



## **VILLAGE OF NORTH SYRACUSE**

### ***Regular Board Meeting***

Thursday, February 25<sup>th</sup>, 2021 @ 4:30 PM

**North Syracuse Community Center**

600 South Bay Road, 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.

**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, Dep. Chief John Linnertz, Parks Director Tony Burkinshaw, Police Chief William Becker, and Village Attorney Robert Germain (Conflict coming later).

**Personnel Absent:** CEO Brian Johnstone and Amy Franco Village Engineer.

### **RESOLUTION # 031-21**

### **APPROVAL OF BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

Trustee Wilmer made a motion to approve the minutes (Facebook Livestreamed) from the February 11<sup>th</sup>, 2021 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 # 032-21**

### **GENERAL FUND ABSTRACT APPROVAL**

Dep. Mayor Gustafson made a motion to approve Abstract #20 in the amount of \$72,778.66 covering voucher #1049 thru #1110. The motion was seconded Trustee Strong. The motion was approved: St. Germain, Strong, Wilmer, and Gustafson, all voting in favor of the same.

### **RESOLUTION # 033-21**

### **SEWER FUND ABSTRACT APPROVAL**

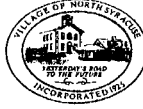
Trustee Wilmer made a motion to approve the Sewer Fund Abstract #20 in the amount of \$4,984.38 covering Voucher #15 and #16. The motion was seconded by Dep. Mayor Gustafson. The motion was approved: St. Germain, Strong, Wilmer, and Gustafson, all voting in favor of the same.

### **OLD BUSINESS:**

### **DISCUSS KITTY CORNER SVCS.-ATTENDING VLG. BD.**

**MTG.-MARCH 11, 2021 AT 6:30 PM**

The Mayor stated Kitty Corner Svcs. had volunteered to attend a Board meeting previously and



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because of Covid it has been way laid, but will be at the next meeting on March 11<sup>th</sup>, 2021. He continued they will explain what they do and why it would benefit the Village.

**PROBATION PERIODS EXTENDED OR SHORTENED NEED  
APPROVAL FROM THE APPOINTING AUTHORITY**

The Mayor stated the next item is to discuss extending or shortening probation periods, something that we have not done before. He continued going forward if there is an extension or shortening of the probation period for anyone who is hired by the Village; it needs to come before the Board for their approval, so it can be on the record. Much discussion went back and forth about the policies in the Personnel Policy, making upgrades to address some of the hiring concerns, the notification process of extending or shortening, the description as to who does this, the reporting to the county and identifying upfront when the initial hire is done. She stated it does say if you shorten or lengthen, it needs to be approved by the appointing authority.

**TRASH AS OF 6/01/2021-COMMERICAL BUSINESSES:  
ALLOWED (1) PAIR ONLY: NOTIFICATION**

The Mayor stated the next item on the agenda as of 6/1/2021 Commercial Businesses will be allowed only (1) Pair of Totes, 1 trash and 1 recycling. He continued we talked about it last meeting and are sending out 3 different notifications, we have been getting feedback, but none have been reported to him, that anyone is really upset. He stated they want to compare it with the cost of a dumpster versus coming up with the money for that add'l totes. Discussion went back and forth clarifying that it is not 1 set of totes for each business, it is for each address. The Board expressed some concern with wording of residence versus business, definition for commercial and commercial business, some expressed that some of the language should be changed while one suggested rescinding the new local law. Various examples were discussed whether tenants are renting apartments in multi-family buildings, or businesses are leasing space with sometimes multiple businesses to a building were allotted 1 set of totes per address and if more totes were needed, it was up to the landlord or property owner to provide those additional totes for them. Village Clerk-Treasurer Kufel stated this has been discussed a lot and as she recollects the examples given were: if there was a landlord, an owner of a property that had 5 businesses in one strip mall, that he because he is making money off of having the 5 businesses there, would only be allotted 1 set of totes and he would have to put forth to provide the other 4 sets of totes. She continued that is how it was explained; there was a spreadsheet with 64 businesses involved. She added the same with a multi-family, if there is somebody that owns a 3 family multi dwelling with 3 apartments, and the owner would be allotted the 1 set and he/she would have to provide for the other 2 sets for the tenants, because they are making money. The Mayor stated the



