



Village of North Syracuse
Regular Board Meeting
September 9, 2010
4:30 pm - Community Center

PERSONNEL PRESENT: Village Clerk Christine Pollock, Treasurer Dianne Kufel, Attorney Heather Cole, Engineer James Trasher, Police Chief Thomas Connelly, Codes Officer Wayne Dean, Fire Chief Patrick Brennan, and Parks Director Teresa Roth. DPW Superintendent Gary Wilmer was absent due to illness.

Mayor Browning called the meeting to order at 4:32 p.m. The roll was called, Deputy Mayor Mark Atkinson, Trustee Gary Butterfield, and Trustee Fred Ferguson, were present. Trustee Chuck Henry was absent due to illness.

RESOLUTION 212-10

**MINUTE APPROVAL –
ABSTRACT MEETING**

Trustee Fred Ferguson made a motion to approve the minutes from the August 26, 2010 Abstract Board Meeting, Deputy Mayor Mark Atkinson seconded the motion, Mayor Browning and Trustee Butterfield all voting in favor of same.

RESOLUTION 213-10

**GENERAL FUND
ABSTRACT APPROVAL:**

Trustee Gary Butterfield made a motion to approve the General Fund Abstract in the amount of \$74,410.02 covering vouchers #453 to #461; Deputy Mayor Mark Atkinson seconded the motion, so approved by Mayor Browning and Trustee Ferguson.

RESOLUTION 214-10

**COMMUNITY FUND
ABSTRACT APPROVAL:**

Trustee Ferguson made a motion to approve the Community Fund Abstract covering voucher #1 to #5 in the amount of \$1,159.32; so moved by Deputy Mayor Mark Atkinson, Mayor Browning and Trustees Butterfield voting in favor of same.

CITIZENS' VOICE: No one wished to speak.

OLD BUSINESS:

LION'S CLUB PARK:

Trustee Butterfield said he had the purchase offer he picked up at Village Hall on 08/31/10 in his possession. He said he will present the offer to the Lion's within the week.

VILLAGE HALL RENOVATION:

Mayor Browning turned the floor over to Trustee Gary Butterfield to update the Board on the progress of Phase 1, the Security Phase, of renovations to the front entrance of the Village Hall. He stated that he has a revised quote for the doors and frames and they are all set to go, they are just waiting to do the lock cut outs, depending on the security system chosen.

ENERGY SAVINGS:

Mayor Browning asked Engineer Ami Franco to speak on the results of the energy evaluation completed by National Grid and the time constraints to act on their recommendations to save money for the Village. Ms. Franco said the time is running out on the money set aside for this project so the time to act is now if we plan to do it. She then deferred to Treasurer Dianne Kufel for the details of expenses. Ms. Kufel said this was originally to be covered by the NYSERDA Grant but we did not get the Grant. The cost to the Village is \$1,500 which can be paid back over a three (3) year period (approximately \$30/month), which she would prefer since it was budgeted for last year, but was not in this year's budget. Trustee Ferguson made the motion to follow through with this plan, seconded by Deputy Mayor Atkinson, with Mayor Browning and Trustee Butterfield voting in favor of same.

COMMUNITY CENTER PAVING:

Mayor Browning said Superintendent Gary Wilmer was sick and could not be present; however he gave her a report over the phone on the progress of the paving project at the Community Center. Everything is on track; they only have the electricity for the lighting and some drainage pipes to complete.

NEW BUSINESS

RESOLUTION 215-10

HIRING PART-TIME OFFICERS

Chief Tom Connelly came before the Board for approval to hire part-time police officers. He said the "guys" are getting tired, and it would save a lot of overtime costs to the Village to hire part timers. Chief Connelly said he has interviewed several candidates and is interested in a couple, he is ready to hire one and he would like to have the Boards approval to hire a second one to be able to fill all the shifts. Once he receives approval, he will begin back ground checks etc. then come before the Board with more information on his selections. Mayor Browning asked for a motion allowing Chief Connelly to hire two (2) part time police officers. Deputy Mayor Atkinson so moved, Trustee Ferguson seconded the motion. Trustee Butterfield wanted to know how many candidates he's interviewed, and would they fit into the schedule? Chief Connelly said he has interviewed four (4). Mayor Browning wanted to know how the police union feels about this. He replied that he has not discussed it with the union. Deputy Mayor Atkinson said he is aware of the issues with the

