



## **VILLAGE OF NORTH SYRACUSE**

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

Thursday, March 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 Bolton, and Trustee St. Germain.

**Personnel Present:** Clerk/Treasurer D. Kufel, DPW Supt. E. Ware, Police Chief Fieldson, Dep. Fire Chief J. Asztalos, Engineer A. Franco.

**Personnel Absent:** Parks Dir. A. Burkinshaw (Excused), Trustee C. Strong (Excused), Codes Dir. L. Nestell (Excused), and Atty. R. Germain (Excused).

The Mayor stated Public Hearing #1 will be held by the Board of Trustees of the Village of North Syracuse on the 13<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2025 at 5:29 PM to consider the adoption of Local Law #1 of 2025. The local law pertains to allowing for a property tax levy in excess of the limit established in General Municipal Law 3-C. The Village Board will hear all persons in support of such matters or objections thereto.

**Dave Robinson of 163 Slindes Woods Circle** spoke in favor of the local law. Mr. Robinson stated the Village is in a catch-22 situation due to the Village lack of increase changes in the tax base. He also emphasized that the Village continually experiences expense increases well in excess of the tax cap. Mr. Robinson wants the Village to continue to sustain and grow. Therefore, he is in favor of Local Law #1 with an emphasis on fiscal responsibility.

The Mayor stated that Local Law 3-C was established in 2011 stating that the Village shall not increase the tax cap more than 2% per year. The Mayor emphasized that every year since then the Village has stayed under the 2% cap, however, every year we have passed this law in case. No other speakers presented themselves at this time. The Mayor officially closed the Public Hearing #1.

### **RESOLUTION #044-25**

### **APPROVAL OF REG. BD. MTG. – FEBRUARY 27, 2025**

Dep. Mayor Gustafson made a motion to approve the minutes (Facebook Livestreamed) from the February 27, 2025, Board Meeting. The motion was seconded by Trustee Bolton. The motion was approved: Trustee St. Germain, Dep. Mayor Gustafson, and Trustee Bolton all voting in favor of the same.

### **RESOLUTION #045-25**

### **GENERAL FUND ABSTRACT APPROVAL**

Trustee Bolton made a motion to approve General Fund Abstract #20 in the amount of \$189,881.61, covering voucher #1258 thru #1312. The motion was seconded by Dep Mayor Gustafson. The motion was approved. Dep. Mayor Gustafson, Trustee St. Germain and Trustee Bolton, all voting in favor of the same.



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**RESOLUTION #046-25**

**SEWER FUND ABSTRACT APPROVAL**

Trustee St. Germain made a motion to approve Sewer Fund Abstract #20 in the amount of \$31.25, covering voucher #15. The motion was seconded by Dep Mayor Gustafson. The motion was approved. Dep. Mayor Gustafson, Trustee St. Germain and Trustee Bolton, all voting in favor of the same.

**RESOLUTION #047-25**

**BUDGET TRANSFER (S)**

Trustee St. Germain made a motion to transfer monies in the amount of \$1760.00 from A3120.476-Police Vehicle Mtc. to A3120.29 - 2023 Charger Upfitting. The motion was seconded by Trustee Bolton. The motion was approved. Dep. Mayor Gustafson, Trustee St. Germain and Trustee Bolton, all voting in favor of the same.

**RESOLUTION #048-25**

**BUDGET TRANSFER (S)**

Trustee Bolton made a motion to transfer monies in the amount of \$500.00 from A2705-Gifts and Donations to A7110.443 - 2023 Parks Lighting. The motion was seconded by Dep. Mayor Gustafson. The motion was approved. Dep. Mayor Gustafson, Trustee St. Germain and Trustee Bolton, all voting in favor of the same.

**RESOLUTION #049-25**

**BUDGET TRANSFER (S)**

Trustee St. Germain made a motion to transfer monies in the amount of \$1760.00 from A1990.4-Contingency to A3120.29-2023 Charger Upfitting. The motion was seconded by Dep. Mayor Gustafson. The motion was approved. Dep. Mayor Gustafson, Trustee St. Germain and Trustee Bolton, all voting in favor of the same.