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building owner is the one who will be bearing the costs. Village Clerk-Treasurer Kufel explained that is how she thought, that there was a hierarchy over all the businesses and that person was making money off these businesses, these apartments; or whatever and was allotted 1 set, and they were going to have to provide for the others. The Mayor continued the letters did not go out to the tenants; they went to the property owners. He added he did not get the why Dog Daze would be an issue, as it does not cost them. He stated the guy that owns that property, owns other businesses in North Syracuse, and the tenants should be talking to the building owner; not us, not you. Village Clerk-Treasurer Kufel asked what the name of the grooming business in the back is and is she complaining that she does not have totes. Trustee Strong stated Brees. The Mayor asked why the Village should pay for a landlord who is making money; why should we pay for the extra totes. There was discussion about tenants being Village residents, supporting Village efforts, non-for-profits and property owners making money from tenants who do not pay taxes, but the property owner is paying taxes. The Mayor explained the whole reason for this is that the costs of trash are going up, and it is on us. He suggested picking whoever has a dumpster on their property, if there are 6 tenants; they all pitch in the dumpster. DPW Sup't Ware stated there are apartments up here with multiple units and they have a dumpster. He continued he understands that the renters are in the community, they are voting, spending money, but they are not paying property tax which was the original start of this was. Trustee Wilmer suggested that we set down and go through this issue one more time. Village Clerk-Treasurer Kufel stated she thought the whole thing came to fruition as our trash was costing us \$375,000 per yr. and now it is up to \$520,000 per yr., so that is what made this all come to light. She continued we talked about it for a good year, when we went to the automated trash, it is a wonderful svc. She added in the long run it ended up costing more money, because it is \$188 per stop that they do and before people could just put out lots of bags and a lot of people are needing more than the totes and we had some people that felt that they were way too big. She went on to say we have dealt with that over the year and it has just come to fruition that with this year's Budget it is going to be about \$520,000, so that is why this whole thing kind of surfaced.

**DISCUSS/APPROVE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING  
FOR TEAMSTERS 1149-SEPARATE SCHEDULE**

The Mayor stated the next item is to discuss and approve the Memorandum of Understanding for Teamsters 1149, we have a potential agreement. He postponed this until the atty. arrived. He announced the atty. has arrived, he shared that they have had negotiations back and forth with the Police Union and the Village Board; we have had a compromise. He added after the last meeting, he verbally communicated with the atty. that it looked like it was something that would work and sent out emails to the Trustees regarding the compromise and he thought we had a potential agreement; he has heard back from 2. He went on to say he followed up with the atty. He continued he has been



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working it and we have the agreement coming from the union, he asked if the atty. had it with him. Atty. Germain stated he did not, he had a discussion with Sarah requesting some changes, and she was going to check on her end and get back to him; he has not heard back from her yet. The Mayor stated we will push that out until the next meeting.

**DISCUSSION ON CROSSWALK AT LONERGAN PARK**

The Mayor continued the other item is Rt. 11; the work is going to be done. He added the crosswalk at Lonergan Pk. needs a transfer of a small piece of Village property that has got to go to the DOT and that is in the works as well. Atty. Germain stated he prepared a motion for it to pass. Village Clerk-Treasurer Kufel share the Village passed a motion January 28<sup>th</sup>, 2021, that authorized the Mayor to sign the agreement to transfer the deed of 225 sq. ft. at the Lonergan Pk. Entrance to the DOT with approval of Atty. Germain and if needed Atty. Germain will generate an agreement. Atty. Germain continued to comply with Federal and State Law, we have to do another motion that he prepared. He added it is a section of law for dealing with park grants; in this case we are even thou it is only a small piece that they are taking to put into the crosswalk in the sidewalk area. He explained you have to do an inquiry so to speak, §F-4 of the code, so he wrote it up for the Board to review and pass. The Mayor stated we will bring it up at our next meeting as we have time. Village Clerk-Treasurer Kufel asked if Ginna Miller was pressing for this. Atty. Germain stated he sent it to her as well. The Mayor continued it is up to the Board if the Board wanted to read it, we have already approved it and it needs to be signed. Atty. Germain stated basically it is an inquiry that says anytime that you are taking park land and the state wants to know that there is reason to take it, that there are no alternatives, are there certain things that we have to inquire about; it is a formal motion that he prepared. Trustee Wilmer stated it he has to approve it he really would like to read it first.

