

VILLAGE OF NORTH SYRACUSE

Regular Board Meeting

Thursday, February 14th, 2019 @ 6:27 PM
North Syracuse Community Center
700 South Bay Road, North Syracuse, NY 13212

The Village of North Syracuse Regular Board Meeting began at 6:27 P.M. with Mayor Gary Butterfield asking everyone to join him in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call: Mayor Gary Butterfield, Deputy Mayor Browning, Trustee Pat Gustafson, and Trustee Art Steere.

Personnel Present: Village Clerk/Treasurer Dianne Kufel, CEO Brian Johnstone, DPW Superintendent Ed Ware, Fire Chief Robert Liberatore, Parks Director Teresa Roth, Village Attorney Scott Chatfield and Village Engineer Amy Franco.

Personnel Absent: Trustee LouAnn St. Germain and Police Chief Steve Rotunno.

Public Hearing #1 @ 6:27 PM: This Public Hearing is being held by the Board of Trustees of the Village of North Syracuse on the adoption of Local Law #1 of 2019, a local law allowing for a property tax levy in excess of the limit established in General Municipal Law 3-C, and the Board will hear all persons in favor or those that object thereto. The Mayor stated the purpose of this Local Law is we are limited to a 2% Tax Cap and if we do not pass this law, if we go beyond 2 % for some reason, then we have to put that in escrow. The Mayor asked if anyone would like to speak in favor or against Local Law #1 for the Property Tax Levy beyond 2%. The Mayor asked if there was anyone in favor or against. He stated again is anyone in favor or against and he closed the Public Hearing.

Public Hearing #2 @ 6:28 PM: This Public Hearing is being held by the Board of Trustees of the Village of North Syracuse on the adoption of Local Law #2 of 2019 providing for an exemption from real property taxes for Cold War Veterans as authorized by Section 458-B of New York Real Property Tax Law, and the Board will hear all person in favor or against the matter. The Mayor stated this was actually passed in 2009, but expired after 10 years, so we need to pass another resolution which will extend forever Cold War Veterans Property Tax break. He continued it amounts to about \$850 for the Village to lose in tax revenue per year. The Mayor asked if anyone would like to speak in favor or against. He again, asked if anyone would like to speak in favor or against and closed the Public Hearing.

Public Hearing #3 @ 6:29 PM: This Public Hearing is being held by the Board of Trustees of the Village of North Syracuse, New York, to consider the 2019 Funding Request for the Community Development Projects in the Village of North Syracuse; we will hear all persons in favor or against said Public Hearing and Community Development Projects. The Mayor stated anyone that would like to enter into dialogue to see what projects are needed and what should take priority; he knew sidewalks are



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an issue. He asked if anyone would like to speak in favor or against the Public Hearing for Community Development. He asked if there is anyone who would like to speak in favor or against or any thoughts on a Community Development. He stated he knew sidewalks are always on the agenda. He continued there are two different levels being given out by the County; historically there has been \$50,000 and they give out "X" number of \$50,000 awards. He explained now they want to break it into \$50,000 or \$150,000, because we do not get very much out of \$50,000 these days, so our Board approved that concept. He asked if anyone would like to speak about anything other than sidewalks. He gave a last chance to speak for or against and closed the Public Hearing.

RESOLUTION # 020-19

APPROVAL OF BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Deputy Mayor Browning made a motion to approve the minutes from the January 24th, 2019 Board Meeting. The motion was seconded by Trustee Gustafson. The motion was approved with Trustee Gustafson, Trustee Steere, and Deputy Mayor Browning, all voting in favor of the same.

RESOLUTION # 021-19

GENERAL FUND ABSTRACT APPROVAL

Deputy Mayor Browning made a motion to approve the General Fund Abstract #19 in the amount of \$161,827.79 covering Voucher #907 to Voucher #968. The motion was seconded by Trustee Steere. The motion was approved with Trustee Gustafson, Trustee Steere, and Deputy Mayor Browning, all voting in favor of the same.

RESOLUTION # 022-19

SEWER FUND ABSTRACT APPROVAL

Trustee Gustafson made a motion to approve the Sewer Fund Abstract #19 in the amount of \$168.62 covering Voucher #17 thru #18. The motion was seconded by Trustee Steere. The motion was approved with Trustee Gustafson, Trustee Steere, and Deputy Mayor Browning, all voting in favor of the same.