**RESOLUTION #050-25**

**BUDGET TRANSFER (S)**

Dep. Mayor Gustafson made a motion to transfer monies in the amount of \$200.00 from A2705-Gifts and Donations to A7020.441-Printing of Banners. The motion was seconded by Trustee Bolton. The motion was approved. Dep. Mayor Gustafson, Trustee St. Germain and Trustee Bolton, all voting in favor of the same.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**UPDATE ON DASNY GRANT/FIRE STATION 1 ADDITION**

The Mayor stated, for informational purposes, we had a meeting with Sarah who is working through CHA regarding the two Grants. She was given an update, as well as documentation regarding the Grants. She will be working with DASNY on the Village behalf to get these Grants finalized. Sarah has a lot of experience working with DASNY and the Village is appreciative that we have found her to help us through this process.



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**NYS MANDATE WEBSITE CHANGE TO .GOV**

The Mayor stated we are continuing to work on the NYS mandate to make the website change to a .gov domain by 12/31/2025.

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

The Mayor stated the Village will need to adopt a Local Law regarding the New Uniform Code and Energy Code. Our Codes Officer is continuing to make progress. The Village Attorney is reviewing this. Larry will be forwarding a template to the Board once finalized.

**BID FOR TRASH REMOVAL CONTRACT**

The Mayor informed the Board that we are in the last few months of our Trash Hauler Agreement. The Village will be scheduling a Pre-Bid Meeting with the Trash Haulers soon. Onondaga County is helping us through this process. Once the bid is out, the Board will need to approve. The current contract was exhausted of all extensions, so a new bidding contract is required.

**LOCAL LAW #2 ON MARCH 13, 2025**

The Board agreed to table the motion regarding Local Law #2 Public Hearing. This hearing is regarding changing 110 Ferguson Ave and 115 Chestnut St from R-9 (Residential) to PD District on the tax rolls. The Fire Association is currently reviewing the impact of the property lines.

**PUBLIC HEARING FOR 2025 SMTC STUDY ON MARCH 27, 2025**

Mayor Butterfield gave a reminder for the Public Hearing for the SMTC Study presentation has been set for Thursday, March 27, 2025. This is regarding the Intersection of South Bay Rd./Grove St./Van Mary Dr./Maxwell Ave and Watson Road. This is in conjunction with our sidewalk project. The Mayor stated this is a Board Meeting night. The meeting is planned to approve paying bills only, and then moving into the presentation by SMTC. The Mayor also stated there will be a meeting tomorrow, March 14<sup>th</sup> with NAVAC, Fire, Police, and School District to go over the intersection planning to ensure accessibility through that area.

**PUBLIC HEARING FOR 2025 COMM. DEV. PROJECT FUNDING**

Mayor Butterfield gave a reminder for the Public Hearing REGARDING THE 2025 Community Development Funding Project, with work to be performed in 2026. The Board received the packet outlining the areas that are permitted. The Mayor would like ideas to be shared regarding how to utilize the \$50,000.00 given every year for the Village.



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MAYORS DAY OF RECOGNITION 3/12/2025

The Mayor informed the Board that the Proclamation was completed and signed for the Mayors Day of Recognition, and is included in the packet (Exhibit A) given to the Board members.

NEW BUSINESS:

DEPT. OF LABOR CONTRACTOR REGISTRY

The Mayor informed the Board that the NYS Department of Labor has mandated as of January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2025, Contractors wishing to work for municipalities must register with the State. The Contractors pay \$200.00 for a two-year agreement. They will be assigned a contract number upon completion of the application. The Mayor stated the State will ensure that these Contractors carry proper insurance, which helps to alleviate the Village of any liability. This does not include private contractors for residential work, only municipal work.

RESOLUTION #051-25

SURPLUS SMALL EQUIPMENT/PARKS DEPT.

Dep. Mayor Gustafson made a motion to surplus small equipment such as: old chairs, misc. printer etc. The motion was seconded by Trustee Bolton. The motion was approved. Dep. Mayor Gustafson, Trustee St. Germain and Trustee Bolton, all voting in favor of the same.

RESOLUTION #052-25

APPROVE 2025 CNY STORMWATER COALITION PROGRAM

Trustee St. Germain made a motion to approve the 2025 CNY Stormwater Coalition and Education Comprehensive Assistance Program. The Mayor stated that we have participated in this program for 15 years. Every municipality who belongs pays \$3600.00. The motion was seconded by Trustee Bolton. The motion was approved. Dep. Mayor Gustafson, Trustee St. Germain and Trustee Bolton, all voting in favor of the same.