**DISCUSS "IDEAS" FOR COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT-\$50,000**

The Mayor stated next is to discuss ideas for Community Development, at the last meeting 2 things came to fruition, one is the sidewalk and the other is the Gazebo; nobody has come up with anything else and we have a little bit of time before we have to make the decision. Village Clerk-Treasurer Kufel stated it is April 2<sup>nd</sup>, she rec'd an email from Marty that we are eligible for the \$50,000, and we can apply for \$150,000; there is always that 2<sup>nd</sup> one we can apply for. The Mayor spoke of rather fierce competition for the \$150,000, the \$50,000 we just get. Trustee Wilmer asked if it could be used for the roof repairs. The Mayor added he thinks it could, the guidelines are pretty clear, but without having them in front of him; he cannot tell you. Trustee Wilmer spoke of talking about it a year ago, now we have 4 more years before we have to do something, if we did repairs to the roof. DPW Sup't Ware clarified that there were 2 small leaks. Trustee Wilmer stated it may be time to look at some of that



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too. The Mayor stated if we are going to do a roof, we would have the garage roof at Village Hall and DPW building. He continued we need to spec out and bid, there is quite a bit of time involved to get it drawn, and bid and we have until April 2<sup>nd</sup>; that is an idea, but he does not think we have the time to do that now. Trustee Strong stated of the email from Mrs. Franco that provided a description with about 7 potential processes, we have not had time to digest it, but spoke of putting it up on the Village Facebook; so folks could provide input as well to bring back to the meeting. He continued we talked very highly of the Gazebo, we do sidewalks each year, we try if there is an infrastructure project; those projects always get put to the back burner, because you try to make things last and stretch out as much as you can. The Mayor spoke of the AARP she mentioned. Trustee Strong asked if we denied for that last time. The Mayor stated yes, there are not as many awards, the competition is pretty fierce. He shared what he thought would make sense, if we were going to go for it would be the cross walk on South Bay Road, because it is geared toward seniors/walkable/bikeable community and that would fall under both of those categories for AARP.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**RESOLUTION # 034-21**

**DISCUSS/AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR TO SIGN AXON POLICE  
AGREEMENT FOR TASERS OVER 5 YEARS**

The Mayor stated we need to discuss and authorize the Axon Police Agreement for Tasers over 5 years, he knows that the Board was copied on that and basically some of the Tasers that we have are out of service; cannot get parts or batteries. He continued you cannot shop around; the manufacturer is the vendor and sole source. Trustee Strong made a motion to authorize the Mayor to sign the Axon Police Agreement for Tasers over 5 years. 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.

**RESOLUTION # 035-21**

**DISCUSSION ON COMMUNICATION HEADSETS  
TURNED OVER TO THE VILLAGE FOR \$1**

The Mayor stated next is communication headsets turned over to the Village for \$1; the Board rec'd a memo from the Fire Chief, basically it gives the firefighters the ability to communicate, with all the noise, sirens and everything when they get to the scene. He continued it is a \$30,000 purchase that the Fire Association made, and they want to turn it over to the Village for \$1. Trustee Wilmer made a motion to approve the turning over of the Communication Headsets to the Village for \$1 to include maintaining them. The motion was seconded by Trustee Strong. Dep. Mayor Gustafson asked if that means that the Village maintains them and what the maintenance involved. The Mayor stated yes. Dep. Chief Linnertz stated there should not be any maintenance in general; the only thing would be



