



VILLAGE OF NORTH SYRACUSE

Regular Board Meeting

Thursday, February 28th, 2019 @ 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 Mayor Gary Butterfield asking everyone to join him in the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Personnel Present: Village Clerk/Treasurer Dianne Kufel, CEO Brian Johnstone, DPW Superintendent Ed Ware, Assistant Chief Scott Gratien, Parks Director Teresa Roth, Police Chief Steve Rotunno, Village Attorney Scott Chatfield and Village Engineer Amy Franco.

RESOLUTION # 031-19

APPROVAL OF BOARD MEETING MINUTES

The Mayor stated he would entertain a motion for minute approval, he has a correction under the Mayor's Report, and there was a statement that the AIM Funding was approximately \$60 million out of the State Budget that he believes he stated about \$190 Billion. He continued he looked for the 2018-2019 State Budget and found that it was a \$171 Billion; he is guessing the \$190 Billion was projected for the upcoming year. He entertained a motion that they accept that correction to approve the minutes. Trustee Steere made a motion to approve the minutes from the February 14th, 2019, Board Meeting, with the corrections as noted by Mayor Butterfield. The motion was seconded by Trustee Gustafson. The motion was approved with Trustee Gustafson, Trustee St. Germain, Trustee Steere, and Deputy Mayor Browning, all voting in favor of the same.

RESOLUTION # 032-19

GENERAL FUND ABSTRACT APPROVAL

Deputy Mayor Browning made a motion to approve the General Fund Abstract #20 in the amount of \$75,165.98 covering Voucher #969 to Voucher #1023. The motion was seconded by Trustee Gustafson. The motion was approved with Trustee Gustafson, Trustee St. Germain, Trustee Steere, and Deputy Mayor Browning, all voting in favor of the same.

RESOLUTION # 033-19

BUDGET TRANSFER(S)

The Mayor stated the transfer of monies is from savings on Workers Comp. to purchase solid oak doors at Village Hall for renovations. Trustee Steere made a motion to approve the budget transfers from A9040.8 Workers Comp. Insurance to increase A1620.444 Village Hall Improvements in the amount of \$2,500. The motion was seconded by Trustee St. Germain. The motion was approved with



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Trustee Gustafson, Trustee St. Germain, Trustee Steere, and Deputy Mayor Browning, all voting in favor of the same.

RESOLUTION # 034-19

BUDGET TRANSFER(S)

The Mayor stated the transfer of revenue to the expenditure line item to offset costs. Deputy Mayor Browning made a motion to approve the budget transfers from A3389J NYSEDA Charging Sta. Revenue to increase A5110.27 New Charging Station Costs in the amount of \$8,000. The motion was seconded by Trustee St. Germain. The motion was approved with Trustee Gustafson, Trustee St. Germain, 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 the next item is the update on the 5G Cell; the Planning Commission will decide on the aesthetics. He continued the next step is the beginning stages, this process is in effect 1/2020, so we need to start the process and make changes to our Code. He went on to say on March 8th, there is a meeting with Verizon to discuss this program. He will be attending along with CEO Johnstone, Trustee Steere; there will be more information as it moves along.

RESOLUTION 035-19

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

The Mayor stated the next item it is to discuss and approve the 2019 Comm. Dev. Project; \$50,000 or \$150,000 project. He continued after discussion and consideration, we would like to request the project of sidewalks near the Grove St. area heading towards the pool. Much conversation went back and forth and the Board agreed the sidewalks are in rough shape in that area and receives a lot of foot traffic in summer on Grove St. Trustee Gustafson made a motion to allocate the 2019 Comm. Dev. Funds for the Grove St. Sidewalks Project and to authorize the \$50,000 application to be submitted with an in-kind of 25% or \$12,500. The motion was seconded by Trustee Steere. The motion was approved with Trustee Steere, Trustee St. Germain, Trustee Steere, and Deputy Mayor Browning, all



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voting in favor of the same.