RESOLUTION #053-25 PUBLIC HEARING FOR 2025/2026 FISCAL BUDGET ON 04/10/2025 AT 5:29 PM

Dep. Mayor Gustafson made a motion to set the date for the Public Hearing for the 2025/2026 Fiscal Budget for April 10, 2025 at 5:29. This hearing is to discuss the tentative budget. The motion was seconded by Trustee Bolton. The motion was approved. Dep. Mayor Gustafson, Trustee St. Germain and Trustee Bolton, all voting in favor of the same.

RESOLUTION #054-25

DISCUSS/APPROVE LOCAL LAW #1 FOR 2025 2% TAX CAP OVERRIDE

Trustee Bolton made a motion to approve Local Law #1 of 2025, override the 2% Tax Cap set forth in General Municipal Law 3-C. The motion was seconded by Trustee St. Germain. The motion was approved. Dep. Mayor Gustafson, Trustee St. Germain and Trustee Bolton, all voting in favor of the same.



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

**Pat Ferguson of 215 S. Main St** reminds that the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary is happening. Thanked the Police and Fire Chief for supplying goods for the Newspaper. Art Guild and Arbor Day are approaching. Thanked those for donations for the festival, and keep them coming. Pay attention to the Star Review for upcoming events.

**Dave Robinson of 163 Slindes Woods Circle** wanted to give recognition to Syracuse Haulers for providing a dumpster, along with fees for a village resident in need. This resident became ill, and rescue was called in to assist. The house was cluttered, making it hazardous for the rescue. Codes was notified, and it was set that the house had to be de-cluttered before the resident could return. Syracuse Haulers stepped in to help, so the resident could return to the home. Dep. Mayor Gustafson also gave kudos to Syracuse Haulers for their quick response in replacing her garbage can in only one day, when they were notified it had broken.

**DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS:**

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

- Thanked Pete as well as Syracuse Haulers for their recent assistance.
- Sidewalk cleanup has begun on Main St. as well as some side streets, as well as other maintenance in the Village weather permitting.
- He made the Parks Dir. aware that the Cherry Trees are diseased at Centerville Park. Just making everyone aware due to the upcoming Arbor Day event.
- DPW workers are keeping busy performing vehicle and equipment maintenance, and have started picking up brush, as well as bulk trash pick-up.

**Codes Department: Trustee L. St. Germain:** She stated the following on behalf of Dir. Nestell

- Codes Dir. Nestell apologizes for being unable to attend tonight's meeting.
- Dir. Nestell has convinced the family at 113 Wadsworth to allow a non-profit organization to provide a dumpster and pay fees to clean out the property at no cost to them.
- 118 Grove St. plans are being reviewed by an architect, drawings will follow in a few weeks. The contractor is moving his daughter in, and will be going to the zoning board to request an expansion.
- 444 S. Main St. (Brolex) Building #1 has passed the fire suppression system hydro test. Building #1 now has heat and electricity.
- 604 S. Main St. (Ling Ling) is currently updating the fire suppression system. They plan on being open after the inspection by mid-April.
- The apartment registry is still ongoing. The State regulation of adopting into a Local Law is almost complete. The Village attorney should have it to review within a couple of weeks.
- Dir. Nestell also wants to thank the Board for the new software.



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

- We had 992 total events for the month of February: 426 property checks ie: parks, residential, commercial. 16 domestic incidents, 20 motor veh. crashes, 207 traffic stops, 100 traffic tickets, 17 criminal arrests, 6 larceny investigations, 5 DWI arrests. Stressed an increase in DWI arrests for month of Feb.
- One of the officers attended the Cardboard Sled Event. She said it was a great event, very successful. Chief stated it is always good for the police to attend youth events so they can interact in a positive light with the youth of the community.
- Snapshot of what the officers are doing in the community. They oftentimes get called to help with domestic incidents. Recently, a mom needed assistance with a teenage son. The officers often act as mediators to help in situations any way they can.

