



VILLAGE OF NORTH SYRACUSE BOARD MEETING

Thursday, February 10th, 2011 at 6:30 P.M.
North Syracuse Community Center
600 South Bay Road, North Syracuse, NY 13212

PUBLIC HEARING #1

Mayor Browning opened the Public Hearing at 6:28 pm by explaining the purpose of this hearing is for discussion of adopting a Local Law for the rezoning of the property at 137 Gertrude Street from a Residential (R9) District to a Multiple Residential (RM) District. The Mayor then asked Mr. Hal Romano Surveyor/Planner, to speak on the matter.

Mr. Romano displayed a diagram of the existing 1.2 acre parcel, which currently consists of a vacant lot, uninhabited church, and garage structure. Mr. Roman stated that the builder would like to incorporate the existing church into his plans with three (3) rental units and build another structure that would contain approximately twelve (12) additional units. He explained that the drawings were preliminary. He further stated that the builder, Todd Loscombe, may seek a Residential Senior (R-SR) status, which would be a senior friendly residence. They would provide for green space and storm water management on sight. He said the County DOT did not have any foreseeable issues with the plans.

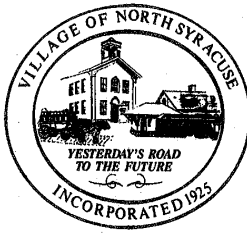
Mayor Browning then opened the floor to the public for any comments or concerns.

Phil Drury of 111 Maxwell Avenue voiced his concerns about the increased traffic the apartments would bring. He stated that traffic is an issue now with people cutting through (between South Bay and Rt. 11). He stated that he would rather see a senior complex built than regular apartments.

Robert Bertrand of Gertrude Street presented the Board with a petition against the rezoning of 137 Gertrude Street; and asked all residents from that area to raise their hand so the Board could see they were present tonight out of concern for this issue. Mr. Bertrand stated that rezoning from residential to multi family is not something to take lightly, as the rezoned area will continue with the property, regardless of who owns it. He stated he has the utmost respect for Mr. Loscombe and the homes he has built, however his concern is the adverse affect on the property values on his street by having it re-zoned. Mr. Bertrand felt a three story apartment building would change the character of the neighborhood and add to the already heavy traffic problems.

Mr. Rich Curran stated that he and his family just moved into their home on Gertrude Street last month and they never would have moved there if they knew apartments were going to be built across from their house. He stated that he works in the City of Syracuse, and has seen what happens to neighborhoods when apartments and other rental properties are not given the same care and maintenance that home owners provide. Mr. Curran stated that he and his wife bought their home in the Village of North Syracuse for the quality of life offered, and he feels that quality would be jeopardized by this rezoning.

Mr. Todd Loscombe then asked to speak. He said this will be a “family” owned facility and that he intends to protect his family’s values, as well as those of the Village residents. Mr. Loscombe stated that the idea of a “senior friendly” complex with upscale amenities, unavailable in any other Syracuse Senior housing, would make this a very unique property. He further stated that he understood the concerns of the neighbors and hopes they will trust him when he says that he too wants this to be a very neighborhood friendly area. He would like to preserve the sanctuary of the church as part of his plans, and feels its’ uniqueness, along with the upscale amenities would ultimately make this a landmark in the Village of North Syracuse.



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Ms. Joanne Topalski of Maxwell Avenue stated that even though she does not live on Gertrude Street, she would like to sign the petition previously presented to the Board. Mayor Browning provided the petition to Ms. Topalski, who filled it out and handed it back to the Clerk.

Mayor Browning asked if anyone else wanted to speak for or against, with no reply she asked a second and third time. The Public Hearing was closed at 6:50 p.m.

PUBLIC HEARING #2

Mayor Browning opened the second public hearing at 6:51 p.m. to discuss a proposed local law that would require snowplow operators within the Village to register with the Village Clerk and obtain a license. Mayor Browning stated that the Village has had many complaints about snow plow drivers leaving snow all over in front of neighbor's property, and if they were registered, the Village would be able to contact the company to come back and take care of the problem. The Mayor then opened the floor for public comment.

