

VILLAGE OF NORTH SYRACUSE

Regular Board Meeting

Thursday, October 8th, 2020 @ 6:30 PM

North Syracuse Community Center

600 South Bay Road, North Syracuse, NY

The Village of North Syracuse Regular Board Meeting began at 6:30 P.M. with Mayor Gary Butterfield asking everyone to join him in the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Personnel Present: Village Clerk/Treasurer Dianne Kufel, DPW Superintendent Ed Ware, Fire Chief Patrick Brennan, and Police Chief William Becker.

Personnel Absent: CEO Brian Johnstone (Absent), Parks Director (Vacant), Village Attorney Robert Germain (Excused), and Amy Franco Village Engineer (Absent).

RESOLUTION # 174-20

APPROVAL OF BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Trustee Wilmer made a motion to approve the minutes from the September 24th, 2020 Board Meeting. The motion was seconded by Dep. Mayor Gustafson. The motion was approved: St. Germain, Strong, Wilmer, and Gustafson, all voting in favor of the same.

RESOLUTION # 175-20

GENERAL FUND ABSTRACT APPROVAL

Trustee Wilmer made a motion to approve Abstract #10 in the amount of \$141,492.11 covering voucher #477 to #532. The motion was seconded by Dep. Mayor Gustafson. Trustee Strong asked about two line items on the audit, the number of Verizon Wireless the Data Pack System we have in the MIFI's. He shared the county is looking at new Sierra Modem wireless devices which may not have hot spots which would become a fee we already pay that both Police and Fire use to send reports, get leads and information. He suggested adding the DPW to the Data Pack System, with 20 devices questioned if we qualify for better pricing. Fire Chief Brennan stated he would look into the Police and Fire Municipal Discounts for several devices with a Verizon representative. Trustee Strong stated the other one was the \$2,300 for Eastern Shore for additional Cyber Security. Village Clerk-Treasurer Kufel stated we went back and forth most recently as recommended by our IT service more protection is needed with recent ploys and scams; it was a recommendation to up our limits for that. The motion was approved: St. Germain, Strong, Wilmer, and Gustafson, all voting in favor of the same.

RESOLUTION # 176-20

SEWER FUND ABSTRACT APPROVAL

Trustee Wilmer made a motion to approve the Sewer Fund Abstract #10 in the amount of \$35.49



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covering Voucher #4. The motion was seconded by Trustee Strong. The motion was approved: St. Germain, Strong, Wilmer, and Gustafson, all voting in favor of the same.

OLD BUSINESS:

**CROSSWALK UPDATE: COSTS UPDATE-
SIDEWALKS/ADA REQUIREMENT**

The Mayor stated next item is crosswalk update. Dep. Mayor Gustafson stated she is letting DPW Sup't Ware handle the cost comparisons and things that are going up for the crosswalk at the end of Maxwell and Watson. DPW Sup't Ware stated he is still working on it; he has not had time to get the pricing for the detectable for the blind people and to look at the slope coming down on the concrete. The Mayor stated they have finished up the project with the TAP Grant; there is some money left over and maybe we could apply it to that area there.

UPDATE CHESTNUT/CHURCH ST. PROJECT

The Mayor stated Chestnut/Church St. Project had a final walk thru last week, the grass is growing, and the trees are planted. He continued they came thru and did a punch list, there was some tire tracks, bicycle tracks and foot traffic. He added overall it was a good project, we should all be thrilled.

RESOLUTION # 177-20

DISCUSS/APPOINT: PARKS DIRECTOR

Dep. Mayor Gustafson made a motion to approve the appointment of Anthony Burkinshaw as the Parks Director effective 11/30/20 at \$53,000/per year. The motion was seconded by Trustee St. Germain. The motion was approved: St. Germain, Strong, Wilmer, and Gustafson, all voting in favor of the same.

Anthony Burkinshaw stated to the Board he is very excited about coming over. He continued he knows Teresa Roth very well. He went on to say he knows Teresa that well, so if there was ever a problem, that she would probably drive down here; hand and hand to help get through any problems. He stated he knows going forward there will be some problems, but he knows he can call Teresa and it is going to be a smooth transition. He continued he looks forward to working with all of you; it is going to be a great adventure for him, his family and hopefully for us as well.

UPDATE: AARP GRANT: BLUEBERRY HILL/SLEETH PARK

The Mayor stated the next item on the agenda; we had an AARP Grant for Blueberry Hill/Sleeth Park and some signage although we were turned down. He explained it was a national program and they



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had a lot of applications, this is the 3rd year we have applied to AARP and got turned down, so we will keep trying.

