



## **VILLAGE OF NORTH SYRACUSE**

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

Thursday, February 27th, 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 (Delayed in traffic).0

**Personnel Present:** Clerk/Treasurer D. Kufel, DPW Supt. E. Ware, Codes Dir. L. Nestell.

**Personnel Absent:** Parks Dir. A. Burkinshaw (Excused), Trustee Lou Ann St. Germain (Excused), Police Chief Fieldson (Excused), Fire Chief Brennan (Excused), Engineer A. Franco (Excused), and Atty. R. Germain (Excused).

### **RESOLUTION #038-25**

### **APPROVAL OF REG. BD. MTG. – FEBRUARY 13, 2025**

Dep. Mayor Gustafson made a motion to approve the minutes (Facebook Livestreamed) from the February 13, 2025, Board Meeting. The motion was seconded by Trustee Bolton. The motion was approved: Mayor Butterfield, Gustafson, and Bolton all voting in favor of the same.

### **RESOLUTION #039-25**

### **GENERAL FUND ABSTRACT APPROVAL**

Trustee Bolton made a motion to approve General Fund Abstract #19 in the amount of \$90,591.71. covering voucher #1191 thru #1257. The motion was seconded by Dep. The motion was approved. Mayor Butterfield, Dep. Mayor Gustafson and Trustee Bolton, all voting in favor of the same.

### **OLD BUSINESS:**

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

The Mayor stated there have been continued discussions regarding Fire Station 1. At the last meeting, it was agreed to slow down the process, as the Village just retained a Grant clerk through CHA at the last Board Meeting. An email went out to this Grant Clerk, and a meeting has been set for next Wednesday with the clerk who has been working on the Grants for the Village. The goal is to get one of the Grants to the finance phase, in order to recoup \$150,000.00 for the Village. There were two Grants awarded to the Village at \$150,000.00 each. To date, the Village has spent \$203,000.00 on this project.

### **UPDATE ON STATUS OF THE RENTAL REGISTRY**

The Mayor stated the Rental Registry is still underway. The Mayor also stated they are interested in



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the Registry for the Comprehensive Plan. There will be more to follow on this topic.

**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 12/31/2025. We have started the process. There are multiple steps to take, and we are waiting on the next phase. It is not clear if we coordinate with the Police Dept. with this. We have reached out to NYCOM, they are not sure. We are awaiting clarification on this process.

**RESOLUTION #040-25**

**TOWN/CLAY FIRE PROTECTION AGREEMENT 2025/2026**

Dep. Mayor Gustafson made a motion to authorize the Mayor to sign the Town of Clay Fire Protection Agreement with the Village. The Agreement has been approved by all parties. The motion was seconded by Trustee Bolton. 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 stated the Village was between Codes Officer at the time of the adoption of the New Codes. The Village was following the new codes via the software updates since it went into effect. The Mayor asked the Codes Officer to give an update. Codes Officer Nestell stated most of the Code has been rewritten with corrected verbiage for the Village. By next meeting he will have handouts for everyone for review. He will also be contacting Atty. Germain for his review and approval.

**BID FOR TRASH REMOVAL CONTRACT**

The Mayor informed the Board that continuing progress is being made to gather information/details, and specifications for advertising the trash hauler bidding. The Village is working with Onondaga County to help with the bid process. There may be a pre-bid meeting with all Trash Haulers to ensure everyone is on the same page. The current contract was exhausted of all extensions, so a new bidding contract is required.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**EXTENSION REQUEST OF FLOWERS ON POLES**

The Mayor stated there has been some requests of extending the flowers placed on the poles along Main St. in the Village. Some of the businesses, further from the center of Main St. would like flowers on the poles outside of their businesses, as well. The Mayor asked Supt. Ware to explain the process that the DPW performs in order to keep the flowers watered and fertilized.



