



VILLAGE OF NORTH SYRACUSE

Regular Board Meeting

Thursday, February 13th, 2025 @ 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 Butterfield asking everyone to join him in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call: Mayor Butterfield, Deputy Mayor Gustafson, Trustee John Bolton, and Trustee Chris Strong.

Personnel Present: Clerk/Treasurer D. Kufel, Deputy Fire Chief J. Asztalos, Police Chief C. Fieldson, DPW Supt. E. Ware, Codes Dir. L. Nestell, Engineer A. Franco, and Village Atty. N. Germain.

Personnel Absent: Parks Dir. A. Burkinshaw, Trustee Lou Ann St. Germain (Excused).

The Mayor introduced guest speaker Fick Neeley to discuss the Sculpture design made possible by the Cultural Arts Grant. Mr. Neeley stated his Grandfather was a veteran, and spent time at Sweetheart Corner. He wanted to incorporate the history of this meeting space in his interactive design. The Sculpture will be placed in Goettel Park, and unveiled at the 100 Year Celebration.

RESOLUTION #018-25

APPROVAL OF REG. BD. MTG. – JANUARY 23, 2025

Trustee Strong made a motion to approve the minutes (Facebook Livestreamed) from the January 23, 2025, Board Meeting. The motion was seconded by Dep. Mayor Gustafson. The motion was approved: Gustafson, Strong, and Bolton all voting in favor of the same.

RESOLUTION #019-25

GENERAL FUND ABSTRACT APPROVAL

Deputy Mayor Gustafson made a motion to approve General Fund Abstract #18 in the amount of \$197,111.12. covering voucher #1105 thru #1191. The motion was moved to discussion by Trustee Bolton. Discussion continued regarding the Gladd Security Invoice for \$370.00. Trustee Bolton stated the Gladd Security Invoice was removed in a previous Abstract by a motion. Discussion ensued regarding the particulars of this bill, and its ties to a Fire Dept. FOIA request. After much discussion, the motion was made to approve the Abstract. Dep Mayor Gustafson voted Yay, Trustee Bolton and Strong voted Nay. The motion failed. Trustee Strong made a motion to approve Abstract #18 with the Gladd Security invoice of \$370.00 removed. The motion was seconded by Trustee Bolton. Dep. Mayor Gustafson voted Nay. The motion failed.

RESOLUTION #020-25

SEWER FUND ABSTRACT APPROVAL

Trustee Strong made a motion to approve Sewer Fund Abstract #18 in the amount of \$31.25 covering voucher #13. The motion was seconded by Dep. Mayor Gustafson. The motion was approved: Strong, Bolton, and Gustafson, all voting in favor of the same.



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RESOLUTION #021-25

BUDGET TRANSFER (S)

Dep. Mayor Gustafson made a motion to transfer monies in the amount of \$16,000.00 from A3389E-Police SLETP Grant (Tripp) to A3120.21-Police Emergency Vehicle Equipment. Grant monies facilitated by former Sgt. J. Tripp for SRT/BWC to cover in car system video. The motion was seconded by Trustee Strong. The motion was approved: Gustafson, Bolton and Strong all voting in favor of the same.

RESOLUTION #022-25

BUDGET TRANSFER (S)

Trustee Bolton made a motion to transfer monies in the amount of \$600.00 from A3620.411-Codes Office Supplies to A3620.27-Codes New Cabinet. The motion was seconded by Dep. Mayor Gustafson. The motion was approved: Gustafson, Bolton and Strong all voting in favor of the same.

RESOLUTION #023-25

BUDGET TRANSFER (S)

Trustee Strong made a motion to transfer monies in the amount of \$1,005.39 from A3620.15-Codes Vacation Back per Contract to A3620.476-Vehicle Parts and Maintenance. The motion was seconded by Dep. Mayor Gustafson. The motion was approved: Gustafson, Bolton and Strong all voting in favor of the same.

RESOLUTION #024-25

BUDGET TRANSFER (S)

Trustee Strong made a motion to transfer monies in the amount of \$160.00 from A3620.466-Codes Training to A3620.27-Codes Cabinet. The motion was seconded by Trustee Bolton. The motion was approved: Gustafson, Bolton and Strong all voting in favor of the same.

RESOLUTION #025-25

BUDGET TRANSFER (S)

Trustee Strong made a motion to transfer monies in the amount of \$977.71 from A3389W-Police Tech Grant to A3120.21-Police Emergency Equipment for applicable purchase. The motion was seconded by Dep. Mayor Gustafson. The motion was approved: Gustafson, Bolton and Strong all voting in favor of the same.