RESOLUTION # 023-19

BUDGET TRANSFER(S)

The Mayor stated the transfer of monies is to cover training overage for Clerk-Treasurer to attend Annual Training in Lake Placid. Trustee Steere made a motion to approve the budget transfers from A1325.411 Tax Bills & Forms to increase A1325.466 Trainings & Meetings in the amount of \$480.52. The motion was seconded by Trustee Gustafson. The motion was approved with Trustee Gustafson, Trustee Steere, and Deputy Mayor Browning, all voting in favor of the same.

RESOLUTION # 024-19

BUDGET TRANSFER(S)



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The Mayor stated the transfer of monies is to balance out the Unused Vacations Paid. Deputy Mayor Browning made a motion to approve the budget transfers from A1325.411 Tax Bills and Forms to increase A1325.13 Unused Vacation in the amount of \$1,835.02. The motion was seconded by Trustee Steere. The motion was approved with Trustee Gustafson, Trustee Steere, and Deputy Mayor Browning, all voting in favor of the same.

RESOLUTION # 025-19

BUDGET TRANSFER(S)

The Mayor stated the transfer of monies is to clean up a few accounts, Insurance Costs came in lower, so off setting Codes overages and the Skunk Removal Costs. Trustee Gustafson made a motion to approve the budget transfers from A1990.4, A1910.434 totaling \$6,505 to increase A3520.458, A3620.13, A3620.15, and A3620.29 in the amounts as listed below:

Amount	From	Account
\$1,505	A1990.4	Contingency Fund
\$5,000	A1910.434	Eastern Shore Liability Ins.

Amount	To	Account
\$2,057	A3520.458	Animal Skunk Removal
\$1,000	A3620.13	Codes Longevity
\$ 298	A3620.15	Vacation-Unused
\$3,150	A3620.29	Codes-New Software

The motion was seconded by Deputy Mayor Browning. The motion was approved with Trustee Gustafson, Trustee Steere, and Deputy Mayor Browning, all voting in favor of the same.

OLD BUSINESS:

DISCUSS/APPROVE VACANCY ON ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS: ALTERNATE

The Mayor stated we continue to have a vacancy on the Zoning Board and will continue to leave this on Old Business until someone reaches out and we are able to find a resident to fill this seat.

UPDATE ON 5G CELL-PLANNING COMMISSION TO DECIDE ON AESTHETICS-NEXT STEP

The Mayor stated we continue to keep this on Old Business as of 1/2020; we need to have our Village Code changed. The Mayor asked Trustee Steere to speak on the Webinar he took. Trustee Steere



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stated we cannot just say no; there is a timeframe and they have to apply for a permit and go through the Planning Commission. He continued based on the aesthetics; see if it is good fit for the Village and would need to get approval before a permit could be issued.

**APPROVE/AUTHORIZE MAYOR TO SIGN THE
CICERO FIRE PROTECTION AGREEMENT**

The Mayor stated this was to authorize the Mayor to sign the Cicero Fire Protection Agreement. Fire Chief Liberatore stated he was with the two Towns providers Tuesday and he asked where they were; they thought they had already been sent; they will get back to him. The Mayor explained it is just editing the language in the audit procedures; we would like to get the edited version to us, so we can get this signed off on. He tabled this for now.

NEW BUSINESS:

RESOLUTION 026-19

**DISCUSS/APPROVE NEW POSITION DUTIES
STATEMENT: ASSISTANT CHIEF OF POLICE**

The Mayor stated that Police Chief is not with us tonight, but he contacted the Board prior. He continued we need to approve a New Position Duties Statement. He went on to say the new position will be Assistant Chief of Police and the Board has received the information completed by the Chief. He explained he will be filling in absences of the Chief working a bit more in the evenings as well as assisting with grant opportunities. He stated we will be adding this to the roster, no change in salary, and no increase and is still Part-time; this is just adding someone who is a valuable resource and already employed by us, Bill Becker. Trustee Steere stated we have so many full-time Police Officers and so many Part-time; is his moving up to Assistant Chief going to leave open a part-time position or will that position move as we keep the same number of officers. The Mayor stated the Chief stated it will free up another Part-time position. The Mayor shared that one of the full-time officers is going to be retiring within a year or so and may be if we can hire another part-time to groom for a full-time. Trustee Gustafson made a motion to approve the Assistant Chief of Police position. The motion was seconded by Trustee Steere. The motion was approved with Trustee Gustafson, Trustee Steere, and Deputy Mayor Browning, all voting in favor of the same.

