

Village of North Syracuse
Regular Board Meeting
March 22, 2012 at 4:29 PM
North Syracuse Community Center
700 South Bay Road, North Syracuse, NY 13212

Mayor Mark Atkinson called the meeting to order at 4:29 PM with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Atkinson open the Public Hearing stating that this Public Hearing was being held by the Board of Trustees of the Village of North Syracuse to discuss the question of the adoption of Local Law #2 of 2012, a local law allowing for a property tax levy in excess of the limit established in General Municipal Law §3-c.

Mayor said we have a budget in draft that is not going to exceed 2%, and can't imagine the Board would raise taxes over 2%. This is very precautionary. As we know, there is 2% tax cap in NYS; this involves a very complicated formula - PILOTS, NY State Retirement, and Judgements and Claims. The Village currently has a pending claim right now. The Mayor continued to say that a few communities have had problems without passing this. The Mayor explained what happens if we do not pass this; whereas you pass your budget at 1.8% and later the Comptroller's office determines it to be 3.8% because of the formula - the monies over the 2% would not be able to be used until the following budget year. The Mayor said he feels comfortable that the math is done properly and we would not exceed the 2% but feels it would make perfect sense to pass this as a precautionary measure. Trustee Ferguson spoke of a NYCOM meeting at the Solvay Fire Dept. and they strongly suggested that we adopt this as a safety measure. Attorney Chatfield explained this is something that needs to be done each and every year; it will hold only for the one year because the formula changes every year with new PILOTS, new claims, etc. Trustee Butterfield confirmed that it was applicable to the Village fiscal year of 6/01/12 thru 5/31/13. Attorney Chatfield stated that he had the proposed legislation available and they would have this tomorrow for their review prior to the next meeting of April 12, 2012. The Mayor asked if anyone wanted to speak in favor of this; and again he asked if anyone was in favor of speaking for this. The Mayor then asked if anyone wanted speak against this; and again asked if anyone wanted to speak against this. The Mayor closed the public hearing at 4:38 PM.

The Mayor opened the Regular Board Meeting at 4:39 PM.

ROLL CALL: Mayor Mark Atkinson, Deputy Mayor Chuck Henry, Trustee Gary Butterfield, Trustee Fred Ferguson and Trustee Paul Linnertz were present.

PERSONNEL PRESENT: Clerk-Treasurer Dianne Kufel, Parks Director Teresa Roth, Codes Enforcement Officer Pam DiCarlo, DPW Sup't. Gary Wilmer, Village Engineer Amy Franco, Village Attorney Scott Chatfield.

RESOLUTION # 044-12

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Trustee Butterfield made a motion to approve the minutes from the March 12, 2012 Board Meeting. Trustee Ferguson seconded the motion. The motion was carried unanimously.



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RESOLUTION # 045-12

GENERAL FUND ABSTRACT APPROVAL

Trustee Linnertz made a motion to approve the General Fund Abstract #21 in the amount of \$65,601.49 covering Voucher #1088 to Voucher #1143; the motion was seconded by Trustee Ferguson. The motion was carried unanimously.

RESOLUTION #046-12

SEWER FUND ABSTRACT APPROVAL

Trustee Butterfield made a motion to approve the Sewer Fund Abstract #21 in the amount of \$1,255.00 covering Voucher #16 and #17. Deputy Mayor Henry seconded the motion. The motion was carried unanimously.

RESOLUTION # 047-12

BUDGET TRANSFER

Trustee Ferguson made a motion to approve the transfer of \$2,500 from Account A1620.1 (Village Hall Pers. Services Parks Misc. – Sleeth/Toll Rd.) to A7110.22 (Parks Equipment Tools). The motion was seconded by Deputy Mayor Henry. The motion was carried unanimously.

CITIZENS' VOICE: No one responded.

NEW BUSINESS:

RESOLUTION #048-12

WILLIAMSON LAW BOOK – CODES ANNUAL MTC.

Trustee Ferguson made a motion authorizing the Mayor to sign the Codes Software Mtc. Agreement covering services 4/01/12 thru 3/31/13 in the amount of \$363.00. The motion was seconded by Trustee Linnertz. The motion was carried unanimously.

RESOLUTION #049-12

WILLIAMSON LAW-PAYROLL ANNUAL MTC. AGREEMENT

Trustee Linnertz made a motion authorizing the Mayor to sign the Payroll Software Mtc. Agreement covering services 4/01/12 thru 3/31/13 in the amount of \$665.50. The motion was seconded by Trustee Ferguson. The motion was carried unanimously.

RESOLUTION #050-12

WILLIAMSON LAW BOOK – ACCOUNTING ANNUAL MTC.

Trustee Linnertz made a motion authorizing the Mayor to sign the Accounting Software Mtc. Agreement covering services 4/01/12 thru 3/31/13 in the amount of \$847.00. The motion was seconded by Trustee Butterfield. The motion was carried unanimously.