RESOLUTION #026-25

BUDGET TRANSFER (S)

Trustee Strong made a motion to transfer monies in the amount of \$8500.00 from A3410.120-Admin.



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2 Payroll Fire to A3410.417-Misc. Supplies to cover Labor Service for Admin. Clerk. The motion was seconded by Trustee Bolton. The motion was approved: Gustafson, Bolton and Strong all voting in favor of the same.

RESOLUTION #027-25

BUDGET TRANSFER (S)

Dep. Mayor Gustafson made a motion to transfer monies in the amount of \$414.31 from A2615P-DWI Revenue to A3120.143-DWI Overtime Shifts. The motion was seconded by Trustee Strong. The motion was approved: Gustafson, Bolton and Strong all voting in favor of the same.

RESOLUTION #028-25

BUDGET TRANSFER (S)

Trustee Strong made a motion to transfer monies in the amount of \$8,086.59 from A3389V-Heritage Pickle Ball Revenue to A7110.23-Expenses for Heritage Grant. The motion was seconded by Dep. Mayor Gustafson. The motion was approved: Gustafson, Bolton and Strong all voting in favor of the same.

OLD BUSINESS:

UPDATE ON DASNY GRANT/FIRE STATION 1 ADDITION

The Mayor stated meetings are continuing with the Fire Dept. and CHA to work out the renovation and addition to Station 1.

UPDATE ON STATUS OF THE RENTAL REGISTRY

The Mayor stated we are continuing to make progress on the Rental Registry. The Mayor also stated he received an email from Onondaga County regarding a \$2,000,000.00 Grant that was received. This Grant is for aiding rental properties that are in sad shape in the Village. There are guidelines that need to be met, but monies will be available if we find properties that fit the criteria.

NYS MANDATE WEBSITE CHANGE TO .GOV

The Mayor stated progress is continuing to be made regarding the NYS mandate to make the website change to a .gov domain by 12/31/2026.

RESOLUTION #029-25

TOWN OF CICERO HIGHWAY MAINT. INTERMUNICIPAL AGREEMENT

The Mayor stated the Shared Services Agreement has been modified and DPW Sup't Ware has reviewed and approved the Agreement.



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Dep. Mayor Gustafson made a motion to authorize the Mayor to sign the Town of Cicero Highway Maintenance Intermunicipal Shared Services Agreement. The motion was seconded by Trustee Strong. The motion was approved: Gustafson, Bolton and Strong all voting in favor of the same.

RESOLUTION #030-25

TOWN/CICERO FIRE CONTRACT AGREEMENT 2025/2026

Trustee Bolton made a motion to authorize the Mayor to sign the Town of Cicero Fire Contract Agreement with the Villag – 2025 Town and FY 2025/2026. The Fire Contract has been reviewed by the Fire Dept. and they are in agreement. The motion was seconded by Dep. Mayor Gustafson. Trustee Strong abstained from the vote. The motion was approved: Gustafson, Bolton, and Mayor Butterfield all voting in favor of the same.

NEW UNIFORM CODE/ENERGY CODE EFFECTIVE 12/20/2022

The Mayor advised the Board the Codes Officer is conferring with the Village Attorney to add the necessary verbiage to ensure correctness to the Village code. They are continuing to make progress and will be presenting it to the Board, who will then need to review and adopt into Local Law.

NEW BUSINESS:

RESOLUTION #031-25

HIRE M. WOLFE/POLICE CLERK AIDE EFFECTIVE 2/15/2025

Dep. Mayor Gustafson made a motion to authorize the hiring of M. Wolfe to fill Police Clerk Aide Position effective 2/15/2025 @ \$15.84/hourly. The motion was seconded by Trustee Strong. The motion was approved: Gustafson, Bolton and Strong all voting in favor of the same.

RESOLUTION #032-25

APPROVE CHA/SSF&PR AGREEMENT

Trustee Bolton made a motion to approve the CHA/SSF&PR Agreement. Deputy Mayor Gustafson seconded the motion, and requested to open for discussion. Dep. Mayor Gustafson asked for clarification on the only change to the Agreement is that Sara can help the Village with Fire Grants, and any Village wide grants. The Mayor stated this Agreement will not exceed \$13,500 at a rate of \$125.00/hr. This Agreement allows for a variety of different grant opportunities. The Mayor explained that the Agreement allows the Village to utilize Grant expert, Sara, through CHA. She will be aiding in the Grant process for all Depts. of the Village. The Mayor stated he reached out to Engineer Franco for clarification. A. Franco stated there will be no other charges assessed through them for her services. Trustee Bolton asked for clarification on what Agreement was being signed. Engineer Franco explained the Agreement allows for the Services Sara would be providing with the Fire Grants, as well as future Grants. A. Franco stated the reason for the cap, and the Agreement being made through CHA



