



VILLAGE OF NORTH SYRACUSE

Regular Board Meeting

Thursday, March 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 5:29 P.M. with Mayor Butterfield asking everyone to join him in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call: Mayor Butterfield, Deputy Mayor Gustafson, Trustee Bolton, Trustee St. Germain and Trustee Strong.

Personnel Present: Clerk/Treasurer D. Kufel, DPW Supt. E. Ware, Police Chief Fieldson, Parks Director T. Burkinshaw, Codes Officer L. Nestell, Engineer A. Franco.

Personnel Absent: Atty. R. Germain (Excused), Fire Chief Brennan

The Mayor stated please take notice that Public Hearing #1 held by the Board of Trustees of the Village of North Syracuse on the 27th day of March, 2025 at 5:29 PM to consider the adoption of the **2025 funding request** for the Community Development Project in the Village of North Syracuse. The Village Board will hear all persons in support of such matters, or objections thereto. The Mayor stated the Board has been given the application template, and the 5 year plan has been distributed. This plan encompasses improvements made to the Old School House area at Toll Road Park. The Village would like to install new sidewalks and other improvements to that area. The Mayor requested anyone to speak for or against this project. Village Engineer A. Franco clarified that the project is for calendar year 2026. The Mayor clarified that the Village receives \$50,000.00 each year for Community Development projects. The Mayor stated we already have monies for this years Toll Road project. The Mayor stated there are other projects that the monies could be utilized for, including the ongoing sidewalk project in the Village. Dep. Mayor Gustafson gave some suggestions for building structure improvements, Engineer Franco stated typically those projects are not funding by these grants. Trustee Strong stated improvements to Kennedy pool area also do not qualify. Trustee Strong also stated that these grants require the Village to match 25%. The funding is not 100% free for a project, the Village is still obligated to pay in-kind of approximately \$12,500.00 for the Village. The Mayor asked for anyone else who would like to speak regarding this project. The Mayor closed the Public Hearing.

RESOLUTION #055-25

APPROVAL OF REG. BD. MTG. – MARCH 13, 2025

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

RESOLUTION #056-25

GENERAL FUND ABSTRACT APPROVAL

Trustee Bolton made a motion to approve General Fund Abstract #21 in the amount of \$77,955.43, covering voucher #1313 thru #1382. The motion was seconded by Dep. Mayor Gustafson. The motion was approved. Dep. Mayor Gustafson, Trustee St. Germain, Trustee Bolton and Trustee Strong, all voting in favor of the same.



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RESOLUTION #057-25

BUDGET TRANSFER (S)

Trustee Strong made a motion to transfer monies in the amount of \$128.74 from A1990.4-Contingency to A3120.479-2023 Safety Day Walmart. The motion was seconded by Trustee St. Germain. The motion was approved. Dep. Mayor Gustafson, Trustee St. Germain Trustee Bolton, and Trustee Strong all voting in favor of the same.

OLD BUSINESS:

2025 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT FUNDING

The Mayor asked if there were any thoughts on the previously discussed project. No one voiced any further questions or concerns regarding this project.

NEW BUSINESS:

RESOLUTION #058-25

2024 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROJECT

Dep. Mayor Gustafson made a motion to extend the pre bid and bid opening meetings for the 2024 Community Development project-Toll Road Improvements from 4/2/2025 and 4/17/2025 respectively, to 4/17 2025 (pre-bid meeting and 5/1/2025 (bid opening). The motion was seconded by Trustee Strong. The motion was approved. Dep. Mayor Gustafson, Trustee St. Germain Trustee Bolton, and Trustee Strong all voting in favor of the same.

RESOLUTION #059-25

WILLIAMSON PAYROLL MAINT. SVCS. CONTRACT

Trustee Strong made a motion to approve the Annual Software Support Contract for Williamson Payroll from 4/1/2025 – 5/31/2026. The contract price is \$1104.00 which is an increased of 5% over last year. The contract covers services from 4/1/2025 – 5/31/2026. The motion was seconded by Trustee Bolton. The motion was approved. Dep. Mayor Gustafson, Trustee St. Germain Trustee Bolton, and Trustee Strong all voting in favor of the same.

RESOLUTION #060-25

WILLIAMSON PAYROLL ACCOUNTING MAINT. SVCS. CONTRACT

Trustee St. Germain made a motion to approve the Annual Software Support Contract for Williamson Payroll from 4/1 2025 – 5/31/2026. The contract price is \$1405.00 which is an increase of 5% over last year. The contract covers services from 4/1/2025 – 5/31/2026. The motion was seconded by Dep. Mayor Gustafson. The motion was approved. Dep. Mayor Gustafson, Trustee St. Germain Trustee Bolton, and Trustee Strong all voting in favor of the same.



