



VILLAGE OF NORTH SYRACUSE

Regular Board Meeting

Thursday, August 24, 2017 @ 4:30 PM

North Syracuse Community Center
700 South Bay Road, North Syracuse, NY 13212

The Village of North Syracuse Regular Board Meeting began at 4:30 P.M. with the Mayor Gary Butterfield inviting everyone present to join him in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call: Mayor Gary Butterfield, Deputy Mayor Fred Ferguson, Trustee Diane Browning, Trustee Pat Gustafson, and Trustee Chuck Henry.

Personnel Present: Village Clerk/Treasurer Dianne Kufel, Police Chief Michael Crowell, Codes Enforcement Officer Brian Johnstone, DPW Superintendent Gary Wilmer, Parks Director Teresa Roth, Village Engineer Brian Bouchard, and Village Attorney Scott Chatfield.

Personnel Absent: Fire Chief Chris Strong (Absent).

RESOLUTION # 168-17

APPROVAL OF BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Deputy Mayor Ferguson made a motion to approve the minutes from the August 10th, 2017 Board Meeting. The motion was seconded by Trustee Browning. The motion was approved with Trustee Browning, Trustee Gustafson, Trustee Henry, and Deputy Mayor Ferguson, all voting in favor of the same.

RESOLUTION # 169-17

GENERAL FUND ABSTRACT APPROVAL

Deputy Mayor Ferguson made a motion to approve the General Fund Abstract #06 in the amount of \$72,029.26 covering Voucher #295 to Voucher #358. The motion was seconded by Trustee Gustafson. The motion was approved with Trustee Browning, Trustee Gustafson, Trustee Henry, and Deputy Mayor Ferguson, all voting in favor of the same.

CITIZENS' VOICE:

The Mayor invited anyone that wished to share concerns or thoughts to address the Board. David Robinson of 163 Slindes Woods Circle stated he wanted to give an update on the Sign Committee. He continued that they have had one meeting, with the help of Jim Hickey, of Charles Signs, who is also on other town planning boards. He brought us the Town of Clay Code and what we have so far; the committee is in agreement that we have a definition of Electronic Signs. He stated he thinks it is durable, because it doesn't talk about L.E.D.'s versus LCD or anything; it talks in more general terms, so we have a definition. He continued one of the issues was how often the sign changes. He stated Clay's code talks about every ten seconds which Mr. Hickey stated was too long, and someone else



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brought up two seconds; so we are confused. He stated someone also brought up the idea of a ticker tape, a thing running; do we want it and how fast does it run. He stated that the Committee could not come to any kind of consensus. He stated in talking with Mr. Hickey, he has available a demo van that would come in, so we could look at signs that have various ways with various times, ticker tape displays, and he gave Mr. Robinson four days he was available. Mr. Robinson noted September 13th, 2017 at 10:30 AM, this would be the same time as the Dept. Head meeting thereby the sign committee members, trustees, planning commission members can all attend if available. He continued that he thinks that should give us a step; he thinks that they are relatively close to settle on the sign. The Mayor asked if anyone else would like to speak and no one responded, so he closed Citizens' Voice.

OLD BUSINESS:

**STATUS UPDATE ON THE TAP GRANT AWARD-
PROGRESS UPDATE**

Engineer Bouchard stated, CHA has submitted the Scope of Work to the DOT representing the project and to the Village, so that you can review it before the meeting. He stated that they have reached out to the contact person at D.O.T. for available dates to schedule a meeting with them to review the SCOPE. He continued once that is defined, we will finish our proposal, and then put a schedule together for the completion of the work.

NOTIFICATION OF THE AARP GRANT-NON AWARD

The Mayor stated we have been notified that we did not get this award. He continued there were thousands around the country and they thought it was a good application, but we did not get it.

STATUS UPDATE-JEFFERS SHOE REPAIR-134 CHURCH ST

The Mayor stated we have already had a not to exceed number approved and had a couple of people look at a survey and the cost of the survey. He continued he did not feel we needed to spend the money to tell us there is Asbestos, as we already know there is. He stated we need to reach out to get a budget to see how much it will cost to remove the siding, so he would like to continue on with that. Trustee Browning inquired as to who owns the building and what the amount they are asking. Mayor Butterfield stated the owner is Aaron Rank and he wanted \$10,000. The Board discussed using the numbers as a negotiating tool including the cost of the removing some of the trees. They briefly discussed if he does not sell perhaps taking measures to address it, because it is an eyesore.



