



VILLAGE OF NORTH SYRACUSE

Regular Board Meeting

Thursday, March 14th, 2019 @ 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 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, Deputy Chief Casey Daugard, Assistant Chief Scott Gratien, Parks Director Teresa Roth, Police Chief Steve Rotunno, Village Attorney Scott Chatfield and Village Engineer Amy Franco.

RESOLUTION # 040-19

APPROVAL OF BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Trustee St. Germain made a motion to approve the minutes from the February 28th, 2019 Board Meeting. 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.

RESOLUTION # 041-19

GENERAL FUND ABSTRACT APPROVAL

Trustee Gustafson made a motion to approve the General Fund Abstract #21 in the amount of \$117,623.56 covering Voucher #1024 to Voucher #1073. 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.

RESOLUTION # 042-19

SEWER FUND ABSTRACT APPROVAL

Trustee St. Germain made a motion to approve the Sewer Fund Abstract #21 in the amount of \$113.77 covering Voucher #19. 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 # 043-19

BUDGET TRANSFER(S)

The Mayor stated the transfer of monies from incoming revenue account rec'd combatting Terrorism to Police Overtime Budget. Deputy Mayor Browning made a motion to approve the budget transfers from A3389 Police Revenue Combat Terrorism to increase A3120.14 Police Overtime Account in the



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amount of \$2,098.09. 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 # 044-19

BUDGET TRANSFER(S)

The Mayor stated the transfer of revenue rec'd. for DWI Prevention. Deputy Mayor Browning made a motion to approve the budget transfers from A2615P Police Revenue for DWI Prevention to increase A3120.143 Police DWI Overtime Shifts in the amount of \$3,749.49. 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.

RESOLUTION # 045-19

BUDGET TRANSFER(S)

The Mayor stated the transfer of monies from Police Reserve (DWI) to General Fund to cover the costs of an in-car camera. Trustee St. Germain made a motion to approve the budget transfers from A2615P Police Reserve Account to increase A3120.27 Police In Car Camera in the amount of \$5,277. 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.

OLD BUSINESS:

RESOLUTION 046-19

**DISCUSS/APPROVE THE ALTERNATE ON ZONING BOARD
OF APPEALS EXPIRING 7/01/2021 (H. WILLIAMS)**

Trustee Gustafson made a motion to approve the appointment of Chris Strong for the Alternate position on the Zoning Board of Appeals effective March 15, 2019, for the remainder of the former Alternate Hugh Williams term to expire on 7/01/2021. The motion was seconded by Trustee St. Germain. The motion was approved with Trustee Steere, Trustee St. Germain, Trustee Steere, and Deputy Mayor Browning, all voting in favor of the same.

UPDATE ON 5G CELL- IN THE RIGHT OF WAY

The Mayor stated the next item is the update on the 5G Cell; this is in the beginning stages of this process that is in effect 1/2020. He continued we had a meeting on Friday with the representatives from Verizon. He went on to say they are already starting to put 5G in four cities in the State of New York. He stated the plan is by 2020, they are going to run 5G throughout the state. He continued the real estate division of Verizon wanting us to sign a "Right-of-way Agreement"; giving

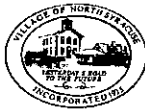


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them approval in the right of ways. They already have the "Right-of-ways" for the state and county highways, he believes, but we have to give them Right-of-ways to our Village. The Mayor shared he stated we would like to do this and cooperate to all extent possible, but we want to be the 1st Village in the State of New York to have 5G. He went on they sent us their agreement and our attorney is looking at it, there are some minor changes that he wants to make and then he thinks he is going to send it to let their attorneys look it over; hopefully we can have an agreement in place. He added the gentlemen assured him that if we have our agreements in place, they would try to put us at the top of the list. Atty. Chatfield stated we need to tweak our zoning regulations regarding the use of these 5G sites and the federal government has established regulations very rigidly curtailing our authority over them and they are almost allowable. He went on Verizon was kind enough to send him a sample local law that would allow us the regulatory control to the extent that the federal government allows it over the signing of these 5G Systems and generating a little revenue in the process. He stated we have gone through that, he has talked with the attorney; we are pretty much on the same page with the exception of a couple of little things. He stated hopefully we will be in a position as soon as the Board wants to have a hearing on it and get the law in place. Trustee Steere stated with the remnants stream and the federal government has stated that you cannot stop it, so made for all; they have to put it in. The Mayor explained it will be a device mounted on the poles every 1,000 ft. Trustee Steere continued he thinks it is \$200 a device a year. Atty. Chatfield stated there are two fees in the proposed local law; one goes to the owner of the pole which most cases would be National Grid and the other is the Right -of Way Administration Fee of \$20 per year, per facility. The Mayor stated we will take this up at the next meeting.