RESOLUTION 036-19

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

The Mayor stated the next item is to discuss W. Taft Road OCWA Improvement. He continued the Board has received the packet for the additional purchase of (2) hydrants and we can either pay up front or over 30 yrs.; this was discussed at the last meeting and there is a maintenance fee. He spoke of speaking to OCWA and they are starting this project in three weeks, so we need to make a decision this meeting. Much conversation went back and forth whether these were needed to meet the standard requirements or if this was something they were doing, because the road was going to be ripped up. Assistant Chief Gratien and Police Chief Rotunno spoke of the benefits of adding these as well as the cost versus doing it later. Trustee Steere made a motion for the purpose of discussion although we have already discussed it. Deputy Mayor Browning seconded the motion. Mayor Butterfield entertained a motion to add the Taft Rd. hydrants. Trustee Steere stated he was for adding these; however, both Trustee Gustafson and Deputy Mayor Browning were against. Trustee St. Germain asked a couple of questions regarding if they were needed to meet the standards versus doing it now, because the road was being tore up; she was the deciding vote; voting against. The motion was denied with Mayor Butterfield and Trustee Steere, voting in favor of the same. Trustee Gustafson, Trustee St. Germain, and Deputy Mayor Browning, all were opposed.

RESOLUTION 037-19

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

Trustee Steere made a motion to approve the (4) hydrants on Church and Chestnut St. The motion was seconded by Trustee Gustafson. Trustee Steere stated if it is a requirement to maintain standards; he thinks the Board has to do it. Village Clerk-Treasurer Kufel stated she did not have it budgeted this year and asked if the Board wished to pay for it up front or if they wished to amortize it. Trustee St. Germain made a motion to pay for the (4) hydrants on Chestnut and Church at four payments of \$207.91 per yr. over 30 yrs. The motion was seconded by Deputy Mayor Browning. The motion was approved with Trustee Gustafson, Trustee St. Germain, Trustee Steere, and Deputy Mayor Browning, all voting in favor of the same.

**DISCUSS/APPROVE TOWN OF CICERO
FIRE PROTECTION AGREEMENT**

The Mayor stated the next item is Town of Cicero Fire Protection Agreement was tabled at the last



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meeting. He continued we still do not have the correct language in the document, so we will table that again.

NEW BUSINESS:

RESOLUTION 038-19

DISCUSS/APPROVE SYRACUSE SIGNALS CONTRACT:

02/01/19-12/31/2019

The Mayor stated this is an agreement for the traffic light at the corner of Centerville and South Bay; paid quarterly \$150/month or \$450 per quarter for maintenance on the signal and controller. He clarified that for this quarter we will not be paying the whole quarter; it will be monthly for this quarter. Village Clerk-Treasurer Kufel agreed. Deputy Mayor Browning made a motion to authorize the Mayor to sign the Syracuse Signals Contract for 02/01/19-12/31/2019 to be paid quarterly \$150/month or \$450 per quarter for maintenance on the signal and controller for the traffic light at the corner of Centerville and South Bay Rd. The motion was seconded by Trustee Gustafson. The motion was approved with Trustee Gustafson, Trustee St. Germain, Trustee Steere, and Deputy Mayor Browning, all voting in favor of the same.