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NEW BUSINESS:

RESOLUTION # 170-17

MODIFY BD. MTG. MINUTES OF 5/25/17 (RES. #089-17)
CHANGE "TENTS" TO "PENNANTS"

Deputy Mayor Ferguson made a motion to modify the minutes of 5/25/17 Resolution # 089-17 to remove the word "tents" and replace it with the word "pennants." The motion was seconded by Browning. The motion was approved with Trustee Browning, Trustee Gustafson, Trustee Henry, and Deputy Mayor Ferguson, all voting in favor of the same.

RESOLUTION # 171-17

**DISCUSS WITH TREE BOARD-601 NORTH MAIN STREET/
505 N. MAIN ST.-MARIO'S BAKERY**

The Mayor stated we have two properties, 601 North Main Street where there are trees, and 505 North Main Street that sets next to it; where Mario's Bakery is located. The Mayor and the Tree Board discussed who is liable and negligence in regards to trees with Attorney Chatfield; who explained how it works. The Mayor stated since we are a registered Tree City he wondered if there were any guidelines on how to handle stuff like this, and asked that Mrs. Ferguson look into this.

Deputy Mayor Ferguson made a motion to have a letter sent out from the Tree Board to 601 N. Main Street property owner. The motion was seconded by Trustee Browning. The motion was approved with Trustee Browning, Trustee Gustafson, Trustee Henry, and Deputy Mayor Ferguson, all voting in favor of the same.

ATTORNEY REPORT: He made mention of the Towns doing the assessing of the Village properties for us and as a result when Tax Search matters are filed; they defend them. He continued to speak that apparently Town of Cicero settled one with a drug store, Rite Aid just in the Village Center and they are asking to get paid back based on the settlement for the over payment of Village Taxes. He stated that wants to check with Attorney Robert Germain on this, because it does not actually layout the amount of taxes; just the changes in the assessed valuation. He continued we will need to compute what that is for those years based on our tax rate for those years, but he wants to make sure that we all agree on what the number is, before we send them any money.

ENGINEER REPORT: He mentioned the enthusiasm about the new project for our corridor, the progress of the SCOPE document and meeting with the D.O.T. He continued on the existing project for Rt.11, there is a Change Order for some additional sidewalks. He stated Zach from CHA met with



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Gary and the contractor, to walk the additional work, and make sure that it is clear what flags of concrete we are taking out. He stated that there is one outstanding question that he reached out to the D.O.T. for, which is a five foot typical width and there are areas that are four foot width currently. He continued it looks silly to have only a few sections of concrete poured at five feet wide, so he is trying to get some sort of informal blessing that they understand that we will be putting back the four foot sections where we are essentially; just replacing what is damaged or broken. He stated that there are some sections he thinks that were the longer ones; eighteen or twenty flags which is about a hundred feet or so that will still be put back as the five foot width. He explained it will still be visually attractive, but give us that extra width for the maintenance of the equipment, and what is normally a typical standard width. He continued they should be starting that work pretty soon.

DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS:

Police Department: He stated our two new police officers are continuing to do well. They are both on their Field Training Programs, so he anticipates they are hopefully going to continue in that same manner. He continued on Tuesday, August 29th, 2017 he will be conducting an exit interview with Roberta Comerford; that will be her last day of work.

Fire Department: No Report (Absent).

Public Works Department: He stated so far he has sent the brush trucks out again to start picking up the storm. We have had a little bit; that was not too bad, but enough to send the truck out to get a head of it. He stated he has a letter from the state asking us to sign another shared service agreement for them housing our salt for the winter. He is asking the Board for approval to sign that Shared Service Agreement.

