

Village of North Syracuse
Regular Board Meeting
Thursday, April 11th, 2013 at 6:28 PM
North Syracuse Community Center
700 South Bay Road, North Syracuse, NY 13212

The Village of North Syracuse Regular Board Meeting began 6:28 PM with Mayor Atkinson inviting everyone present to join in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Hearing # 1:

The Mayor spoke of the first public hearing to be on the discussion and question of adopting Local Law #1 of 2013. This local law allows for a property tax levy in excess of the limit established in the General Municipal Law §3-c. Mayor Atkinson explained that we had previously done this last year, as well; it is the 2% override we would like to have in place. The Mayor continued to say that he has not intentions of being over the 2% that this is just a safety measure; this is a very complicated formula that would insure us just in case the state should come in and determine something different from our formula. It is strictly a precautionary measure. The Mayor asked if anyone would like to discuss this. He continued to ask if anyone was in favor of or against this. The Mayor closed this public hearing.

Public Hearing #2:

The Mayor spoke of the second public hearing being held to discuss the tentative budget for FY 2013/2014 for the Village of North Syracuse. Mayor Atkinson explained that although there are rising costs of operating government and businesses, although he is still proposing a zero % increase in the budget this upcoming year. He continued to say that he contributed this to a reduction in operating costs, continually looking at insurance premiums, changing contracts with outside vendors, recent negotiations with the labor unions, and energy savings. We will continue to look into health care savings and energy savings. He explained that we continue to maintain a healthy fund balance although have chosen to lock in ourselves so-to-speak with the pension costs, by earmarking some fund balance for the rising costs associated with this benefit. Dianne Kufel will give a brief viewing of the key areas of the budget. Dianne presented a brief slide show of the zero % tax increase, spending this year vs. last year, revenues this year vs. last year, capital items, and current assessment values. Dianne continued to explain which capital items were to be funded this year, and pointed to a sheet in the back of the tentative budget packet. Darlene Piper of 106 Northfield Ave. made mention of the \$20,000 for CHA to implement a Village Plan. The Mayor confirmed that this was indeed for a streetscape plan for the Village Center. The Mayor asked if anyone else would like to discuss specific items. He again asked if anyone would like to speak for or against the budget. The Mayor closed this public hearing.

Roll Call: Mayor Mark Atkinson, Deputy Mayor Chuck Henry, Trustee Gary Butterfield, Trustee Fred Ferguson and Trustee Paul Linnertz were all present.

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



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RESOLUTION # 252-13

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mayor Atkinson made a motion to approve the minutes from the March 28th, 2013 Board Meeting. Trustee Linnertz seconded the motion. The motion was carried unanimously.

RESOLUTION # 253-13

GENERAL FUND ABSTRACT APPROVAL

Trustee Ferguson made a motion to approve the General Fund Abstract #22 in the amount of \$78,171.00 covering Voucher #1205 to Voucher #1259; the motion was seconded by Trustee Paul Linnertz. The motion was carried unanimously.

RESOLUTION # 254-13

SEWER FUND ABSTRACT APPROVAL

Trustee Ferguson made a motion to approve the Sewer Abstract #22 covering Voucher #17 to Voucher #20; the motion was seconded by Deputy Mayor Henry. The motion was carried unanimously.

CITIZENS' VOICE: R. Harvey of 219 Park Lane introduced himself and was concerned about Animal Control. He continued to speak of numerous occasions in the past 12 months and particularly 2 in the past 7 days. He referenced (2) American bulldogs that attacked himself, his son and his puppy. His puppy is 22 pounds and is in bad shape. This is the 2nd time in 3 days. He contacted Animal Control on Friday of last week, and has not had a response. He continued to say that he had to deal with these 2 dogs again on Monday. It took 32 minutes from the time he called "911" to the time he received a response. He continued to say that 32 minutes is unacceptable, especially for a violent dog attack. Mr. Harvey spoke of budget cuts and part-time dog control, but something should be done. Mr. Harvey offered to volunteer his services for this position. The Mayor explained that this is the first time he had heard of the incident, and apologized. He continued to say that we have always had a part-time Animal Control Officer; although 32 minutes is not acceptable. He referred to the Police Chief to provide some feedback. Chief Crowell explained that one officer was on a burglary call and the other on a domestic. The Mayor assured Mr. Harvey that he would look into this further. Trustee Linnertz was inquiring if the dogs lived in Town of Clay and if he had contacted Town of Clay. Mr. Harvey explained that he did refer to Animal Control in Town of Clay, although they said it was not their issue if the dogs were in the Village of North Syracuse. Scott Chatfield spoke up and suggested that he would call the Town of Clay, as this is the 2nd attack with an animal and the Town of Clay needs to follow up with charges on the owner of the dogs.