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RESOLUTION #061-25

FURNACE REPLACEMENT AT THE COMMUNITY CENTER

Trustee Strong made a motion to open dialogue regarding authorizing the Furnace replacement at the Community Center. The motion was seconded by Dep. Mayor Gustafson for the purpose of discussion. The Mayor stated that NYS has issued some new regulations stating the Contractors have to be licensed in the State of New York. The Mayor stated four bids were entered, and Chiodo Heating and Air Conditioning was the lowest bidder. The Mayor stated there are two furnaces at the Community Center that are beyond their life cycle. Trustee Strong asked for clarification on the NYS guidelines. Clarification was given by Clerk/Treasurer D. Kufel, and Mayor Butterfield. Trustee Bolton requested clarification regarding the price of the furnace being higher than discussed at a previous Board Meeting. Parks Dir. Burkinshaw stated the previous price was an estimate, and there are NYSERDA incentives available to lower the price that he was considering. Mayor Butterfield stated those incentives expire March 31st, so approval tonight would allow the Village to apply for the incentives before they expire. Trustee Bolton questioned two of the bids. Trustee Bolton stated Hometown Heating, with the \$1000.00 NYSERDA rebate, includes a longer warranty on parts and labor. Trustee Strong, and Trustee St. Germain concurred regarding the longer warranties being a better option for the Village, with clarification on what the warranty covers. Much discussion ensued regarding the two year vs. one year warranty, who applies for the rebate, how the bid specs were presented, and the Village obligation to accept the lowest bid. Dep. Mayor Gustafson made the motion to accept Chiodo Heating and Air Conditioning bid for replacement of the furnaces at the Community Center. Trustee Bolton and Trustee Strong voted nay. Trustee St. Germain voted to accept the bid from Chiodo Heating and Air Conditioning. Mayor Butterfield voted in favor of authorizing Chiodo Heating and Air Conditioning to replace the furnaces at the Community Center. The motion was approved.

PUBLIC HEARING #2 SMTC STUDY

The Mayor stated please take notice that Public Hearing #2 held by the Board of Trustees of the Village of North Syracuse on the 27th day of March, 2025. The Mayor stated that a presentation of an SMTC (Syracuse Metropolitan Transportation Counsel) Study regarding the intersection of South Bay Rd., Grove St., Van Mara Dr., Maxwell Ave. & Watson Rd., and the conceptual plan is to be discussed. The Public is encouraged to participate in this hearing with thoughts and ideas. The Mayor turned the meeting over to Mike Alexander, Senior Transportation Planner for SMTC.

Mike Alexander stated that this hearing is to propose ideas regarding changes being made to the intersection, any input by the public is welcomed. He stressed that any elements being shown tonight regarding the project, may or may not be implemented. He stated the Village contacted them requesting a study of this intersection to mitigate the traffic. He asked the public to recognize that there are pros and cons to a project such as this. He believes they have come up with some ideas to help with mitigation for safety reasons of this area. He stated that two draft reports will be posted on line tomorrow. The public is encouraged to give comments,



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sheets are provided. Transcripts of the public thoughts, ideas and concerns will be shared with them. He presented slides detailing the map of the area, and identified various home- owners of the intersection. Slides also identified the policy committee, and details of what the study is about. He stated that input through meetings was given by Village officials - Fire Chief and Police Chief as well as local officials. He identified the problematic issues with the intersections, which demonstrates the purpose of the study. He further discussed the particulars of each study they performed. A concern was raised by resident regarding access to Watson from Maxwell. Mike stated it would be a "right-in" "right-out" access. The resident had further concerns regarding tractor trailers accessing those streets. Mike stated the limited access those trucks would have to turn left, and showed a diagram depicting raised curbs to prevent prohibited turns. Mike identified specific areas of placement of "speed cushions", a very gradual grade up/down. He stated these cushions were strategically placed in areas that would be beneficial, but would not interfere with any existing driveways. A DPW worker asked if the placement of these cushions would interfere with DPW trucks, emergency vehicles, etc. Mike referred to a study done by the City of Syracuse along with their DPW. They designed three types. They utilize them in specific areas. If anyone is interested in more information, they can find it on the SMTC website. Mike also stated that these cushions are placed in areas close in proximity to street lights.

Mike also identified on the map the sidewalk areas. He further discussed information pertaining to the sidewalks. A resident asked about installing a sidewalk on Malta. She stated that children, people walking animals, bikers utilize that street, with no sidewalks. Mike stated he would like at that area and try to come up with a recommendation.

