



VILLAGE OF NORTH SYRACUSE

Regular Board Meeting

Thursday, February 11th, 2021 @ 6:28 PM

North Syracuse Community Center

600 South Bay Road, North Syracuse, NY

The Village of North Syracuse Regular Board Meeting began at 6:28 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, CEO Brian Johnstone, DPW Superintendent Ed Ware, Fire Chief Patrick Brennan, Parks Director Tony Burkinshaw, Police Chief William Becker, Village Attorney Robert Germain and Amy Franco Village Engineer.

Public Hearing #1: Please take notice that a public hearing will be held by the Board of Trustees of the Village of North Syracuse to change the Zoning designation for the property from R-9 to C-1 located at 407 S. Main Street and the Board will meet at said time and place and will hear all persons in support of or against.

The Mayor stated the applicant is applying for a zone change and plans to build apartments in this location that will require a zone change. He continued he believes a representative from Ianuzi & Romans will be present to explain and answer questions and he opened it up for discussion and dialogue. He asked the representative to give a presentation and stated after the presentation anyone that would like to speak for or against feel free. Mr. Coyer from Ianuzi and Roman referenced that map showing the existing St. Rose of Lima Church. He continued his client is looking to purchase a 1 acre parcel where the existing building is on the westerly corner of the property. He added they are looking to do a little subdivision to buy that piece of property to put apartments in. He stated in order to subdivide that property and get the apartments in there we have to go through the zone change process. He continued in November we were in front of the Zoning Board of Appeals for a couple of variances to allow this subdivision to go through, specifically a side yard and rear yard. He added those variances were only approved if we get the zone change approved; if we do not get the zone change approved those variances go away. He stated that is basically that is it, the existing building is going to have about an acre of land where the apartments are going to be, the remaining land will be about 5.2 acres where the church is. He spoke of concern by the fire dept. specifically about blocking anything off, on our plan we are not going to block any of the accesses off. He stated we are actually going to try to use, all of the existing pavement building just as it is today. He continued when they go into site plan they will be doing very little changes to the building and the parking, so it is going to be pretty much as it is today. It should be clear that this zone change will be rescinded if this project is not approved by the Planning Commission for site approval. The Mayor asked is there anyone from the public that would like to speak for or against. Trustee Strong stated that we have heard back



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from all of our department heads and he believes they got back to the fire dept. The Mayor asked is there anybody that would like to speak for or against; with no response the Mayor closed public hearing #1.

Public Hearing #2: The Board of Trustees of the Village of North Syracuse to consider the funding request for the Community Development Projects in the Village of North Syracuse and every year we have this opportunity. He continued if anyone would like to speak for or against any ideas for the Village or if the Board has any ideas, now is the time to speak. He added we get the money every year; we just have to determine how to put it to best use. Again, he asked is there anybody in the Community that would like to speak for or against, or anybody from the Board. Trustee Strong asked Mrs. Franco to speak on 3 or 4 of the projects potentially that we could do or have done in the past. Mrs. Franco stated most of the projects in the past have been sidewalk projects. She continued than any other parks projects that we have on our 5 yr. Plan, so the ones that we have for our last year's 5 yr. Plan were: 1) various sidewalk improvements, we listed 3 or 4 different ones throughout the Village, 2) a couple of drainage and roadway projects in various areas throughout the Village that we identified through DPW and the Parks Dept., 3) the Gazebo at the Comm. Ctr., 4) the Walkable Village Project which are the signs and the map that kind of incorporated Sleeth Pk. with the whole walkable area of the Village, 5) the Centerville Pk. restroom improvements. She continued if any of those sound viable for the application we can just move forward with this 5 yr. Plan or if there are any others that you want to add to the list, just to be on the list, it is good to have for future applications. Trustee Strong asked what the deadline was for submitting for this one. Mrs. Franco stated they have not released it yet, but it is usually mid-March, so we are kind of being preemptive, she spoke with Community Development and they did state that they are still doing the application, but they have not sent the information yet. The Mayor stated all three projects are ones we have tried. He continued we have been trying to get things done, the Walkable Village, the Gazebo, and then some other improvements. He added they are all worthwhile; we just have to make a determination. He asked if there were any other comments and with no response closed Public Hearing #2.

RESOLUTION # 024-21

APPROVAL OF BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Trustee Wilmer made a motion to approve the minutes (Facebook Livestreamed) from the January 28th, 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 # 025-21

GENERAL FUND ABSTRACT APPROVAL



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Dep. Mayor Gustafson made a motion to approve Abstract #19 in the amount of \$76,250.64 covering voucher #1005 thru #1048. The motion was seconded Trustee Strong. The motion was approved: St. Germain, Strong, Wilmer, and Gustafson, all voting in favor of the same.

