



**VILLAGE OF NORTH SYRACUSE
Public Safety Committee**

Dedicated to increasing the safety of the residents, in the Village of North Syracuse

March 5th – 5:00 p.m.
North Syracuse Fire Department

The meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.m. by Chairman, Fred Fergerson. Minutes of our December 5th Meeting were approved as distributed.

ATTENDANCE

Fred Fergerson, Chairman/Trustee
Pat Brennan, Fire Chief
Tom Connelly, Police Chief
Gary Wilmer, DPW
Teresa Roth, Parks & Recreation
Jack Gaiser, Zoning Board
Pam Dicarolo, Codes
Ray Sharp, Resident
Charlotte LaPorte, Resident
Joe Difabio, NSFD

1. Police

Chief Connelly reported that his department has a camera to monitor vandalism of village signs, but no place to mount it. He wants to have the police's "Village Beat" portion of the village web site back up soon. He is hopeful that all the bugs have been worked out. Marked car 251 is being replaced.

2. Fire Department

Chief Brennan asked if the agenda of our meetings could be sent out prior to the meeting so everyone would know in advance what topics would be focused on. Fred said he would try to email reminders out with any concerns he knew should be discussed. The chief reiterated the growing problem with senior housing that his department has been facing (disabled seniors in public housing settings are frequently and repeatedly calling for assistance after falling). These calls put a strain on agencies that aren't designed to cater to senior care. Assisted living should be sought for these people. Pam, from Codes, mentioned that Malta House is classified as "elderly housing". As such, isn't required to meet "assisted living" standards. Pat introduced Capt. Joe Difabio, from his department, as the first of many of his officers he plans to expose to the various governmental functions of the village through attendance at meetings such as this. The chief also reported that the Town of Clay had just had a ISO Rating Fire Department review. This is like a report card encompassing all the Fire Departments in the town. Formerly, this was done on a department level. NSFD was rated a 3 out of 9 where 9 is the worst rating and 1 (received by Syracuse Fire Department) is the best. Clay received a 4 this time. Ratings are based on how many full time, paid members a department has, number and location of fire hydrants, types of equipment, response times and training, among other factors. These ratings help to determine the fire insurance rates home owners are charged.

3. Codes

Pam addressed new regulations that are coming out regarding the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). What was "grandfathered" before, may not be now. She'll be looking into addressing the new requirements and enforcing compliance in the future.

4. Parks & Recreation

Teresa mentioned, in reference to ADA, the village pool has just received a lift to assist those with disabilities in getting into and out of the water. She attended a training course that focused on providing accessibility. The Community Center elevator is now completely handicap accessible. Rieder Elevator Co. will maintain it for a year under their warranty. Mark Stockham of 40 Lee Terrace spoke to Teresa regarding the stop sign at Hier Ave. and has again requested enforcement by police.

5. DPW

Gary reported that in an effort to reduce costs, he has been looking into ways to save our energy usage by removing or lowering the tone of the street lights. Mary Street and Watson Road are areas into which he is looking. Brennan suggested that letters be sent out to residents prior to any reduction to explain the move. The street winter parking ban ends on April 15th. It's been a mild winter.

6. Additional Discussion

Jack Gaiser is concerned that pedestrians using crosswalks are being ignored. He requested stepped up enforcement. Chief Connelly has plans for an awareness "sting" to be done as the weather improves. Charlotte LaPorte requested that the Village Disaster Plan be reviewed. Everyone agreed this review is over due. Fred will bring this to the board's attention.

7. Trustee's Report

Fred mentioned that the Board is about to begin line by line review of the village budget. Early drafts show almost no increase. He did research on the legality of the South Bay School Zone and found it covered in the Village Codes book (Sections 230-41 and 230-7). Attorney Scott Chatfield has concurred. He also commented on last week's fire alarm, subsequent complete evacuation of Village Hall, due to a water leak setting off the detectors. It turned out to be only an inconvenience.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:44pm.

Next meeting: Monday, June 4th, 2012 – 5:00 pm – N.S. FIRE DEPARTMENT

**Alfred E. "Fred" Fergerson
Safety Chairman / Trustee**

cc: Mayor Atkinson
Trustee Butterfield
Trustee Henry
Trustee Fergerson
Trustee Linnertz
Diane Kufel, Clerk/Treasurer
Chief Connelly, Police Dept.
Gary Wilmer, DPW
Teresa Roth, Parks & Recreation
Chief Brennan, Fire Dept.
Deputy Chief Tim Ellis, Fire Dept.
Charlotte LaPorte
Jack Gaiser
Ray Sharp