



VILLAGE OF NORTH SYRACUSE

Regular Board Meeting

Thursday, February 27th, 2020 @ 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, Dep. Mayor Browning (Skype), Trustee LouAnn St. Germain, Trustee Chris Strong and Trustee Fred Wilmer.

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

Personnel Absent: Fire Chief Robert Liberatore.

RESOLUTION # 038-20

APPROVAL OF BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Trustee Strong made a motion to approve the minutes from on February 13th, 2020 Board Meeting. The motion was seconded by Trustee Wilmer. The motion was approved with Trustee St. Germain, Trustee Strong, Trustee Wilmer, and Dep. Mayor Browning, all voting in favor of the same.

RESOLUTION # 039-20

GENERAL FUND ABSTRACT APPROVAL

Trustee Wilmer made a motion to approve the General Fund Abstract #20 in the amount of \$62,929.51 covering Voucher #1054 to Voucher #1116. The motion was seconded by Dep. Mayor Browning. The motion was approved with Trustee St. Germain, Trustee Strong, Trustee Wilmer, and Dep. Mayor Browning, all voting in favor of the same.

RESOLUTION # 040-20

BUDGET TRANSFER(S)

The Mayor stated the transfer monies are from revenue received for C. Placito training. Trustee Strong made a motion to approve the budget transfers from A3389 Traffic Safety Grant to increase A3120.27 Police Traffic Equip Car Seats in the amount of \$400.00. The motion was seconded by Trustee Wilmer. The motion was approved with Trustee St. Germain, Trustee Strong, Trustee Wilmer, and Dep. Mayor Browning, all voting favor of the same.

OLD BUSINESS:



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RESOLUTION # 041-20

**DISCUSS/APPROVE/REVIEW AGREEMENT FOR
PROFESSIONAL LEGAL SVCS. FOR THE VILLAGE**

Trustee Wilmer made a motion to authorize the Mayor to sign the agreement with Germain & Germain for future counsel services to mirror current counsel services with an annual fee for services of \$33,000 or \$2,750 a month. The motion was seconded by Trustee Strong. The motion was approved with Trustee St. Germain, Trustee Strong, Trustee Wilmer, and Dep. Mayor Browning, all voting favor of the same.

UPDATE ON THE CLEANING BID

The Mayor stated the specs for the Community Center and Village Hall have gone out; it changed a little bit since last time. Parks Director Roth stated it has been publicized; so far they have given it out to 3 different companies the specs and we have met with one of the existing, and we had 1 new one come in and look around and the 3rd they gave out yesterday, so they have not had an appointment to look yet. She continued the bids are due by March 10th, and next meeting we will award it.

UPDATE ON THE HERITAGE PARK PAVING PROJECT

The Mayor stated the bid has gone out. Park Director Roth stated that 1 proposal has come in; we sent it out to 7 or 8 companies, there are at least 2 or 3 others that have indicated that they will be bidding on it. She added that is almost March 10th and hope to award it at the next meeting.

**UPDATE ON THE NYSERDA GRANTS: CLEAN COMMUNITY/
ENERGY SAVING OPPORTUNITIES**

The Mayor stated the Clean Community Energy Saving Opportunities; our Codes Dept. has received a new Hybrid Vehicle. He continued this we have leased over 3 years, with the annual payments all budgeted, because we have a Clean Energy Community. He added because we are we are going to go for some grants which hopefully will pay for our new vehicle. CEO Johnstone stated he went on the NYSERDA Website the other day; all the grants from 2019 have been given away. He continued they have not allotted any money for 2020 yet. He added you had talked about doing some stuff over at the DPW, he would need to know a scope of work of what we think we want to do, there are so many out there, a lot of the ones that are just kind of blanket are like for upgrades for municipalities are for rural areas and they are through USDA for Agriculture and he does not think that we would qualify; he thinks our population is too high. He added one we know what we want to do; he can look more intensively for a grant.



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**UPDATE ON THE REMOVAL OF DUPLICATE
POLES ON CHESTNUT STREET**

The Mayor stated that National Grid finished moving all the poles, they moved all their electric onto the poles, now it is up to the other utility communication companies to move their equipment onto the new poles. He continued DPW Sup't. Ware has done some work; made some calls and the Mayor also sent an email and made a phone call to Charter which is Spectrum and he emailed them again this week. He stated the Spectrum Agent stated he would put on the "forced relocation", so we get some action. He added he still has not gotten a hold of the Verizon representative much follow-up has taken place over the last 4 months or so. He continued we cannot do much of the work on Chestnut St. until the poles are relocated. Trustee Strong stated he had a contact for Verizon, if it is O.K. for with you he can at least get a name for the email. The Mayor asked him to check with him, as he has a couple of names to call and see if it is the same people.