contract, however this would be a good time to move forward, open negotiations, and we can address it at that time. Trustee Butterfield wanted to know why he doesn't hire 2 full time officers, and the Chief replied, "Because I know the Board wouldn't approve it." Trustee Butterfield asked for the opinion of Heather Cole, the Village Legal Counsel, on this issue. Ms. Cole said the Union would probably bring an improper practice charge for violating the contract, at which point the Village would have to work with the Union to negotiate a resolution. Deputy Mayor Atkinson said we are already in violation of the contract for not filling the vacant positions, however, with the budget constraints we had to look for alternatives. Trustee Butterfield asked Treasurer Kufel if there is money in their budget for two (2) full time positions. Ms. Kufel replied "yes". Mayor Browning said it was the Board's decision based on savings on the benefits. Chief Connelly said he would rather hire two (2) part time officers now, than he would hire full time officers whom he would then have to lay off come January 2012 when the Village will be facing financial problems with the County Tax issue. The only cost with hiring part time would be a couple uniforms. Deputy Mayor Atkinson motioned to approve the hiring of two (2) part-time officers at the rate of \$17.52 per hour as requested by Chief Connelly, Trustee Ferguson seconding the motion; Mayor Browning was in favor of same. Trustee Butterfield was opposed.

RESOLUTION 216-10

New Fire Dept. Members:

Mayor Browning said Fire Chief Pat Brennan has 3 new members he would like the Board to approve; Kayla Keyes of Bear Road, Michael Redneck of Kristen Road, and Eric Fritz of Bellevue Drive. Trustee Fred Ferguson made a motion to approve the 3 new members; Deputy Mayor Atkinson seconded the motion with Trustee Butterfield and Mayor Browning voting in favor of same.

RESOLUTION 217-10

**AUTHORIZE MAYOR'S SIGNATURE
ON NATIONAL GRID AGREEMENT**

Trustee Butterfield made a motion to authorize Mayor Browning to sign the amended National Grid Settlement Agreement as approved by NYCOM, and reviewed and approved by Attorney Heather Cole. Trustee Ferguson seconded the motion, Mayor Browning and Deputy Mayor Atkinson voting in favor of same.

RESOLUTION 218-10

**DPW HIRE TEMPORARY
PART TIME LABORER**

Trustee Gary Butterfield made a motion to approve the hiring of Jason Raddar as a temporary laborer, for a term not to exceed 4 weeks, at a rate of \$10/hr. to help with heavy trash pickup; Deputy Mayor Mark Atkinson seconded the motion, Mayor Browning and Trustee Ferguson voted in favor of same.

BOARD MEETING DATE

Mayor Browning asked the Board if they would be agreeable to changing the November 11th meeting date to **Tuesday, November 9, 2010 at 4:30 at the Community Center** due to Veterans Day Observance on the 11th. Deputy Mayor Atkinson, Trustee Butterfield, Trusty Ferguson and Mayor Browning unanimously agreed to the new date.

DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS:

Police Dept.

Chief Connelly reported that the NSPD solved a burglary that occurred at Palace Court recently, where a safe with money and marijuana were taken. The suspects were taken into custody when the mother of one of the youths found the safe in her garage. The Chief added that the suspects were completely surprised that they were being charged with burglary since the items they took were drugs and drug money from a dealer. Mayor Browning also wanted to commend the Chief for his recent exposure on the streets of the village while walking street patrol with Detective DePerno. The Chief said the residents responded positively to their presence and he is anxious to go out many more times to meet our residents.

Fire Dept.

Chief Pat Brennan said he has been asked by the Town of Clay and the Town of Cicero to submit some of the North Syracuse Fire Department's budget information for proposals for their (the Town's) upcoming budget. Mayor Browning asked when he will meet with the Towns. Chief Brennan replied that he is meeting on Tuesday evening with the Town of Cicero. He received a telephone call from the Town of Clay saying they needed the information by next weekend. Mayor Browning asked if he will get the information to the Board tomorrow so they will have time to digest it. Chief Brennan replied in the affirmative.

Parks Dept.