A resident asked if the property owners would be responsible for maintenance and upgrades to the sidewalks on their property as the "City of Syracuse" requires. The Mayor stated the Village of N. Syracuse is one of the few municipalities that takes care of the sidewalks. An Engineer from CHA (Luke Morenus) identified that they are currently working on a sidewalk project. DPW Sup't Ware also stated that the state came in and repaired the sidewalks, making them ADA compliant. The DPW is tasked with any repairs the sidewalks may need utilizing resident tax dollars, and that the Board would have to vote on changing that.

Discussion continued regarding sidewalks in the Village. A resident asked how they obtain the information regarding what areas have been targeted to have sidewalks installed. Police Chief Fieldson stated that they have noticed an increase in foot traffic along Watson Ave. and that area should be considered for sidewalks. Trustee Strong stated that letters went out to all the residents effected, however Watson was not identified on that notification list. Further discussion continued regarding Watson Ave with one resident stating that because the road is a long stretch, speed is also an issue.

The resident at 148 Grove St. stated at least 3-4 times per year, a vehicle winds up in his front yard because they are going too fast, and are not able to make the turn. His concern is that if the road is made a one-way street, how will vehicles make a turnaround? Another resident stated that's an issue on Van Mara as well. Mike stated he will make note of that as well, as these are all valid concerns. Mike also stated they will be looking at whether or not there is enough space to turn around in these areas. Discussion continued regarding thru traffic on these neighborhood streets. Mike stated that after enough drivers realize that some of these streets enable right turns only, theoretically that should cut down on through traffic. DPW worker C. Desimone emphasized difficulty around plowing roads on streets such as S. Bay, then right turn only onto Grove St. He identified that drivers oftentimes do not obey the traffic signs, and then it becomes an enforcement issue. Mike stated that the design of one-way streets, movement of traffic going one way in and one way out will reduce the traffic considerably on these streets. This in turn will make the streets safer for the community.



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Mike stated there are a lot of components that go into the design phase of these type of projects. He stated that if signs were just placed in areas, as in the past, it does not work. He stated, from a design component, they have learned that redesigning a road, and making it hard for drivers to disobey traffic patterns is more advantageous for the safety of the community.

A resident who is one street over from the highway stated they are already dealing with the increased traffic from the construction happening now. She stated there is already

an increase in tractor trailers, cars, pedestrians etc. She stated that it is already almost impossible to make a left turn onto Route 11 in that area.

Trustee Strong asked Mike if he had received a list of concerns from the Deputy Chief of the Fire Dept. that was supposed to be forwarded based on some concerns from the Stake Holder meeting he attended. Mike stated he has not received them, and will follow up.

Discussion continued with multiple residents speaking out regarding the multitude of changes affecting streets not identified in the project as well. Many residents voiced concerns regarding the traffic patterns now, and the effects of the changes. Too many residents talked together to identify. Mike stated that many of these concerns would be better to address at the tables after the meeting. The Mayor interjected to advise the meeting participants to allow Mike to finish his presentation. The Mayor stated to keep in mind that these are ideas presented by SMTC. The Mayor further stated that we are all aware that these areas identified have been a problem for a long time, that needs to be addressed. The Mayor thanked all of the community members for attending the meeting, and voicing concerns and ideas. The Mayor stated that after the meeting there will be ample time given to further voice concerns and ideas.

Mike showed a map outlining the proposed changes from South Bay reiterating that some of the roads are County/Village. He stated that Van Mara access from S. Bay would be "right turn only". There will not be an ability to go onto Maxwell from S. Bay. He also stressed there is no cut across ability either. Further, Maxwell Ave. will have a right-out ability only onto S. Bay Rd. He also stated that the Fire Dept. voiced concerns regarding access to these roads such as Van Mara in an emergency. Mike stated the curbs allow the trucks the ability to drive over them in an emergency, he identified them as both direction access clearance. Mike stated the concerns have been documented as well. Mike identified on the map the sidewalks are in white. Mike also identified the green lines as an 8 ft. shared use pathway. Mike also stated the map shows an 8 ft. wide shoulder on S. Bay Rd. A resident on Van Mara stated the map shows the shared use pathway is in the middle of her front yard. The resident further identified what appears to be a dead-end path on that end of Van Mara Dr. Mike stated that it is important to have these conversations regarding these issues for exploration of all options. Mike also identified the curbing along both sides of the intersection. He stated the reason for the curbing is to protect anyone accessing these crosswalks/sidewalks from cars that might go around a stopped vehicle.

Mike state the DOT has been involved in meeting with them regarding this project and the planning. The DOT also had concerns regarding these issues, that have been addressed through in-depth discussions.

Mike ended the presentation stating that it is important to be in discussions with everyone to identify and address concerns like: snow removal, emergency access, pedestrian yields, sign placement etc. Mike also identified the visual changes that are proposed for drivers going up/down S. Bay Road. These signs, curbs, flashing lights will allow them to identify the need to slow down a bit when accessing this area.



