

VILLAGE OF NORTH SYRACUSE

Regular Board Meeting

Thursday, May 28th, 2020 @ 4:30 PM

North Syracuse Baptist Church

420 South Main Street, North Syracuse, NY

The Village of North Syracuse Regular Board Meeting began at 4:30 P.M. with Mayor Gary Butterfield asking everyone to join him in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Due to the COVID 19 virus the meeting was relocated to the North Syracuse Baptist Church and it was closed to the public but was streamed over Facebook Live for their input. A notice was published that this was not open to the public although we welcome any questions to be sent into the clerk.

Roll Call: Mayor Gary Butterfield, Trustee LouAnn St. Germain, Trustee Chris Strong, and Dep. Mayor Gustafson.

Personnel Present: Village Clerk/Treasurer Dianne Kufel, CEO Brian Johnstone, Parks Director Teresa Roth, Police Chief William Becker, and Village Attorney Robert Germain.

Personnel Absent: Trustee Fred Wilmer (Conflict), DPW Superintendent Ed Ware (COVID), Fire Chief Bob Liberatore (COVID), and Amy Franco Village Engineer (COVID).

RESOLUTION # 092-20

APPROVAL OF BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Dep. Mayor Gustafson made a motion to approve the minutes from the May 14th, 2020 Board Meeting. The motion was seconded by Trustee Strong. The motion was approved: St. Germain, Strong, and Gustafson, all voting in favor of the same.

RESOLUTION # 093-20

GENERAL FUND ABSTRACT APPROVAL

Trustee St. Germain made a motion to approve Abstract #26 in the amount of \$83,609.58 covering voucher # 1438 to #1492. The motion was seconded by Dep. Mayor Gustafson. The motion was approved: St. Germain, Strong, and Gustafson, all voting in favor of the same.

RESOLUTION # 094-20

BUDGET TRANSFER(S)

The Mayor stated the transfer to cover overtime shifts-reimbursement received. Dep. Mayor Gustafson made a motion to approve the budget transfers from A3389B Police STEP Revenue to increase A3120.142 Police Overtime STEPS Shifts in the amount of \$779.64. The motion was seconded by Trustee St. Germain. The motion was approved: St. Germain, Strong, and Gustafson, all

voting favor of the same.



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RESOLUTION # 095-20

BUDGET TRANSFER(S)

The Mayor stated the transfer to repair area of damaged fence at Heritage Park with funds not being used for Comm. Ctr. gas and Parks Landscaping. Dep. Mayor Gustafson made a motion to approve the budget transfers from: A7181.23 Comm. Ctr. Gas in the amount of \$800, A7110.417 Parks Landscaping in the amount of \$590 to increase A7110.475 Parks Equipment Mtc. in the amount of \$1,390. The motion was seconded by Trustee Strong. The motion was approved: St. Germain, Strong, and Gustafson, all voting favor of the same.

OLD BUSINESS:

RESOLUTION # 096-20

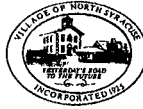
**VACANCY PLANNING COMMISSION: R. GUSTAFSON-
TERM TO EXPIRE 07/01/22**

The Mayor stated a vacancy on the Planning Commission, we have an interested resident that would like to join our Planning Commission; his name is Richard Gustafson and resides on Tolbert Dr. in the Village. He continued this is basically a way to serve your community and he will receive a \$50 stipend for each meeting that is held and attended. He added he is replacing Dep. Mayor Pat Gustafson and his term will expire on 07/01/22. He noted that he has a relative on the Board, so she will abstain from any voting. Trustee St. Germain made a motion to approve the appointment of Richard Gustafson to fill the vacancy of Dep. Mayor Pat Gustafson which will be effective 5/29/2020 and expire on 07/01/22. The motion was seconded by Trustee Strong. The motion was approved: St. Germain, Strong, and Butterfield, all voting favor of the same. Dep. Mayor Pat Gustafson abstained.

