



## VILLAGE OF NORTH SYRACUSE

### *Regular Board Meeting*

Thursday, October 12, 2017 @ 6:30 PM  
North Syracuse Community Center  
700 South Bay Road, North Syracuse, NY 13212

The Village of North Syracuse Regular Board Meeting began at 6:30 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, and Trustee Pat Gustafson.

**Personnel Present:** Village Clerk/Treasurer Dianne Kufel, Codes Enforcement Officer Brian Johnstone, DPW Superintendent Gary Wilmer, Parks Director Teresa Roth, Village Engineer Amy Franco, and Village Attorney Scott Chatfield.

**Personnel Absent:** Trustee Chuck Henry, Police Chief Michael Crowell, and Fire Chief Chris Strong.

### **RESOLUTION # 186-17**

### **APPROVAL OF BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

Trustee Gustafson made a motion to approve the minutes from the September 28<sup>th</sup>, 2017 Board Meeting. The motion was seconded by Deputy Mayor Ferguson. The motion was approved with Trustee Browning, Trustee Gustafson, and Deputy Mayor Ferguson, all voting in favor of the same.

### **RESOLUTION # 187-17**

### **GENERAL FUND ABSTRACT APPROVAL**

Deputy Mayor Ferguson made a motion to approve the General Fund Abstract #10 in the amount of \$111,030.59 covering Voucher #498 to Voucher #540. The motion was seconded by Trustee Gustafson. The motion was approved with Trustee Browning, Trustee Gustafson, and Deputy Mayor Ferguson, all voting in favor of the same.

### **RESOLUTION # 188-17**

### **SEWER FUND ABSTRACT APPROVAL**

Deputy Mayor Ferguson made a motion to approve the Sewer Fund Abstract #10 in the amount of \$66.99 covering Voucher #06 to Voucher #07. The motion was seconded by Trustee Gustafson. The motion was approved with Trustee Browning, Trustee Gustafson, and Deputy Mayor Ferguson, all voting in favor of the same.

### **RESOLUTION # 189-17**

### **BUDGET TRANSFER(S)**

The Mayor explained the transfer of monies are from a drivers' insurance company for damage to a Light Pole in front of Rite-Aid that we received. Deputy Mayor Ferguson made a motion to approve



Village of North Syracuse  
Regular Board Meeting  
Thursday, October 12th, 2017 6:30 PM

the transfer of \$1,175 from A2680 Insurance Recoveries to increase A5182.411 Street Lighting. The motion was seconded by Trustee Browning. The motion was approved with Trustee Browning, Trustee Gustafson, and Deputy Mayor Ferguson, all voting in favor of the same.

**RESOLUTION # 190-17**

**BUDGET TRANSFER(S)**

The Mayor explained the transfer of monies are to add security cameras to an additional park with money not used for purchasing tables. Trustee Gustafson made a motion to approve the transfer of \$900 from A7181.21 Comm. Ctr. Tables and Chairs to increase A7110.29 Equip. Park Cameras. The motion was seconded by Deputy Mayor Ferguson. The motion was approved with Trustee Browning, Trustee Gustafson, and Deputy Mayor Ferguson, all voting in favor of the same.

**RESOLUTION # 191-17**

**BUDGET TRANSFER(S)**

The Mayor explained the transfer of monies are to add security cameras to an additional park with funds not used for purchasing kitchen equip. for the Comm. Ctr. Trustee Gustafson made a motion to approve the transfer of \$1,000 from A7181.22 Comm. Ctr. Bldg. Equip. to increase A7110.29 Equip. Park Cameras. The motion was seconded by Trustee Browning. The motion was approved with Trustee Browning, Trustee Gustafson, and Deputy Mayor Ferguson, all voting in favor of the same.

**CITIZENS' VOICE:** None

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**RESOLUTION # 192-17**

**TAP GRANT AWARD-ENGINEERING CONTRACT  
AND SCHEDULE TO REVIEW**

Deputy Mayor Ferguson made a motion authorizing the Mayor to sign the TAP Grant Award Engineering Contract Agreement with CHA for Scope of Services in the amount of \$216,114 for the Complete Streets Corridor Project. The motion was seconded by Trustee Gustafson. The motion was approved with Trustee Browning, Trustee Gustafson, and Deputy Mayor Ferguson, all voting in favor of the same.

**RESTORE NY GRANT-UPDATE**

The Mayor stated that we submitted the pre-applications "intent to apply" by October 13<sup>th</sup>, 2017; as required. He stated this is a nice opportunity; the Village being the Lead Agency.



