

## **VILLAGE OF NORTH SYRACUSE**

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

Thursday, September 26th, 2024 @ 5:30 PM

**North Syracuse Community Center**

**600 South Bay Road, North Syracuse, NY**

***Facebook Livestreamed***

The Village of North Syracuse Regular Board Meeting began at 5:30 P.M. with Mayor Gary Butterfield asking everyone to join him in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Roll Call:** Mayor Gary Butterfield, Dep. Mayor Gustafson, Trustee John Bolton, Trustee Chris Strong.

**Personnel Present:** Village Clerk/Treasurer D. Kufel, DPW Superintendent Ed Ware, Dep. Chief J. Asztalos, Engineer A. Franco

**Personnel Absent:** Trustee LouAnn St. Germain (Excused), Codes Director Larry Nestell (Excused), Parks Director Tony Burkinshaw (Excused) and Village Attorney Robert Germain (Excused).

### **RESOLUTION #186-24**

### **APPROVAL OF REG. BD. MTG. – SEPTEMBER 12, 2024**

Dep. Mayor Gustafson made a motion to approve the minutes (Facebook Livestreamed) from the September 12, 2024, Board Meeting. The motion was seconded by Trustee J. Bolton. The motion was approved: Gustafson, Strong and Bolton, all voting in favor of the same.

### **RESOLUTION #187-24**

### **GENERAL FUND ABSTRACT APPROVAL**

Trustee Stong made a motion to approve General Fund Abstract #8 in the amount of \$267,847.95 covering voucher #525 thru #599. The mayor indicated the Asphalt Invoice for paving and Mower payment 3 of 3 are included. The motion was seconded by Dep. Mayor Gustafson. The motion was approved: Strong, Bolton, and Gustafson, all voting in favor of the same.

### **RESOLUTION #188-24**

### **BUDGET TRANSFER (S)**

Trustee Strong made a motion to transfer monies in the amount of \$785.64 from A3389H – Tech Grant - Police to A3120.21 Portable Radios - Police. The motion was seconded by Trustee St. Bolton. The motion was approved: Strong, Bolton and Gustafson, all voting in favor of the same.

### **RESOLUTION #189-24**

### **BUDGET TRANSFER (S)**

Deputy Mayor Gustafson made a motion to transfer monies from A3389H – Tech Grant – Police in the amount of \$2625.00 to A3120.27 Traffic Data Collector. The motion was seconded by Trustee Strong. The motion was approved: Strong, Bolton and Gustafson, all voting in favor of the same.

### **RESOLUTION #190-24**

### **BUDGET TRANSFER (S)**

Trustee Bolton made a motion to transfer monies from A3389Q – Police SLETPP Grant, in the amount of \$6252.40 to A3120.21 Vehicle Computers. The motion was seconded by Trustee Strong. The motion was approved: Strong, Bolton and Gustafson, all voting in favor of the same.



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**RESOLUTION #191-24**

**BUDGET TRANSFER (S)**

Trustee Strong made a motion to transfer monies from A3389H – Tech Police Grant, in the amount of \$373.07 to A3120.211 Police Computers. The motion was seconded by Trustee Bolton. The motion was approved: Strong, Bolton and Gustafson, all voting in favor of the same.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**COMM. DEV. 2023 HERITAGE/PICKLEBALL/LIGHTING GRANT**

The Mayor gave an update on the Community Development 2023 Monies. Grant award was \$87,051. To date we have spent \$81,544. Tony is also looking at Benches for the Dog Park, additional seating outside the Dog Park area.

**COMM. DEV. 2022 COMMUNITY CTR. BASEMENT/DRAINAGE GRANT**

The Mayor gave an update on the Community Development 2022 Monies. Grant award was \$50,000. To date we have spent \$50,000.00. Grant is done.

**UPDATE ON 444 S. MAIN STREET**

The Mayor gave an update on 444 S. Main Street. They are there, making progress. They have a paver under contract since beginning of October. They finished the back of bldg., working on lift, and front of bldg. The Mayor and the New Codes officer met with one of the owners last week. The Codes officer met with them this week as well.

**UPDATE ON 115 CHESTNUT STREET**

The Mayor gave an update regarding 115 Chestnut Street. He met with the Fire Chief on Monday to confirm a few details. A meeting was set up on Wednesday morning to do a walk thru with CHA. We are moving forward with the demolition of the property. National Grid secured and cut power to the premises today. The demolition company has been waiting for that confirmation. We are waiting for one letter to be received regarding this.