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Mike additionally identified the Maxwell/Gertrude access to Route 11. He stated it has been identified as needing "Safety Access improvements". They have proposed changing the directional parking from N/S to S/W and adding additional parking at the business on the corner. This would enable safer access points for these businesses as well. It would also enable safer access when the sidewalks are incorporated along Maxwell Ave. A resident also identified Nestico's, at Route 11 and Watson, parking lot as being an issue. She stated the first ten spots in that parking lot, as well as any trucks needing to back up from the parking lot, back out right onto Route 11. Mike stated he would make note of that concern, and look into that issue as well. Mike identified the VFW parking lot as having two driveways. He noted the green space addition to that area, and stated the proposal is to narrow down those driveways.

Mike further thanked everyone for taking the time to attend the meeting. He reiterated that they would be at the tables, with the diagrams for any additional questions or concerns to be addressed after the meeting.

Final question from a resident stated he would like to know if the Police Chief has bought into enforcing the diligence of obeying these traffic changes. He, as well as other residents identified the disregard for prohibiting turns at Van Mara, and U-turns at Maxwell Ave., etc. The resident wondered aloud if the department has the manpower to enforce adherence. Another resident stated that she is a lifelong resident on Grove St, which is very busy; she stated that this project appears to be different as the Village is not just erecting signs to change the traffic enforcement. She stated there will also be barriers in place to prevent driving over them to ignore the implementation. Mike agreed and stated that the engineering improvements allows for behavioral changes to be made by the drivers. The Police Chief stated that he has been the Chief for two years, but has spent 10 years with the Department. Chief Fieldson further stated that every year there are multiple complaints specifically regarding the intersections of Van Mara and Grove St. Chief Fieldson stated that engineering changes to that area is a win/win. He stated they could sit at that area and write tickets all day long. Since it has been at least a decade long problem, making design changes to that area is something the departments are all backing. Another resident stated that she definitely sees the Police Dept. enforcement has increased, as she has a stop sign on her property, and she appreciates that. She stated she is excited about installing many of these curves as drivers will not be able to fly around them anymore. Mike as well as Trustee Strong stated the information would be available on SMTC website as well as the Village Website. The SMTC website allows for comments, sticky notes etc.

CITIZENS VOICE: The Mayor asked if any citizen would like to address the Board for any issues outside of the Public Hearing. No citizens came forward to address the Board.

DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS: The Mayor stated the Board would abstain from Department Head Reports for this Board Meeting.

MAYOR'S REPORT: Mayor Butterfield stated the following:

The Mayor ended the public hearing, reinforcing the table set up for additional interaction regarding this proposed project. The Mayor stated the Board feels that it is very important that the Village do something to address these areas. The Mayor stated that they will look into including Watson in the proposal. The Mayor also stated the Village will look into any additional Grants that may be available to help with the costs. The Mayor thanked everyone for attending the meeting.



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The Public Hearing officially adjourned at 7:00 P.M. The Village Board moved to a budget/work session discussion at 7:10 P.M. The Board collectively agreed on several changes that would create a Model 2, which would replace Model 1.

Trustee Bolton made the motion to adjourn at 9:30 P.M. The motion was seconded by Dep. Mayor Gustafson. The motion was approved: Gustafson, Bolton, St. Germain and Strong all voting in favor of the same.

Respectfully submitted,

Dianne M. Kufel
Village Clerk-Treasurer

VILLAGE OF NORTH SYRACUSE

REGULAR BOARD MEETING

DATE: 3/27/25

PLEASE SIGN IN

NAME

ADDRESS

TOED CULMER

Belmore U.S.

Tam + Kathy STAGNITTA

1416 Grove St

MARY HEWITT

119 WILSHIP DR.

Nichole Warner

101 Van Mara Dr.

LISA STAPFER

5490 MILLER RD, BROWNSVILLE

STEPHEN A PALOMO

139 GROVE ST, N. SYRACUSE 13212

Chris + Joel Klaisle

101 Highland Ave

Jim Falise

148 Grove St

Henriette Amrhein

176 Sincos Wood Circle

Bill + Pauline Dupre

113 Sunnybrook Dr N. J. ex

Diana Smith

131 Grove St.

Jerome Sauter

117 Highland Ave

Luke Mahems

CHA EMBROIDERY

Ric + Carol Wehe

121 Watson

Jim Wallace

DFW

Lynnette Wright

138 Grove St

John C. FARATTA

150 MAYHEW AVE

Laura Hahn

105 SHIVER AVE

Kelly Wentworth

112 Grove St. N. Syr

Pauline Pope

106 1/2 North Field Dr N. Syr

Doug Mills

215 Watson Rd

Mike + Allie Heppner