RESOLUTION # 097-20

**DISCUSS/APPROVE THE HIRING OF A NEW POLICE
OFFICER-REPLACEMENT FOR T. KEELER (RETIRED)**

The Mayor stated at the last meeting this we tabled the hiring of a new police officer, so he entertained a motion to take it off the table. Dep. Mayor Gustafson made a motion to untable this item with discussion. The motion was seconded by Trustee St. Germain. He continued Officer Chris Cushman is being hired to replace Office Tom Keeler who retired as we all know. He went on to say Officer Cushman comes with a wide variety of experience, the Chief is recommending that we appoint Officer Chris Cushman at a salary of \$74,180 with his seniority date effective with his hiring date; he is available to start on June 23rd, 2020. Trustee St. Germain made a motion to appoint Chris Cushman as a full-time police officer effective start date of June 23rd, 2020 at \$74,180 per year; not to include the 2.5% raise. The motion was seconded by Dep. Mayor Gustafson. Trustee Strong mentioned an email we received from Trustee Wilmer requesting that it remain tabled as he was unable to make the meeting, he did not know if he had met with the Police Chief and if it was rectified. Trustee St. Germain stated she



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thought it was because he did not have a chance to read the documents. The Mayor stated that was correct. Trustee Strong stated he stated he wanted to ask the Chief a couple of questions. Police Chief Becker stated he did talk with him, but did not ask specific questions, but he knows that he did talk to Chris Cushman by phone. Dep. Mayor Gustafson stated if it is legal, she would just as soon go ahead with the vote. Trustee Strong stated with the new information and the start date of June 23rd, 2020, everybody saw the email with the start date and the immediate step increase; we are currently working with the union working on the contract with the Teamsters. He continued we may want to consider making the appointment effective with the approval of the new contract. Much discussion went back and forth. Dep. Mayor Gustafson made a motion that they hire Officer Chris Cushman effective June 23rd, 2020. The motion was seconded by Trustee St. Germain. The motion was approved: St. Germain, Gustafson, and Butterfield, all voting favor of the same. Trustee Strong abstained.

**DISCUSS: 2019 COMM. DEV. FUNDING-GROVE
STREET SIDEWALKS-PROJECT UPDATE**

The Mayor stated the surveyors have been out there and we cannot start the design until the surveys are done.

DISCUSS WARRANTY/REHAB OF ENGINE 6

The Mayor stated the next item on the agenda is to discuss the warranty and rehab of Engine 6. He continued that it was now determined to have additional issues; it is not an easy resolution; we are reaching out to various parties to see what can happen.

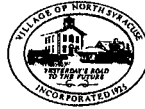
DISCUSS: TAP GRANT 2017: CONSTRUCTION TO BEGIN

The Mayor stated the next item is the TAP Grant 2017 Construction to begin; the contract has been signed with the exception of our attorney signing the agreement, the contractor and the Mayor have signed the agreement. He added for it to be official our attorney needs to sign it, but they are going to start work approximately June 1st, the sign is already up on both sides of Church St. He stated we are going to do a ground breaking photo, so we can let everyone know. He continued the signs are up and we are already getting positive comments.

NEW BUSINESS:

RESOLUTION # 098-20

**DISCUSS/REVIEW EASEMENT AGREEMENT:
413 PLEASANT AVE.**



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The Mayor stated the Board has received a copy this easement agreement for 413 Pleasant Ave. as they are constructing a fence within the easement. He entertained a motion to approve the easement. Trustee Strong made a motion to approve the easement agreement for the fence within the easement. The motion was seconded by Dep. Mayor Gustafson. He deferred to CEO Johnstone. CEO Johnstone explained this is what we do when anyone wants to construct anything inside the easement; both parties sign it, the Village and the property owner, so that if the DPW has to go in to maintain it, they can. He continued that they are aware that we will take down the fence and they will be responsible of putting it back up, we will not reconstruct it for them, it is just so everybody knows what is expected. The motion was approved: St. Germain, Strong, and Gustafson, all voting favor of the same.

DISCUSS PARKS /FACILITIES OPENING UP: PHASE 2/3/4

The Mayor stated the next item on the agenda we are not really going to discuss until we gather more information from our Governor as it relates to our parks/facilities opening up.

CITIZENS' VOICE: The Mayor invited anyone that wished to share concerns or thoughts via Facebook to address the Board. The Mayor asked if anyone would like to speak and closed Citizen's Voice.

ATTORNEY REPORT: No Report.

ENGINEER REPORT: Absent due to COVID. No report.

DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS:

Police Department: (Police Chief: William Becker) He stated the following:

Onondaga Cty. moving at midnight to Phase II – will cover: administrative for offices and support, haircuts (definition unclear) part of professional services, retail, real estate, rental and leasing; expect to go 12 to 14 days and then should be releasing Phase III

- Phase III: restaurants, bars, haircuts, and some local gathering
- So far in May: 770 total calls for service, 409 property checks, 18 domestics, 10 motor vehicle accidents, 115 traffic stops, 80 traffic tickets, 35 arrests

Fire Department: Not present due to COVID.