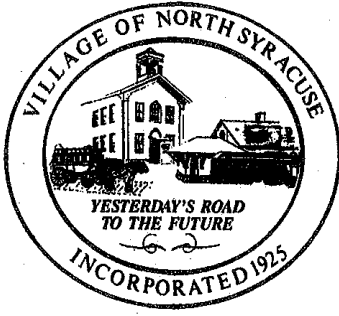
Mr. Joseph DiFabio of 107 Eden Lane said he was asked to read a letter from Mr. Paul Linnertz of 312 Helen Street, who could not be present due to work responsibilities. He proceeded to read aloud the letter to the Board, which was in opposition of the law. Mr. DiFabio then spoke for himself on the issue. He said he also plows snow and is not in favor of this law. He said East Syracuse has the same law and only eight (8) plow companies registered, which is a small number of plows working there. He questioned who would enforce this new law, DPW, Codes, or Police? Mr. DiFabio felt this law would only hurt small businesses and blue collar workers.

Phil Drury of 111 Maxwell Avenue said he plows driveways for neighbors and wondered if he would have to register even if he didn't charge for his services.

Mike Stankovich (no address provided) said that he snow plows in the Village of North Syracuse and does not mind registering but wanted to know what is gained by registration. He said he sees snow plows pushing snow into the road all the time, and if registering would help alleviate that problem, he's all for it.

Mayor Browning asked if anyone else wished to speak for or against the proposed new law for snow blowing. There was no response. The Mayor asked two additional times if anyone wanted to speak, no one responded.

Mayor thanked everyone for their comments and participation, and closed the second public hearing at 7:01 p.m.



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The Village of North Syracuse Regular Board meeting began at 7:02 p.m. with Mayor Browning inviting everyone present to join in the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL: Mayor Diane Browning, Deputy Mayor Mark Atkinson, Trustee Gary Butterfield, Trustee Fred Ferguson, and Trustee Chuck Henry; ALL PRESENT.

PERSONNEL PRESENT: Village Clerk Christine Pollock, Village Treasurer Dianne Kufel, Village Attorney Heather Cole, Police Chief Tom Connelly, Fire Chief Patrick Brennan, Codes Enforcement Officer's Wayne Dean and Pam DiCarlo, DPW Superintendent Gary Wilmer, Parks & Recreation Director Teresa Roth & Parks and Recreation Clerk, JoAnne Baker.

RESOLUTION 027-11

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Trustee Fred Ferguson made a motion to approve the minutes from the January 27, 2011 board meeting, Deputy Mayor Mark Atkinson seconded the motion. The motion was carried unanimously.

RESOLUTION 028-11

GENERAL FUND ABSTRACT #19:

Trustee Ferguson made a motion to approve the General Fund Abstract #19 in the amount of \$165,301.22 covering vouchers #1014 to #1082; Deputy Mayor Atkinson seconded the motion. The motion was carried unanimously.

RESOLUTION 029-11

SEWER FUND ABSTRACT #19:

Trustee Ferguson made a motion to approve the Sewer Fund Abstract #19 in the amount of \$1,854.83 covering vouchers 23 and 24, Trustee Henry seconded the motion. The motion was carried unanimously.

RESOLUTION 030-11

VETERANS MEMORIAL ABSTRACT #19:

Deputy Mayor Atkinson made a motion to approve the Veterans Memorial Abstract #19 in the amount of \$37.93. Trustee Ferguson seconded the motion. The motion was carried unanimously.



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RESOLUTION 034-11

BUDGET TRANSFERS #4:

Trustee Ferguson made a motion to approve the following budget transfer; Deputy Mayor Atkinson seconded the motion. The motion was carried unanimously.

01/31/11 FROM: A9060.8 – Group Hospital & Medical Ins.
\$5,200 TO: A3620.414 – Codes -Safety Inspect. Contract w/Cicero

Transfer money from Codes full time Personal Services account to contractual agreement with Cicero for Contract Services of Wayne Dean.

RESOLUTION 035-11

BUDGET TRANSFERS #5:

Trustee Ferguson made a motion to approve the following budget transfer; Deputy Mayor Atkinson seconded the motion. Trustee Gary Butterfield questioned the reason for the shortfall. Treasurer Dianne Kufel said there were several contributing factors. First the forecast was made in the fall, and since then a bond payment came off, which caused changes. Mayor Browning asked if there was another other discussion. The motion was carried unanimously.