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

- He thanked the Police Dept. for checking on his property while away.
- He thanked the DPW for beginning work on the front of his property early this year.
- The Fire Dept. has responded to 180 service calls thus far for 2025, 26 calls this month.
- The Fire Dept. recently rescued a cat out of an exterior wall.
- This past Tues. the dept. and Fireman's Assoc. held nominations for upcoming elections on April 1<sup>st</sup>. He has proudly accepted the nomination to be Dep. Fire Chief another year.
- The Firehouse Subs Grant is complete. The Dept. attained 13 brand new AED's. In-service training is ongoing. The AED's should be in-service shortly. The information about these AED's has been forwarded to the Police Dept. and Parks Dept. in hopes of getting the equipment standardized throughout the Village. The AED's themselves were purchased via State Contracts.
- Thanked the Fireman's Assoc. for giving \$5,000.00 on top of the grant to finance the trainers, cases, and additional supplies. This enabled the entire purchase surrounding the AED's to avoid utilizes the dept. budget to finance.
- The dept. has notably increased posting information on Facebook. Recent postings involved Lockbox awareness. These are mainly utilized for Commercial Properties. The Fire Dept. is given a key so in case of an event, they do not have to break doors/windows.
- Kudos to our new Admin. Clerk. She is sending letters to properties that do now utilize a lock box, to make them aware that it is an investment that could save thousands of dollars should the dept. need to access the property during an emergency, rather than break windows and doors.
- Wanted to emphasize the multiple construction projects. Specifically, one lane traffic occurring on Church St. and S. Bay Road. NYS had to place extra barriers on S. Bay Road as some cars were turning around in that area.
- Some training events are occurring. Past Chief T. Ellis is facilitating a firefighter wellness training, pertaining to fitness as well as mental health. The Firefighters Assoc. has donated payment for



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a fitness coach as well to work with the firefighters. Past Chief Ellis recently attended a seminar and made them aware that the N. Syr. Fire Dept. is one of the more progressive depts. regarding fitness and wellness.

- Wanted to extend appreciation to retired Chief Laskey. He is recognized in the field of firefighting. He recently spoke at an event at the training center. He came to the N. Syr. Fire Dept. and spoke to many of the younger firefighters. The dept. is very appreciative and honored that he took this time to spend with them.
- NYS has issued a Burn Ban from March 16 – May 14, 2025.

Ed Ware, DPW Supt. made the Board aware that there was an issue on Church St. that it was shut down. The agreement back in January was that there would always be one lane open during the construction. He contacted Chief Brennan, as well as NYS DOT and it was opened to one lane very quickly. He will be checking the area frequently to make sure they continue to adhere to the agreement.

**Engineer Report: (Amy Franco):** No report

**Attorney Report: (Robert Germain):** Excused

**Parks and Recreation Department: (Director A. Burkinshaw):** Excused

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

- We are winding down the budget year. Ask that when you submit a requisition, please note old budget/new budget on them.
- Received two checks for the Cannabis revenue. 1<sup>st</sup> qtr. was for \$4,100.00/2<sup>nd</sup> qtr. was for \$14,289.00.
- Charge Point revenue for the charging stations thus far: 2022: \$98.00 – 2023: \$435.00 – 2024: \$659.00
- We recently had a safety meeting. A lot of good information was shared.
- I have two SU student interns working in the office.
- Nearly finished with the budget. I am waiting on the Towns' assessments to give a more accurate outlook.

**DEPUTY MAYOR-TRUSTEES REPORT:**

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

- Thank you for allowing me to give the Codes dept. report tonight.
- Thank you for passing the tax cap resolution. The Board will be fiscally responsible, as they always are.
- Thank you to the Dept. heads who are here. They are always out working for the village outside of a M-F schedule.



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Trustee Strong: No report: (Excused)