OLD BUSINESS:

RESOLUTION # 255-13

APPROVE THE ADOPTION OF LOCAL LAW #1-2013

Mayor Atkinson made a motion to approve the adoption of Local Law #1; the motion was seconded by Trustee Ferguson. The motion was carried unanimously.



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RESOLUTION # 256-13

ADOPT THE VILLAGE 2013-2014 TENTATIVE BUDGET

The Mayor made mention of the recent public hearing, and the Board having their worksheets for some time to review on the upcoming budget. He asked for some public comment. Trustee Butterfield explained that he has not had much time to review the budget although was very pleased with a zero percent increase. He continued to inquire on the grant for the breathing apparatus for the Fire Dept. Fire Chief Brennan explained that a certain portion needs to be in-kind and needed to be funded by the Village. The Fire Chief continued to explain the monies received for the Fire District from the Town of Clay and Town of Cicero, amounting to \$484,950.00, amounting to two-thirds of the Fire Dept. Budget. Trustee Butterfield thanked the Fire Chief and spoke of the great job that they do. Trustee Ferguson inquired on the increase in internet service for the Police Dept. which was confirmed as air time that they need to do their paperwork in their vehicles rather than coming back to the municipal building to do. The Mayor reminded the Board that he sat down with each department head, one by one, going over different line items in their budgets. Trustee Linnertz explained he previously asked questions of the Treasurer and the Police Chief. He commented on the elected officials and felt that they should not be receiving any increase in pay. He continued to ask of the \$10,000 in the police training account. Police Chief Crowell explained it to be a combination of equipment, supplies and time for training. He also explained on some modifications for the booking room, based on some risk assessment that was conducted in the past. The stairs to the basement is a significant safety hazard. This will increase the safety for the officers and the defendants. Mayor Atkinson made a motion to adopt the 2013/2014 Village Budget. The motion was seconded by Trustee Butterfield. The motion was carried unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS:

RESOLUTION # 257-13 ACCEPT ELECTED/APPOINTED OFFICERS OF THE FIRE DEPT.

Mayor Atkinson made a motion accepting the following elected and appointed officers to the appointed officers to the Fire Dept.:

Patrick J. Brennan	Chief of Fire
Timothy R. Ellis	Deputy Chief
Christopher Strong	Assistant Chief
John Hogan	Fire Warden
Timm Latham	Fire Warden
Captain:	Joseph DiFabio Jr.
Captain:	John Hogan
Lieutenant:	Dan Kasouf
Lieutenant:	Mike Redhead
Lieutenant:	Dave Evangelista
Fire Police Captain:	Dennis McAllister



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The motion was seconded by Trustee Ferguson. The motion was carried unanimously.

RESOLUTION # 258-13

VILLAGE WIDE GARAGE SALE MAY 18TH AND 19TH

Mayor Atkinson made a motion to designate May 18th and 19th as the Annual Village Wide Garage Sale dates. The motion was seconded by Trustee Ferguson. The motion was carried unanimously.

RESOLUTION # 259-13

SET DATE FOR ANNUAL VILLAGE BOARD MEETING

Mayor Atkinson made a motion setting the date for the Annual Village Board Meeting for Monday, July 1st at 5:00 PM. The motion was seconded by Trustee Ferguson. The motion was carried unanimously.

ATTORNEY REPORT: Attorney Chatfield explained that the Crown Castle Cell Tower Lease is coming up for a (5) year renewal and he had sent a letter to them for confirmation on the amount; he is waiting for a response on that. They have a (5) year renewal agreement thru 2018, and another (5) year renewal thru 2023 although then it will need to be renegotiated.