**DISCUSS AUTOMATED TRASH: INVENTORY PERFORMED
BY VILLAGE AND COMMERCIAL BUSINESSES**

The Mayor stated the next item is to discuss the Automated Trash, an inventory was performed by the Village and the Board has been copied on the information. He spoke of discrepancies in the counts: the bid counts do not match the counts being billed which do not match the actual counts; we have to fix this somehow. Much conversation went back and forth which looked at the commercial properties where some have 6, 7, or 8 totes each for trash and recycling while others use dumpsters, the fairness and in other areas where the municipalities do not pay for the collection of commercial trash; the business owner does. They also looked at the way they were being billed prior to automated, they were charged by the parcel not the number of cans and now the automated is being billed by the unit which is a set of (1) trash and (1) recycle tote at \$188 a unit; not by the parcel. CEO Johnstone stated he helped the vendor compile the commercial property counts. However, he continued he does not know where they took the master list from, but he found many inaccuracies to include: being listed as a single-family when it was a 2-family requiring more totes, to addresses that did not exist, to properties that requested more sets than were not in the initial bid. Atty. Chatfield recommended they sit down with the provider now that they have the inventory information to see if they can work out the discrepancies and come up with a plan they both can agree to, so they can try to avoid litigation. The Board agreed they should meet with the vendor.

DISCUSS AARP GRANT OPPORTUNITY: SOLAR



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PANELS/SIDEWALKS

The Mayor stated the next item is an AARP Grant Opportunity. He continued he met with Mrs. Franco and this could be for used for sidewalks potentially, solar panels potentially or we came up with another idea of park to park. He continued we have been trying to schedule a meeting with an Onondaga Cty. Planner and have been going back and forth; he gave an interesting presentation at one of the Mayors meetings. He went on the grant has to be in by 04/17/2019 to identify our parks, better identify our parks, connect our parks, do some improvements to the Sleeth Mill Park, the Woodland Area where there are paths, a bridge or do a park to park trail. He explained the AARP Grant is kind of geared toward seniors obviously and they want people mobile. He would like to publicize it to get people walking and biking; he thought this might be a good opportunity. Deputy Mayor Browning stated it was originally for seniors and they were great about it and we got money for it then. The Mayor stated we tried to get money for a Gazebo last year and we were turned down, so he does not think that they should try the Gazebo again. He stated he likes the idea. Mrs. Franco stated and you already have that walkable Village, the markers, the map; she suggested to extenuate on what has been done. He continued there are even distance markers out here; he did not realize. He continued if you target, O.K. if you walk from park to park, and walk around the park, it is going to be X number of miles. Deputy Mayor Browning asked if there is any talk of updating that map. The Mayor stated that is what we would like to do with this grant. Mrs. Franco added and may be do larger signage in some of the parks like in Memorial Park where you have those signs; like doing a big map or a building mounted sign or something like that to kind of enhance this some more with the grant. The Mayor continued we have some time, but not a lot of time.

**DISCUSS/APPROVE TOWN OF CLAY FIRE
PROTECTION AGREEMENT**

The Mayor stated the next item is the Town of Clay Fire Protection Agreement which he tabled because of not having the proper wording in the agreement. He continued he sent an email out urging that they move with haste to get these signed. Trustee Steere asked if we were waiting for Clay and Cicero. Deputy Mayor Browning asked if we have a timeframe for this; this has been going on a long time. The Mayor stated they had a meeting several months ago and he thought it was all resolved; it is the details and getting them squared away. He continued we are actually providing protection to the towns without signed agreements. He verified it with Atty. Chatfield, and Chatfield agreed. The Mayor stated this has gone on before and we want to get this taken care of. He added it is between the attorneys and the fire association to get the language straightened out. He stated he urged them to resolve this as quickly as possible. He continued the legal signers are Supervisors, the Mayor and President of the fire association.