RESOLUTION 027-19

**DISCUSS/AUTHORIZE MAYOR TO SIGN LEASING
DOCUMENTS FOR 2019 SUV FORD
EXPLORER-POLICE**

Deputy Mayor Browning made a motion authorizing the Mayor to sign all Leasing Documents for the



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2019 SUV Ford Explorer for 4 yrs. at 3.39% with 4 payments of \$12,264 through Solvay Bank. Much discussion went back and forth between the 3 yr. vs. the 4 yr. rate of interest difference in cost which was \$900, plus the cost of outfitting of the car; the Board agreed on the 4 yr. rate. The motion was seconded by Trustee Steere. The motion was approved with Trustee Gustafson, Trustee Steere, and Deputy Mayor Browning, all voting in favor of the same.

DISCUSS/APPROVE W. TAFT RD. OCWA IMPROVEMENTS
- 2 ADD'L-PURCHASE OR 30 YR. PLAN

The Mayor stated the next item on the agenda is to discuss and approve W. Taft Rd. OCWA (Onondaga Cty. Dept. of Transportation) Improvements and two additional hydrants to purchase or a 30 yr. plan. He continued the Board has received the documents from OCWA for the upcoming work to be done on W. Taft Rd. between Buckley Rd. and South Bay Rd. to repave sidewalks, etc. He stated the plan looks to be adding two hydrants and opened it up for discussion. He continued if agreed that they are needed we need to discuss buying outright or 30 yr. payments. He stated if we buy them outright it is \$8,500 or amortize at \$207.91 each over 30 yrs., maintenance rate of \$71.61 per yr. He explained we own a little bit of land of which the sign for Basil Leaf which is in the Village and the restaurant is not in the Village. Fire Chief Liberatore stated they met with OCWA and there is a standard about the distance between hydrants; we looked at that and there is two major intersections right there, Rt. 11 and South Bay Rd. He explained that the current placement of the hydrants would have us basically blocked off both major intersections depending upon an incident; where it is, so that in turn would make a lot of mess up on Taft Rd., South Bay Rd. and Rt. 11. He stated putting these hydrants depending on which side it is would shut down one or none of them depending on which we go and it meets the 800' rule. The Mayor stated it makes sense to do it while the road is dug up, but they did not get this with a lot of time to look at it, so he tabled this for now.

DISCUSS/APPROVE CHURCH/CHESTNUT OCWA
IMPROVEMENTS - 4 ADD'L - PURCHASE
OR 30 YR. PLAN

Fire Chief Liberatore stated they added additional hydrants at the Church St. one as well, because the length of ways is longer than the standard. He continued that while the road is dug up, they figured they would do it now rather than having to dig up a new road. The Mayor also stated they would table this to give them more time to look at this.

