

Village of North Syracuse
Regular Board Meeting
Thursday, March 14th, 2013 at 6:30 PM
North Syracuse Community Center
700 South Bay Road, North Syracuse, NY 13212

The Village of North Syracuse Regular Board Meeting began 6:30 PM with Mayor Atkinson inviting everyone present to join in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call: Mayor Mark Atkinson, Deputy Mayor Chuck Henry, Trustee Gary Butterfield, Trustee Fred Ferguson. Trustee Paul Linnertz – absent, work conflict.

Personnel Present: Village Clerk/Treasurer Dianne Kufel, Village Attorney Scott Chatfield, DPW Sup't Gary Wilmer, Parks Director Teresa Roth, Codes Enforcement Officer Pam DiCarlo, Village Engineer, Brian Bouchard and Police Chief Michael Crowell.

RESOLUTION # 238-13

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Trustee Ferguson made a motion to approve the minutes from the February 28th, 2013 Board Meeting. Deputy Mayor Henry seconded the motion. The motion was carried unanimously.

RESOLUTION# 239-13

GENERAL FUND ABSTRACT APPROVAL

Trustee Ferguson made a motion to approve the General Fund Abstract #20 in the amount of \$91,170.67 covering Voucher #1100 to Voucher #1150; the motion was seconded by Deputy Mayor Henry. The motion was carried unanimously.

RESOLUTION # 240-13

SEWER ABSTRACT APPROVAL

Trustee Ferguson made a motion to approve the Sewer Abstract #20 in the amount of \$195.59 covering Voucher #13 and #14; the motion was seconded by Trustee Butterfield. The motion was carried unanimously.

CITIZENS' VOICE: No one responded.

OLD BUSINESS:

AUDIT REPORT/RESULTS FOR LOSAP SERVICE AWARD PROGRAM FY 3/31/2010

Mayor explained that a few years ago the Comptroller's Office requested that all LOSAP/Service Award Program be audited for compliance and accountability. Michael Benn and Patrick Boyle, from Michael Benn and Co., are here to give an overview for the FY 3/31/10. Michael Benn explained that this is the first audit we have had and the procedures are being reviewed for accountability. He continued to say that this is the first year we are conducting these audits for a few municipalities and we are dedicated to fire



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services and appreciate all that they do. He continued to say they provided an unqualified opinion on the plan, other than the cash surrender values of the life insurance policies of the plan. They continued to say they have been working with VFIS to have much of this information provided to them for now and in the future. They continued to say that they included an estimate based on current values in the footnotes of the plan. Interest rates assumptions have also been estimated for a period of time slightly higher than the auditor's would recommend. Since this time, the interest rate has also been reduced. The culture of the point system, is being administered in a good manner; and they feel good about the system that is in place. Further recommendation is a balance sheet of the plan(s). He will work with the Village to see that this information is receipted through the Village from this point forward. This inefficiency is common among many of the Fire Departments. It is more challenging today to meet the obligations of the plan. A few questions and comments were made in reference to the content of the overall report. The Mayor thanked them for their work, and it was noted that the following year will be audited now that this has been finalized.

NEW BUSINESS:

RESOLUTION # 241-13

SET PUBLIC HEARING FOR "2% TAX CAP OVERRIDE"

The Mayor started out by saying that this agenda item is to set a public hearing for the 2% tax cap override. He spoke of the Village passing this last year also, and due to the complexity of the formula, which has exceptions for PILOT agreements, increase in NY State Retirement, and tax growth; he feels it is a good idea to pass this. He clearly made comment that he plans to hold down spending and not exceed the 2% threshold. Mayor Atkinson made a motion to hold a public hearing on Thursday, April 11th at 6:29 PM. The motion was seconded by Trustee Ferguson. The motion carried.

DISCUSSION OF TRASH CONTRACT – ONONDAGA COUNTY PURCHASING

The Mayor started out by saying that our trash contract is due to be renewed it is expiring soon, and we have to go to bid to renew the service. In the past we funded a company to assist the Village and write the specifications. The Mayor continued to say that the County now offers a service – Onondaga County Purchasing that was initiated 2 or 3 years ago, they will provide this service for municipalities for free. Mayor Atkinson spoke on meeting with them, along with Gary Wilmer and Dianne Kufel; they will run the whole process with the specifics that we set forth in the contract. They would like us to enter into an agreement to work with them, although it is not required. They will continue to assist us with the bid package regardless, either way. They also offer other commodity purchasing with bulk county rates, they have discounted buying power. The Mayor continued to say that he is not looking to enter in this agreement right away. This will save us some money; and the mayor was fairly excited about pursuing this with them.