Village of North Syracuse  
Regular Board Meeting  
Thursday, October 12th, 2017 6:30 PM

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**AWARD: B. KINNEY 30 YEARS OF SERVICE**

The Mayor spoke of an award for one of our DPW Employees, Bill Kinney, which is leaving the Village after thirty years of service. He read the plaque and expressed his thanks on behalf of the Trustees and the Mayor; previous Trustees and Mayors he served under.

30

**New York State Conference of Mayors and Municipal Officials**

*Present this Thirty-Year Certificate of Public Service to  
William Kinney*

In recognition of thirty years of distinguished public service to your community, the New York State Conference of Mayors is pleased and honored to publicly acknowledge your dedication and commitment.

**NYCOM**

**Peter A. Baynes**

*NYCOM Executive Director*

DPW Sup't. Wilmer stated in two days is his 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and unfortunately he has decided to retire. He spoke of the knowledge he has brought to the Village, the things you will see that he has done around the Village; he will be missed.

**RESOLUTION # 193-17**

**CODES FEE FOR PETROLEUM TEMP. STRUCTURE/TRAILERS-ANNUALLY**

The Mayor explained there will be a Petroleum Remediation System which is a temporary structure for monitoring wells going in at the Sunoco Station on E. Taft. Rd. and in our Codes it calls for a fee of \$100 a year. He stated the Code is confusing and needs to be modified and our Codes Officer will look into our code for trailers. Much discussion took place regarding the areas of the codes that need to be address. The Codes Fee Schedule for trailers/pods will be looked at a later Village Board Meeting. Deputy Mayor Ferguson made a motion authorizing the trailer to be placed on the property which will probably be there for more than a year and we will have to renew it. The motion was seconded by Trustee Gustafson. The Mayor stated in the meantime we can tidy up some of the code. The



Village of North Syracuse  
Regular Board Meeting  
Thursday, October 12th, 2017 6:30 PM

motion was approved with Trustee Browning, Trustee Gustafson, and Deputy Mayor Fergerson, all voting in favor of the same.

**RESOLUTION # 194-17**      **APPROVE THE APPOINTMENT OF NORTH SYR. VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTER**

Trustee Browning made a motion to approve the appointment of Father John Canorro as a new Volunteer Firefighter. The motion was seconded by Trustee Gustafson. The motion was approved with Trustee Browning, Trustee Gustafson, and Deputy Mayor Fergerson, all voting in favor of the same.

**RESOLUTION # 195-17**      **DISCUSS/REVIEW MOU AGREEMENT WITH COUNTY AND  
VLG. NORTH SYR. POLICE DEPT.**

The Mayor stated a week ago Friday; Police Chief Michael Crowell tendered his resignation and tomorrow is his last day. He continued he reluctantly accepted his resignation. He stated he is going to be the new Police Chief for the Town of Manlius. He went on that we had to act quickly as they wanted him right away; he gave us two weeks. He spoke with Sherriff Conway that afternoon and he called him back the following Monday with an idea. Sherriff Conway called and stated that the County will provide him with leadership to sit in the Police Chief's position until you can find a new Police Chief at no charge to the Village. We needed a Memorandum of Understanding. He stated that you should have a copy and the Board is aware of the recent resignation; sad day. The county has agreed to provide us with a bridge to get us to our next appointment.

Deputy Mayor Fergerson made a motion authorizing the Mayor to sign the MOU Agreement with Onondaga County. The motion was seconded by Trustee Gustafson. The motion was approved with Trustee Browning, Trustee Gustafson, and Deputy Mayor Fergerson, all voting in favor of the same.

**ATTORNEY REPORT:**

Atty. Chatfield spoke of a couple of questions that came up at the Staff Meeting that he needed to get resolved and have the answers. He stated the Board is aware that there was a Class Action Suit that was directed at the Independence Party Election process that he previously had reported on. His advice to you at the time was not to do anything when Clerk-Treasurer D. Kufel was singled out. He explained it was really just representative and about the State of New York and their election law process as opposed to us. He explained that has progressed to the point that the law firm that brought the lawsuit has been successful and they are submitting an application for attorneys' fees. He stated part of the process was to send us a rather alarming letter basically saying we owe them a \$100,000 in attorney's fees, but that was quite misleading. He continued so he contacted the



Village of North Syracuse  
Regular Board Meeting  
Thursday, October 12th, 2017 6:30 PM

attorney at the Wladis' Office and he indicated to him that this is simply one of the steps and is now scheduled for a hearing in November. He stated at which time the court will determine how much fees are going to be awarded; if any at all, and whether the state will do what is called apportionment. He explained that is basically where the state says O.K.; we will pay the fees or whether the fees will be split over every Village that sits across the state of New York and the state. He stated the bottom line is we do not know what if anything that we are going to owe. He continued we may not owe anything at all, but most likely it will be a small fraction of the total fees; if any at all, but we will not know that until either January or February after the court sorts it out. He stated the bottom line is those fees are going to be a lot cheaper than if you actually hired me to oppose it which was we determined earlier.