**UPDATE ON 304-306 S. MAIN STREET**

The Mayor gave an update regarding 304-306 S. Main Street. Its going to now be called "The Bite". It was scheduled to begin the first week of October. There has not been a lot of activity yet. An inspection will have to be done for a Certificate of Compliance. Trustee Strong asked about the side of the building clean up. He referenced how nasty it looks, especially to the residents on Palmer Ave. The Mayor stated he had talked with the restaurant owner and will reach out to the building owner to discuss clean up again.



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**UPDATE ON MICKEY'S BAIT SHOP**

The Mayor gave an update on Mickey's Bait Shop. The project started this Monday. They are doing exterior improvements. They want to install a new sign. The Mayor informed them that they would need a Sign Permit if installing a new sign.

**UPDATE ON FINANCIAL DISCLOSURE FORMS**

The Mayor gave an update on the Board of Ethics panel requirements for Employees and Department Heads of the Village. The Mayor asked if the Board had a chance to review the revised forms. Dep. Mayor asked if it was necessary. Clerk Treasurer D. Kufel stated the Town of Clay had the long forms filled out by employees. The Mayor stated Attorney Germain recommended the requirement to fill out these forms. Trustee Bolton stated he was under the impression the disclosures pertained to only the businesses we have an affiliation with. Trustee Strong stated he believes the spirit of the intent is to weed out any issues that may arise with employees of the Village. Trustee Strong also stated that the Village needs to take action as NYS directed this requirement about 2 ½ years ago after some issues arose from Westchester. Dep. Mayor Gustafson expressed reservations due to the perceived invasion of personal finances.

**UPDATE ON THE TREE BOARD**

The Mayor gave an update on the removal of the tree at 215/217 Wells Ave. East. The Mayor asked Trustee Strong if he has had a chance to look at the tree, he stated he has not. The issue will be discussed when at the next meeting.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**UPDATE ON FIRE DEPT BUDGET 2025/2026**

The Mayor discussed the budget provided by the Fire Dept. for FY 2025/2026. The administrator prepared the budget. The budget has increased by \$23,000.00 per town. The Chief pointed out a few things out to him. The Mayor stated we just review the budget now. The budget is not approved until January/February 2025 when the Village as a whole has our budget numbers together from each department. There were no further questions regarding this matter.

**UPDATE ON TREE – 462. S. MAIN STREET**

The Mayor updated the issue with the dead tree on 462 S. Main Street. The Mayor stated he feels the DOT is responsible for the tree. Pat Ferguson stated she has a contact for the DOT. DPW Sup't Ed Ware will reach out to the contact for guidance.

**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.



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**Susan Rao of 460 S. Main Street** stated she is one of 252 tenants at the Woodwind Garden Apts. She has lived there since 11/17/2023. The Corporate owners in New Jersey have charged her an additional \$50.00 each month along with her security deposit. She contacted NYS and was informed this is a violation. She had to request, through multiple forums within the apartment owners, to be credited the \$50.00 she has been paying each month. She did get the credit, but has now been retaliated against as the owners informed her they will not be renewing her lease. She has informed all of her neighbors by providing documentation for them to request a refund, at her own expense. She is on a fixed income and cannot afford to move. She has been told to contact her Assemblyman to try and seek help with this situation. She strongly feels the owners should not be allowed to not renew her lease based on their violation of her rights as a tenant. The Mayor said the Village, unfortunately, does not have the right to get involved in rent issues. The Mayor said that she should contact her Assemblyman for help with this issue.

**Pat Fergerson of 215 S. Main Street** gave an update on the planning of the 100<sup>th</sup> Year Anniversary Celebration. The banner project is underway. She thanked John and Tony for their help. The newspapers will be running ads, residents will be writing articles. Other things will be forthcoming.

**ATTORNEY REPORT:** (Robert Germain): No Report (Excused).

**ENGINEER REPORT:** (Amy Franco): No Report.

**DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS:**

**Public Works Department:** (DPW Sup't: Ed Ware): No Report

**Fire Department:** (Dep. Chief J. Asztalos): He stated the following:

- The Fire Dept. continues to serve the Village and two towns.
- The Fire Dept. appreciates the Village support regarding the Budget. Big expenses are coming in the near future. The Dept. wants to make sure to be fiscally responsible.
- Annual safety day coming in October. Anyone interested can come to the Firehouse to experience the many safety events that are planned.

**Police Department:**(Chief Fieldson): He stated the following:

- The Dept. had a domestic standoff that lasted about 5 hours. The suspect was arrested safely in that incident.
- An overnight break in incident. The officers arrived in one minute. A stolen vehicle was recovered that the suspects arrived in. One individual was a juvenile. Unfortunately, these situations are becoming far too common.