Trustee Bolton: He stated the following: No report

Deputy Mayor Gustafson: She stated the following: No report

**MAYOR'S REPORT:** Mayor Butterfield stated the following:

- The Mayor stated there are hard dates for the upcoming budgets. He stressed that he is the Budget Officer. He stated that on March 20 the tentative budget must be filed. By March 31<sup>st</sup>. the clerk treasurer must present the tentative budget to the Trustees at a Regular Board Meeting where changes and revisions may be made. A statement of revenues is included, however, we are not sure of these revenues as we are not a taxing Village. We have to rely on two Towns to determine that information. Then a public hearing must be held on the revised tentative budget by Resolution of the Board of Trustees before April 15<sup>th</sup>. From the time we announce, to the time we have the budget hearing no activity can be done on the budget. The budget must be adopted no later than May 1<sup>st</sup>. The Dept. heads submit their budgets to the clerk/treasurer using a model template. Most of the time we are usually under the tax cap. The Mayor stated we have to be creative this year. The Mayor stated these past couple of years, goods and services have gone way up. The Village will do our very best to be fiscally responsible. At the Public Hearing, the Mayor would love to have more residents attend than usual. Negotiations with Police Local 1149 are continuing. Earth Day cleanup is Saturday, April 26, 2025. We have had one meeting regarding the Comprehensive Plan. We would like to get more people involved, and get this completed as quickly as possible. The Mayor and DPW Supt. have a meeting with WEPP Water Environmental Protection Monday of next week. Also, next Tuesday there will be a meeting to walk the sidewalks to finalize the plans. CHA engineer will also be attending as they are handling this project for the Village.

Dep. Mayor Gustafson made the motion to adjourn to Executive Session at 6:12 P.M. to discuss employment and budget issues. The motion was seconded by Trustee St. Germain. The motion was approved: Gustafson, Bolton, and St. Germain all voting in favor of the same. Trustee Strong phoned in to attend Executive Session.

Trustee Bolton made the motion to end Executive Session, and move to Regular Board Meeting at 7:09 PM. The motion was seconded by Trustee St. Germain. The motion was approved: Gustafson, Bolton, St. Germain and Strong (via phone) all voting in favor of the same.

Trustee Bolton made the motion to adjourn at 7:10 P.M. The motion was seconded by Trustee St. Germain. The motion was approved: Gustafson, Bolton, and St. Germain all voting in favor of the same.

Respectfully submitted,

Dianne M. Kufel  
Village Clerk-Treasurer



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## **Exhibit “A”**

### **MAYOR’S DAY OF RECOGNITION FOR NATIONAL SERVICE**

**WHEREAS**, Local government serves as the foundation of a stable and prosperous society, and MAYORS, as the leaders of community governance, play a critical role in shaping policies, ensuring public safety, driving economic growth, and fostering social cohesion;

**WHEREAS**, MAYORS encourage volunteerism and civic engagement, fostering a more connected and resilient society through strategic planning and sustainable initiatives;

**WHEREAS**, National Service programs such as AmeriCorps provide essential support in education, public health, environmental conservation, and disaster response, making lasting impacts nationwide;

**WHEREAS**, AmeriCorps members and volunteers address critical challenges by supporting students, assisting seniors and veterans, aiding disaster recovery, and promoting environmental sustainability;

**WHEREAS**, MAYORS advocate for National Service by supporting policies, allocating resources, and mobilizing communities to cultivate a culture of volunteerism;

**WHEREAS**, The MAYOR’S DAY OF RECOGNITION FOR NATIONAL SERVICE honors the leadership of MAYORS in championing volunteer initiatives and acknowledges the impact of National Service programs on local communities;

**WHEREAS**, The 2025 theme, “Community Leadership and National Service,” highlights the role of MAYORS in fostering civic engagement and public welfare;

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Gary Butterfield, Mayor of the Village of North Syracuse, New York, do hereby proclaim **March 12, 2025** as recognition of Mayor’s Day for National Service and I encourage all citizens to recognize the contributions of MAYORS and local governments, support National Service initiatives, and actively engage in building a stronger community.

#### **FURTHERMORE, I urge all citizens to actively participate by:**

Supporting volunteer efforts by dedicating time and resources to initiatives that enhance the well-being of our community, recognizing the dedication of MAYORS and local officials who tirelessly work to improve our towns and cities, and engaging in community programs that provide crucial services to those in need.

Sharing stories of service to inspire others, highlighting the impact of National Service members through social media, public events, and educational outreach, and advocating for policies that promote civic engagement, community resilience, and long-term social responsibility.



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By taking these actions, we strengthen the bonds of our society, encourage a culture of giving, and ensure that National Service continues to be a pillar of support for future generations. Together, let us celebrate leadership, service, and a stronger community.

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**FURTHERMORE, I urge all citizens to take the following actions in celebration of MAYOR'S DAY and in support of National Service programs:**