**DISCUSS/APPROVE TOWN OF CICERO FIRE PROTECTION
AGREEMENT (TABLED 02/14/2019)**

The Mayor stated the next on the agenda is something that has been tabled previously. He continued and just so that you know the North Syracuse Fire Dept. which is Village owned provides protection for parts of the Town of Clay and the Town of Cicero. He went on the first item is the Town of Cicero Fire Protection Agreement; there is a conflict on the language, the Fire Dept. consists of two; within the Fire Dept. there is the firefighting side and then the Fire Association side. He explained the Fire Association side is the legal entity which signs on the agreement with the Town, so there is a little disagreement on the language in the contract regarding the ability to audit the Fire Association. He stated we had a meeting six months ago or so, and thought they had it resolved, but it is still not resolved. He continued so we had another meeting and emails going back and forth trying to get this resolved, because the contracts with the towns is actually in force from January 1 and 2/3 of our revenue for the Fire Dept. comes from the towns, so at some point we have got to get that thing resolved, so we get the money from the towns to run the Fire Dept., so that is tabled until we can get



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it resolved hopefully by the next meeting.

**DISCUSS/APPROVE TOWN OF CLAY FIRE PROTECTION
AGREEMENT (TABLED 02/28/2019)**

The Mayor stated the next one is the Town of Clay, the agreements are there; the Supervisor, the Mayor and the Fire Association President are the signees and we are still waiting. He continued basically we have to iron this out and get it done, so we can get our revenue, so the Fire Dept. can keep going, because you cannot run on 1/3 of the revenue. Deputy Mayor Browning asked if they had any input as to how long this may take, since it has been six months already. Deputy Chief Daugard stated they have been trying to contact the attorneys for the towns and from what he understands they are both the same attorney. The Mayor agreed. Deputy Chief Daugard went on they have not been able to call us back. The Mayor says there has been some back and forth, but we need to get it resolved. He went on to say he knows that you are on the Firefighting side and he is on the association side. Deputy Mayor Browning suggested setting a time from for a month from now or two months from now. The Mayor stated we need it yesterday and he has sent a couple of emails in that regard, and we have got to put this to bed. Deputy Chief Daugard asked if they had copies, he stated they have not trickled down to him yet. Village Clerk-Treasurer stated that she sent emails and copied to Fire Chief Liberatore, Deputy Chief Daugard and Fire Association President Joe Asztalos and it came back it was not in agreement and she stated she could send them again now. The Mayor stated we need to get it done; that is \$210,000 X 2 approximately and additional for the LOSAP, that we do not have. The Mayor tabled this to the next meeting.

NEW BUSINESS:

RESOLUTION 047-19

**DISCUSSCHANGES TO THE VILLAGE CODE REGARDING
MOTOR VEHICLE REPAIR VS. FUEL STATIONS**

The Mayor stated we have someone interested in the building down by the corner of Bear Rd. and Rt. 11. He continued they want to put a body shop in that tight little corner with everything happening in the back, so no presence so to speak up front. CEO Johnstone stated for the Code change the Board has received the current and the proposed changes, so right now our Motor Vehicle Service and Repair Code is pretty much laid out for a fuel station with a garage which was adopted in 1985. He continued there probably has not been a fuel station with a garage on it built since the 1990's; most fuel stations are now built with just a store and gas stations. He explained what he did was he took the current code and renamed that to Gasoline Station which we already have a definition for that in our code. He stated he took some of the things out of here for the Fuel Station and made a separate code for Vehicle Service and Repair which put the road side frontage at 150' and none of the garages



