



VILLAGE OF NORTH SYRACUSE

Regular Board Meeting

Thursday, August 9, 2018 @ 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 asking everyone to join him in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Swearing in/Oath of Office for: Trustee Art Steere

Village Clerk-Treasurer Kufel performed the official Oath of Office to swear Trustee Art Steere in as a Village Board of Trustee for the one year.

Roll Call: Mayor Gary Butterfield, Deputy Mayor Diane Browning, Trustee LouAnn St. Germain, and Trustee Art Steere.

Personnel Present: Village Clerk/Treasurer Dianne Kufel, Codes Enforcement Officer Brian Johnstone, DPW Superintendent Ed Ware, Assistant Chief Scott Gratien, Police Chief Steve Rotunno, and Village Attorney Scott Chatfield.

Personnel Absent: Trustee Pat Gustafson, Parks Director Teresa Roth and Village Engineer Amy Franco.

RESOLUTION # 149-18

APPROVAL OF BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Deputy Mayor Browning made a motion to approve the minutes from the July 12th, 2018 Board Meeting. The motion was seconded by Trustee St. Germain. The motion was approved with Trustee St. Germain, Deputy Mayor Browning, and Mayor Butterfield, all voting in favor of the same.

RESOLUTION # 150-18

APPROVAL OF BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Deputy Mayor Browning made a motion to approve the minutes from the July 26th, 2018 Board Meeting. The motion was seconded by Trustee St. Germain. The motion was approved with Trustee St. Germain, Deputy Mayor Browning, and Mayor Butterfield, all voting in favor of the same.

RESOLUTION # 151-18

GENERAL FUND ABSTRACT APPROVAL

Trustee St. Germain made a motion to approve the General Fund Abstract #05 in the amount of \$105,322.22 covering Voucher #221 to Voucher #272. The motion was seconded by Deputy Mayor Browning. The motion was approved with Trustee St. Germain, Trustee Steere, and Deputy Mayor Browning, all voting in favor of the same.



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RESOLUTION # 152-18

SEWER FUND ABSTRACT APPROVAL

Trustee St. Germain made a motion to approve the Sewer Fund Abstract #05 in the amount of \$98.36 covering Voucher #6. The motion was seconded by Deputy Mayor Browning. The motion was approved with Trustee St. Germain, Trustee Steere, and Deputy Mayor Browning, all voting in favor of the same.

NEW BUSINESS:

RESOLUTION 153-18

"SAM" GRANT OPPORTUNITY – HERITAGE PK. IMPROVEMENTS

The Mayor stated Assemblyman Stirpe approached the Parks Director and asked if she had any Parks Projects as funding was available. He continued the grant is for \$135,000, whereas "SAM" (System Award Management) would fund \$125,000, and the Village would need to budget \$10,000. He stated they will be repaving the Main Parking Lot, as well as the Lee Terrace entrance, doing a Dog Park; and if they still have funds, will do some other improvements at Heritage Park. Mayor Butterfield made a motion to approve the improvements to Heritage Park with \$10,000 contribution from the Village contingent on the approval that the rest of the monies come from SAM Grant through Assemblyman Al Stirpe's office. The motion was seconded by Deputy Mayor Browning. The motion was approved with Trustee St. Germain, Trustee Steere, and Deputy Mayor Browning, all voting in favor of the same.

RESOLUTION 154-18

SURPLUS "OLD" RESCUE 7-1998 SPARTAN

VIN #: 4S7AU4099WC022549

Deputy Mayor Browning made a motion to surplus the "OLD" RESCUE 7-1998 SPARTAN VIN #: 4S7AU4099WC022549. The motion was seconded by Trustee St. Germain. The motion was approved with Trustee St. Germain, Trustee Steere, and Deputy Mayor Browning, all voting in favor of the same.

RESOLUTION 155-18

TO COUNTY AUCTION - RESERVED PRICE \$10,000

SURPLUS "OLD" RESCUE 7-1998 SPARTAN

VIN #: 4S7AU4099WC022549

Trustee Steere made a motion to surplus the "OLD" RESCUE 7-1998 SPARTAN VIN #: 4S7AU4099WC022549 to County Auction with a Reserved Price of \$10,000. The motion was seconded by Trustee St. Germain. Trustee Steere asked where the money will go to. The Mayor stated it will go to the General Fund. The motion was approved with Trustee St. Germain, Trustee Steere, and Deputy Mayor Browning, all voting in favor of the same.



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RESOLUTION # 156-18

DISCUSS APPOINTMENT OF PART-TIME POLICE OFFICER
C. PLACITO -PENDING SUCCESSFUL COMPLETION
OF BACKGROUND CHECK

Deputy Mayor Browning made a motion to hire part-time officer Casey Placito at \$21.4967 effective Friday, August 17th; with maximum hours not to exceed 1040 annually; pending successful completion of the background check. The motion was seconded by Trustee Steere. The motion was approved with Trustee St. Germain, Trustee Steere, and Deputy Mayor Browning, all voting in favor of the same.

CITIZENS' VOICE: The Mayor invited anyone that wished to share concerns or thoughts to address the Board. The Mayor asked if anyone would like to speak and no one responded, so he closed Citizen's Voice.

ATTORNEY REPORT: He stated he received the Abstract of Title on the Jeffers Shoe Store property. He continued he is waiting for a legal description from the land surveyor, because there is something in the title that has to be discharged which requires a legal description of it. He expects to have that by early week and should be able to close by the end of next week or the following week.

ENGINEER REPORT: No Report.

DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS:

Police Department: He stated the following:

- Saturday is our Disk Golf Tournament
- Been very busy this summer and short staffed

Fire Department: No Report.