DISCUSSION ONLY-20 YRS. OF THE CANTEEN
PROGRAM-CELEBRATION IN APRIL 2019



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The Mayor stated this is for discussion only; in April 2019 the Canteen Program will be celebrating 20 yrs. He continued we have been providing funds to the Canteen for many years and we have guests from the Canteen; he invited them to speak if they wished. Toni Brauchle, Canteen Director introduced Amy Bendetti who is her new Assistant Director and explained for those that do not know the Canteen is a drop-in Teen Center for kids in 8th to 12th grade in our community. She stated we serve primarily kids in North Syracuse Central School District, but especially during the summer; we are not open for drop-in as we are traveling doing trips and those kinds of things, anybody in the 8th thru 12th grade can join us for those opportunities. She spoke of the four local municipalities supporting the Canteen providing services for their youth for over 20 yrs. She continued she recently nominated them for the Elected Official Award through the Central New York Recreation and Parks Society that is presented at their Annual Awards Luncheon. She stated thanked the Board and congratulated them on receiving the award. She went on to say the Canteen would not be able to do what they do, if each municipality tried to do this on their own; especially in the economy we have seen of late. She stated that there is no way that the communities could come up with this type of afterschool program individually. She continued we have been fortunate having the four come together over 20 yrs. to provide this for upwards of 500 kids a year; individual faces that were seen and almost 600 last year with almost 10,000 visit last year just during the school year. She spoke of it being a labor of love for them, but we could not do it even with the best of intentions, if all the municipalities did not come together to keep doing this and supporting this. She also spoke of all the support Canteen has received for whatever they needed from the four municipalities; always inquiring what they could do to help. She continued it has been an amazing supportive system of support from all of you. She stated there are some new faces on the Board, and invited them to come to visit the Canteen itself on Thursday, March 7th at 5:00 PM, if anybody can come she will give you a little pack with a sticky on here, so that you can come and visit us. She continued you also have a Save the Date that the Mayor made mention of. She shared \$20 for 20 yrs. is a fund raising campaign we have going on that is part of our 20 Year Anniversary Celebration. She stated if there are folks out there that believe what we are providing is an investment in kids futures; we are asking the community to give us \$20 toward the operational expense. She added if we can get 1,000 people, then we would have \$20,000 in our coffers to help us with operational expense. She stated she brought flyers for the upcoming Spaghetti Dinner which the kids host twice a year and asked the Parks Director Roth to put them up. She asked if they had any questions for them while they were here. Trustee Gustafson stated not only are we helping you, but you are helping us. She continued you have been great helping with our fund raisers and the festivals; they jump right in and they do a great job. Mrs. Brauchle thanked her for that and stated quite honestly it is teaching them responsibility and giving back to their community which is probably one of the biggest challenges when talking about an adolescent population. She spoke of them working on various life skills like coping skills, social skills, getting out there and the importance of giving back and putting their phones down long enough, as well too. She also spoke of the communication skills that they are learning; to relate to a parent while



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the kids are involved in something, to be respectful, or how to communicate with someone and look at me in the eye when we are having this conversation or just use their phone for timing. She continued they love the Bunny Breakfast; the kids look forward to it and have a lot of fun while doing community activities and they enjoy it. Deputy Mayor Browning welcomed Assistant Bendetti, but commented she hoped that Mrs. Brauchle was not ready to retire. Mrs. Brauchle stated not for a few years, but times are changing and society is changing so much. She mentioned some of the mental health issues that some of these kids are seeing; she is getting to the point where she does not really understand or relate. She continued one of the key things we are seeing right now is gender; you would be surprised how much just the word gender has changed dramatically in the last few years and who are you dating. She went on to say in fifteen minutes from now, are you still dating that same person, are they the same gender or are they opposite gender; wow, it would make your hair curl while trying to keep with, understanding and trying not to be judgmental. Deputy Mayor Browning thanked them for all they do. Mrs. Brauchle returned the thank you and spoke of a true partnership. She stated we travel the whole state with the kids and there are a lot of times, the people will say "the four municipalities are doing what?" It is really unheard of. She continued it is a testimony as to how much faith and value you have in your young people and your community and we appreciate it very much. Trustee Gustafson commented they are our future. Mrs. Brauchle agreed and stated we have to learn what their world is about, so it is an equal educational thing.

RESOLUTION 028-19

**DISCUSS/APPROVE FIRE DEPT. RULES AND REGS.
MODIFICATIONS REGARDING EXPLORERS/JUNIORS**

Trustee Steere made a motion to make these changes to the Fire Dept. Rules and Regulations modifications regarding the eligibility to no less than 13 yrs. of age and no older than 18 yrs. of age and shall be enrolled in a local school maintaining all scholastic academic requirements to be eligible to participate in extracurricular activities regarding the Explorers/Juniors Program. The motion was seconded by Trustee Gustafson. The motion was approved with Trustee Gustafson, Trustee Steere, and Deputy Mayor Browning, all voting in favor of the same.