NEW BUSINESS:

RESOLUTION # 178-20

**REVIEW/AUTHORIZE MAYOR TO SIGN SPCA
AGREEMENT: CALENDAR YEAR 2021**

The Mayor stated the next item is to approve the CNY SPCA Agreement: Calendar Year 2021, the Board has received the agreement, identical to last year \$4,000 annually. He continued Village Clerk-Treasurer Kufel found an error and has changed that. Trustee St. Germain made a motion to authorize the Mayor to sign the SPCA Agreement for calendar year 2021 for \$4,000. The motion was seconded by Trustee Strong. The motion was approved: St. Germain, Strong, Wilmer, and Gustafson, all voting in favor of the same.

NEW SEWER JET ARRIVED: SURPLUS 1990 SEWER JET

The Mayor stated next item on the agenda, our new Sewer Jet, is here. He continued the sewer jet that we have is 30 yrs. old. It was springing leaks and needed to be replaced. He added by taking money from our Sewer Fund we are paying for it up front, as soon as we get the training and get it licensed we are going to put the other one up for auction. He stated DPW Sup't Ware thinks we could get \$25,000 at auction. He continued if it lasts as long we will have it for 20 to 30 yrs., as we have our storm sewers that we have to take care of.

RESOLUTION # 179-20

**DISCUSS/APPROVAL: POLICE CHIEF ATTENDING
CONFERENCE ON POLICE REFORM
/HOTEL/REGISTRATION**

The Mayor stated the Police Chief will be attending a conference on Police Reform at Lake George. He continued to co-network as you know we are under pressure to come up with Police Reform; every municipality is faced with it. Trustee Germain made a motion to approve the Police Chief attending the conference in Lake George for Hotel registration and the travel related expenses. The motion was seconded by Dep. Mayor Gustafson. The motion was approved: St. Germain, Strong, Wilmer, and Gustafson, all voting in favor of the same.

RESOLUTION # 180-20

**DISCUSS/APPROVAL: DPW SUP'T. ATTENDING CLASSES
FOR CERTIFICATION OF HIGHWAY SUP'T.-MASTER 2**



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Trustee Wilmer made a motion to approve DPW Sup't Ware to attend classes for Certification of Highway Sup't-Master 2 in Niagara County and approve the travel related expenses. The motion was seconded by Dep. Mayor Gustafson. The motion was approved: St. Germain, Strong, Wilmer, and Gustafson, all voting in favor of the same.

RESOLUTION # 181-20

**VILLAGE SELLS BACK TO THE FIRE ASSOCIATION-
CAR 3 (2013 CHEVY TAHOE) FOR \$1**

The Mayor stated the Village is going to sell back to the Fire Assoc. Car 3, a 2013 Chevy Tahoe for \$1. He continued this has been the previous practice, the Assoc. buys Car 2 and Car 3 and the Village buys Car 1. He added the Assoc. turns Cars 2 and 3 over to the Village for \$1; we pay for all the upkeep, vehicle mtc., wear and tear, gas, etc. He stated when Car 2 and 3 have met their useful life expectancy, we sell them back to the Assoc. for \$1; they in turn sell it. Trustee Wilmer made a motion to sell back Car 3 to the Assoc. VIN# 1GNSK2E08DR329416. The motion was seconded by Dep. Mayor Gustafson. The motion was approved: St. Germain, Strong, Wilmer, and Gustafson, all voting in favor of the same.

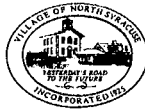
RESOLUTION # 182-20

**DISCUSS INCREASING THE \$35 STIPEND FOR CELL
PHONES TO DEPT. HEADS**

The Mayor stated the next item on the agenda, there is a discussion about increasing the \$35 Stipend for the cell phones for Dept. Heads. Much discussion went back and forth regarding looking into significant savings regarding the cellular and MIFI Modems utilized throughout the Village. Discussion also took place back and forth regarding the amount of stipend reimbursement. Trustee Wilmer made a motion to raise the stipend to \$50 per month. The motion was seconded by Trustee Strong. The motion was approved: St. Germain, Strong, Wilmer, and Gustafson, all voting in favor of the same.

**CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTING-LIVE FEED-
CAMERA FOR A VIRTUAL TREE LIGHTING**

The Mayor stated he has another item he would like to discuss, because of the circumstances that we are in now being live events are few and far between, but he believes we really should do a Christmas Tree Lighting here. He continued our normal time is the 1st week in December. He continued if Fred and Nate to see if we can get a camera that we could use for a Virtual Tree Lighting for our ceremony for the Village. He stated then we could put it on social media, so a lot of people could be watching, so that is something he would like to try to move forward with and see if we could make that happen. He continued have a few people around the tree, but the Village could watch it. Trustee Wilmer asked if we were going to do anything with the public inviting. The Mayor stated did not know. He continued



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he wanted to do something, but we need to limit it to as little as possible, right now we could have 50 people as a gathering.

CITIZENS' VOICE: The Mayor invited anyone that wished to share concerns or thoughts via Facebook to address the Board.

Pat Ferguson of 215 S. Main St. stated thank you, DPW you picked up the trash. She continued this week Chief, you guys are really good, Monday one of the officers saw them coming out of St. Rose with umpteen cars, offered to help, and was kind enough to stop traffic; it was really nice to be able to get all those people out and on to the cemetery.

Ken Ryan of 211 Herman Dr. stated he had a suggestion for the bike lanes on the roads. He suggested having adding officers out there to help educated them, as obviously a lot of people have not seen them and do not know what they should do with the bike lanes on the roads like they did the crosswalks.

Jodi Butterfield of 224 Chestnut St. stated KUDDOS to Mayor and Trustees for the entire Chestnut/Church St. project, it looks amazing. She continued she never drives down Church, but frequents Chestnut St. and spoke of the residents being happy and stated KUDDOS for getting the huge grant. She also suggested the Crosswalk on Chestnut St. is a little overgrown for those of us that walk, just to trim that tree down to make it more visible and away from people's heads when they walked through.

The Mayor stated he has been meaning to tell you to trim that tree by George St. because of the sign. DPW Sup't Ware stated there are a few areas they will be trimming.

The Mayor asked if anyone else would like to speak and closed Citizen's Voice.

ATTORNEY REPORT: No Report (Absent).

ENGINEER REPORT: No Report (Absent).

DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS:

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

- He got some work regarding the Cameras we have a grant and we got the word the provider went out of business because of Covid and we picked up the provider that does Syracuse and



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- Solvay. He explained we had a 3 tier program, to be able to do 3 yrs. in a row to complete the project; it looks like we can do 1.5 yrs. with just the funding we have now based on new price.
- Halloween plans in place for Trick or Treaters, standard protocol, plus 2 additional cars right in the area unless the governor makes changes
- September was busy: 1,098 Total Calls for service, 579 Property Checks, 17 Domestic, 6 Motor Vehicle Accidents, 195 Traffic Stops, 111 Traffic tickets, 21 Arrests
- So Far for October: 212 Total Calls for service, 112 Property Checks, 1 Domestic, 3 Motor Vehicle Accidents, 28 Traffic Stops, 14 Traffic tickets, 3 Arrests

Fire Department: (Fire Chief Patrick Brennan) He stated the following:

- Secretary Marsha, in hospital 2 days, wishing her well; she has some more time to be in there
- 2 new members, applications on desk, doing observations; good uptake in last 4 months
- Responses are picking up from having second activation to getting couple of pieces of apparatus out even in the middle of night
- 5607 Bear Rd., old Captains Quarters, working with Code Enforcement now in Town of Clay, reached out to Supervisor, had dangerous level carbon monoxide issue in apartment complex over 500 parts per million; over 2 hrs. could potentially lead to death; work with Nat. Grid
- Engine 6: Assembling, issues rusted out rear brake canisters, cab tilt leak, steering assist cylinder needs to be replaced with rear brake canisters-all parts from manufacturer-vendor vehicle specific, so cannot get other quotes

Public Works Department: (DPW Sup't.: Ed Ware) He stated the following:

- Finish Bulk Trash today, mattress count 297
- Street lights out: Trolley Barn Lane and Centerville Pl-Underground Broken Cable
- Getting Equipment ready for leaf season; do all equipment inspections in October

Parks and Recreation Department: (Parks Director: Vacant)

Codes Department: (CEO: Brian Johnstone) Absent. Village Clerk-Treasurer Kufel reported:

- 444 S. Main St.: Final SWWWP and Site Plans received, waiting on Building Plans prior to issuing Building Permit.
- 407 S. Main St.: St. Rose is looking to do a Subdivision; application is in going to ZBA for variance(s) for side and rear setbacks. If approved will be completing a Subdivision and seeking a Zone Change from the Village Board; no date for ZBA yet
- Bulk Trash is over this week, if items are out, violations will be sent.