Public Works Department: (DPW Sup't.: Ed Ware) Not present due to COVID.

Parks and Recreation Department: (Parks Director: Teresa Roth) She stated the following:

- Summer program flyer has not been sent out, undetermined due to COVID



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- Parks are open for passive recreation, can play disk golf and tennis at Heritage Pk., but most of the other parks just for walking your dog, playgrounds not open, basketball nets not up yet
- She hopes next week there will be more information to disseminate regarding the summer programs, summer camp, etc. They have received lots of calls wondering what is going on, it is being evaluated, but it is out of her hands, it is what Governor and CDC passes on and ultimately what the Health Dept. will permit. They permit for the summer program and the pool, so we are waiting for those guidelines, the Governor is to release information on May 30th, about summer camps.
- Grand opening for Dog Pk. is in the finishing stages, dog playground equipment came in this week, picking up concrete and hoping to install 2nd wk. of June those pieces.
- Paving at Heritage Pk. supposed to be completed by June 14th, still on track will finish in next couple of weeks.
- Red Cross has scheduled 2 Blood Drives at Comm. Ctr., the first is Mon., June 1st, everything else is pretty much closed for meetings and events.

Codes Department: No report.

Clerk-Treasurer: She stated the following:

- She spoke of the April financials and feels the Village is in a very good position right now within our 11th month of our 12 month cycle year
- She stated it is hard to predict what May will bring, as typically our DPW and Parks are busy buying in May but this has slowed down considerably.
- Been busy in their department because of the closing of the year end

DEPUTY MAYOR-TRUSTEES REPORT:

Trustee St. Germain: She stated she had a really good time parading for Memorial Day. She thanked Sgt. Jeff Tripp for getting everything together, Parks Director Roth for bringing flags and banners. She continued there were a lot of people out and there were a lot that looked out the windows; we waived, they waived. She thought it was a really nice thing.

Trustee Strong: He stated he wanted to echo the comments from Trustee St. Germain; wonderful job for specifically Sgt. Tripp and others involved. He continued moving that forward, there were a lot of positive comments, a lot of folks out in the street; wonderful event, so KUDOS to that. He added Codes, Fire and everyone that took part in that. He spoke of a lot of social media contacts, many people interested in showing support and interest in our live streaming of these meetings. He stated it has kind of opened our doors, this being something that folks are looking forward to if they are not



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physically able to be at the 4:30 PM and 6:30 PM meetings or be at the Comm. Ctr. He suggested they seriously consider making this going forward all points will go live via some sort of social media platform, not necessarily Facebook, but something that they can include their comments in for all of our meetings instead of forcing to be at the physical building.

Trustee Wilmer: Absent

Dep. Mayor Gustafson: She stated KUDOS to the Police Dept., it was a fun parade, and she likes to see the people out there with their signs; they were ready for us, so it was a good event.

MAYOR'S REPORT:

The Mayor stated he would echo the same. He thought it was a good time; he felt the reception we received was heartfelt even over at Centerville Court; some ladies were blowing kisses to the parade, so he thought that was pretty neat. He shared the Flower Donations have exceeded last year by about 1 flower and the flowers are out. He stated Police/Teamsters 1149 still meeting and negotiating; the contract is due to expire on 5/31/2020. He continued we have talked about a letter of intent to make sure that it is going to happen; we are waiting on the rough draft from the Teamsters 1149. He stated the automated trash concept had some "naysayers" when it first started, but it has proved to be effective. He continued heavy trash begins next week, we posted on the website call ahead; we will see how this goes.

The Mayor stated he would like to entertain a motion to go into Executive Session to discuss a personnel issue and we will not be doing any more business when we come back out.

Dep. Mayor Gustafson made a motion to enter into **Executive Session** at 4:58 P.M. The motion was seconded by Trustee Strong. The motion was approved: St. Germain, Strong, and Gustafson, all voting favor of the same. Trustee Strong made a motion to return to **Regular Session** at 7:05 P.M. The motion was seconded by Trustee Strong. The motion was approved: St. Germain, Strong, and Gustafson, all voting favor of the same. Trustee Strong made a motion to adjourn at 7:06 PM. The motion was seconded by Trustee St. Germain. The motion was approved: St. Germain, Strong, and Gustafson, all voting in favor of the same.

Respectfully submitted,


Dianne M. Kufel

Village Clerk-Treasurer