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ATTORNEY REPORT: No report

ENGINEERING REPORT: No report

DEPARTMENT HEADS REPORT:

Police Department: Chief Crowell commented on the last board meeting, whereas during citizens' voice, a citizen voiced a concern and was upset. He continued to comment that the citizen had indicated to the trustees that the police department was in violation of some laws referencing employment. He wanted to report back to the board, after further consulting with the Village Attorney, he just wanted to clarify that there wasn't any violation regarding the police department. Chief Crowell also made mention of Meals on Wheels - help the hunger event in March, and has volunteered to ride around with a driver. Chief Crowell also made mention of meeting with all of the bank managers in this Village, there are a total of (6) banks; and is leaving a guide how to keep employees and customers safe in the case of a bank robbery. He also spoke of filing paperwork to reimburse the Village for the bulletproof vests that were purchased.

Highway Department: DPW Sup't. Gary Wilmer thanked CHA for their efforts involved with the MS4 audit that was recently performed; specifically Kristy Harris. The audit was successfully passed and credit should be given to Kristy for her assistance with this. Gary also spoke of a few audits that were done recently from National Grid on energy savings, that will ultimately save the Village money on electricity, over time. He will have more information at the next meeting.

Parks and Recreation: Parks Director Teresa Roth reminded all of the Candy Bingo Night from 6 – 8 PM on Friday, March 15th, and the Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday, March 23rd, and the Bunny Breakfast on Sunday, March 24th at the VFW on Maxwell Ave. with proceeds going to the Family Festival. The Mayor will be assisting in the kitchen. She continued to say that the Parks Department has been busy planning the summer concerts, summer camp programs and the summer pool events.

Clerk Treasurer: Dianne Kufel spoke of the recent system (SAM – System Award Management) that was requested and necessitated in order for the Police Dept. and Fire Dept. to receive grant awards. This is a prerequisite to receiving any monies for each of these separate DUNS numbers. Dianne also spoke of preparing and distributing the 1st draft model of the budget to the Mayor, that is approximately a 4.5% increase. She continued to state that she also prepared the 2% cap form (required by the State Comptroller's Office) with all of the formulas and subsequently the budget needs to be scaled down about \$45,000. Dianne also made mention of some of the upcoming healthcare concerns, regarding cadillac plans, increased premiums for smokers, etc. that will be phased in over time. Another change is the part-timers vs. full-timers and if we need to offer healthcare to the part-timers. More to follow on this.

DEPUTY MAYOR/TRUSTEES REPORTS:



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Trustee Fergerson: spoke of the most recent Public Safety Meeting; the minutes have been distributed, as well as they have been placed on the website. He commented on changing the date and location of the meeting to the Community Center at 4 PM for the next meeting on June 3rd; the NSEA, where they met last time, did not have enough parking places. Fred also mentioned that the Masonic Memorial Temple has donated \$150 as a donation to be put towards the flowers in the Village.

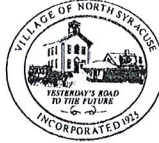
Trustee Butterfield: announced that we can call him grandpa now. Congratulations!

Deputy Mayor Henry: reminded everyone that we have another meeting scheduled for the Emergency Operations Plan at 3:00 PM on Monday, March 18th and also commented that he will also be flipping pancakes at the Bunny Breakfast.

MAYOR'S REPORT:

The Mayor commented on the continuing education for himself, and Dianne on the changes in healthcare; and wants to keep close control on this large item of the budget to try to manage this. The Mayor also spoke of the good work of the Police Chief – reaching out to the banks – exactly what Community Policing is all about – good job! He continued to speak of the County Planning Symposium that was attended today, by himself, Dianne Kufel, Toni Kleist – Comm. Dev. and Mary Burgoon of CHA. He continued to say that we put a presentation together, regarding what we are doing with our Village Center, what we are doing with our comprehensive plan, and passing the RPTL 485a. It went very well; attended by 50 plus people. The Mayor continued to say that he will assist with the March Meals on Wheels event to assist with preparing meals for seniors, on Wednesday, March 20th. He also commented on the latest version of the EEOC agreement that was distributed; we will be moving forward with this, and finally put this behind us. He spoke of not totally agreeing with this, unless we want to spend a lot of money based on principal, which we don't really have. The Mayor spoke of the MS4 audit, please with the results, and thanked CHA – Kristy Harris, without her assistance, the outcome would have been a lot different. He also thanked the Village staff for pulling this altogether as well as being a member of the coalition is an advantage for all of us involved.

The Mayor mentioned the improvements at 102 South Main Street; new owner – 2 story – mixed use, commercial and residential, doing a lot of work, and looking forward to the completion of that building. He continued to say that Governor Cuomo's office contacted him to be a part of Open NY Government – a website you go to and access all of the local governments to see what is upcoming and current events/information. He also reemphasized the Community Development Rehab Program; whereas 12 businesses have joined in on this, again matching grants for façades - match up to \$25,000 (dollar for dollar). Also, they are currently offering loan program, for additional monies at no interest for 5 years. The Mayor continued to speak on Centerville Park and soon their will be a facelift at this park this



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summer. This is a project inclusive of Community Development and The Save the Rain Grant working together to make some substantial improvements to this park.

Trustee Butterfield made a motion to adjourn at 7:10 PM. The motion was seconded by Trustee Ferguson. The motion was unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Dianne M. Kufel
Village Clerk/Treasurer