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Clerk-Treasurer: (Village Clerk-Treasurer Kufel) She stated the following:

- Met with Artist working on 2 Murals for Village; main focus is DPW Bldg. drafting different seasonal sketches for on the corner
- Bad news, Retirement numbers came in, Police up to 30.4% Employer Contribution, so theirs is going up \$50,000. Regular employees did not go up that much as remain flat at 15% to 18%.
- Requisitions that come up this year, having full blown audit because of federal grant this year for construction project, they will be monitoring everything; if we are getting state contract pricing, please put on the requisitions that it is, so that there is not quotes attached
- Closing books for June, soon to see July, August and September coming out for where you stand in current Budget year

DEPUTY MAYOR-TRUSTEES REPORT:

Trustee St. Germain: She stated the following:

- Welcome to new Parks & Recreation Director, judging by what she has heard we can wave to Teresa, but she is not sure that we are going to need her; welcome.

Trustee Strong: He stated the following:

- He welcomed Anthony Burkinshaw to the team.
- Excited to see sewer jet, reason excited because this came from Sewer Tax, paid by everyone and we are able to get some enumeration back on, able to use that and reinvest it, 30 yr. replacement, shows what Sewer Tax is for and able to maintain infrastructure.
- Suggested in order to scale back, do not renovate former judge's chambers for \$11,000; look at as savings to fill some gaps. DPW Sup't Ware stated put P.O. in for the plow truck, won't get until next Budget; so \$187,000 won't be spent this year. Mayor spoke of replacing transmission on dump truck that served since 1996, doing in house saving money/get another year out of it.
- Chestnut/Chestnut looks wonderful, 2 minor items as concern: trees on Church, 1.) is the effect of salt, 2.) trees right on road with the plowing; tire marks are everywhere on both streets, and people sliding, just another obstacle to hit prior to sidewalk. He asked about follow thru and if there is money to replace the damaged loss.

DPW Sup't Ware stated guaranteed to survive for 1 yr., after that on our own. He added some trees where moved to different locations, because of gas mains. He stated close to the road, but outside of the road is our easement, so could not put on other side. DPW Sup't Ware continued the drivers are professionals, and they should be able to navigate that stretch; we have dealt with damage between sidewalk and road for years. The Mayor stated we looked at those, because there was another question



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about those on the walk thru with CHA, and the contractor, those trees were specified and knew they were going to be alongside of the road.

Trustee Wilmer: No Report.

Dep. Mayor Gustafson: No Report.

MAYOR'S REPORT:

The Mayor stated we are getting some calls that trash is not being picked up in a timely fashion. He continued according to Syracuse Haulers, they have some new Supervisors and drivers, and we have gotten more than one call that the trash is not being picked up on the day it is supposed to be picked up; they are working through the kinks. He added the Village Clerk-Treasurer has been in communication with them, so hopefully that will get squared away. He added Grove St. the sidewalks are done, they have to pave back to the new curve, looks good, and it will be about another week. He stated the mattress issue, heavy trash starts in March; we are done with heavy pickup for this year. He continued we will put something in the flyer after they decide what they are going to do. He added another issue we had during heavy trash every month was people saw their neighbors put out heavy trash. Therefore, when the flyer gets mailed, we have to make it as clear as we can. He added Election Day is November 3rd, very soon and the Census was supposed to end September 30th, but they extended it a little bit. The Mayor spoke of working on the Bulk Trash Flyer. The Mayor stated we have 2 projects, one is the new apartment complex on Rt. 11 and the other is converting the convent into housing. He continued one will go back on the tax roll, and the other one is vacant land which will be 48 apartments, that will increase the tax rolls. He added some good news, there are enough struggles with Covid and eventually we are going to take a hit, we are not going to have enough money, but the cost of the housing is going up and up; it is going to increase assessments which are going to increase property tax. He stated he knows no one wants to hear that, but it will help us. Then the County Executive and the last sales tax was actually higher than it was last year \$20,000,000, so that is a good thing. He stated we have to watch our money, keep the spending to a minimum.

Trustee Strong made a motion to adjourn at 7:35 PM. The motion was seconded by Dep. Mayor Gustafson. The motion was approved: St. Germain, Strong, Wilmer, and Gustafson, all voting in favor of the same.

Respectfully submitted,

Dianne M. Kufel

Village Clerk-Treasurer