Parks and Recreation Department: She stated they had the last summer concert last night, so that is over with until next year. She continued the pool closes on Monday; things are definitely winding down from the summer. She stated that the seniors had a picnic today and they have a couple bus trips coming up. She continued they are very active with a lot of new members in the last year, so that is good. She stated that they are moving forward with trying to get information and pricing to re-do the floors at the Community Center downstairs. She continued they came today to do the testing for the tiles to see if there is Asbestos in the tile; hopefully that will still occur this fall.

Codes Department: He stated we sent letters out to notify the neighbors for the Variance request for 200 George Street. He shared that a couple of guys have come in to see what he is asking for. The meeting is on September 7th, 2017 and the ad will run on the August 30th, 2017 in the paper. Our two



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big projects: 117 South Main Street is still doing demo work there. He stated that he has gone over to talk to the Asbestos guy and he stated he was supposed to start work three days ago, but they are still ripping stuff out of there. He continued Maine's Plaza they have foundations poured and they have two reinforcement beams that they have to pour; then they will start building some structure over there.

Clerk-Treasurer: She stated tomorrow at Village Hall the new copiers are going to be installed just so you know and approved we are going to have copying of color availability now on the Police side and Village Hall. She continued they will be taking out the old copiers and wiping out the hard drive of any data. Peter will be there for the install to transition on the server. She stated that she has 99% closed the books for the Village and the ending fund balance when we did the budget here was \$634,000 in the fund balance. She continued we will be adding \$70,000 bringing it to about \$705,000 which does not include the Sewer Fund Reserve, approx. \$700,000 the Fire Apparatus Reserve, approx. \$100,000 and the Police and Court Reserve, approx. \$20,000. She continued that the Village received a letter stating in seven days we will get \$10,000 from Crown Castle for the resigning of the lease.

DEPUTY MAYOR-TRUSTEES REPORT:

Trustee Henry: He stated he has noticed going up and down Rt. 11, that the greening that we have done earlier this year; it is not being taken care of very well. He continued he knows that Stickley mowed their today, but a lot of it is getting brown and there are a lot of weeds in there; it is not very appealing. He stated that he does not know what we have to do to make these people take care of it. The Mayor stated he is going to ask the Codes Officer to send letters to the property owners. He continued that a lot of the property owners think that they are not going to mow that; but it is theirs's to mow, so we just have to notify them, because there are three of them that are not doing anything. He continued further down, Unfinished Furniture is just letting it go. He stated that there are two of them that it is rough there and we need to get more grass seed or topsoil at Dog Daze and the dentist next door. He knows that they put topsoil in there. Engineer Bouchard stated that they are doing the kind of work in front of the A-Z medical, so maybe there is something that we can convince the contractor to do at the same time. The Mayor stated that it is all driveway in front of A-Z medical and water always lies there, so we are going to give them a thirty foot driveway and then grass on either side of it; that will clean that up and allow the water to go down thru. The Mayor stated that the Dog Daze building's finished floor is below the edge of that is paved, but it is historic and been there forever. He continued when we had two of the heaviest rains this year; the catch basin was working, but there was no place for the water to go and was flooded way over to the cemetery and it also went into their building. DPW Superintendent Wilmer stated it just happened



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again. The Mayor stated that it is kind of a natural actual act, because we have pipes; there is enough water that comes to that catch basin, but when we have a heavy down pour we can't get it away fast enough. He stated years ago it was Russo's Butter Made Bakery, so that has been there for a long time, and that elevation has been there; whether they raised the road over the years when they repaved, causing it to be higher than the floor of the building he does not know. He continued the catch basin is in the right spot. He stated it is in a low area and unfortunately the building right next to it is lower, but not lower than the catch basin; but it is lower. DPW Superintendent Wilmer stated that once the drain is overwhelmed the water rises up and starts to go into the building. The Mayor continued according to the tenant; the building owner is not really excited about doing much, but he could put a little retaining wall in.

Trustee Browning: She made mention of the re-greening in front of St. Rose's looks so nice; there is no water out front and the grass looks good. She continued that she spoke last Thursday for the Town of Cicero to a group of North Syracuse Seniors and the Parks Director Roth has done a fantastic job. There are close to seventy or eighty in a meeting and they asked a lot of questions and phone calls; it is fantastic organization. She stated at the last meeting she was not here but for her report she had a call from one of the officials from Baldwinsville and they are trying to copy us and have a walkable village. She continued they wanted to know how that came about years ago, and the maps we made; somehow they got one of the maps we made. She thought that was quite a compliment to the Village.