RESOLUTION # 026-21

SEWER FUND ABSTRACT APPROVAL

Trustee Strong made a motion to approve the Sewer Fund Abstract #19 in the amount of \$31.51 covering Voucher #14. 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:

RESOLUTION # 027-21

**DISCUSS/AUTHORIZE A ZONE CHANGE FROM
R-9 TO C-1 AT 407 S. MAIN STREET**

Trustee Wilmer made a motion to approve the zone change to go from an R-9 to a C-1 for 407 S. Main Street. The motion was seconded by Trustee Strong. The Mayor stated it is his understanding that the existing building and existing site plan will stay the same; it is not like they are tearing down a building and building new. Dep. Mayor Gustafson clarified that they are just renovating. Mr. Coyer stated that is correct. Trustee Strong added they are adding to the tax rolls. The Mayor agreed. The motion was approved: St. Germain, Strong, Wilmer, and Gustafson, all voting in favor of the same.

RESOLUTION # 028-21

**DISCUSS/APPROVE SUBMITTAL FOR THE 2021
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT FUNDING**

The Mayor stated item on the agenda is to approve the submittal for the 2021 Community Development Funding, the Public Hearing has taken place and we have some good suggestions. He asked if this was to accept or choose. Mrs. Franco stated to choose, because you still have to do the application on it; you could still wait to the next meeting and she will email the list to everyone. Dep. Mayor Gustafson made a motion to table this until the next meeting. 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.

**TRASH AS OF 6/01/2021-COMMERICAL BUSINESSES:
ALLOWED (1) PAIR ONLY: 1ST LETTER MAILED THIS WK.**

The Mayor stated the next item on the agenda is just for information, as of 6/01/2021 the Commercial Businesses will be allowed 1 pair of totes. He continued the 1st letter was mailed this



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week. He added assuming we will get some correspondence back, it is our intent to do this because the costs of hauling trash keeps increasing to the Village; he would say more commercial businesses have their own dumpsters than not, we have been doing this for a long time and want to keep it fair so everybody is doing the same thing for commercial businesses.

**DISCUSS AGE REDUCTION FOR THE CURRENT LOSAP-
SERVICE AWARD PROGRAM FROM 62 TO 58**

The Mayor stated the next item is to discuss the age reduction for the current LOSAP (Length of Service Awards Program) basically is a benefit for the firefighters and currently the age starts at 62 and have requested to lower it to 58. He added the premium currently is approximately \$130,000 and would increase to \$175,000 - \$180,000 annually, for 10 consecutive years, if we approve. He stated our Village Clerk-Treasurer checked around with other municipalities that are Villages: Manlius is 60, Fayetteville is 55, and Town of Cicero went from 65 to 62. Trustee Wilmer made a motion to lower it to 58. The motion was seconded by Dep. Mayor Gustafson for discussion. Dep. Mayor Gustafson stated she has spoken to the Chief and suggested instead of going from 62 to 58; to go to 60, because it cuts the bill in half entirely for everybody, but just 2 yrs. Fire Chief Brennan stated a price of \$48,000 that was given to the Village Board and the Village would pay 1/3 of this cost. He asked for the Board support of letting it go to the public for their say with a referendum and the final vote is really going to be from the taxpayers. Much discussion went back and forth with Trustee Strong explaining the benefit to the members of the Fire Dept. Trustee St. Germain agreed with Dep. Mayor Gustafson. The Mayor thought in his opinion we should let the taxpayers decide. The Mayor stated there is a motion on the table and at some point we need to call the question and he had a question for council. He asked since Trustee Strong is a member of the fire dept. and this is eventually going to benefit him, can he still vote. Atty. Germain stated that decision is up to Trustee Strong. The Mayor called the question of all in favor of the motion as presented going to 58 from 62. The motion failed: Wilmer, and Butterfield, all voting in favor of the same. St. Germain and Gustafson, voted against. Trustee Strong, Abstained. Dep. Mayor Gustafson stated she is not against LOSAP, she is not against 2 yrs., she is against the 4 yrs. and Trustee St. Germain stated she feels the same.

DISCUSS THE VILLAGE CODE RELATING TO "PODS" ON RESIDENTIAL PROPERTIES

The Mayor stated this is for discussion only in relation to the PODS on residential properties. He continued CEO Johnstone has looked into this and created some new language. He added Atty. Germain has reviewed the language that CEO Johnstone has created and it looks good according to counsel. He stated we have not had a chance to absorb it yet, so we will take this up at our next meeting.