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RESOLUTION 039-19

**DISCUSS/APPROVE CORNELL COOPERATIVE EXTENSION
PROGRAM: TREE PRUNING 6/13/19 & 6/19/2019**

The Mayor stated the next item on the agenda is the Cornell Cooperative Extension is going to do some tree pruning for us. He continued they want to trim back some trees around Village Center, they have insurance and it is a free service. Deputy Mayor Browning made a motion to authorize the Mayor to sign the Cornell Cooperative Extension Agreement for Tree Pruning on 6/13/19 & 6/19/2019. The motion was seconded by Trustee Gustafson. Trustee Steere asked how significant it was; is it students practicing tree pruning. DPW Sup't Ware stated they are trained and educated how to do it properly and just utilizing their skills. He continued they will work near the library. Parks Director Roth stated they are focusing on the streets on Centerville Place. The motion was approved with Trustee Gustafson, 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. Pat Ferguson stated the garbage totes are good; she has not had to chase them biweekly anymore. She suggested the Village ask how much it is worth for the Cornell students to help with the tree pruning, because that goes into the Tree City Report as money spent on your trees; so get a value even though it is free. She reminded them Arbor Day is on April 26, 2019 and she stated Bartlett Tree offered to participate in Arbor Day. She continued they stated we can use them; they would help plant, and give guidance. The Mayor asked if Bartlett is going to remove a tree, replace it or put a new one. Mrs. Ferguson stated they offered to participate gratis. She continued the Board needed to let her know if there is anyone they would like to recognize and if you have a place you would like to put a tree; you still have almost two months. Parks Director Roth recommended Judge Bertrand. The Mayor asked what about the location. Mrs. Ferguson stated some place on a public right-of-way. It was suggested for Judge Bertrand, it be near the Community Center or his office. Trustee Gustafson stated Veteran's Memorial is closest to his office. The Mayor stated since she was there, this is regarding trees and our banners on the right-of-way in front of Ferguson property. He continued there are three trees that are between the sidewalk and the road that are getting rather tall and bushy and he does not know who planted them. The Mayor stated they are getting quite big. He continued we are trying to re-do our Christmas decorations on poles near there and you cannot see them well, because of the branches there. He went on to say he was thinking that maybe those trees have served a useful life and maybe we could put a new tree that will grow smaller. The Mayor stated then we have an idea for Bartlett Tree Svc.; they can cut them down and put new trees in, then the decorations would show off much better. Mrs. Ferguson stated you want to be careful, because there is plumbing in there; there is a sprinkler system in that ground. The Mayor asked how long we have been a tree city. Mrs. Ferguson continued to say 29 yrs.; we are up there with the Tree City thing and as long as you spend the \$2 per person every year on your tree making, you get your count on money that you spend on trees, you do your Arbor Day, your Proclamation and Village Clerk-Treasurer Kufel gets the paperwork in and you are really good.



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The Mayor asked again if anyone else wished to speak and closed Citizen's Voice.

ATTORNEY REPORT: No Report.

ENGINEER REPORT: She stated for the Community Development Application; she has to update the "5 yr. plan" as well. She continued basically that whole list of projects that we talked about at the last meeting and that she sent an email on, she will update that and use those projects; unless you had anything else on there that you wanted to add. She went on we have exhausted the list at this point, so for our next 5 yrs.

DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS:

Police Department: He stated the following:

- Transitioning MCT Laptops in cars: transferring 2 older MCTs over to Parks Dept. for their use
- DASNY Grant is approved and he is working on estimates for the work
- So far in February: 952 total calls for service, 595 property checks, 14 Domestic, 12 Motor Vehicle Accidents, 143 Traffic Stops, 95 Traffic tickets, 06 arrests

Fire Department: Assistant Chief Gratien stated the following:

- They have had 62 calls this month so far, 6 hours fires; 2 in Liverpool, 1 in Town of Clay and 3 in our primary district
- Three new members coming in that are going through the process now

Public Works Department: He stated the following:

- They plowed 8 1/2 hrs. last night and did the sidewalks; most guys tired and left early
- They are starting heavy trash on Monday; spring is around the corner

Parks and Recreation Department: She stated the following:

- She is planning for summer

Codes Department: He stated the following:

- Still waiting on Solar System quotes for this building and Village Hall

Clerk-Treasurer: She stated the following:

- Herself and Village Deputy Clerk-Treasurer Ilacqua met with PERMA; she gave annual yearly report which went well with reporting incidents, in better time frame than required; our log rate has not had many incidents, so very positive feedback



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- Just wrapped up 1st Model of the Budget, about 8% increase; still needs to call comptroller's office, because of the 2% Tap Cap and because the Court is not with us anymore, to be sure that the 8% is not 10%; will follow thru with this.
- They are doing a collage, like a mural of all the old pictures at Village Hall to bring to the Comm. Ctr. for the new room with Bob Bertrand's former office; if that goes well, they are going to get another one with the pictures at Village Hall, Williams Market & Gas Station(s), so they are more available at the Comm. Ctr. for people to view.