RESOLUTION 029-19

**DISCUSS/APPROVE LOCAL LAW #1 - ALLOWING FOR
A PROPERTY TAX LEVY IN EXCESS OF THE LIMIT**

The Mayor stated the next item on the agenda is to get the approval for Local Law #1 allowing for a property tax levy in excess of 2%. Trustee Steere stated we did not receive the AIM Funding this year; what is the likelihood that we will go over the tax cap. Village Clerk-Treasurer Kufel stated that she did not have the Budgets in yet from the Dept. Heads, but she is guessing Model #1 will be a 10% increase and then we try to dwindle down from there. The Mayor spoke of the Governor tightening what we get and a lot of the legislators are in favor of restoring AIM. Trustee Gustafson asked what the Village



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of North Syracuse share is. Village Clerk-Treasurer Kufel replied \$89,072. The Mayor asked how many points that would be. Village Clerk-Treasurer Kufel answered about 3. The Mayor clarified that it is about 3%. Trustee Gustafson made a motion to approve Local Law #1 of 2019 that allows for a Property Tax Levy in excess of the 2% Limit. The motion was seconded by Deputy Mayor Browning. The motion was approved with Trustee Gustafson, Trustee Steere, and Deputy Mayor Browning, all voting in favor of the same.

RESOLUTION 030-19

**DISCUSS/APPROVE LOCAL LAW #2 - EXEMPTION OF
REAL PROPERTY TAXES FOR COLD WAR VETERANS**

Trustee Gustafson made a motion to approve Local Law #2 of 2019 - Exemption of Real Property Taxes for Cold War Veterans. The motion was seconded by Deputy Mayor Browning. The motion was approved with Trustee Gustafson, Trustee Steere, and Deputy Mayor Browning, all voting in favor of the same.

**DISCUSS/APPROVE 2019 COMM. DEV. PROJECT(S) -
\$50,000 AND \$150,000**

The Mayor stated the next item is to discuss and approve 2019 Comm. Dev. Project(s) and there are two numbers now \$50,000 and \$150,000 and he asked Mrs. Franco to speak. Mrs. Franco stated these are the projects that she has heard of so far:

- The Church St. Sidewalk Project which would be \$150,000 application
- We just applied for TIP, so may want to hold off on big money one right now; you will automatically get a \$50,000, but need to do application for that
- The Gazebo at the Comm. Ctr.
- The bathrooms at Centerville are on the 5 Yr. Plan; might be \$150,000 project
- Some Sidewalks on Palmer Dr. and on Herbert St. which we could pair down to \$50,000
- Sleeth Mill Residents discussed walkway; in eligible area, if you want to do that anything there
- Walkable Village Trail Map; maybe able to do something more with that as well

Trustee Steere stated until our funding gets straightened out we should not apply for any big grant. The Mayor spoke of us having to pay the in-kind. Mrs. Franco stated the in-kind is 25%. The Mayor stated we will hold off; we automatically get \$50,000. Mrs. Franco continued yes, but you do have to do an application for it and it is due by March 15th, so you could wait until the next meeting to mull over the projects. The Mayor tabled until next meeting.



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CITIZENS' VOICE: The Mayor invited anyone that wished to share concerns or thoughts to address the Board. The Mayor asked again if anyone else wished to speak and closed Citizen's Voice.

ATTORNEY REPORT: No Report.

ENGINEER REPORT: No Report.

DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS:

Police Department: No Report.

Fire Department: Fire Chief Liberatore stated the following:

- They are busy; there are a lot of things going on at the Fire House
- He will be out of town vacation March 7th to March 25th; Memo will go out, Casey in charge

Public Works Department: He stated the following:

- They are dealing with growing pains of routes and sidewalks and the proper way to do them
- Trying to keep up with the roads and everything else
- They are all done with leaf season
- They continued to work on Village Hall
- The Mayor shared we are doing changes at Village Hall; being done in house, stairwell Village side is much more open, demolition on the new Conference Rm., new Handi-cap restroom, Police lobby-nice improvement as well

Parks and Recreation Department: She stated the following:

- Letters sent to seasonal staff welcoming them back, so those are filtering in
- We have booked 8 of 9 concerts so far
- Driver's Safety Class this week that is full and another scheduled in April
- New Zumba Session starting this next week; still has wkly. Yoga classes on Mon. & Wed.
- Proposed Renovations: Comm. Ctr. looking to bump out between the small meeting room and what used to be the Judge's Court Office; got quotes on flooring today

Codes Department: He stated the following:

- Got 2 quotes for Solar System vendors for Village Hall and Comm. Ctr.; both have to be done with prevailing wage put in them and resubmit; each has grant and NYSEDA Rebate based on what you produce
- He and the Mayor met with Rep. from Advanced Power Solutions yesterday