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is because the Village would benefit greatly with the coordination between them for many grants. It would enable CHA to coordinate/share documents and information beneficial for each grants that has already been obtained such as plans, details etc. A. Franco stated the Agreement would give the Village the best opportunity to move forward, especially with the DASNY Grants. The motion was approved: Gustafson, Bolton and Strong all voting in favor of the same.

RESOLUTION #033-25

HIRING SEASONAL PARKS P/T LABORER D. NEWTON

Trustee Strong made a motion to approve the hiring of Laborer D. Newton effective 2/8/2025 at \$18/hr. to assist with the Comm. Ctr. cleaning and upkeep. The motion is to replace the previous hiring of D. Newton effective 1/4/2025. The motion was seconded by Trustee Bolton. The motion was approved: Gustafson, Bolton, and Strong all voting in favor of the same.

RESOLUTION #034-25

APPROVE CULTURAL ARTS AGREEMENT

Trustee Strong made a motion to authorize the Mayor to sign the Agreement with the Artist for the Cultural Arts Project. This Cultural Arts project will tie into the 100th Anniversary celebration. The motion was seconded by Dep. Mayor Gustafson. The motion was approved: Gustafson, Bolton and Strong all voting in favor of the same.

2024 VIP VILLAGE PUBLIC IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS-SALES TAX REVENUE

The Mayor informed the Board the Annual report was completed by Clerk/Treasurer Kufel demonstrating \$748,000.00 was spent by the Village for trees/tree removal, garbage/trash removal, street lighting etc. Monies reimbursed by the County from Sales Tax revenue, cannot be sent unless the Annual report is completed.

2025 PROJECTED VIP VILLAGE PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT

The Mayor informed the Board of the prepared packet of the projected expenses for the upcoming year of Public Improvement projects. Packets were provided to the Board prior to the meeting.

RESOLUTION #034-25

ESTABLISH POLLING PLACE/TIME FOR JUNE 17, 2025 VILLAGE ELECTION

Dep. Mayor Gustafson made a motion to establish the Community Center for the June 17, 2025 Village Elections polling place from 12:00 PM to 9:00 PM. The motion was seconded by Trustee Strong. The motion was approved: Gustafson, Bolton and Strong all voting in favor of the same.

BID FOR TRASH REMOVAL CONTRACT



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The Mayor informed the Board that continuing progress is being made to gather guidelines and specifications for the upcoming Trash Removal/Pickup bid proposal. The Village is working with Onondaga County to help with the bid process. Many variables are required to be included in the bid specifications.

SMALL RURAL TRIBAL BODY WORN CAMERA GRANT

The Mayor informed the Board that \$16,000.00 was received for the Grant previously applied for by Sgt. J. Tripp. Originally, the Grant was applied for a lesser amount, however, Police Chief Fieldson requested additional funds that was granted and received this month.

CITIZENS VOICE: The Mayor invited anyone that would like to share concerns or thoughts could address the Board.

Pat Ferguson of 215 S. Main Street informed the Board that she is speaking on behalf of the Anniversary committee. She thanked the Board for the presentation of Artist Fick Neely. She stated he also has a website fickneely.com if anyone is interested in seeing any of his additional work. She stated he is very talented.

Vera Desimone of 304 Belmore Drive wanted to repeat what Pat stated. She is very excited about the Sculpture, and the 100 Year Anniversary celebration. The committee is working very hard on making the 100th Anniversary a very special day.

John Linnertz works at 109 Chestnut Street informed the Board that he received an invoice from the Village Clerk for a FOIL request, and had a response that he shared with all the Board members.

DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS:

ENGINEER REPORT: (Amy Franco): No report.

ATTORNEY REPORT: (Nick Germain): No report.

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

- Thanked the Board for the approval of hiring P/T clerk Michelle Wolf for the Front Office, she will be a great asset to our department.
- Statistics for month of January: 1,271 total events, 496 property checks, 27 domestic incidents, 17 motor vehicle crashes, 407 traffic stops, 23 criminal arrests, and 5 DWI arrests. There was a notably high domestic incidents, as well as arrests for the month of January.
- The Department reached out to a Non-Profit company named Community Bikes. They were able to donate 40 unclaimed bikes to the company. They refurbish them and give them to adults and children who may have a financial hardship and are not able to purchase bikes on their own. They also give bike locks and helmets to them as well.