Trustee Gustafson: She stated they have had a busy week. She shared that the Mayor and herself attended the grand opening of the Citgo. She continued we were treated to some Hamelin Cuisine of which she did not try, but did try the tea; which was very good. She stated right after that we went to the Resurrection Church Community Picnic which was very nice and a way to get everyone together. She congratulated Parks Director Roth on the last band concert; it was fantastic. She loved the band and everyone was friendly and happy. She stated as Mr. Robinson reported they did have a Sign Committee Meeting on August 15th, 2017 and everything is in progress.

Deputy Mayor Ferguson: He stated the next Public Safety Committee Meeting will be the on September 11th, 2017 at 4:00 p.m. downstairs.

MAYOR'S REPORT:

The Mayor stated he still has not reached out to person at the Land Bank that would help us with our vacant houses, as he wants the Codes Officer with them when they meet. He continued we were awarded Community Development monies for 2017 and the notification was for \$45,000; not



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\$50,000 that we received last year. He stated possibly we could use some of that money for opening up Church Street. He asked if there was any news on the WEP Grant and Engineer Bouchard stated no, he would have to look into it and he can report back. The Mayor went on to explain this has to do with the Save the Rain monies, another application has been filled out and if we happen to get that; quite a bit will be going toward this new project, to be used for our share. He stated SPCA Service is up and running and doing well so far. He continued they are responsive and we get 24/7 service from the SPCA. He continued that is the first time since he had been here, that he has ever seen aggressive movements towards stray animals. The Mayor stated that the Sign Committee Meeting has already been mentioned. The Mayor continued the coyotes; he had one almost every day for a week that was in his yard, but he is gone now. Trustee Browning mentioned he must have went to Shaver Ave. in her back yard. The Mayor stated that we did put up on our website a link to coyotecoexistence.com and it will ease your mind; that only one percent of coyotes get rabies and they do not go after people very often, but it was a little unnerving to see him as often as we did. He continued going to Animal Control Services, Al Burns is our new contact and we have good news from the residents. Village Clerk/Treasurer Kufel stated he is working with the people and telling them up front that the first call is on the Village and the second call he will be billing them and dealing with them directly. He continued the Mayors and Supervisors next meeting to get together is scheduled for next Wednesday, August 30th, 2017. He stated who knows what their response is going to be or the information, but it is good that we are meeting again. The Mayor shared there is a grand opening at the Citgo across from Lonergan Park. He stated the good story is there is a Naipaul refugee that has opened it up. He told a little story of being in a refugee camp in Naipaul for eighteen years, he has been in America for eight years and when he landed here he was working eighty to ninety hours a week; this is not his only business he stated he had two businesses in the city. He continued that he has a Hamelin kitchen, so it is not your typical gas station, nice guy and employing other legitimate refugees in the business; so it is kind of a nice thing. He stated that our North Syracuse Seniors and he knows that there are some other municipalities who are struggling to keep their attendance from dwindling, but ours seems to be working; so they like what is going on here and they like Parks Director Roth must be. He continued that they are active and going all the time. Parks Director Roth added they are called North Syracuse Seniors, but the new members in the past year to year and a half a majority are non-North Syracuse; just so you know. Trustee Gustafson commented that is why theirs is dwindling and ours is coming up. Parks Director Roth stated it is because they like our trips and our special events, but she sees it as a win-win, because otherwise we would not be able to have those things with just the Village; we do not have a lot of just Village residents that are that active in senior group. She continued we get a lot from Mattydale, Cicero and Liverpool and some from Baldwinsville and a couple from the city, so it is good.



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Mayor Butterfield asked for a motion to adjourn. Deputy Mayor Ferguson made a motion to adjourn at 5:09 p.m. The motion was seconded by Trustee Henry. The motion was approved with Trustee Browning, Trustee Gustafson, Trustee Henry, and Deputy Mayor Ferguson, all voting in favor of the same.

Respectfully submitted,

Dianne M. Kufel
Village Clerk Treasurer