DEPUTY MAYOR-TRUSTEES REPORT:

Trustee St. Germain: No Report.

Trustee Gustafson: She thanked everyone for the beautiful card and lovely sentiments.

Trustee Steere: No Report.

Deputy Mayor Browning: She spoke of three different merchants telling her about the Police Dept. leaving yellow cards, they are checking the businesses at night and they were very impressed. She stated a lady called with a sewer problem this week and stated they were there quickly and did what they had to do; she was very pleased and would not complain again about taxes.

MAYOR'S REPORT: He stated the proposed new Budget, the AIM Funding the Governor is taking away from cities and Villages. He continued all the Mayors and Supervisors are fighting hard and sending letters to elected officials trying to get the AIM Funding restored. He went on the Governor has come up with an alternate proposal; a tax on Internet purchases. He stated the Towns and Villages really depend on AIM Funding, approximately \$60 million dollars of that goes to Towns and Villages, so hopefully that gets restored in a complete budget. He continued the charging station is actually getting some use. He spoke of attending the State of the County Address this week and it being our new Cty. Executive's first address. He stated he walked out with another Mayor and it was positive. He continued Mayor Walsh from the City was there and the two were really cooperating. He continued to say as he walked out with one of the other Mayors; he stated the good thing is we have got two young guys with energy and they are getting along. Mayor Butterfield stated he thinks this is a positive thing for the community. He continued the Mayor of the City, the Cty. Executive are communicating regularly and they have got some great ideas. He went on to say if Amazon wants to come up to our facility in Clay; it is all ready for them. He stated the Mayors' meeting was cancelled last night due to the weather. He continued Meals on Wheels annual event is March 18-March 22, they are looking for help in the Kitchen, Deliveries, or donations. He shared this is a service that provides meals to 250 (plus) seniors every day



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in northern Onondaga County; that is right near our Village and it is fun.

He shared some of the improvements that have been going on at Village Hall are over on our side we have taken down a wall, and opened up the stairway area. He continued since we no longer have Village Court; we have started to convert the former Court Office into our Conference Room, increase the size of the Police Lobby, so they can put a chair or two and add a drug drop off box there. He added since we are a municipal building and we have not had a handicap accessible bathroom ever; we are putting a Handi-cap bathroom in. He stated he thought this was needed, and he wanted to see, so we are doing that. He continued then we are putting new carpet in those areas; this will be done in house, so we can to save money, by not spending as much, to do the work. He stated as soon as that is done we are going to be doing that downstairs hopefully for the Police; that is a DASNY grant that we have been awarded.

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 St. Germain made a motion to enter into **Executive Session** 5:28 P.M. The motion was seconded by Deputy Mayor Browning. The motion was approved with Trustee Gustafson, Trustee St. Germain, Trustee Steere, and Deputy Mayor Browning, all voting in favor of the same.

Trustee St. Germain made a motion to return to **Regular Session** at 5:59 P.M. The motion was seconded by Trustee Steere. The motion was approved with Trustee Gustafson, Trustee St. Germain, Trustee Steere, and Deputy Mayor Browning, all voting in favor of the same.

Trustee St. Germain made a motion to adjourn at 6:00 PM. The motion was seconded by Trustee Steere. The motion was approved with Trustee Gustafson, Trustee St. Germain, Trustee Steere, and Deputy Mayor Browning, all voting in favor of the same.

Respectfully submitted,


Dianne M. Kufel
Village Clerk