Director Teresa Roth said she will have usage information for the Parks tomorrow for review. There are drawings of the Community Center parking lot project posted outside of the building and she hopes to post another one tomorrow. North Syracuse Babe Ruth won the 2010 World Series and that is HUGE! She is happy that the Village is having a congratulatory ceremony scheduled for Saturday Sept 18th at 4pm at the North Syracuse Jr. High School's front field. In case of rain Dr. Melvin (Superintendent of NSCSD) has offered to have the school auditorium open. There are signs acknowledging the kids at both ends of the Village, and Proclamations will be given to each of them, and there is another night in October at the Crunch Game. Trustee Ferguson wanted to know if the area of the leak in the Kennedy Park Pool had been located. Teresa said the main cause of the leak was discovered yesterday, and it was the pump valve. Gary Wilmer ordered the part and will cost approximately \$150 - \$160. She was very happy that the source was found and no excavation had to take place.

Codes Dept.

Codes Enforcement Officer Wayne Dean said Shamrocks has shut down, as of the end of the month (August 31st). As far as the property on Chestnut Street, the resident was sent a letter\citation yesterday for improper heat. The resident has been heating with space heaters and he is fearful that they will suffer the same result as what happened over this past weekend in Jordan. The other item to discuss is Toll Road Park. They are done driving piles and are ready to start the pile cap construction and he will keep everyone informed on this project.

Treasurer Report

Treasurer Kufel sent out her official statement for the year end, since there is no official audit this year. She feels confident in the numbers. Our fund balance now is about 10% of what our budget is. The new rates for the employee's retirement system just came out and we will be paying about \$30,000 to \$40,000 more by December 2011.

Trustees Report

Trustee Fred Ferguson reminds everyone to remember the events of 9/11, and he was made aware of a local musical tribute at Andrews Memorial to commemorate the heroes of 9/11. He also wanted to congratulate the North Syracuse Babe Ruth World Series Champions and will be there on the 18th to celebrate. Also, a reminder that the Public Safety Meeting will be held this coming Monday, the 13th at 5:00 pm downstairs in the small room of the Community Center.

Deputy Mayor Atkinson said he recently had a meeting with Dianne Kufel and the Workers Comp. Municipal Alliance and they are constantly looking at our injury log rates, which is in large part what determines our rates. He feels we have a handle on our safety program in the Village and if everything keeps going the way it is, it will be reflected in our premiums. As far as Babe Ruth, there are people who opened the paper all over this country who, like me, played Babe Ruth here and to see this years' World Championship Team, must have put a smile on a lot of faces.

Trustee Gary Butterfield thanked the DPW for an excellent job in their part of the Community Center Paving Project. Our summer Parks program has concluded with another successful summer, kudos to Teresa and her Staff! Trustee Henry and I went to a seminar in Albany recently where we were informed that the retirement system increase has been lagging behind so the next 2, 3, or 4 years it will be ramping up. This is not the first increase we're going to see. Lastly, I would like to clarify that my "no" vote for hiring the two (2) part time police officers was *not* a vote against the police. I feel that full time might have been a better option at this point, to keep us from violating their contract.

Mayors Report

Mayor Browning said she was informed by the Town of Cicero earlier today that they have agreed to extend the Inter-municipal agreement with Codes until December 31, 2010; and if Pam DiCarlo has not had an opportunity to taken the required Civil Service exam, they will revisit the need for an extension at that time. The Mayor also said she is hopeful that the communication between the Codes and Fire Department are making headway.

Mayor Browning reported that many of the Village residents put their heavy trash out to the road WAY too soon! The Village contacted the media to expressly address the problem, and the Codes Officer has gone to many of the houses reminding residents that they cannot put anything to the curb until the Friday before Heavy Trash Pick Up begins. We may want to look into having a fine for those who put everything out to the curb before the designated date. It looks like garbage exploded all over the streets of the Village!

The Mayor also reported that during her attendance of the official opening of the new Top's Market on Brewerton Road this week, Top's made a donation of \$500 to the North Syracuse Fire Department.

Trustee Gary Butterfield made a motion to adjourn at 5:07 p.m., seconded by Deputy Mayor Mark Atkinson, and so approved with all voting in favor of same.

Respectfully submitted,

Christine Pollock
Village Clerk