UPDATE ON THE TREE REMOVAL ON CHURCH ST./IDENTIFY

The Mayor stated tree removal on Church St. and potentially on Grove St. with our new bid document it did become clear that we cannot cut any trees after April 1st. He continued there are some trees in the way of our project, so we need to cut them down on our own before April 1st, otherwise it could jeopardize the whole project. DPW Sup't. Ware is in the process of identifying the trees, the question is Grove St. ; we do have that project approved and there are 4 trees that are in the Right-of-way or very close to the Right-of-way which needed to be removed. He spoke with DPW Sup't Ware and the Grove St. project does not take precedence over the Church St. project and he does not think that they want both of them going on at the same time. He added it would be nice if we bid them both, but have a start date shortly after the completion or once we are past the Church St. part of that once we are past Grove St., so we are not stepping on each other. Village Clerk-Treasurer Kufel clarified the Grove St. project. The Mayor stated it was part of the 2019 Comm. Dev. Sidewalk Project. He stated the same holds there if we do not cut the trees before April 1st, then we cannot cut them until October. He went on if we do, want to get that drawn up quickly and get it out for bid; we do not want to let it out in the late summer or fall, because the prices are up, we want to let it out in spring season, to start in the summer. Mrs. Franco stated that goes towards the in kind portion anyways. He stated we will get those trees that impact directly on Church St. /Chestnut St.

RESOLUTION # 042-20

**DISCUSS/APPROVE THE 2020 COMM. DEV.
PROJECT: GAZEBO/SIDEWALKS**

The Mayor stated the next item on the agenda is to discuss and approve the Comm. Dev. 2020



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project. He asked if anyone had a chance to think about the sidewalks and asked for their thoughts. Trustee Strong stated he would like to see the Gazebo over at the Comm. Ctr. He spoke of it being another feature in addition to the Comm. Ctr. that is rented out for events; another give back from the Village. Trustee St. Germain, Trustee Wilmer, Dep. Mayor Browning, and Mayor all agreed with the Gazebo as well. Much discussion went back and forth and they agreed upon: no screening, durable benches to installed, A.D.A. accessible with little ramp, concrete base, lighting as power is already there, design to be nice, but not ordinate or target. The Mayor added we purchase the building and depending on whether DPW can install it, they can still do the site work for it. Trustee St. Germain made a motion to nominate the Gazebo and for CHA to apply for the 2020 Comm. Dev. Grant. The motion was seconded by Trustee Wilmer. The motion was approved with Trustee St. Germain, Trustee Strong, Trustee Wilmer, and Dep. Mayor Browning, all voting favor of the same.

UPDATE ON THE CHESTNUT/CHURCH ST. PROJECT

The Mayor stated we are just about there, they are still waiting for final approval, and the bid is supposed to go in March, so no motion is need; it is just an update. He asked Mrs. Franco if she has heard anything. Mrs. Franco stated no, he has asked and still has not heard anything back yet. The Mayor added that is the state, but anyway it is going to happen.

AARP GRANT: DISCUSS/SUBMIT AN APPLICATION

The Mayor stated we have tried twice and we tried to get the Gazebo and got turned down, but the grant application is available, so the other one; we tried was connecting the parks and upgrades for the total park system. He asked the Board what their pleasure was. Trustee Wilmer stated he would like to see sidewalk going from park to park. The Mayor stated we have sidewalks going from park to park and on Chestnut St. the bad sidewalks are going to be replaced under that project. Trustee Wilmer asked what about on that road between Rt. 11 and South Bay Rd. on Gertrude St., they need some work. The Mayor stated we can just designate sidewalks or access to the parks. DPW Sup't Ware stated he knows that Gertrude St. really does not need anything it just kind of ends there. The Mayor stated he was thinking about Blueberry Hill by Sleeth Park. He continued where the DPW has mowed a path from Meals On Wheels back in there. He added that would be nice to fix that up a little bit, so people know about it, do some signage and get some people to clean that up a bit. He stated that is a nice trial, but hardly anyone knows about it, but the mosquitos. The Mayor clarified that the deadline for the AARP Grant is April 1st; he asked that they think about it and stated they have to make a decision by next meeting.