He state the second issue was as the Board is aware, the Federal Department of Labor came in and did an audit with respect to some esoteric rule; that he is not even going to explain to you, but it was payment to Police Officers. He continued that they have completed their audit, issued a report that indicated to us that we had under paid certain officers specific amounts and gave all that information to Village Clerk-Treasurer Kufel. He stated the checks were cut, we offered the checks to the employees through the normal process, but the instructions we had received called for the execution of form WH58; a portion of which form was a release of liability that the federal government was saying that we had to get them to sign. He continued through their union the officers said well do not mind taking the check, but we are not giving up our rights to sue if something is wrong or at least until somebody tells us how you calculated all of this. He explained with the Mayors instruction he contacted the head of the department and he received the following advice from him; do not worry about getting them to sign WH58 from them; we do not really need it. He stated just give them the checks. Attorney Chatfield stated we will just give them the check and the representative asked that we do that; but when you get the checks back showing that they have been deposited or cashed just make a copy of the front and back and send the copies to of front and back to them, that is all we need to do. He continued that he has instructed Village Clerk-Treasurer Kufel to add the additional checks in with the next pay package when it goes out and that should be it.

**ENGINEER REPORT:** No Report.

**DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS:**

**Police Department:** No Report (Absent).

**Fire Department:** No Report (Absent).



Village of North Syracuse  
Regular Board Meeting  
Thursday, October 12th, 2017 6:30 PM

**Public Works Department:** He stated the only thing he has is with the Mr. Kinney retiring he will have a job opening. He continued hopefully by the next meeting he will have somebody to bring to the Board to see if we can fill this position. The Mayor asked about the new truck that was on the requisition. DPW Sup't. Wilmer stated that has been here for a couple of months. The Mayor stated plus the other one is going to auction and he asked when the auction was. DPW Sup't. Wilmer continued it is actually on the auction right now and it is up to \$25,000 right now; hopefully it will increase a bit more.

**Parks and Recreation Department:** She reminded everyone that the Village Halloween party for youth; twelve and under is scheduled for Friday October 27<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 P.M. at St. Rose of Lima in the cafeteria-gym area. She continued we just need people to sign up their kids; it is free for anyone that wants to come and they are encouraged to come in costume. She stated they are moving forward with the grant for Lonergan Renovation Project for the Community Center, so you should be starting to see some requisitions coming through. She continued we will be starting in the next week or two on that and probably proceed for the next couple of months, but it should be nice.

**Codes Department:** He stated the Sign Committee met on Tuesday and have pretty much come to a decision on the Electronic Message Board Signs for the Village. He continued Mr. Robinson gave the changes to Attorney Chatfield today to look it over, so we can hopefully get the Code written; so we can make it law. He stated the next Planning Commission Meeting will be next month on November 16<sup>th</sup> and on the agenda for that is the Napa Auto Store at 605 N. Main St. for their new pole sign that is going to be out on the street. He continued it came back from the County last week and there was not enough time to get it on this month, so it will be next month. We have two big projects going on right now, the Maine's Plaza is up and the outside is all covered; this week they are doing the parking lot, curbs, and sidewalks. He shared the contractor stated the windows were on order and once the sidewalks were complete; they would be putting those in and securing that and starting the inside. He stated the old Dollar Store is pretty much all framed, and today they were hooking up the water from the road. He continued the only question he has on that is if OCWA destroys the sidewalk; are they to replace the sidewalk. The Mayor clarified that the Village signed an agreement with them and if they destroy the sidewalk; they are responsible to put it back. Codes Officer Johnstone stated the property at 601 N. Main St. received letters from the Tree Board and the property has been taken care of. He continued that he went and talked with NAVAC after he spoke with the homeowner at 601 N. Main St., who stated a couple of the trees were on NAVAC's property, between her and NAVAC they took down the trees that were dead on the property and the tree that had fallen on the house. He went on to say that NAVAC actually took down a couple on the north side as well that they were concerned with. He stated we are going to be submitting a change to the Code to exempt Freestanding Signs in the definition of an Accessory Structure. He explained the Freestanding Signs will only be governed by the Sign Code and will not be classified as an "Accessory Structure". He



Village of North Syracuse  
Regular Board Meeting  
Thursday, October 12th, 2017 6:30 PM

clarified this has to happen in order for anyone in a Commercial District to get a sign in front of the building pretty much; anyone in the "C" Zones. Trustee Browning inquired if that would take care of the question with the bank. Attorney Chatfield stated that was the genesis for the issue.