ENGINEERING REPORT: No report

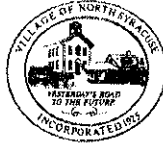
DEPARTMENT HEADS REPORT:

Police Department: Chief Crowell announced that Sgt. Roberta Comerford has returned from Military Leave, as of April 6th, 2013. She is in the return leave program; and should be returning to full duty in the next few weeks. He continued to say that Applebees is having a fundraiser for Special Olympics on Thursday, April 18th, 2013 with the police officers assisting the customers.

Fire Department: Fire Chief Pat Brennan thanked the Board for passing the budget. He continued to say that his budget has remained flat for the past 3 years. He continued to speak on the kick-off of their 100th year celebration for the North Syracuse Fire Department; whereas their banquet is this coming weekend. They are planning a lot of events and hope to see the Trustee's at the banquet. He continued to say that the Fire Department has launched a new website www.northsyracusefire.com. He ended by saying that they are very excited about being members of this community for 100 years.

Highway Department: Sup't. Gary Wilmer explained that they are out picking up brush and hope to be putting the plows away for the next few months. Gary also thanked the efforts of Chris Desimone for assisting and volunteering for the Village's Earth Day event.

Parks and Recreation: Parks Director Teresa Roth made mention of the Village's annual Earth Day event clean up day on Saturday. The clean up will be at the Community Center and some of the Village



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Streets between 9:00 AM and 11:30 AM. Teresa also mentioned her department being busy with the upcoming summer programs. She continued to remind everyone of the Family Festival that is scheduled for May 25th, 2013 – there will be a lot of entertainment, food, etc.

Codes Department: Codes Officer Pam DiCarlo spoke of (2) new businesses that have opened up in the Village – 312 South Main Street, a rescue mission bottle return and CNG Security Systems.

Clerk/Treasurer: Dianne Kufel was very pleased with the budget process and most recently it's adoption. She continued to thank the Board for passing the budget which allows her to continue with the implementation of the new budget. She also reminded of the upcoming closure of the current budget year and requested that all of the department heads be cognizant of what they have in pending; and the follow up of invoices to close out the current year in a timely manner.

DEPUTY MAYOR/TRUSTEES REPORTS:

Trustee Linnertz: presented a slide show of some historical photos and a slide show showing old fire engines and the original fire station; and several other historical apparatus to recognize the 100th year anniversary of the North Syracuse Fire Department.

Trustee Fergerson: welcomed back Sgt. Comerford from her military leave. He also congratulated the Fire Department on their 100 years in the Village and the invitation to the banquet. He made mention of the Fergerson family being in the Village for 187 years as a family. The next public safety meeting will be on June 3rd, 2013 in the Community Center at 4:00 PM.

Trustee Butterfield: Spoke of the budget process as being a smooth process with a remarkable zero percent increase. He thanked the good job of all of the department heads and thanked each and every one of them for their efforts.

Deputy Mayor Henry: thanked all of the department heads and thanked everyone for working together as a team. He also mentioned our next EOP meeting to be held on Monday at 2:30 PM at the command center over at the Fire Dept. - Station 1.

MAYOR'S REPORT:

The Mayor congratulated the Fire Dept. on the 100 years commenting on a well deserved celebration this upcoming weekend. The Mayor reminded all of Earth Day on Saturday. The Mayor also mentioned his attending a development course in Albany in June for Economic Development and will be putting a case study together relating to Economic Development issues that he can apply to our Village Center. The Mayor also mentioned how thankful he was for the contributions of many, amounting to \$1,080 for the hanging flowers – again thanks to all that contributed. Mayor also made mention of an upcoming meeting next week regarding the sales tax monies and hopefully more information on this. The Mayor was



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pleased to pass the budget tonight and wanted to express his thanks for the efforts of the Village employees from management to rank and file. He continued to say that compromises were made during union negotiations, department heads are doing more with less, Dianne has had success with renegotiating contracts and insurances to save money. He continued to say that he is so proud of the professionalism and employees of the Village of North Syracuse – everyone saving thousands of dollars – and truly reflecting that we are all here to do what is right for this Village of North Syracuse as a whole.

Trustee Butterfield made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:24 PM. The motion was seconded by Trustee Ferguson. The motion was carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Dianne M. Kufel
Village Clerk/Treasurer