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failures, wear, tear and did not think there would be much as there is no maintenance agreement that he is aware of. He added there might be a software upgrade in a couple of years, but it is what it is; it is more turning over to the Village and if there is any maintenance to be done, it is their equipment. Much discussion went back and forth regarding: cycle life about 10 yrs., county radio changes, when done with them would they want them back; Motorola no longer maintains or repairs them; he did not think they would want them back. Chief Becker stated the new radios are digital, so they are more expensive, but they were offered through United to take the Onondaga County Contract which brings them to \$1,300 apiece. The motion was approved: St. Germain, Strong, Wilmer, and Gustafson, all voting in favor of the same.

**RESOLUTION # 036-21**

**DISCUSS/AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR TO SIGN AGREEMENT  
BETWEEN CLAY/N. SYR. FIRE DEPT.-ENG. 4**

Trustee Wilmer made a motion to authorize the Mayor to sign the agreement between Clay and N. Syracuse Fire Dept. for Clay to borrow Eng. 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.

**RESOLUTION # 037-21**

**SET PUBLIC HEARING FOR LOCAL LAW #2-2021  
ALLOWING FOR A PROPERTY TAX CAP OVERRIDE**

Trustee Wilmer made a motion to set a public hearing to discuss Local Law #2-2021 allowing for a 2% Property Tax Cap Override to be held Thursday, March 11th, 2021 at 6:29 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.

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

**Ken Ryan of 211 Herman Dr.** stated the protocol distributed by Fire Dept. was not being followed when DPW got sick. The Mayor stated he believed that he was incorrect, because there was protocol that was being followed at DPW. He spoke of a concern with supervision.

**John Coleman of 232 Elm St.** spoke of being in favor of anything to deal with feral cats. He suggested bike lanes for electric bikes for Community Development. He added Tax Caps and discussing tax increases, a small piece for LOSAP, they add up to big tax increase at the end of the day; think hard about what we really need, before we go spending more money. He stated he agrees with Mayor (1) set of trash cans for Commercial, Landlords, etc.; owner can pay extra.



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

**ATTORNEY REPORT:** No Report.

**ENGINEER REPORT:** No Report (Absent).

**DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS:**

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

- **Justice Reform Update:** Onon. Cty. Justice Reform and Reinvention Collaborative Report is completed in draft form, been reviewed and on March 2<sup>nd</sup> Cty. Executive Meeting to be voted into Cty. Law. It then goes to the municipalities to be adopted by the municipality and meets Governor's Order 203 requiring Police reform state wide. NSPD independent reform report is completed and will be submitted to North Syracuse Village Board at the same time.
- **Justice Reform Update:** Feb. 18th the NSPD hosted a meet and greet of 15 residents and business owners who were interested in assisting without Police Reform project, by serving on a Citizen Police Committee. 11 have been selected to serve on as primaries on our Police Committee and have retained the remaining 4 to serve as alternates. 1st Meeting will be scheduled 3/8 or 3/9 to review both of the proposed plans for their input.
- So far for February: 1123 Total Calls for service, 600 Property Checks, 15 Domestic, 9 Motor Vehicle Accidents, 159 Traffic Stops, 69 Traffic tickets, 12 Arrests

**Fire Department: (Dep. Fire Chief: John Linnertz)** No Report.

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

- Continuing to work on equipment, and vehicles
- Cleaned out the excess snow in the walkways and between the businesses
- Bulk trash starts March 1<sup>st</sup>, 5 people have come in and pay for mattresses; all understanding that we are getting charged that fee and not making any money on them

**Parks and Recreation Department: (Parks Director: Anthony Burkinshaw)** He stated the following:

- Busy in Parks
- He thanked DPW Sup't Ware and his guys for helping him paint downstairs
- Have intern for 100 hrs. from S.U., if something you need, maybe can help with that
- Partnering with Family Festival Committee for Easter Bunny Drive thru on 4/3, residents only, pre-registering for event, will get a nice gift