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Supt. Ware stated the DPW workers water the flowers six days a week, including one weekend day, depending on the weather. The sun and wind takes a toll on the baskets, they fertilize once a week, on a rotating basis. It takes approximate 3 -3 ½ hours each day. The equipment utilized to perform the watering can be a hazard with traffic. It takes a lot of effort to keep them looking vibrant. There are sidewalks all the way down to where these additional businesses would like to participate. It would be a challenge for the workers to water these flowers from the sidewalk. We would also have to get permission from National Grid to hang flowers on these poles, as they belong to them. At this time, there are approximately two businesses interested in hanging flowers. All Trustees voiced their support and appreciation of all the business donating for the Flower fund, and many other various funds for the Village. The Board is in agreement that they would support any business that would like a hanging basket displayed along Main St, especially during the 100 Year Anniversary.

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

Mayor Butterfield stated that the date 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. Notifications will be sent to neighbors within 500 ft. from the targeted area. Postings will be made on the website and the Village Facebook page. Clerk/ Treasurer Kufel is also coordinating a meeting with EMS/Fire/School/Police and DPW to facilitate this plan. This is a congested and difficult intersection. 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. Clerk/Treasurer Kufel also stated that Engineer A. Franco would also like to do a presentation on the Community Development 2025 Funding that night as well.

**RESOLUTION #041-25**

**PUBLIC HEARING FOR LOCAL LAW #1 TAX LEVY ON MARCH 13, 2025**

Trustee Strong made a motion to set the Public Hearing for Local Law #1 – passing of a Tax Levy over the 2% Tax Limit, for March 13, 2025 at 5:29 P.M. This motion is an insurance policy that the Village does their best to not have to utilize. The motion was seconded by Trustee Bolton. The motion was approved: Gustafson, Bolton and Strong all voting in favor of the same.

**PUBLIC HEARING FOR LOCAL LAW #2 ON MARCH 13, 2025**

The Board agreed to table the motion regarding setting the date for the Public Hearing for Local Law #2. This hearing is regarding changing 110 Fergerson Ave and 115 Chestnut St from R-9 (Residential) to PD District on the tax rolls. Trustee Bolton requested to table the motion at the request of the Fire Chief. Trustee Strong gave much insight regarding information obtained at the Planning Board meeting regarding these properties, and the designations or lack thereof in the tax maps. Codes Officer Nestell stated the confusion is slated around the property has two tax id #'s. To simplify everything, there needs to be a lot line adjustment done. Once that is performed, it will clear up the properties.



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**RESOLUTION #042-25**

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

Trustee Strong made a motion to set the Public Hearing to discuss the 2025 Community Development Project Funding for March 27, 2025 at 5:29 P.M. This meeting is needed to put thoughts together regarding how to appropriate the Comm. Dev. Funding given to the Village every year for Village properties. The motion was seconded by Dep. Mayor Gustafson. The motion was approved: Gustafson, Bolton and Strong all voting in favor of the same.

**RESOLUTION #043-25**

**APPROVE IWORQ-CODES SOFTWARE FOR 2025/2026 BUDGET**

Trustee Strong made a motion to approve the purchase of IWORQ software for the Codes Office for \$8700.00 to be paid June 1, 2025, in the 2025/2026 budget. This software is a needed upgrade for the Codes Dept. Codes Dir. Nestell informed the Board that the company is giving the Village three months free with the signing of the contract. The billing cycle will be once yearly, on June 1<sup>st</sup>. It will allow the Codes Fire Inspector, as well as the Director to utilize up to date information regarding the properties in the village within a 7-block radius when they are in the field. There are many features that will be at their fingertips to enhance their ability to perform their duties. The motion was seconded by Dep. Mayor Gustafson. The motion was approved: Gustafson, Bolton, and Strong all voting in favor of the same.

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

**Angelica Tomasino of 112 Edden Lane** gave a history regarding work they have done on her property where she also has an NYS licensed in home daycare business. She worked with the previous codes officer prior to Dir. Nestell. She is trying to obtain her Final Inspection Certificate, which she was told she had in an email on 12/20/2024. Dir. Nestell informed the Board that she has not met with the Planning Board, which he was not completely aware of at the time. It was stated that she needs to meet with the Planning Board before she can get the Certificate. The County has to be involved in this procedure which would push her ability to meet until the April meeting. The Mayor stated the Village will try to get her scheduled for the March Planning Board meeting by coordinating with the County immediately.

