



Village of North Syracuse
Regular Board Meeting
February 9, 2012 at 6:29 PM
North Syracuse Community Center
700 South Bay Road, North Syracuse, NY 13212

Mayor Mark Atkinson called the meeting to order at 6:29 PM with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Hearing

Mayor Mark Atkinson opened the Public Hearing stating that this Public Hearing was being held by the Board of Trustees of the Village of North Syracuse to discuss the adoption of Local Law #1 of 2012, a local law allowing a declining exemption from the real property taxation for residential-commercial urban exemption – Real Property Tax Law – Section 485-a. The Mayor spoke of how in March of 2011 the Onondaga County Legislator passed a new tax incentive enabling municipalities to grant tax exemptions to renovations of buildings with a “mixed-use” of commercial and residential use. He continued to say that the new legislation makes the amount of the investment in development of eligible buildings 100 % exempt from property taxes for the first 8 years and a partial exemption for the following 4 years. This exemption only applies to the increased value associated with the improvements being done, not the base value of the premises itself – determined by the assessor and the developer. The Mayor stated that the Village’s legislative body did not have the local law in front of them tonight, but the Board should have this on Monday and he will plan to vote at the next Board Meeting – February 23, 2012. The Mayor thinks this is a good thing, basically locking in the assessment of the structure for 8 years which will entice developers to come in. This is a great tool - as an initiative for our Village Center. The Mayor asked if anyone wanted to speak in favor of this; and again he asked if anyone was in favor of speaking for this. The Mayor then asked if anyone wanted to speak against this; and again asked if anyone wanted to speak against this. The Mayor closed the public hearing at 6:40 PM.

The Mayor opened the Regular Board Meeting at 6:41 PM.

ROLL CALL: Mayor Mark Atkinson, Deputy Mayor Chuck Henry, Trustee Paul Linnertz and Trustee Fred Ferguson were all present. Trustee Gary Butterfield was excused-sick.

PERSONNEL PRESENT: Clerk-Treasurer Dianne Kufel, Police Chief Tom Connelly, Assistant Fire Chief Chris Strong, Parks Director Teresa Roth, Codes Enforcement Officer Pam DiCarlo, DPW Sup’t. Gary Wilmer, Village Engineer James Trasher, Village Attorney Scott Chatfield.

RESOLUTION # 013-12

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Deputy Mayor Henry made a motion to approve the minutes from the January 26th, 2012 Board Meeting. Trustee Fred Ferguson seconded the motion. The motion was carried unanimously.



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RESOLUTION # 014-12

GENERAL FUND ABSTRACT APPROVAL

Trustee Linnertz made a motion to approve the General Fund Abstract #18 in the amount of \$99,656.46 covering Voucher # 949 to Voucher # 993; the motion was seconded by Trustee Fred Ferguson. The motion was carried unanimously.

RESOLUTION # 015-12

SEWER FUND ABSTRACT APPROVAL

Trustee Ferguson made a motion to approve the Sewer Fund Abstract #18 in the amount of \$55.00 covering Voucher #12. Deputy Mayor Henry seconded the motion. The motion was carried unanimously.

RESOLUTION # 016-12

BUDGET RANSFER

Trustee Linnertz made a motion to approve the transfer of \$6,000 from Account A8160.417 (Hauling and Tipping Fees) to A3989.41 (Hydrant Expenses). The motion was seconded by Deputy Mayor Henry. The motion was carried unanimously.

RESOLUTION # 017-12

BUDGET TRANSFER

Trustee Ferguson made a motion to approve the transfer of \$2,380 from A3120.445 (Police Dept. – Computer Consultants) to A3120.210 (Police Dept. Emergency Vehicle Equipment). The motion was seconded by Deputy Mayor Henry. The motion was carried unanimously.

CITIZENS' VOICE: No one responded.

OLD BUSINESS:

RESOLUTION # 018-12

2011 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT FUNDS

Mayor Atkinson asked James Trasher from CHA to speak on the 2011 Funding from Onon. County Community Development. James Trasher explained to the Board that they previously submitted the application to Onondaga County last year and a resolution was initiated defining the \$50,000 to be spent on sidewalks in the Village. The specific area was north of Toll Road – Lynhurst Ave. north to Elm Street. The Mayor, along with Engineering, determined certain areas within that description did not need to be replaced, therefore the specifications can define the areas that are worth leaving in place. James went on to say that typically their specification package will include a bid for the base area that the Village would like done, and a few alternates that would expand on the area. James stated that this give some flexibility for the Village to authorize an alternate based upon additional funds, or in-kind services. James further explained that the Village can put this out to bid and award in April, whereas Onon. County Community Development would require a site visit to go through an environmental



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review. James foresees this work could all be completed by the beginning of summer. The Mayor made a motion to authorize CHA to prepare plans and specs for bid proposals defining the sections on Main Street just north of Toll Road to approximately Elm St. heading towards Bear Rd. and allowing the Mayor to sign the agreement with CHA to facilitate this. The motion was seconded by Trustee Ferguson. The motion was unanimously approved.