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NEW BUSINESS:

RESOLUTION # 029-21

**DISCUSS/APPROVE APPT. OF A PART-TIME CLERK POSITION -
TEMPORARY POSITION FOR SAFER GRANT**

Dep. Mayor Gustafson made a motion to approve the appointment of James Pett, II. for the Fire Dept. Part-time Clerk Position under the Safer Grant at \$18 per hour. 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.

CITIZENS' VOICE: The Mayor invited anyone that would like 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: No Report.

DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS:

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

- **Justice Reform Update:** NSPD posted a Survey through Survey Monday; to date approx. 279 completed the survey. Our Dept. Police Reform plan the Governor's office required is in its final draft and should be completed by end of February. February 18th, the County Program is being discussed at the CNY Chief's Assoc. Meeting.
- **Justice Reform Update:** To date, 23 responses from North Syracuse residents have been received expressing an interest in serving on the North Syracuse, Citizens Police Committee. In near future a date for first meet and greet will be announced. At that time, all 23 interested will be contacted and supplied the necessary information to attend. Due to COVID-19 restrictions it is not possible to make this meeting open to the general public due to capacity and social distancing restrictions.
- **Recognition:** Dec. 2020 the NSPD was given the honor of being recognized in the National FBI Law Enforcement Bulletin, as their Patch Call Police Department of the Month. Once each month the FBI recognizes two Police Departments in the United States for their community involvement and professionalism by placing their department patch with a description of its meaning, into their Patch Call section of their bulletin. On 1/8/2021 he received an email informing them an 11 x 13 poster of your patch including description, month and year was published on their site and would send to them, if wanted a poster with desired copies.



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- April 2021 NSPD will show its support of Autism Awareness Month by officers wearing our new patch that is symbolic to support those who suffer from Autism.
- October 2021 NSPD will continue to support Breast Awareness during the month.
- Month of January (finals): 1338 Total Calls for service, 797 Property Checks, 14 Domestic, 10 Motor Vehicle Accidents, 195 Traffic Stops, 97 Traffic tickets, 20 Arrests
- So far for February: 454 Total Calls for service, 228 Property Checks, 6 Domestic, 3 Motor Vehicle Accidents, 77 Traffic Stops, 40 Traffic tickets, 8 Arrests

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

- Fire Dept. responses and call volume are up
- He spoke of the benefit it would bring to the membership if we reduced the entitlement age for LOSAP would bring to the membership; and as a recruitment incentive to entice new members.

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

- We have 1 more employee that is still sick with the Covid
- He thanked the Town of Cicero, the Town of Clay, the former Superintendent Gary Wilmer, Trustee Fred Wilmer, and Brian Johnstone for helping out. It was an unexpected challenge that we went through and with the help of everybody we got through it and we are glad to be back. The Mayor stated he also expressed thanks to all of those that helped with this community effort. He thanked all of them and will be sending letters out.

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

- Finalized and booked the 8 concerts for the summer
- Rentals now allows taking reservations for parties up to 50 for the pavilions and Comm. Ctr.
- Money in acct. for judge's chambers to remodel and fix that up, he would like to transfer to get bids for lock system and Fobs for main entrance for Comm. Ctr.
 - This would allow getting away from key system to programed Fob use
 - Would allow people to only use facility for what their intended to use is for
 - If have upstairs, would be able to use, not downstairs, better way to secure building
 - Easier to manage as a lot of keys and people go through here, easier to secure it.

Much discussion went on regarding this budget or the new June 1st budget. The Mayor felt it should be done to address some of the issues that were taking place and secure the building. Parks Director Burkinshaw spoke of benefits to do manage from offsite if there was a problem. Trustee Strong stated he is supportive of not doing the Judge's chambers, he does not think it is necessary. Trustee St. Germain asked about the contract, security deposit and language change to let them know people would be stopping in to check. Park Director Burkinshaw spoke of the fee increases for non-residents,



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keeping open during pandemic at low rates, and reiterated we do have money in the Budget and he would like to get bids for the Board to look at. Trustee St. Germain stated she thinks looking at bids is a good idea.

Codes Department: (CEO: Brian Johnstone) He stated the following:

- After approval of zone change, depending on when paperwork is submitted, should go to Planning Comm. in May with the way dates fell with county
- Trash letters did go out and we have taken a handful of calls; mostly just informational, no one irate yet, he is sure that is coming.

Dep. Mayor Gustafson stated she rec'd a call from a person with (2) sets, plus she has an apartment and wondered if she has to pay for them if she is going to keep them or are they going to take them back. CEO Johnstone stated she probably called today. He explained if she has (2) and they are only allowed (1) set per address, she will have to pay for the 2nd set. Much discussion went back and forth about various scenarios and the amount of totes some residences have as well as businesses and the clarification of (1) set – a black and a green for each.