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that we have currently have that. He continued he took the area down, took out everything regarding fuel pumps and fuel tanks; just to clean it up and put it in two separate uses. He went on to say if someone does come in and wants to build a garage and a gas station together they would now have to comply with both the stricter fuel station plus the service. He stated that he told him that he could not have junk cars or damaged cars parked out front; he has no intentions of that, he has a pretty good sized rear lot. He continued so everything will be behind the fence behind the building and we will not have to look at damaged vehicles parked out front. The Mayor stated it will have to go for Site Plan Review. CEO Johnstone stated it is going to the Zoning Board of Appeals first for a Variance for a fence height just in case the Planning Board asks him to put up an 8' fence; he will have that. Then, he continued he will go for Site Plan Approval from the Planning Board and they will give him his restrictions and it will be in his Site Plan that he cannot have damaged vehicles out front. Trustee Steere made a motion to set a public hearing to discuss the modifications to the Code that will pertain to Fuel Stations and Motor Vehicle Repair Facilities to be held on Thursday, March 28th at 4:29 PM. The motion was seconded by Trustee Gustafson. Trustee Steere stated it makes sense to split the law into two; it makes it easier to open business. The motion was approved with Trustee Gustafson, Trustee St. Germain, Trustee Steere, and Deputy Mayor Browning, all voting in favor of the same.

RESOLUTION 048-19

DISCUSS/APPROVE AGREEMENT DEROCHA CLAIM

Deputy Mayor Browning made a motion to authorize the Mayor to sign the agreement for Goldberg Segalla to represent the Village's interest for the 2012 DeRocha Claim at our hourly rate. 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.

RESOLUTION 049-19

**DISCUSS AARP GRANT OPPORTUNITY: SPECIFY
PROJECT AND RESOLUTION**

The Mayor stated we discussed the AARP Grant Opportunity at the last meeting with a walkable, bikeable theme for the parks and work needs to be completed by 11/4/19. He spoke of Trustee Steere, Parks Director Roth and himself having met and talked with the County Planner about the walkable and bikeable theme; he is trying to coordinate municipalities' amenities that they have and will try to get something back to us in the fall. Mrs. Franco stated basically apply for the whole thing as there is not a match. The Mayor continued then we would have our Park to Park with some signage, improved Sleeth Park possibly the trail over there. Mrs. Franco continued updating some of the trail system that they have, mulch, tree trimming and that kind of thing. Trustee St. Germain made motion to submit the AARP Grant Opportunity Project to be for the Walkable Village Trail System Park to Park Project is to be submitted by 4/17/19 and completed by 11/4/19. The motion was seconded by Trustee Steere.



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

RESOLUTION 050-19

**DISCUSS/ APPROVE EXTENSION OF BOTH 8" AND
12" WATER MAIN ALONG W. TAFT RD.**

Deputy Mayor Browning made a motion to authorize the Mayor to sign the agreement that we are aware of this work and grant permission to continue the 12" Water Main Extension through the Villages Right-of-Way on W. Taft 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 NEXT BUDGET NEW PHONE SYSTEM-CHANGE
OVER FROM ANALOG ANTIQUATED SYSTEM**

The Mayor stated the next item is we are in the process of doing some remodeling in our Village Office bldg. and while this is going on we also wanted to install a new phone system since we will have some ceilings exposed; now is the time. He continued our phone system is rather dated. He stated this is just informational, but we want to make change and clean up for anybody that has been down in the basement and looked up; there are phone lines running everywhere. He continued there is 25 pair of cables running to a location where we need two pair, so we want to clean it up, get an update and it is very little outlay. Village Clerk-Treasurer stated actually with the changeover; basically it is for the new year, but we may start it sooner. She continued with the savings that we will be saving with the EarthLink current bill and the phone system; it is all new phones and allows people to get their own voicemail to their phone from like the person calling. She went on to say the phones are actually amortized over three years, but we would be paying that to EarthLink if we did not switch over, so there is no change in the budget really. Trustee Steere asked if there would be significant electrical work if they had to hire a guy to take out all the wires and run all the new wires. The Mayor stated that ITS our phone vendor would be doing. Village Clerk-Treasurer stated it is all in the proposal. The Mayor continued we are doing electrical work for the upstairs renovations and Police with the Police Grant they are having electricians bid that right now. He stated that is another item for future discussion.

