # 154 -14

GENERAL FUND ABSTRACT APPROVAL

Trustee Ferguson made a motion to approve the General Fund Abstract #04 in the amount of \$104,797.50 covering voucher # 151 to Voucher # 231. The motion was seconded by Deputy Mayor Henry. The motion was approved with Mayor Mark Atkinson, Deputy Mayor Henry, and Trustee Butterfield, all voting in favor of the same. .

RESOLUTION # 155-14

SEWER FUND ABSTRACT APPROVAL

Trustee Butterfield made a motion to approve the Sewer Fund Abstract # 4 in the amount of \$63.00 covering voucher # 87 to Voucher # 150. The motion was seconded by Trustee Ferguson. The motion was approved with Mayor Mark Atkinson, Deputy Mayor Henry, and Trustee Ferguson, all voting in favor of the same.

RESOLUTION # 156 -14

BUDGET TRANSFER

Trustee Ferguson made a motion to transfer \$221 from A3410.475 Fire Department Equipment Maintenance to A3410.24 Fire Department Radios and Pagers to cover pager expense above the



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budgeted amount. The motion was seconded by Deputy Mayor Henry. The motion was approved with Mayor Mark Atkinson, Deputy Mayor Henry, and Trustee Butterfield, all voting in favor of the same.

CITIZENS' VOICE: Resident Susan Peck of 119 Watson Road, North Syracuse, requested status on the Comprehensive Plan 2025: Generic Environmental Impact Statement for the Village of North Syracuse, which was written in 2004. Mayor Mark Atkinson explained that there have been two plans as spin-offs of the Comprehensive Plan for the Village: Parks & Recreation Comprehensive Plan and Village Center Comprehensive Plan. Furthermore, there have been code changes since 2004 and the code book was rewritten. Mrs. Peck spoke of reviewing our website and asked if all plans are available on the website and how can she know which code laws are new. Dianne said the updates on laws passed are posted in ECode360 under Codes Department on the website around February or March every year. Mrs. Peck stated she would like to work with Pam on varying neighborhood issues regarding property rentals.

OLD BUSINESS:

DISCUSSION OF VILLAGE CENTER/ STREETScape PROJECT: BIO-RETENTION AREA

Mayor Mark Atkinson invited Brian to speak about the concerns that some trustees have expressed regarding different views on the proposed bio retention plan of using a rock stream in "Save the Rain" area North East side of Route 11 near Big Dip. The intention of the bio retention area is to collect run off from the road into a swale to infiltrate into the ground so that it does not go directly into the storm system. This keeps the run-offs off our streets and storm sewers, thus promoting infiltration in the ground. The rock stream consists of a 6-10 inch stone similar to town of Salina median in Mattydale. The DOT's comment was that they viewed the stone as a "projectile threat", meaning possibly kids picking up and throwing the rocks. The DOT mentioned that we could glue the rocks together preventing weeds to penetrate through. There are different options we can review next week. Mayor Mark Atkinson wants the best option that requires the least amount of maintenance. Trustee Butterfield's concern is that the rock option will not be easy to keep clean and free of debris. Brian affirmed there are other ways we can achieve our infiltration goal. DOT has been reviewing the plans and their final comments from DOT are imminent. This will be discussed again at a later date. Project is expected out to bid by end of August.

NEW BUSINESS:

RESOLUTION # 157-14

APPROVE AGREEMENT WITH OCWA FOR (4) ADDITIONAL HYDRANTS

Mayor Mark Atkinson stated that in an effort to increase safety to residents, additional fire hydrants



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are periodically installed. The Board was distributed the agreement from OCWA detailing the annual maintenance cost for (4) additional hydrants at \$197.91 each per year, amounting to an additional \$791.64 per year. Details of the placement of these hydrants were given to Board members. Trustee Ferguson made a motion to authorize Mayor Mark Atkinson to sign this agreement for new hydrants on Lawrence and South Bay, Catherine at Millen Drive, Single – 375 feet south of Chestnut Street, and the corner of Shaver at Wadsworth for an additional cost of \$791.64 per year. The motion was seconded by Trustee Butterfield. The motion was approved with Mayor Mark Atkinson, Deputy Mayor Henry, and Trustee Butterfield, all voting in favor of the same.