NEW BUSINESS:



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RESOLUTION # 043-20

**DISCUSS/AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR TO SIGN THE
CICERO FIRE PROT. AGREEMENT FOR 2020**

Trustee Wilmer made a motion to authorize the Mayor to sign the Cicero Fire Prot. Agreement for 2020. The motion was seconded by Trustee St. Germain. The motion was approved with Trustee St. Germain, Trustee Strong, Trustee Wilmer, and Dep. Mayor Browning, all voting favor of the same.

RESOLUTION # 044-20

**DISCUSS/AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR TO SIGN THE
CLAY FIRE PROT. AGREEMENT FOR 2020**

Trustee St. Germain made a motion to authorize the Mayor to sign the Clay Fire Prot. Agreement for 2020. The motion was seconded by Trustee Wilmer. The motion was approved with Trustee St. Germain, Trustee Strong, Trustee Wilmer, and Dep. Mayor Browning, all voting favor of the same.

RESOLUTION # 045-20

**APPROVE THE APPOINTMENT OF NORTH
SYRACUSE VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTER**

Dep. Mayor Browning made a motion to appoint Celia Barney as a North Syracuse Volunteer Firefighter. The motion was seconded by Trustee Wilmer. The motion was approved with Trustee St. Germain, Trustee Strong, Trustee Wilmer, and Dep. Mayor Browning, all voting favor of the same.

RESOLUTION # 046-20

**DISCUSSION ON INTERMUNICIPAL AGREEMENT
PROVIDING SNOW REMOVAL OF
SIDEWALKS/TAFT RD.-ALLEN**

The Mayor stated the Town of Clay came to us because they have received some calls asking why they have not cleared their sidewalks on Taft Rd. and Allen Rd. in the Town of Clay. They all received new sidewalks, and nobody plows them; so we are working on that. He explained the Town of Clay Supervisor called him and asked if we would give them a price to take care of those sidewalks. He stated we are working on that and have talked it over with DPW. We already have sidewalk equipment, we know how to do it, it is just if we have the manpower. The Mayor stated it is probably a couple of miles. DPW Sup't Ware stated he has not got a complete measurement on it yet, they are snow covered and it is kind of hard to tell. Trustee Wilmer asked if it could be included in their shared services. The Mayor continued yes, but it is an expense and right now nobody is doing it, the county did the work and then told the town it is on you.

CITIZENS' VOICE: The Mayor invited anyone that wished to share concerns or thoughts to address the Board. Cathy & Mark De Wolf of 26 Lee Terrace shared negative concerns regarding the Dog Park.



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There was much discussion back and forth with the Mayor, Trustees, Parks Director Roth and the De Wolf's regarding the project details, various ways the Village used to notify the public and length of time they spent doing so. Trustee Strong spoke of the topic of how we can grow our parks, the lack of use of the ball fields, leaving a lot of real estate that we could use to make our parks better. The Mayor asked if anyone else would like to speak and closed Citizen's Voice.

ATTORNEY REPORT: No Report.

ENGINEER REPORT: No Report.

DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS:

Police Department: He stated the following:

On Feb. 18th NSPD, Cicero Police, Onon. Cty. Sheriff's and NYS Police responded a shooting at 221 E. Taft Rd. He stated the complaint is still under investigation, we have a subject of interest and are still interviewing several other people; we have several investigators working on it. He continued we know it was not a random incident, and it was a directed to this specific house and the apartment within that house was targeted by the subjects. He added they did fire over a dozen rounds into the house that mostly penetrated that house and go deep within the house. He stated fortunately there was no one home at the time of the shooting, because the resident that lives there does have a couple of small children and that could have been a tragic incident. He continued we are going to continue on the current path and hope to have some more information soon, because it is an ongoing investigation there is not he can discuss at this time. He added things have been a little bit easier with the Discovery and the number of arrests.

- So far in February: 811 Total Calls for service, 422 Property Checks, 15 Domestic, 13 Motor Vehicle Accidents, 136 Traffic Stops, 52 Traffic tickets, 18 Arrests

Fire Department: Absent

Public Works Department: He stated the following:

- We have been busy with the Parks Dept., PD moving furniture out and updates to Village Hall
- Working on vehicle maintenance, getting ready for the snow
- We have been really busy

Parks and Recreation Department: She stated the following:



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- Sat., April 4th - Easter Egg Hunt for Village youth 11 yrs. and under, it is free, call to sign up; held at Centerville Pk.
- Sun., April 5th the Bunny Breakfast at VFW, big fundraiser for Family Festival, open to anyone
- Sat., April 25th, Earth Day Cleanup Project, looking for residents, volunteers for 2 hrs. to clean parks, some streets in Village; provide pizza, hot dogs for lunch provided by sponsors
- Sat., May 23rd Family Festival held at The Gathering Place
- Dog Pk. fence completed yesterday, meeting to review signage on Monday and look into order that, we have ordered the benches
- Looking into ordering Dog Pk. equipment, but holding off until see numbers from bid for paving project; grant is \$125,000 and is covering everything and we are doing \$10,000 in kind, it bought the picnic tables, signage and what DPW is going to do with drainage improvements at the park as well

Codes Department: He stated the following:

- Early this month attend the Stormwater Coalition Meeting talking about DEC Audits in Upstate NY; many have not had in last 5 yrs.
- DPW Sup't Ware & he went to a Metro Weigh Station today for presentation by DEC on what to expect at one of these audits; CHA was there as well
- 3/24 there is a Seminar in Clay regarding Illicit Discharges and stuff like that
- They talked like Villages are not going to get hit, look at some of the Towns that surround the lake, should be better safe than sorry and have everything documented in case of Audit

Clerk-Treasurer: She stated the following:

- Dept. Budgets are in with their requests for upcoming year; no model yet, hoping by end of next week to have 1st Model put out
- DPW is doing a wonderful job at Village Hall, wrapping up just a few more punch list things like in the Conference Rm. and different areas
- Going to do another collage to put in Comm. Ctr. with pictures that were at Village Hall, they are more visible here
- Dept. of Labor Called to set up a meeting regarding prevailing wage, procedures, and construction for projects; the like and just to educate us, and what our procedures and policies are for that. She will set up in next couple weeks with Dept. Heads and the Mayor would be a part of it and anybody that would like to.

DEPUTY MAYOR-TRUSTEES REPORT:

Trustee St. Germain: She stated DPW have done a really good job plowing. She continued she travels



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outside the Village of North Syracuse to go to work every day, when she leaves here it is really good and when where she is going it is not good. She thanked the DPW. She stated after thinking about what you stated, she has a rescue dog and she is a dog person. She continued the best thing for us is to have the people that are responsible like we are is to keep the ones that are not in line. She added she thinks it is going to be good, and giving it a chance it is going to be good, because the responsible people that are going to be there now because it is designated a Dog Park are going to help.

Trustee Strong: He stated he wanted to publically applaud the businesses thus far in the Village for their significant donations toward the hanging flower baskets project; they are coming in more and more. He continued he constantly gets comments on that, so a lot of the businesses have donated towards that to keep it moving forward.

Trustee Wilmer: No Report.

Dep. Mayor Browning: She thanked them for letting her Skype in.

MAYOR'S REPORT:

The Mayor stated he already spoke on the hanging flowers. He continued this something we do every year, we have a significant amount of contributions from the businesses and we are approximately 2/3 of the way there. He stated our Police Dept. contract is up 5/31/2020, we have started negotiations, he hopes they are smooth negotiations; so far the conversation between all parties is going well. He continued in April he hopes to start our Chestnut and Church Street project, it is going to be a mess for a while, but we also received word in 2021 Rt. 11 from Taft Rd. south to north of Bear Rd. is going to be repaved finally. He added so we will have our east, west thoroughfare and our north to south thoroughfare (Rt. 11) and S. Bay Rd. was done a couple of years ago, so that is good. He stated Arbor Day will be here before we know it, we are a Tree City, and there is an annual Arbor Day Celebration.

The Mayor stated he would like to entertain a motion to go into Executive Session to discuss some personnel issues and some financial issues. He stated Dep. Mayor Browning will be joining them.

Trustee Wilmer made a motion to enter into **Executive Session** at 5:13 P.M. The motion was seconded by Trustee Strong. The motion was approved with Trustee St. Germain, Trustee Strong, and Trustee Wilmer, all voting in favor of the same.



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Trustee Wilmer made a motion to return to **Regular Session** at 6:43 P.M. The motion was seconded by Trustee Strong. The motion was approved with Trustee St. Germain, Trustee Strong, and Trustee Wilmer, all voting in favor of the same.

Trustee Wilmer made a motion to adjourn at 6:44 PM. The motion was seconded by Trustee St. Germain. The motion was approved with Trustee St. Germain, Trustee Strong, and Trustee Wilmer, all voting in favor of the same.

Respectfully submitted,

Dianne M. Kufel
Village Clerk