CITIZENS' VOICE: The Mayor invited anyone that wished to share concerns or thoughts to address the Board. Sue Hammond stated she lives on Elaine Ave. and she came to say thank you. She continued the automated trash has made an enormous difference in terms of ease of moving them around with the smaller totes and finding a place to store them. She appreciated the Village intervention in helping to get the smaller totes and standing up for the residents. The Mayor thanked her for coming back to say thank you after registering concerns. Trustee Gustafson stated she wanted her to know she is



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heard. Lisa Lioto of 356 Chestnut St. stated she is concerned about the condition of the Village with the housing going downhill with dilapidated houses, companies buying the houses to rent or flip them as well as the garbage, unlicensed; motor vehicles, trailers, boats, RV's and so forth. She works hard to keep her property nice and is disheartened by what she sees; she wants to redo the porch, build a deck and a garage, but is waiting to see what happens with property next door. She understands sometimes people are in the position where they do not have the means or resources to update or fix what is wrong, but being a Social Worker she understands how housing vouchers work and the various resources that are available to help these people; we have to do something about it and asked how do we get the information out to people. Mrs. Lioto asked if we have a listing of the houses that are up for auction right now that can be easily found. Much discussion went back and forth regarding the time different types of issues they deal with the vacant properties, the processes and procedures that they have to follow for each. The Mayor stated there is a bunch and he keeps up on them as best he can. The Mayor spoke of Zombie properties that the banks own and the issues of trying to get maintenance done; like it or not the whole drug epidemic is part of this mess that we have got. He stated sometimes our hands are tied. He continued this in many areas and the state is trying to work on this. The Mayor continued CEO Johnstone is doing a good job. The Mayor stated understands and we are all frustrated; there are actually a couple of houses on Chestnut that have gotten fixed up, so there are some good things, while others are why do they have them. He spoke of wanting to see a committee formed with some residents to take the lead and one of the Trustees to be the head of a Committee like that; he suggested maybe Mrs. Lioto would want to be part of this to figure out how and what we are going to do. He spoke of the City of Oswego had the same issues with all the student housing; the neighborhoods decided let's get together and form little pockets and start fixing the home and bring some pride back into the neighborhoods, the mini neighborhoods and it is working. He stated houses are being painted, landscaping, and they started a little fund to help to give grants to individuals to do some of these things; he did not know where the money came from to fund this. 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 next Board Meeting they will have the plans and specs starting next week for the Church Street opening of the dead end. She will have a hard copy in Village Hall for them to review and she will email it as a PDF also. She continued for the next meeting she would like to set the bid date. The Mayor asked about the big project. Mrs. Franco stated she has not heard on that bid date yet. The Mayor stated because Chestnut/Church St. are going to be torn up and it is not going to happen because of OCWA doing the water main on Taft Rd. and when that is done they are going start on Church/Chestnut St. He continued fortunately we discovered that they are going to



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replace the water main on Church St. /Chestnut. He stated it would have been a nightmare if we had started our project and repaved, then they come through six months later to put the water mains through, so we have to wait for them. He stated so now we have to wait for them. He spoke of having a meeting with them, it is not going to take them long; they told us how many working days, so wherever they start at one end and wherever they start we will come right behind them with our work. He wanted to have underway early in the spring, but we do not even have the drawings yet to bid. Mrs. Franco stated the OCWA project will start in May and then we can start ours in June. The Mayor continued it will be fall at the worst.

DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS:

Police Department: He stated the following:

- Starting basement Demo next week
- So far in March: 526 Total Calls for service, 334 Property Checks, 08 Domestic, 11 Motor Vehicle Accidents, 46 Traffic Stops, 41 Traffic tickets, 02 arrests

Fire Department: Deputy Chief Daugard stated the following:

- Their cabling project is all done, so the Fire House is going to start coming back together
- The floor was finished up yesterday
- The Fire Association bought and had delivered almost \$15,000 worth of new tables and chairs, so the legs won't ruin the floor and the Chief's Office new furniture and chairs as well
- The Fire Association updated all of our computers and now the chiefs have laptops with docking stations on their desks; he and Assistant Chief Gratien have a lot of time at their work so this has been very beneficial

Public Works Department: He stated the following:

- They are starting heavy trash
- They are starting the leaves and brush the March 25th
- They are doing the remodeling project
- They are doing vehicle maintenance on their and the Police vehicles
- Things are going fairly smooth