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RESOLUTION #051-12 **APPOINT PART-TIME CLERK 1 REPLACEMENT/FIRE DEPT.**

Trustee Linnertz made a motion to appoint J. Klink as a part-time Clerk 1 at the Fire Dept. to be paid \$15.00/hr. not to exceed 19 hours per week (morning). The motion was seconded by Trustee Butterfield. The motion was carried unanimously.

RESOLUTION # 052-12 **SURPLUS UNCLAIMED BIKES**

Mayor spoke of 40 unclaimed bikes. The Mayor continued to say that in the past the Village would surplus them, and send them to the auction for fair market value. The Mayor spoke of the Parks Director wanting to utilize them with our Earth Day cleanup - as a reward process. Teresa spoke of Earth Day this year on April 21st whereas several families, girl scouts, boy scouts, and whomever can participate in the clean-up of the parks and different streets in the Village for two or three hours on Saturday morning. Teresa continued to say that volunteers come that morning and pick up garbage; your name will go in a hat or bucket and at the end of the cleanup – they will draw names to pick a bike (or if they have one they want to trade-in for a bigger, and take a different one). Teresa explained that if anyone wants a bike, sign up and pick up some litter; it is a fun event and after we have pizza delivered from Papa Johns and barbeque some hot dogs. The Mayor made mention of Trustee Ferguson relating this to Bikes for Trash. Teresa said she would have a press release for Earth Day Cleanup/Bikes for Trash. Mayor Atkinson made a motion surplus the unclaimed bikes in conjunction with Earth Day. The motion was seconded by Trustee Butterfield. The motion was carried unanimously.

ATTORNEY REPORT: Attorney Chatfield spoke of our Codes office approving a simple subdivision whereas it is authorized in our statute – this allows an adjustment of a lot line owned by the same individual. Attorney Chatfield continued to say that the Village established a mechanism whereas this can be approved by the Code Dept. without going in front of the Zoning Board. Atty. Chatfield continued to say that our current fee schedule did not reflect any administrative charges to initiate this action – “a simple subdivision”; therefore the Codes Dept. did not have a basis on which to charge a reasonable fee – enough to reimburse for the Codes office time involved. Attorney Chatfield said that we can do this by a resolution; we can add to it or subtract from the fee schedule from time to time. The Mayor referred to Pam, Codes Enf. Officer, on the time involved with a typical subdivision in which she thought 5 hours was an average time allotment for this process. This would stand for any residential or commercial property.

RESOLUTION #053-12 **MODIFY FEE SCHEDULE FOR A “SIMPLE SUBDIVISION”**

Trustee Linnertz made a motion to modify the fee schedule to include a fee of \$100 for a simple subdivision. The motion was seconded by Trustee Ferguson. The motion was carried unanimously.



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Attorney Chatfield also made comment of a proposed easement issue of 111 Tallowood Court whereas he would have more definitive information on this at the next Board meeting.

ENGINEERING REPORT: The surveyor will be out in the next couple weeks to get started on the sidewalk project on Rt. 11.

DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS:

Highway Department: DPW Sup't. Gary Wilmer spoke on his department and their picking up brush on a daily basis because of the nice weather.

Parks and Recreation: Park Director Teresa Roth mentioned the Village Easter Egg Hunt for Village residents to be held on Saturday, March 31st for ages 11 and under and to call the Village office to register. Teresa reminded of the Bunny Breakfast to be held on Sunday, April 1st at the VFW with proceeds to benefit the Family Festival. She also reminded of the Family Festival to be held on Saturday, May 26th from 11 AM until 5 PM. She spoke of Earth Day in the Village will be on Saturday, April 21st. Teresa also spoke of the swings being removed from Lonergan Park and new playground equipment being installed shortly; this will be a nice addition to this Park.

Codes Department: Pam made mention of the fire on Wells Ave. the other night and what an excellent job the Fire Dept. did due to the complexity of the fire – she was extremely impressed. She also mentioned the Bellwood Baptist Church whereas they will be back in their space by next month.

Clerk Treasurer: Dianne reminded the Board that the next meeting would show a presentation of the Tentative Budget. She requested to the Board to schedule a public hearing on April 12th at 6:29 pm to present the tentative budget to the Village residents.

RESOLUTION #054-12 SCHED. PUBLIC HEARING FOR TENT. BUDGET FY END 5/31/13

Mayor Atkinson made a motion to schedule a public hearing for the tentative budget for Thursday, April 12th at 6:29 pm. The motion was seconded by Trustee Ferguson. The motion was carried unanimously.