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- Heritage Pk., partnering with 2 soccer groups; soccer shots Tuesday nights, Premier Soccer Mon., Wed., and Thurs., will be using Heritage field for practice
- Partner with local businesses promoting Dog Pk. for National Dog Days, Thurs, 8/26 Dog Event
- A lot going on, brought in over \$11,000 for month of February alone
- Things are starting to pick up now that things are opening up

**Codes Department: (CEO: Brian Johnstone) No Report (Absent).**

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

- Passed out Budget worksheets, trickling in, will get 1st Model out as soon as she can
- S.U. Intern started this week, same scenario of 100 hrs., affiliating with Mayor's Office and what is exciting back in her area
- Has a copy from final auditing and a copy for you, if you would like it; nicely bound packet, bottom line took \$31,000 out of the Fund Balance to Balance last yrs. Budget
- She reiterated Trash went from \$375,000 to \$520,000, quite steep; we initiated the charge for mattresses. All in all, we might end up with another \$30,000 to augment our trash costs if we charge for the add'l set of totes for the tax parcels involving businesses and multi-dwellings.

**DEPUTY MAYOR-TRUSTEES REPORT:**

**Trustee St. Germain:** She stated the following:

- She has been thinking a lot about the businesses, promoting businesses and keeping them going. She continued and us promoting 1 business a month, she thinks it is good; she has a suggestion and does not know if anyone else does, but is looking forward to getting it going. Parks Director Burkinshaw put something on Facebook that anyone could chime in on a local business that are in the Village. He knows that the Mayor has picked 1 for the month of March. The Mayors stated we have one and a nice little Certificate that recognizes a business. He asked how many letters for flowers went out. Village Clerk-Treasurer Kufel stated 165 -175. The Mayor continued so we have over 150 businesses in the Village, so if we do 1 a month it is going to take us a long time and he thought it was a good idea, something worth doing.

**Trustee Strong:** He stated the following:

- He was happy to see out pouring for support for citizens that wanted to get involved and responded back to some of the social media requests from the Police Dept. with the Police Reform with the Citizens Committee, it was nice to see a number of folks that wanted to get engaged and involved. He spoke of double digit folks watching on Facebook if unable to attend. Please continue to support, sending your questions, concerns and ideas.





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**Trustee Wilmer:** No Report.

**Dep. Mayor Gustafson:** No Report.

**MAYOR'S REPORT:**

He stated we have already spoken of Lonergan Pk. He continued he signed a couple of letters today to Clay and Cicero Supervisors thanking them for helping us out. He added we are also going to do letters to the DPW Superintendents of the 2 towns, plus Gary Wilmer, who was our sidewalk man; he did a nice job, he thought he enjoyed himself. He shared how encouraging it was when he made the call, yeah, whatever you need. He stated he sent out a letter to the 172-174 businesses thanking for past participation in flower donations, something that everyone appreciates. He continued because our Village is made up of mainly small businesses, we know that most of them are struggling, that we are not asking them for any donations this year; Village Clerk-Treasurer Kufel will find the money somewhere, she always does. He added so far we have gotten 3 businesses that have sent us checks, an individual and someone else has stated they are going to, that was not the intent, just to say thank you, but we are still getting some monies coming in. He went on to say it is going to be here before you know it, as soon as paving season starts, Rt. 11 is going to be one of the first ones out of the gate to, the contract has already been awarded for milling and repaving Rt. 11. He spoke of coming up with some kind of solution for the Dog Daze drainage, he is still talking about that with the engineer and DOT. He stated also no sidewalk work will be done this year; it is going to be the following year and it is going to be some ADA compliance on Rt. 11.

Trustee Wilmer made a motion to adjourn at 5:29 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

# VILLAGE OF NORTH SYRACUSE

## REGULAR BOARD MEETING

DATE: 2-25-21

### PLEASE SIGN IN

Name

Address

Tony Burkinshaw

Mayor Butterfield

Dianne Kufel

Fred Wilmer

Pat Gustafson

John Coleman

Pat Fergerson

Alto DeMarco

John Linker

KEN RYAN

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