RESOLUTION # 158-14 APPROVE AUDIT AGREEMENT WITH BENN & COMPANY LOSAP FY 3/31/12

Mayor Mark Atkinson acknowledged the Board has been distributed the new agreement that outlines the details of their audit and what they will perform. Benn & Company actually do a field audit and test the points that are earned and credited to the Volunteers for the LOSAP/Service Award Program, the Volunteer Firefighters Retirement System. It was determined a few years back that the actual plans assets and liabilities need to be reviewed and audited by a recommended CPA Firm, not just for us, but for all Fire Departments in general. We initially engaged with Benn & Company for the 2010 and 2011 calendar years, and continue to get caught up, and now that the ground work is done, they will become easier. Trustee Ferguson made a motion to authorize Mayor Mark Atkinson to sign the agreement for Benn & Company to audit the FY 3/31/2012 that covers the points earned through 12/31/2011 in the amount of \$3,625. The motion was seconded by Trustee Butterfield. The motion was approved with Mayor Mark Atkinson, Deputy Mayor Henry, and Trustee Butterfield, all voting in favor of the same.

DISCUSSION OF 318 FERGERSON AVENUE WITH TREE BOARD

Mayor Mark Atkinson clarified that the Board also serves as the Tree Board as required by Tree City to have a Tree Board. Sometimes there are situations or issues regarding trees and it is the Tree Board's function to resolve these tree issues. Gary spoke of an ongoing issue with a tree on the property on 318 Ferguson Avenue. Last year, there was a part of the tree that was viewed as a hazard that was hanging off the road. Gary sent them a letter requesting the owner to rectify the situation. The owner trimmed the tree considerably but did not remove it entirely. The part to the tree was hanging on the right of way has been removed, but in the process of trimming the tree was damaged. Deputy Mayor Henry asked if in the meantime the Board bears fiduciary responsibility should an accident occur because of that tree. Scott affirmed because the tree is not in the right of way, it is solely the property owner's responsibility. He added that before the Board can take action to remove the tree, they must go through a process unless the tree is deemed a "clear and present danger". This process would include documented communication with the property owner and an expert report regarding the status/health of the tree. Mayor Mark Atkinson resolved we should



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write a letter to the property owner to the extent that the tree poses a threat, and asking when they intend to take down the tree. If we do not receive a response, we need to get an Arborist as a competent tree authority to deem the tree dead and/or hazardous.

ATTORNEY REPORT: Scott asked if there has been progress in seeking counsel for the Crown Castle agreement. Dianne responded we have reached out to the industry expert North East Site & Tower as recommended during last staff meeting. She will schedule a meeting between the Mayor and Mike Cortese of North East Site and Tower to educate and give more knowledge.

ENGINEERING REPORT: No report.

DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS:

Police Department: Absent.

Fire Department: Absent.

Highway Department: No report.

Parks & Recreation: Teresa spoke of keeping DPW busy with park projects. Over 120 kids registered for Summer Camp Program; 118 kids enrolled in swim lessons. There is a concert tonight at Lonergan Park from 6:00-8:00 PM. There are four more concerts scheduled for the summer. The pool project is out to bid.

Codes: Pam spoke of Verizon requesting to place antennas on Village buildings. This will be discussed with counsel on a later date. She also spoke of working on resolving illegal rental properties around the Village.

Clerk/Treasurer – Dianne spoke of working on closing the old books for fiscal year ending May 31, 2014, and opening the books for the new fiscal year. She also commented that the latest Animal Control appointment, Christina Barton, has been doing a great job and is an “asset to the Village”.

DEPUTY MAYOR/TRUSTEES REPORT:

Trustee Linnertz: Absent.

Trustee Ferguson: The next Public Safety Meeting to be held on Monday, September 8th, 2014 at 4:00 PM at the Community Center. He confirmed with the Board that they all received the State Comptroller survey about the audit. The Board members confirmed receipt. He stated he will note on



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his requested response that he does not agree with their recommendations but that we are in compliance with the recommendations.

Trustee Butterfield: Spoke of noticing increased usage and activity at the newly renovated Centerville Park and pavilion.

Deputy Mayor Henry: Has been in attending the park concerts and noted that the audience has been responding well. He will also be attending the concert tonight.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Mark Atkinson stated that the negotiations with Teamsters 317 continue. He spoke of the increase usage of the Village website to communicate with constituents. Recently posted to our website was the press release from Onondaga County regarding the notice that there has been spraying for the EEE Virus. Finally, he mentioned that there have been several Project I81 meetings around the community this month as they narrow down options to pursue this project.

Trustee Butterfield made a motion to adjourn at 5:05 PM. The motion was seconded by Trustee Ferguson. The motion was approved with Mayor Mark Atkinson, Deputy Mayor Henry, and Trustee Ferguson, all voting in favor of the same.

Respectfully submitted,

Dianne M. Kufel
Village Clerk/Treasurer