NEW BUSINESS:

RESOLUTION #019-12

2012 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT APPLICATION

The Mayor spoke of Trustee Butterfield being absent although he wanted it mentioned that Trustee Butterfield wanted to continue the sidewalks down on Chestnut near Heritage – although it would have to move to the other side of the street because of the telephone poles being on one side and they change over to the other side. The Mayor spoke of an interest of using these monies for Centerville Park, and mentioned using additional monies from the “Save the Rain Grant” – actually using both of these grant opportunities towards Centerville Park. James Trasher explained to identify the improvement projects, and also identify some retrofitting and water saving, and water re-use. He suggested trying to do this in conjunction with Community Development and Save the Rain with referencing each in the other application. Trustee Linnertz mentioned his concern of the flooding on Centerville Place and using these funds to rectify this situation. James Trasher spoke of the rain water being utilized for a skating rink, hockey rink at Centerville Park. James spoke of the Board making a motion to prepare a grant application for Centerville Park, coupled with the 5 year plan, and include on the Community Development Application Form; this will be prepared in advance and ready for the Public Hearing to be held on Thursday, February 23rd at 4:29 PM.

James explained the “Save the Rain Grant” and how it has a total of \$3,000,000 available and is a competitive grant. The eligible projects are given with a minimum of \$50,000 and a maximum single project of \$500,000. James spoke of the need at Centerville Park whereas it could capture water - either by re-using, infiltrating; and/or Centerville Place at the retention pond area - we can retrofit projects and make them green. James spoke of the rainbarrels, cistern(s) – underground system, capture the water, pump rain water to water the flowers, this is an example of going green. Trustee Ferguson spoke of CHA preparing some estimates to compare – putting costs to the Centerville Place drainage problem.. James spoke of the storm lines, retention basin(s); and that it always looks good if some is coming from in-kind services, too; this helps with more monies to be spread out and given to all that need it.

Mayor Atkinson made a motion to have CHA prepare the necessary application and estimates, referencing the “Save the Rain Grant” in conjunction with the 2012 Community Development Application for Centerville Park. The motion was seconded by Trustee Ferguson. The motion was unanimously approved.



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RESOLUTION #020-12

2012 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PUBLIC HEARING

Trustee Linnertz made a motion to publish the notice for the Public Hearing on the 2012 Community Development Funds for Thursday, February 23rd, 2012 at 4:29 PM. The motion was seconded by Trustee Ferguson. The motion was unanimously approved.

RESOLUTION #021-12

APPOINTMENT OF (1) PART-TIME POLICE OFFICER

The Mayor made a motion to appoint Dana Vinch as a part-time police officer. The Mayor stated that Mr. Vinch is a former employee with the North Syracuse Police Dept., whereas he is currently a sergeant with the East Syracuse Police Department. He has over 20 years of experience as a police officer. Vinch is currently assigned the afternoon or C shift at East Syracuse making him available to cover the day shift at North SSyracuse when needed. Historically, this has been the most difficult shift to fill. The motion was seconded by Trustee Ferguson. The motion was carried unanimously.

RESOLUTION #022-12

APPOINTMENT OF (1) PART-TIME POLICE OFFICER

The Mayor made a motion to appoint Donald Backus as a part-time police officer. The Mayor stated that Mr. Backus retired from the Liverpool Police Department in 2002. Since that time, he has worked in Jordan, Canastota and Phoenix Police Departments at various times. Mr. Backus is currently employed part-time as a Park Ranger with Onondaga County Parks. Mr. Backus would be available for all shifts. The motion was seconded by Trustee Ferguson. The motion was carried unanimously.

RESOLUTION #023 -12

2012 ANIMAL CONTROL AGREEMENT WITH SPCA

The Mayor explained that the legislative body had 2 agreements in their possession, one from the SPCA and the other from CNY Vet. Svcs. (Animal Kingdom). Trustee Linnertz inquired as to why the Village needed such service whereas each town already has an agreement in place with a shelter and felt the Village residents could utilize this service. Attorney Chatfield explained the part-town tax that a Village resident pays, should exclude these fees from their Town bill. The Mayor made a motion authorizing the agreement for 2012 with SPCA and authorize the Mayor to execute such agreement. The motion was seconded by Trustee Ferguson. The motion was unanimously approved.

RESOLUTION #024-12 **AUTHORIZE THE DEPUTY FIRE CHIEF/CELL PHONE STIPEND**

Trustee Linnertz made a motion to authorize the Deputy Fire Chief to utilize his personal cell phone for Village business, whereas the Village will pay him \$35 per month. The motion was seconded by Deputy Mayor Henry. The motion was unanimously approved.