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- This weekend he had an opportunity to speak with some older members of the community at the Community Center. The focus was on Fraud, Scams in order to help people as police officers. Mr. Robinson always requests that police officers attend the first few minutes of the AARP classes so we can convey new information and tactics that scammers are using to prey on older adults.
- The Dept. was just notified that we received the Federal award of \$4200.00 for Bullet Proof Vest purchases. This award is up from last years \$2500.00, and is very much appreciated.
- Yesterday, we attended the Open House of the Office of Personnel Mgmt. We were able to see the new facility they have.
- Thoughts and prayers go out to the friends and family members of Oswego County Sheriff's Deputy Cailee Campbell who recently passed away in a vehicle accident while on duty in the Town of Volney.

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

- We have switched the Workers Compensation Companies. We are going with the Comp Alliance effective June 1, 2024. This time of year they do an analysis and give out awards for following safety guidelines. We haven't had any accidents in years, until this year. I was surprised but we did get an award via check for \$560.
- For next years budget, retirement is going up again for the employees' retirement system. Premiums are going up from 15.2% to 16.5%. For every dollar we pay the employee for remuneration, it will cost a 16.5 cents for retirement. Police and Fire will be from 31.2% to 33.7%. For every dollar of remuneration per employee we will be paying 33.7 cents per dollar.

**Parks and Recreation Department: (Parks Dir. Anthony Burkinshaw):** No Report (Excused)

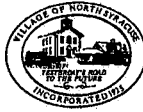
**Codes Department: (Codes Director L. Nestell):** No report (Excused)

**DEPUTY MAYOR-TRUSTEES REPORT:**

**Trustee Strong:** No report

**Trustee Bolton:** He stated the following:

- He has been working with a company called Bus Control. They equip buses with cameras to help enforce safety regarding school buses. They help enforce fines when vehicles pass school buses unlawfully. The fine is approximately \$250.00 of which the Village/Town would get 40% of that back for their community. Village responsibility is that we have to pass a Local Law at some point in the future. The



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- Company would then install all of the cameras. Emails went out to everyone with attachments outlining the program. Chief Fieldson can tell you that they have a patrolman on Taft Road and it is amazing how many cars do not stop for School Buses. Studies show that 96% of drivers who get a ticket for this infraction will never do it again. He has a meeting on Tuesday with Matt Conte, Dir. of Transportation. He has already verbally given me affirmation that he loves this program. More to come.
- He is looking into having the DPW mow residents' lawns, however they may be too busy each summer. Robert Germain has done this with East Syracuse, and he is looking into doing this with us. A third company is utilized to cut their lawns, the resident pays via taxes. The Village will realize approximately 25% of that revenue.
- Hats off to Tony for all the work he has been doing on the Banners for the Celebration

**Trustee St. Germain:** no report (excused)

**Deputy Mayor Gustafson:** no report

**MAYOR'S REPORT:**

The Mayor stated Contract negotiations are continuing with Police 1149. We are passed our contract date, May 31, 2024. We have had two or three meetings, and are scheduling another one. The elevator at the Community Center is repaired, it is working. We are looking into installing a new elevator. Quickly coming up on our 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. We had a meeting regarding the Fire Dept. addition and CHA. We toured the Fire Dept. yesterday. In order to move forward, we are looking for a budget number from them to start this process. We have a report outlining needs and usage. The house is scheduled to be demoed soon. It will be a lengthy process but should begin soon. Trustee Strong inquired about who was at the meeting.

Dep Mayor Gustafson made the motion to move into Executive Session at 6:10 P.M. The motion was seconded by Trustee Bolton. The motion was approved: Gustafson, Bolton, and Strong all voting in favor of the same. Trustee Bolton made the motion to return back to Regular Session at 7:16 P.M. The motion was seconded by Dep Mayor Gustafson. The motion was approved: Gustafson, Bolton, and Strong all voting in favor of the same. Trustee Strong made the motion to adjourn at 7:16 P.M. The motion was seconded by Dep Mayor Gustafson. The motion was approved: Gustafson, Bolton, and Strong all voting in favor of the same.

Respectfully submitted:

Dianne M. Kufel - Village Clerk-Treasurer

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REGULAR BOARD MEETING

DATE: Sept. 26th, 2024

PLEASE SIGN IN

NAME

ADDRESS

SUSAN  
Mary Hewitt  
Pat Ferguson

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