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- Village Hall and Garage; putting Solar will pay for itself 100%, Comm. Ctr. about 50%
- Totals way off between the two; until get prevailing wage, we will not really know what is what
- 5G Cell; got samples from City of Syracuse Code and one other small municipality code to review with Atty. Chatfield to tweak and adopt, as well as fee schedule for cell sites less than 50 ft. tall; larger sites are still Comm. sites with no max. on work they do and no fee for those
- He is doing a lot of Fire Inspections

Clerk-Treasurer: She stated the following:

- Budget in to her tomorrow; by end of next week 1st Model will be distributed.
- Had 1st Safety Mtg. this week and had an active shooter training which was really interesting; will open up to others, just the Dept. Heads saw it, but very eye awakening

DEPUTY MAYOR-TRUSTEES REPORT:

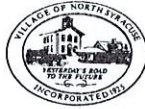
Trustee St. Germain: No Report.

Trustee Gustafson: No Report.

Trustee Steere: No Report.

Deputy Mayor Browning: She wished everyone a Happy Valentine's Day.

MAYOR'S REPORT: He stated he was in Albany Sunday and Monday for the Mayor's Meeting; AIM Funding was a big item on the agenda, some 60 some million dollars altogether over all the Towns and Villages. He continued he had a suggestion of putting a select committee together of some Mayors of cities and Villages and Supervisors of Towns, he thought they could find that, but no one would listen. He spoke of \$60 million in a \$180 to \$190 billion Budget. He shared some comments Comptroller Di Napoli had mentioned we are one of the best states in the country as far as our Pension Funding for Retirement 97%-98%, we are in the top four in the country and many states are big trouble and cannot pay their retirees. He continued since the recession we have added 970,000 jobs, but 90% of them have been in New York City. He shared our proposed Budget is in the 180-190 billion dollar range, 18% of income comes from Wall Street and Amazon has pulled out of New York. He stated our residents are getting acclimated to the trash. He continued CEO Johnstone has been following them around to see the accuracy of totes, because there have been some discrepancies in the counts for what we are being charged for and what is picked up. Trustee Gustafson asked if someone looked into whether they have a counter on the truck. CEO Johnstone stated he saw some places that just put out one tote and some put out none and like you stated you only put yours out every other week or three



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weeks with a 95 gallon can. He continued you are not going to get a discount just because the cans are not out; they are still counting your house as a pickup. Trustee Gustafson asked if it was that way in the contract. Village Clerk-Treasurer Kufel stated it is \$188 per unit per year. The Mayor stated the other issue; it is more the Commercial, because we picked up Rt. 11 and now if the Commercial Site has 12 receptacles they count 12. Trustee Gustafson stated she thought a unit was a house and CEO Johnstone told her it is a set of totes. CEO Johnstone continued we know how many properties are in the Village and they are over that number and not every property gets picked up. The Mayor continued we have sent out letters for flowers and the response has been good already; everyone likes the fact that we have flowers in the Village and we have already collected \$1,050. He shared that we made headlines in the SMTC Winter 2019 Publication about the Shared Parking Lot Study behind Grotto. He stated that is on hold until we find out if Grotto wants to participate. He continued Cornell Cooperative Extension reached out to us and people that are trained in tree management are going to be pruning around Centerville Place and Library area and it is free. He stated the Village Hall renovations are going quite well.

The Mayor stated he would like to entertain a motion to go into Executive Session for a short time. He continued we will not be making any decisions when we come back out.

Trustee Steere made a motion to enter into **Executive Session** 7:16 P.M. The motion was seconded by Trustee Gustafson. The motion was approved with Trustee Gustafson, Trustee Steere, and Deputy Mayor Browning, all voting in favor of the same.

Trustee Gustafson made a motion to return to **Regular Session** at 7:28 P.M. The motion was seconded by Trustee Steere. The motion was approved with Trustee Gustafson, Trustee Steere, and Deputy Mayor Browning, all voting in favor of the same.

Trustee Gustafson made a motion to adjourn at 7:29 PM. The motion was seconded by Trustee Steere. The motion was approved with Trustee Gustafson, Trustee Steere, and Deputy Mayor Browning, all voting in favor of the same.

Respectfully submitted,


Dianne M. Kufel
Village Clerk