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RESOLUTION #025-12

SURPLUS 2005 CROWN VICTORIA/POLICE DEPT.

The Mayor made a motion to surplus the 2005 Crown Victoria and send to auction. The motion was seconded by Trustee Ferguson. The motion was unanimously approved.

ATTORNEY REPORT: Attorney Chatfield spoke regarding the easement issue at 111 Tallowood Court. He informed the Board that CHA has visited the site and submitted a report to the Board; and continued to say that the easement will still function if the Village was to release a portion of it. Attorney Chatfield also mentioned that he had received correspondence from the homeowner's counsel, more specifically, an easement agreement. This easement is one of the issues relating to this property and the second component will be for the homeowner to deal with the Codes Office on having the Codes Dept. issue a certification of occupancy. Pam DiCarlo stated that this was built 15 years ago, as well as a fence was also placed on this property. Attorney Chatfield ended by saying that the owner is aware of these issues, has some hurdles to face; and pay the costs associated with them.

ENGINEERING REPORT: No Report

DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS:

Police Department: Chief Connelly just reiterated that his department is waiting to see about the Sergeant's deployment as they may be moving forward after all, but until something definitive comes through, he is not requesting any changes at the present time.

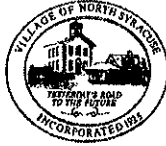
Fire Department: No Report

Highway Department: No Report

Parks and Recreation: No Report

Codes Department: Codes Enf. Officer Pam DiCarlo spoke of visiting 201 S. Main Street the former Post Office Building; whereas the new owner is keeping the building and doing some demolition. The new owner still maintains the interest of a "mixed use" with shops on the main floor and living quarters on the 2nd and 3rd floor.

Clerk Treasurer: Dianne Kufel spoke of a letter that the Village received from NYMIR regarding a decrease in the upcoming premiums for general liability and umbrella policies realizing a 5% reduction, and the automobile to absorb a 10% reduction. Forthcoming, will be the Workers Comp. premium notification by March 1st, although she foresees a reduction here as well. More to follow, and overall a nice savings for the Village as we prepare the upcoming budget.



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DEPUTY MAYOR/TRUSTEES REPORTS:

Trustee Linnertz: No Report

Trustee Ferguson – reminded everyone of the upcoming Public Safety Meeting to be held on Monday, March 5th at 5:00 PM at the North Syracuse Fire Dept. – Station 1. He also mentioned his recent attendance, with the Mayor, at the 4th annual Onondaga County Fire Emergency Services Legislative Breakfast; discussed interesting topics regarding elected officials, capatilization of long term financing for larger costlier vehicles, and talks about Air One. Further discussions on a FASNY health program was also discussed.

Deputy Mayor Henry spoke of a new law that went into effect on May 28, 2010 – New York State passed a NYS Electronic Equipment Recycling Act – went into effect on April 1, 2011. Deputy Mayor Henry spoke of his conversation with E-Waste, a company that provides covered totes to the Village. The Village residents can drop off products that can be recycled for free. This includes computers, TV's, small servers, fax machines, cell phones, etc. As of January 1, 2012 it is illegal for trash haulers to pick these items up with the weekly trash. This would be a nice service for our residents. Deputy Mayor Henry also mentioned an upcoming meeting this next week with the Village of Minoa; they currently have a service in place now that we will explore with more to follow on this.

MAYOR'S REPORT:


The Mayor spoke of a recently formed Sign Committee with their 1st meeting to be held on February 13th. This was headed up by Trustee Butterfield to review the Village code regarding sign(s). The Mayor also mentioned a recently formed committee to meet on the Village Center Plan with their 1st meeting to be held on Thursday, February 16th. The Mayor also mentioned a committee formed on behalf of Trustee Linnertz to look into all of the Village's alarm systems, the operation and maintenance of them, hoping to consolidate some of these services and save some money there. The Mayor also informed all that the Plank Road Chamber of Commerce has changed its name to the Greater North Syracuse Chamber of Commerce and has moved into the old Post Office Building located at 201 S. Main Street. The Mayor continued to speak on how he was hopeful of new information coming down from the Governor about proposed mandate relief, whereas the state will taking over of Medicaid – a savings of 1.2 billion over 5 years; and a Tier 6 for the pension plan – with employee contributions. He also spoke of a voluntary defined contribution plan – a 401K – to supplement the existing plan that they have. The Mayor also spoke of the recent breakfast he attended that was put on by FASNY – a lot of legislation that they are trying to get done, good organization as well as a good meeting.



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Trustee Ferguson made a motion to adjourn at 7:30 PM. The motion was seconded by Deputy Mayor Henry. The motion was unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,


Dianne M. Kufel
Village Clerk/Treasurer