02/02/11 FROM: \$1,879.89 A1170 Franchises
\$16,799.00 \$1,000.00 A2410C Rental of Real Prpty Cell Site
 \$6,804.00 A2262CL Fire Protection Svc. Clay
 \$7,115.11 A2660 Sale of Land – Ferguson Prk.
 TO: A2262CI Fire Protection Svc. Cicero

Transfer money to cover the shortfall in predicted revenues for Town of Cicero Fire Contract.

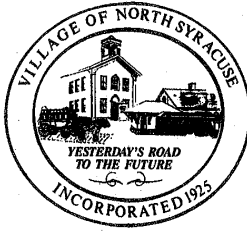
RESOLUTION 036-11

BUDGET TRANSFERS #6:

Trustee Chuck Henry made a motion to approve the following budget transfer, seconded by Trustee Ferguson. The motion was carried unanimously.

02/08/11 FROM: \$1,500 A1410.467 Laws & Codes
\$2,500 \$ 500 A8020.451 Pers-Planning Board
 \$ 500 A8010.451 Pers-Zoning Board
 TO: A1620.451 Software/Maint.

Transfer money to cover repair and maintenance of computers and software.



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CITIZEN'S VOICE: Mayor Browning asked if anyone wanted to speak during Citizen's Voice portion of the meeting.

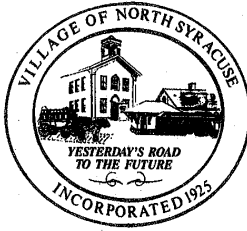
Maurice Eichorn of 306 Helen Street said he is having problems with his neighbor who keeps blowing snow into his yard and the police have come two times and said they cannot do anything about it because no law is being broken. He stated that he has already broken one snow blower trying to keep it cleaned up but every time he cleans it up, the neighbor blows it back again. Deputy Mayor Atkinson said he too would be upset if someone was blowing snow into his driveway, isn't there anything that the Village can do? Village Attorney Heather Cole said the Village does not get involved in disputes between neighbors, because it is a civil matter. The resident may hire any attorney and pursue the matter. Trustee Henry asked Mr. Eichorn if he has tried talking to his neighbor about this problem. Mr. Eichorn replied "We are beyond that." Trustee Butterfield said there is a Village Code that prohibits snow being deposited on a neighbor's driveway or walkway. Codes Officer Wayne Dean said the snow is not being blown on the driveway or walkway; it is being blown onto his side yard. Mr. Eichorn agreed, but said he has trouble getting to clean his roof with the snow there. Trustee Ferguson told Mr. Eichorn that he would not have to hire an attorney if he filed a small claim. Trustee Ferguson asked Judge Bertrand to confirm this fact. Judge Bertrand said "without commenting on the specifics matter, anyone can file a small claim by going to the court office and speaking to the court clerk". It is not necessary to hire an attorney to file a small claim proceeding.

Mayor Browning thanked Mr. Eichorn and asked if anyone else wished to speak. No one responded.

OLD BUSINESS:

ANIMAL SHELTER BIDS:

Mayor Browning stated that in light of the fact that she and the Board of Trustees received the bid information right before the meeting tonight, she would like to table this discussion until the next meeting. All of the trustees concurred. The discussion was tabled until the February 24, 2011 meeting.



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2011 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROJECT:

Village Engineer, James Trasher stated that the 2011 Community Development application deadline is March 1, 2011. He said he emailed some of the options to the Mayor and Trustees, to look over and then be discussed during this evenings work session following this meeting.

**EXTENSION AGREEMENT WITH
SYRACUSE HAULERS:**

Mayor Browning asked Attorney Heather Cole what the status was with the agreement. Attorney Cole said tipping fees were just made available so the provisions and extension draft will be prepared for final approval.

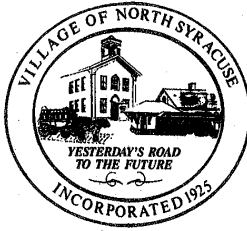
NEW BUSINESS:

REZONING 137 GERTRUDE STREET:

Attorney heather Cole asked the applicant (Todd Loscombe) if he wanted to amend the application to R-SR? Mr. Loscombe answered in the affirmative. Attorney Cole explained that the board would need to hold another Public Hearing once the applicant has filed an amended application. Mayor Browning and the Board of Trustees agreed to hold a Public Hearing on the amended application on March 10th, 2011 at 6:29 p.m., if the amended application has been filed.