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- The Chief highlighted the many issues the officers face on a daily basis, even though we are a small municipality. He spoke of incidents just since Super Bowl Sunday that involved, drunk driving, disturbances with knife/guns, also assistance with an eviction notice by the County that involved a person they are aware of that had an illegal firearm. He highlighted the dangers the officers are encountering on a daily basis.
- The Chief informed the Board he received an email yesterday from a citizen who was rescued by one of the officers when he was found in a snowbank.

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

- He stated to men and women of the Fire Dept. have responded to 99 calls of service.
- He wanted to thank the other Depts. for their partnership including: Tony (Parks) and Ed, and Joel (DPW). The Firefighter Association, through fundraising, purchased a piece of playground equipment designed to mirror Engine 4. They are all coordinating to get this piece installed before the 100th Anniversary. Also, thanking the DPW for helping to remove the heavy piece and put in storage until the Spring.
- He thanked the Mary at the Police Dept. for sharing the course content of the Social Media Principles for 1st responders.
- He stated that on Tuesday 1/28 the department hosted a 1st Responders Mental Hlth/Wellness clinic. It was attended by Police Depts, Onon. Cnty. 911 Call Center, and various other agencies. He stated this is a topic that is not talked about often, but is greatly needed.
- He highlighted recent incidents the Dept. has experienced. There was a recent alarm involving a fire with which there was a roof collapse. It involved multiple agencies, and stated some of their own dept. firefighters were in that building when it collapsed, thankfully all are safe. There was also a collision involving one of the trucks, when a pick-up truck pulled out in front of the firetruck which was responding to the call, thankfully no one was hurt.
- He highlighted the fact that the dept. is 100 % volunteer. The cost estimate for one company, which is 4 volunteer firefighters is approximately 1.4 million dollars.
- He asked the Board to honor the Firefighter in Binghamton who recently lost his life responding to a call with a moment of silence.

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

- Last year the Dept. responded to 454 Dig Safe Requests. Of that, 18 were emergencies which include gas leaks, or anything dangerous to life and property.
- Last year, on January 20, 2024, we ordered rock salt that we store at the NYS Barn. On 4/29/2023 our reserves were cut from 1300 to 1000, on 11/23/2024 the reserves were cut from 1000 to 800, and again cut from 800 – 700. He just attended a Highway Supt. Meeting and was made aware that everybody is hurting for salt, no municipalities can get any. American Rock Salt has extended themselves too far, and there are no other businesses selling Rock Salt. He stated that



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are talking about just salting intersections, curves, and hills. We have enough for the immediate future, and are supposed to be getting an emergency shipment, but there are no guarantees. Just informing the Board and the Public to make them aware of the situation. Unfortunately, everyone is in the same boat.

Codes Department: (Codes Director L. Nestell): He stated the following:

- Store America agreed to install impervious roadways to meet Onon. County Planning Boards recommendations, and our local Planning Boards desires. This is in order to meet the Storm Water runoff for SWPPS.
- Akina Restaurant is meeting inspection goals. Larry and Fire Chief Brennan were able to get the dumpster moved from the front of the building to the back of the building.
- He stated he was recently in court regarding the property at 517-519 S. Main St. For the second time the Judge gave the owner a 30-day reprieve to comply. He will be providing a letter of recommendation to the Board that the property be demolished. That will initiate a court date. In his opinion the building can barely hold itself up.
- Ling-Lings is dated to reopen the last weekend before March. They are in process of re-installing an entire fire suppressions system. They will then have it tested. Our Fire Inspector will then go in and review. I will do a final walk through with our Fire Chief, and some of his people to ensure they meet current fire code.
- Brolex work is progressing daily. They have completed everything I have asked to date, and are currently on a good trajectory to completion in June/July. They are meeting my expectations, as well as NYS expectations.
- 118 Grove St. I gave them an ultimatum that they had one week to figure out a sale, or we would go back to the previously Board approval of demolition of the home. He finalized the sale of the property to a contractor. An Architecture contacted Larry and a planned walk through with what they are going to do with the property will be happening sometime next week. They are planning on rebuilding and remodeling the entire home. The Contractors daughter is planning on moving into the property when completed.
- He has been in contact with an HVAC company. It has been brought to his attention that the HVAC system installed in the Fire Dept, Comm. Cntr. as well as other Village Bldgs. was meant for residential, not commercial use. Also, the system is 9 years past its design life, and is no longer serviceable. The thermostat, as well as the wiring need to be replaced.
- The main plumb in air conditioning system stays in place, but the furnaces have to be replaced. The new units are about 96.5% efficient, our current ones are barely 75%. We should get about \$1000.00 from NYS. I will email an estimated price, given to me, that I will pass on to the Board.
- I have recently been in talks with a Software company regarding new software for the Codes Dept. as well as our Fire Inspector. The current software we use is antiquated and terrible at best. It doesn't allow me to use it out in the field, or follow me in any way. The new software