**Clerk-Treasurer:** She stated for the next meeting she is going to be proposing to the Board that the gal that we have at the office from Stafkings, Maria; she has been doing a phenomenal job for the Parks Director Roth and assisting the administrative side of the Village and she would like to come forward and offer her something permanent with the Village.

**DEPUTY MAYOR-TRUSTEES REPORT:**

**Trustee Henry:** No Report (Absent).

**Trustee Browning:** She stated just like you have heard the adage, Police Officer are the finest all through the world and she thinks that we have had one of the finest. She continued we are going to miss him; he has done a lot for us. She congratulated Mr. Kinney; hopefully he will be able to travel and stay in good health. She stated that Mrs. Franco and herself went and talked with Stickley's the other day, when they had a meeting with them. She spoke of the Stickley representatives complimenting the Village and stated that they were very happy to be here over many years. They had mentioned just being out here and the wonderful job that had been done on Main St.

**Trustee Gustafson:** She agreed with what Trustee Browning stated for Police Chief Crowell and Mr. Kinney and wished them well. She stated she was going to report on the Sign Committee, but Codes Officer Johnstone did a good job.

**Deputy Mayor Ferguson:** He stated ditto on what Trustee Browning stated. He commented that Police Chief Crowell has done an awesome job and he is really going to miss him. He stated he is going to have to get in touch with him tomorrow regarding the Emergency Operation Plan which is on his computer. The Mayor stated he has already spoken with him on that. He continued the next Public Safety Meeting is on Monday, December 4<sup>th</sup>, 2017 at 4:00 P.M. downstairs.

**MAYOR'S REPORT:**

Mayor Butterfield stated last week he and Codes Enf. Officer Brian Johnstone met with the Land Bank which is a county wide agency. He spoke of a lot of properties that are vacant and some in disrepair, but they are looking at six properties. He continued if we can get them deeded over to the Land Bank; they believe that they could help us get those in better shape and she is working on that. He received a second email from her asking if we had any brownfield properties which are contaminated sites;



Village of North Syracuse  
Regular Board Meeting  
Thursday, October 12th, 2017 6:30 PM

the former Mobil Oil site on N. Main St. falls under that. He continued we found the information on the owners and the contamination and sent that to her, so maybe that will help us get that site cleaned up and back on the market. He stated NYCOM is inviting Mayor's to the upcoming Legislative Priorities Meeting on Monday November 13<sup>th</sup> at the Albany Hilton. He continued this is kind of new and he will see if he can attend and perhaps another Trustee can go. The Mayor stated on the back of the November Ballot there is a question on the Constitutional Convention asked if we should have one. He continued NYCOM's position on this is yes. He went on to say that there is a lot of feeling on both sides, but that is NYCOM's position. He continued they stated in spite of some potential problems, there are other areas that would be beneficent, so he passed that on to the Trustees today. Attorney Chatfield explained about the Constitutional Convention, the requirements and process and suggested the Board think about consolidation when looking at this. Attorney Chatfield stated he had received a recommendation with respect to the Electronic Signs and asked how they wished him to proceed. The Mayor stated it has not been distributed to the Board and let it simmer for now. The Mayor stated that Police Chief Crowell has done a fine job and was here five years. He has done a fine job and his accreditation is in good shape. He continued we have got new officers that are being trained and he thinks he has left us in a good position. The Mayor stated he is also going to help with us finding his replacement; the Town of Manlius has permitted him to take a little time to find his replacement. The Mayor commented that he is a good man and we are going to miss him.

Trustee Browning made a motion to adjourn at 7:13 PM. The motion was seconded by Trustee Gustafson. The motion was approved with Deputy Mayor Ferguson, Trustee Browning, and Trustee Gustafson, all voting in favor of the same.

Respectfully submitted,

Dianne M. Kufel  
Village Clerk Treasurer