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

- W2's are out,
- We finished the 1099's
- She is in the final phase of preparing the Budget sheets to go out to all Depts. tomorrow
- She sent an email that they will have a separate list for their "**Capital Projects**", if there are several, you may want to prioritize them of what is the most important
- Been busy with: Public Hearings, finalizing the TAP Grant, the Community Development and different phases of that

DEPUTY MAYOR-TRUSTEES REPORT:

Trustee St. Germain: No Report.

Trustee Strong: He stated the following:

- He thanked the citizens who have volunteered to serve on the Police Justice Reform Committee. He is looking forward to meeting everyone and getting a chance to work with them. Kick off meeting is next Thursday. He thanked the Chief and Sgt. Tripp for the extra work he is taken on recruiting folks and getting information out in mass, KUDDOS Sgt. Tripp.
- He spoke of bringing ideas and thoughts specifically for Heritage Pk.; we have wonderful green spaces we are not utilizing in the winter at all. He spoke of the bombardier they bought and get



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a drag behind groomer; he thinks Heritage Pk. would be a great cross country skiing area with sq. footage and acreage we have there. He asked citizens if you are watching to reach out to Parks Director Burkinshaw or the Board members, we have the entire middle section of softball fields that are not being used, so just wasted space. He stated it would be great to have winter activities and all seasons covered for our residents. He thanked Parks Director Burkinshaw for the great job so far.

Trustee Wilmer: No Report.

Dep. Mayor Gustafson: No Report.

MAYOR'S REPORT:

He stated he had mentioned highlighting a business, and he was going to do that this month, but it got away from him. He continued he wants to do is monthly, highlight a local business and reach out to Parks and Rec. to see if they can work with us on that, and put it on Facebook or Social Media. He added if anybody has a recommendation for a business, some have been here for a very short time, others for a very long time; some have quite an operation and nobody knows. He added he thought it would be nice to promote our local businesses, not just the restaurants, but all businesses. He stated serving letters are going to be going out thanking the Towns for their help, our former DPW Sup't. got on the sidewalks and a couple of our own that helped out as well. He continued once we get a little further along we had a conversation a few meetings ago about Kitty Corner, that is the feral cats issue, so we are hoping to get somebody back here to give us a presentation. He added we have proceeded with the appraisal of Sta. #2. for the real estate value. He stated there was a request that came to him from Brolex Properties; those are the people that are developing the apartments the west side of Rt. 11, requesting a letter from the Mayor supporting the project in the thought of maybe going for a PILOT and some other benefits. He continued he asked him to send him a sample letter, but after he talked with him, he was not feeling real comfortable with that. He added he went back and looked at the minutes for the Planning and they stated they did not need that that the complex would stand alone, so he did not send the letter. He stated they called him back, and he stated he was having second thoughts, the project stands alone and then we write a letter of support, that costs the Village money, so he asked about a compromise. He continued so he sent a letter to OSIDA them that we in support of the project, but not a PILOT; he stated if they want to go for sales tax exemption and mortgage tax relief that does not impact us as much. He spoke of trying to put together a list of projects so that we could send them to our elected state officials, so we can come up with some requests for funding for 2 or 3 items. He continued he wanted to make sure that we have some "real" ideas, and some real potential numbers, before we send out a letter asking for money.



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The Mayor stated he would like to entertain a motion to go into executive session to discuss a personnel issue. He continued did not think they would be doing any business after executive session.

Dep. Mayor Gustafson made a motion to enter into **Executive Session** at 7:32 P.M. The motion was seconded by Trustee St. Germain. The motion was approved: St. Germain, Strong, Wilmer, and Gustafson, all voting favor of the same.

The Board came out of **Executive Session** at 8:00 PM.

Mayor Butterfield made a motion to return to **Regular Session** at 8:01 P.M. The motion was seconded by Dep. Mayor Gustafson. The motion was approved: St. Germain, Strong, Wilmer, and Gustafson, all voting favor of the same.

Trustee Strong made a motion to adjourn at 8:02 PM. The motion was seconded by Trustee Wilmer. 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

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REGULAR BOARD MEETING

DATE: 2-11-21

PLEASE SIGN IN

Name

Address

Tony Burkinshaw

Diana Kugel

Pat Hustedson

Tim Coyer

Laurozi & Bonasus

C. Butterfield

A. Franco

J. Coleman

Elm Street

A. Lioto

356 Chestnut

B. Jounstowicz