**Scott Cox, Founder and President of the VFW Local 7290** informed the Board that he has founded an outreach program call "22 Until There's None". The organization offers Veterans and First Responders resources for mental health issues they are experiencing. The goal of the organization is to get the person connected with the help and resources needed immediately. He wants to make the community aware that they are out there when help is needed.

**DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS:**



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**ENGINEER REPORT:** (Amy Franco): Excused

**ATTORNEY REPORT:** (Robert Germain): Excused

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

- Brolex had the Purge Test, and their Fire Hydrants are now all functional.

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

- Good news, we received 37 tons of salt from an order of 700 tons. We are at a deficit, and using salt provided by another company.
- DPW has been removing mountains of snow from the cul-de-sacs for Fire Dept. emergency access. As well as other areas that needed snow removed.
- We have been assisting the Fire Depts with clearing fire hydrants from Main Street through the Business District.
- The DPW workers will be in at 4:00 a.m. to begin salting the roads. A normal run through the Village yields 14.4 tons of salt usage. Everyone is at a salt shortage. There was a company that would bring in salt at \$130 a ton, the normal cost is \$50.28 cents. The salt we received was budgeted at \$50.28 cents a ton.

**Police Department:**(Chief Fieldson): Excused

**Fire Department:** (Chief Brennan): Excused

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

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

- We are continuing to work on the Trash Hauler Bid Proposal. The previous proposal was a learning curve that we are utilizing to make sure we list the contents, and get a handle on all of the specifications. Trying to get that put together for the Board to review soon.
- Trying to facilitate the SMTC, and coordinating with EMS, School, Fire, Police. Hopefully, I can get as many people as possible to attend the meeting on March 27, 2025 at 5:30 P.M.
- Working on the Budget, will be more to follow on that.

**DEPUTY MAYOR-TRUSTEES REPORT:**

**Trustee St. Germain:** Excused

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

- Apologies for being late for the meeting.
- Thanked the Friends of the Village and the Parks Dept. for the streamlined process of making



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purchases for the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary items. He was able to easily purchase a banner for a friend.

- Congratulations to Ofc. Backus on his fourth retirement.
- Wishing Trustee St. Germain condolences as she deals with a family illness.
- Chief Fieldson did pass on some 2024 stats, just to point out to have all of you look at them. Chief Fieldson also updated statistics closing out January. He stated 500 property checks, 27 domestics, 17 motor vehicle crashes, 400ish traffic stops with 150 tickets issued, 23 criminal arrests, 5 DWI's and larcenies.

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

- Thanked the Fire Dept. and DPW for clearing the hydrants in the Village of snow.
- He has noticed that multiple properties in the Village have not maintained snow removal, in case of emergencies. He noted, most of the properties have people living there, but maybe the residents have left for the winter. It becomes an impediment for Emergency personnel if they are needed. He is also concerned for the residents that live next to these temporarily vacant properties.
- Kudos to Tony and Duayne for the first Cardboard Snow Sled race. He attended and had a very fun time.
- He thanked Mr. Cox for the information he provided regarding his organization, and thanked him for his service.

**Deputy Mayor Gustafson:** She stated the following:

- Wanted to extend our sympathies to the Kolodzie and Hucko family for the loss of Paul. He was a member of our Planning Committee, and will be greatly missed.

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

- The Mayor also gave condolences for the loss of Paul Kolodzie. He stated he was not able to attend the Cardboard Sled event, due to a conflict. However, on the internet he saw some very creative sleds, and there was a good turnout for the first even. The Mayor stated he received an email yesterday regarding a Mayor's Day of recognition for National Service on March 12<sup>th</sup>. It was suggested that a Proclamation be made for Recognition for National Service your city. We will be doing a Proclamation. Earth day cleanup is scheduled for Saturday, April 26<sup>th</sup>, 2025. Negotiations with Police 1149 are continuing. We had a little pause due to making a lot of changes and clean up of language. We want to make sure this contract is done right. The 100 Year Festival is coming up soon. A lot of good things are going to be happening, so be ready.

Deputy Mayor Gustafson made the motion to adjourn at 6:27 P.M. The motion was seconded by Trustee Strong. The motion was approved: Gustafson, Bolton, and Strong all voting in favor of the same.

Respectfully submitted,

Dianne M. Kufel  
Village Clerk-Treasurer