**LOCAL LAW REQUIRING REGISTRATION
FOR SNOW PLOWING IN THE VILLAGE:**

Trustee Gary Butterfield said he disagrees with snow plow registration. He said it is a second job for most people, it's unenforceable, and will drive small business out of the Village. Deputy Mayor Atkinson said he does not feel this would be good to legislate. Trustee Ferguson said there were too many inconsistencies with the current Village Code Section 202-14 and NYS V&T laws governing snow removal. Trustee Ferguson cited several and he would not support this local law as it is written. Trustee Henry said he also does snow plowing and had to register in DeWitt, however he doesn't feel that prevents careless plows from leaving debris in the roads. Mayor Browning said she too feels it is not a good time to implement this local law. The decision to take no action on this legislation was unanimous.



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ATTORNEY REPORT: Attorney Cole said the public is invited to join the work session following tonight's meeting to discuss the 2011 Community Development Grant.

ENGINEER REPORT: James Trasher had nothing to report.

DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS:

TREASURER REPORT: Treasurer Dianne Kufel said she provided the board with minutes from the first budget meeting held yesterday afternoon. Mayor Browning and the Trustees tabled approval of the minutes until they have an opportunity to review them. Ms. Kufel also reported that Barrett Paving's insurance company paid the expenses from the East Taft Road sewer break. Ms. Kufel also made mention of the recently received Town/County Tax bills by Village residents, received directly or reflected in their Escrow account. She wanted to reference that a significant reduction was hopefully realized, due to the recent change in Sales Tax Revenue, in which the County is retaining a larger portion, therefore reducing the rate to the Village residents.

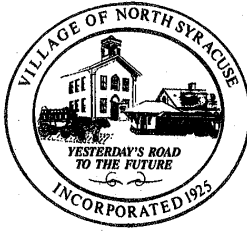
CODES ENFORCEMENT: Wayne Dean had nothing to report.

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS: Superintendent Gary Wilmer reported that we had snow 26 out of 31 days; and at one point had 18 days in a row of snow. His department has been very busy keeping up with the weather. He also stated that the DPW has used 360 tons of salt.

PARKS AND RECREATION: Director Teresa Roth said the pool opens in four months!

FIRE DEPARTMENT: Fire Chief Pat Brennan said that one in twelve homes in Onondaga County are at high risk for a fire. The North Syracuse Fire Department, through Fire Prevention Safety Grant (FEMA funded) is offering a free home inspection and installation of a smoke detector, with a ten year warranty. The program is called S.A.F.E (Smoke Alarms For Everyone) and will be available to the first twenty seven (27) residents who complete the application and make an appointment with the Village Clerk. The target date for installation is Saturday, March 13th between 8:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. Installation and inspection should take no longer than two hours. Mayor Browning stated that a similar program was available to senior citizens a few years ago and it was very well received and she is happy to see the program expanded to the general public.

POLICE DEPARTMENT: Chief Connelly had nothing to report.



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DEPUTY MAYOR/TRUSTEES REPORT

Deputy Mayor Mark Atkinson – Deputy Mayor Atkinson said he completely identifies with the issues raised for the rezoning of Gertrude Street, and that he would not be in favor of having apartments built on his street either.

Trustee Fred Fergerson stated that the next Public Safety Meeting would be held on March 7th, 2011 at 4:30 p.m. at the Community Center.

Trustee Chuck Henry – Trustee Henry said this was the worst budget process he’s ever sat in on. He further stated, “We’ll try to hold the tax line down as best we can”.

Trustee Gary Butterfield wanted to thank the DPW for their work this winter and for the good job they did knocking the [snow] banks down on Chestnut Street so people could see getting out of their driveways. He further stated that he is sensitive to people who aren’t for the re-zoning, however, with so many vacant buildings in the area, adaptive re-use is a “win win” situation for everyone. He’s hopeful that it will be a nice project.

Mayors Report – Mayor Browning said she is against the snow plowing law. She further stated that the public hearing tonight was just a re-zoning issue, and she asked that everyone have patience and we will keep you informed.

Trustee Butterfield made a motion to adjourn the meeting; the motion was seconded by Trustee Henry and carried unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 7:33 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Christine Pollock
Village Clerk