Public Works Department: He stated the following:

- They have been patching roads
- They are getting ready to trim trees for the buses and clearing branches for stop signs
- They have the drainage on Aspenwood almost done
- They have been working on a drainage job on Millen
- They have been busy

Parks and Recreation Department: No Report.

Codes Department: He stated the following:



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- We have been busy
- As of July 1st, so far we have issued 22 Permits, 13 Warning letters, 26 Violations of which 14 were Overgrowth; some mow their lawns, and DPW has been busy mowing for us as well and a couple of view obstructions at stop signs.

Clerk-Treasurer: She stated the following:

- She had shared the letter from County Executive Joanie Mahoney about the increase in the severity factor for plowing of the roads which will be an additional \$7,000 we will get
- She thought he would report on the update from Mrs. Franco on the TAP Grant
- They are trying to wrap things up for the "Old" Budget Year
- Preparing for audit that will be taking place in a couple of weeks
- Get the books open for the new year

DEPUTY MAYOR-TRUSTEES REPORT:

Trustee St. Germain: She asked Codes what happens with the vacant properties as she sees some on her street, Melrose and others and she wanted to know how long can they just sit there. CEO Johnstone stated three years without paying the taxes before they go to county auction. He continued if the bank or the property owner keeps paying them, then they will just sit. Trustee St. Germain asked what happens if they start to decay. CEO Johnstone stated that we have a couple of them that are doing that now and he takes them to court to repair them. Attorney Chatfield explained the Codes authority and responsibilities. Trustee St. Germain spoke of a property on Pleasant Ave. where there was a pool and it is dangerous. CEO Johnstone acknowledged the property. Attorney Chatfield explained the process when the building is in danger of collapsing and the steps that have to be taken. Trustee St. Germain spoke of it bringing down the area when everyone else keeps their property so nice.

Trustee Gustafson: No Report.

Trustee Steere: No Report.

Deputy Mayor Browning: She congratulated Trustee Steere.

MAYOR'S REPORT:

RESOLUTION # 157-18

MOLD TESTING-VILLAGE HALL



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The Mayor stated we are still waiting on the De Francisco Grant of \$50,000 that was promised money to renovate the Police side of which we are going to have to come up with \$5,000. He continued it is in the basement and a few years ago we had a water issue. He is inclined to do a mold test down there to make sure that we have a clean bill of health for the basement, before we spend the money. He stated they got quotes and the low bidder is \$800 to do a mold test. Deputy Mayor Browning made a motion to approve \$800 to be spent to do a mold test at Village Hall. The motion was seconded by Trustee St. Germain. The motion was approved with Trustee St. Germain, Trustee Steere, and Deputy Mayor Browning, all voting in favor of the same.

He stated our Village Court is closing very soon. He continued we have removed most of the signage for the court. He thinks the Court Clerk is in pretty good shape for closing it down; the transition from what he understands is going smoothly. He asked CEO Johnstone to speak. CEO Johnstone stated he has not gone to Cicero for court yet, but he has been to Clay Court twice and met with both judges on different nights. He continued everything has run smooth through Clay. He thinks Cicero is still going thru what we had to do to get scheduled for Village business on a night. The Mayor stated it has been mentioned that we received a letter from our County Executive that tax revenue is up 8%, and now we have notification from Albany that the first, six months of the year overall in New York; our Sales Tax Revenue here is 6%, the biggest jump in eight years. He went on maybe we may see something. He spoke of seeing today the New York State Pension Benefits is 94% funded and we had the highest return on the investments this year; almost 13% return; so many other states are not funded like we are. He stated Firefighters Night is at the Chiefs Saturday, August 11th with giveaways. Assistant Chief Scott Gratien stated firefighters are given tee shirts and discounted tickets. The Mayor continued last meeting we were looking for an update on our TAP from engineering for Church/Chestnut Streets. He received an email from Mrs. Franco, our engineer, talking about the design and where they are. He responded to the email and requested a meeting to potentially evaluate the engineering, before the drawing is done, so we do not produce a set of drawings that is going to be over budget which was alluded to and it was a bit more complicated. He stated no, they knew how much money we had in the grant, so rather than finish drawings, bid and then have to bid the engineer; hopefully we can do it now. He is looking to set a meeting as quickly as he can to deal with this, before we keep on going and find it is too much money. He stated he talked with the DPW Sup't. today and he brought up that people are using the dumpster that is in the back at DPW as a drop off and things are getting thrown in there that should not be thrown in there on nights and weekends. The DPW Sup't. stated we do not have cameras, so the Mayor has asked him to investigate systems for the DPW property and the Municipal Lot. The Mayor continued because there has been some activity there, to see what we can do with a limited budget; something we can tape and reuse it. He went on that some people know they can go there during the night and it is not secured. Deputy Mayor Browning asked if there is any more information when the garbage will change. The Mayor stated we are talking about that for October or November.



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The Mayor stated he would like to enter a motion to go into Executive Session to talk about contract negotiations and a personal issue. He stated that they will not be doing any business when they come out.

Deputy Mayor Browning made a motion to enter into **Executive Session** 6:54 P.M. to discuss a personnel issue. The motion was seconded by Trustee St. Germain. The motion was approved with Trustee St. Germain, Trustee Steere, and Deputy Mayor Browning, all voting in favor of the same.

Deputy Mayor Browning made a motion to return to **Regular Session** at 7:30 P.M. The motion was seconded by Trustee St. Germain. The motion was approved with Trustee St. Germain, Trustee Steere, and Deputy Mayor Browning, all voting in favor of the same.

Deputy Mayor Browning made a motion to adjourn at 7:31 PM. The motion was seconded by Trustee St. Germain. The motion was approved with Trustee St. Germain, Trustee Steere, and Deputy Mayor Browning, all voting in favor of the same.

Respectfully submitted,


Dianne M. Kufel
Village Clerk