DEPUTY MAYOR AND TRUSTEES REPORTS

Trustee Ferguson spoke of his presence at the last Board meeting by an electronic device - he could see and hear but he could not vote; he inquired to Attorney Chatfield on this being an acceptable means to vote, as far as the technology. Attorney Chatfield referred to the Committee on Open Government and the capabilities of a remote location referring to a publication to the public at large – publish a notice – a “skype” meeting at a certain address and the public is welcome to attend at the other address,



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to publish in advance of such meeting. Attorney Chatfield mentioned the upcoming technology and events referencing "gotomeeting.com". Trustee Fergerson noted the next Public Safety Committee meeting to be on Monday, June 4th at the North Syracuse Fire Dept. – Station 1. Trustee Fergerson also mentioned the fire on Wells Ave. – whereas this is the first time he had ever seen the aerial truck working; very impressive – a lot of water.

Trustee Linnertz wanted to apologize for his absence from the March 8th meeting; whereas he has a job that is unique, he is on-call for the City of Syracuse and provided with a car and an electric leash, so to speak. There was an incident with a firefighter whereas he had fallen out of a moving apparatus. He was not able to come to the meeting; it happened unfortunately. Once again, he spoke of his being called to another fire for the follow-up meeting; again, apologetic and hopes this does not reflect on his obligation to the Village and feels strong about this and thinks his service to the Fire Dept. shows his dedication to the Village. Trustee Linnertz was apologetic for these two occasions, didn't expect this to happen again, although can not be certain.

Trustee Butterfield – no report.

Deputy Mayor Henry mentioned Trustee Fergerson "in the box" at the last meeting via the IPOD. Deputy Mayor Henry made mention of his recent appointment to chair up the Disaster Committee. The Mayor has asked him to review and update the disaster plan and make sure it is up to date. He also mentioned the event yesterday at Meals on Wheels whereas the elected officials help prepare and deliver meals all part of the March 21st event.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Mark Atkinson commented on the Meals on Wheels event as well, on March 21st, and what a terrific organization this is. The Mayor continued to say that for many of these folks it is the only social interaction they have that whole day. The Mayor made mention of the Bunny Breakfast on April 1st, whereas he will be scrambling the eggs. The Mayor continued to inform about the Village Hall conference room, it is almost completed, and we were able to pull this together with limited funds expended. This room is outside of the secured area so it will be suitable for informal, formal meetings, etc. The Mayor continued to comment on the Village Center, the group has had 1 meeting and another meeting will take place in a couple of weeks. CHA has been working diligently gathering criteria in the center of the Village; and the next meeting will be business owners being invited. The "sign committee" has another meeting coming up in April. The alarm and security systems – Trustee Linnertz is still working on. The Mayor spoke of the budget and how he feels it came together nice. He spoke of it being done a little different this year than in previous years. This budget to be proposed started when the Mayor took office back in July – focusing on expenses, keeping expenditures in line

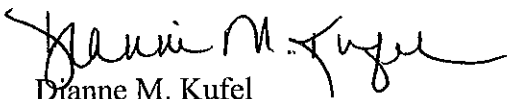


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and as the year progressed we limited the departments for next year based on this year – the same, if not less. The Mayor also mentioned a recent meeting of yesterday, if any monies would remain unspent of the current budget. Mayor spoke of, first the “operating budget” and secondly, a list of requested projects – approx. \$50,000 in projects that would come from the fund balance – and the Village will still remain at 13-14% of our total budget – still retaining a healthy fund balance. The Mayor reminded the Board and Dept. Heads. to stop by his office any time or contact him if there are any concerns or questions. The Mayor spoke of the heavy trash and the waste pickup; during the summer months with brush and leave pickup during those weeks residents can put out E-Waste or Heavy Trash – the same day you have your regular trash pickup. The Mayor and Gary Wilmer have discussed – a call would be made and handled through the DPW. There will be a list of items that you can put out. The Mayor feels this will work out good. The Trustees will get a copy of this process. The Mayor explained – all in all - creating more services for our constituents with very minimal costs associated. The Mayor spoke of a project that has been pending/planned to get done (talking about this for a year or more) costing \$7,000 or \$8,000 to secure the large function room at Fire Station 1 from the other areas and possible rent out that hall. He has determined that after looking at it, the demand of booking it verses the revenue as well as the expense to secure it, in his opinion right now, with the limited use, limited parking, does not feel that this is a good extension of funds right now. The Mayor spoke of the current use and projected use for it, we have had a decrease in useage for this particular type of use. The Mayor also spoke of the fire on Wells Ave. whereas the Fire Dept. was right there - worst fire, small arms, ammunition, powder, weapons - extremely cluttered. The Mayor made mention of the Village Police and Codes Dept. also being present to support the Fire Dept. – overall a great coordination of efforts as well as the external departments that support this function – Red Cross, etc.

Trustee Butterfield made a motion to adjourn at 5:07 PM. The motion was seconded by Trustee Ferguson. The motion was carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,


Dianne M. Kufel
Village Clerk/Treasurer