Parks and Recreation Department: She stated the following:

- She is gearing up for summer planning
- She will be sending email out to everyone for some special dates in April that they may attend and possibly help out with



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- Saturday, April 13th is the Village Easter Egg Hunt
- Sunday, April 14th is the Bunny Breakfast at the VFW
- Saturday, April 27th is the Village's Earth Day Cleanup; some have signed up but she welcomed anyone willing to help pick up litter from Parks and streets, supplies provided, with food and barbeque after

Codes Department: He stated the following:

- The Mayor and he met with 3rd vendor for the Solar Panels for Comm. Ctr. and Village Hall; have 3 proposals now which he will get out to the Board to see if they want to move forward with
- Weather is getting nice; pool and fence permits coming in

Clerk-Treasurer: She stated the following:

- Everyone saw 1st Model of Budget which is 9.9% increase; good feedback to make changes, soon she should have 2nd Model
- Closing February books by end of day tomorrow; 2nd Model will have February's closing numbers in it to with the revised percentage

DEPUTY MAYOR-TRUSTEES REPORT:

Trustee St. Germain: She stated she received an email a couple of days ago from Parks Director Roth and she will plan to help her with the Bunny Breakfast.

Trustee Gustafson: No Report.

Trustee Steere: He stated he did want to comment on the concern about housing. He thinks it goes to a larger political philosophical issue, in this country your free to own your own house; how you take care of it, we as a government can only have a limited amount of say. He continued and we do not get too much into it, so he thinks the idea of a community committee where you get together and state that your house needs some paint. He went on to say we will get together some people, help you buy the paint and paint your house to make it look nicer. He stated he thinks that is the way to go and not ask the Village government to step in; that takes us in a direction we do not want to go. Mrs. Lioto stated that sometimes it is fine line and each case needs to be looked at separately as to when to step in and when to come together as a community. She continued sometimes as much as you come together as a community and asked nicely over and over; sometimes you have to go to the law. Trustee Steere stated he like the idea of the 5G coming to the Village; that was a good meeting.

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



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MAYOR'S REPORT: He stated our 1st model of the budget reflects a 9.9% increase; typically that is how we start and should be within the 2% Tax Cap. He continued that the governor is attempting to make it permanent that we cannot be more than 2% over the Budget of the previous year. He went on to say that we have been doing quite well and he thinks that they will do well this time too. He stated in the governor's Budget he wanted to take the AIM Funding out of the Village Budget. He explained that is money the Towns and Villages get from the state which is helpful to us; we have been getting it for years, this year he stated we are not going to get it which would impact our percent increase. He stated while the senate and the assembly have put it back in, so now it is three men in a room and we will see who wins. He continued they are fairly confident that the AIM Funding will be restored which will help us get down from that percentage that we talked about. He stated we are in our Budget process, the Department Heads come up with Budgets, the Trustees; each one is a Liaison for the department. He continued they sit down and say you can have this, but maybe you cannot have that; you would like this, because we represent the citizens and they do a great job for us. He went on to say we cannot just keep raising it; we have to work within our limits, but things are going well. He stated is Meals on Wheels annual event March 18th-March 22nd and then there is a Spaghetti Dinner at some point that will be coming along. He continued elected officials get the chance to go over and work next week either in the kitchen or out to deliver. He continued work has been going on at Village Hall, using our own forces to keep the cost down. He went on to say we lost our Village Court, and we had an office for our Court Clerk; we are now going to have a larger Conference room, larger Police Lobby and a Handi-cap Accessible bathroom which we have never had even thou we are a Municipal Building. He stated that is going to take a little time, but it is underway. He spoke of the flower letters that we send out each year to our businesses asking if they would like to donate and we get good response; we are not quite at last year's number, but we are getting there, so our flowers will be out. He asked when the flowers show up. DPW Sup't. Ware stated that they dropped off the baskets to get them started. The Mayor stated we are a Tree City Village, and have been for 29 years. He continued we have an Arbor Day Celebration on April 26th, that will be right over here and we are going to plant a Tree in memory of Judge Bertrand who passed away suddenly.

Deputy Mayor Browning made a motion to adjourn at 7:20 PM. 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.

Respectfully submitted,

Dianne M. Kufel
Village Clerk