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would allow me to generate reports, access records on the spot, and talk with the Fire Dept. I will pass on some pricing to the Board for your feedback. I did manage to get them down on price.

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

- The flower donation letters went out to area business.
- SMTC is tentatively scheduled to come to the March 27th Board Meeting and do a presentation regarding the Grove St, Watson crosswalk area. They also wanted to get some of the residents feedback, and do a PowerPoint presentation. I am inquiring on whether we should do a workshop meeting before, or a short meeting right after. Just wanting feedback on how to proceed. We will have to advertise, as well as inform the neighbors in that area.

The Mayor stated that it was stated previously that on that day, the Board would just vote on paying the bills, and then go to that presentation on March 27th, 2025 Board Meeting.

Parks and Recreation Department: (Director A. Burkinshaw): Absent

DEPUTY MAYOR-TRUSTEES REPORT:

Trustee St. Germain: Excused

Trustee Strong: He stated the following:

- Acknowledged Clerk/Treasurer Kufel's hard work on putting together the ENF, and her attention to detail. The report is cumbersome, and other municipalities do not detail their report in order to ensure we capture as much of the sales tax revenue we can.
- Wanted to urge the Board as well as the Mayor to go to Executive Session with our Legal Counsel following the reports.

Trustee Bolton: He stated the following:

- Thanked everyone for working together. Kudos to DPW, as he saw them out preparing ahead for the upcoming storm by pushing snowbanks back etc.
- Question regarding Abstract approval, minus one bill without all Board members present. Legal counsel weighed in on the question stating you need three votes to pass a motion.
- Thanked the residents for coming to the meeting.

Deputy Mayor Gustafson: She stated the following:

- Good news- A follow up from the safety committee regarding the crosswalk at Nestico's that is not well lit. Chief Fieldson has been following up on the concern. Recently received a letter from Scott Bates, Regional Traffic Safety Bureau stated the study has been completed. He stated the results align with Chief Fieldson's recommendations to enhance the pedestrian safety crosswalk. They are recommending a rectangular style beacon be installed at this crosswalk. A timeline has not been established yet for completion. She thanked Chief Fieldson for following through with this safety issue for the community.



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MAYOR'S REPORT: Mayor Butterfield stated the following:

The Mayor stated negotiations with Police Union 1149 continue, hope to wrap up negotiations within the next few weeks. There was a kick-off meeting for our Comprehensive Plan. The previous 20-year plan is running out in 2025. It was stated that the Village met all but half of one of the goals, we were told we did a great job. Two articles were in the Star News regarding some of the Village history. Anyone interested in helping out please reach out to Pat Ferguson, or the Village office.

RESOLUTION #035-25

ADJOURN TO EXECUTIVE SESSION

Trustee Strong made the motion to adjourn to Executive Session at 6:48 P.M. The motion was seconded by Deputy Mayor Gustafson. The motion was approved: Gustafson, Bolton, and Strong all voting in favor of the same.

RESOLUTION #036-25

LEAVE EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mayor Butterfield made the motion to leave to Executive Session and return to Regular Board Meeting at 7:22 P.M. The motion was seconded by Trustee Bolton. The motion was approved: Mayor Butterfield, Gustafson, Bolton and Strong all voting in favor of the same.

RESOLUTION #037-25

GENERAL FUND ABSTRACT APPROVAL

Mayor Butterfield made the motion to approve the modified General Fund Abstract #18 in the amount of \$196,741.12 covering voucher #1061 thru #1104. This motion omits \$370.00 from Abstract. The motion was seconded by Trustee Strong. The motion was approved: Mayor Butterfield, Gustafson, Bolton and Strong all voting in favor of the same.

Trustee Strong made the motion to adjourn at 7:25 P.M. The motion was seconded by Trustee Bolton. The motion was approved: Gustafson, Bolton, and Strong all voting in favor of the same.

Respectfully submitted,

Dianne M. Kufel
Village Clerk-Treasurer

