

Village of North Syracuse  
**Regular Board Meeting**  
September 13th, 2012 at 6:30 PM  
North Syracuse Community Center  
700 South Bay Road, North Syracuse, NY

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The Village of North Syracuse Regular Board Meeting began at 6:30 PM with Mayor Atkinson inviting everyone present to join in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Roll Call:** Mayor Mark Atkinson, Deputy Mayor Chuck Henry, Trustee Gary Butterfield, Trustee Fred Ferguson and Trustee Paul Linnertz were present.

**Personnel Present:** Village Clerk-Treasurer Dianne Kufel, Village Engineer Amy Franco, Village Attorney Scott Chatfield, DPW Sup't. Gary Wilmer, Parks Director Teresa Roth, Codes Enforcement Officer Pam DiCarlo, Police Chief Michael Crowell.

**RESOLUTION # 155-12**

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Mayor Mark Atkinson made a motion to approve the minutes from the August 23, 2012 Board Meeting. Trustee Ferguson seconded the motion. The motion was carried unanimously.

**RESOLUTION # 156-12**

**GENERAL FUND ABSTRACT APPROVAL**

Trustee Ferguson made a motion to approve the General Fund Abstract #7 in the amount of \$169,738.05 covering Voucher # 334 to Voucher # 408; the motion was seconded by Deputy Mayor Chuck Henry. The motion was carried unanimously.

**RESOLUTION # 157-12**

**SEWER ABSTRACT APPROVAL**

Trustee Ferguson made a motion to approve the Sewer Abstract #7 in the amount of \$6163.40 covering Voucher #5; the motion was seconded by Deputy Mayor Chuck Henry. The motion was carried unanimously.

**RESOLUTION # 158-12**

**VETERAN'S MEMORIAL PARK ABSTRACT APPROVAL**

Trustee Linnertz made a motion to approve the Veteran's Memorial Park Abstract #7 in the amount of \$85.00 covering Voucher #8; the motion was seconded by Trustee Ferguson. The motion was carried unanimously.

**RESOLUTION # 159-12**

**BUDGET TRANSFERS**

Trustee Linnertz made a motion to approve the Budget Transfer in the amount of \$475.00 from A5010.21 (DPW Equipment / Miscellaneous) to A5010.466 (DPW Training). The motion was seconded by Trustee Butterfield. The motion was carried unanimously.



**Village of North Syracuse**  
Regular Board Meeting  
Thursday, September 13th, 2012 @ 6:30 PM

**CITIZENS' VOICE:** Jeff Paris of 202 Watson Rd. explained he had a garage sale last week and noticed a lot of traffic cutting through on Watson Road since they put the new light in up on Bear Road. Traffic is cutting through on Watson in order to avoid the light on Bear Road. They avoid the light getting on the interstate as they cut through at Harbor Freight, and cut through again to get to Bear Road. Children are waiting to get on the bus, there is a lot of traffic, and they are coming through at 40 miles an hour. Mayor Atkinson explained we have a Public Safety Committee and would be sure to have them discuss this. Trustee Ferguson explained that they have talked about Watson and they have done a traffic study. Trustee Ferguson explained he did not know they were trying to avoid the light at Bear Rd. and Rt.11, and this would be a police matter. Mayor Atkinson asked if the report was still available and explained the Safety Committee and the Police Chief would take a look at the report.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**LEAD PAINT ABATEMENT PRESENTATION**

Mayor Atkinson introduced County Legislator Casey Jordan and Bob DeMoore from Onondaga County Community Development. Bob DeMoore explained that the County has a Lead Paint Abatement Program that is facilitated through Community Development. He continued to speak on monies available to homeowners whereas the home was built prior to 1978. Many individuals do not think that they are eligible. He emphasized that many people are eligible and they need to contact Community Development to see if they are eligible for this funding. He explained that this is funded by HUD and houses built prior to 1978 had lead paint in them. Once an individual calls, they send out their inspectors and complete an application. He provided some information including income guidelines with the Clerk to be posted and appreciated the time to explain this program to the Board and the constituents.

**ATAXIA DAY – SEPTEMBER 25, 2012**

Mayor Atkinson explained they have a proclamation that for the local Ataxia coordinator. This affects approximately 150,000 individuals by hereditary and sporadic ataxia in the United States and is often a fatal degenerative neurological disorder that affects balance, coordination and speech. The Mayor continued to say that this will go down in the minutes that we recognize the disease and nationally recognized date.

**RESOLUTION #160-12**

**RELEASE OF THE TOLL RD SECURITY MONIES**

Mayor Atkinson explained that a short time ago Two Plus Four Construction had asked for the release of the securities monies that have been placed in escrow with the Village. He continued to say, that Two Plus Four Construction had placed \$125,000 in escrow with the Village and that we would retain as a security



**Village of North Syracuse**  
Regular Board Meeting  
Thursday, September 13th, 2012 @ 6:30 PM

deposit for a one-year period after the Certificate of Occupancy had been issued. The time has come, and at this point the Board has received a letter indicating the recommendation of the release from CHA. Mayor Atkinson made a motion to release the remaining funds in escrow to Two Plus Four Construction. The motion was seconded by Trustee Ferguson. The motion was carried unanimously.

**RESOLUTION # 161-12      FIRE DEPT. BUDGET REQUEST-TOWN (2013) VLG. (2013/2014)**

Mayor Atkinson explained that the Board had been given the Fire Department budget to review for approval and discussion. He continued to say that he has looked it over and has been working with all the department heads to cut costs. Mayor Atkinson has spoken with Chief Brennan about some of the items in the budget. Chief Brennan would prefer a review at the end of the year rather than at the beginning of the year, if the need be. The Mayor continued to say that the Village of North Syracuse has fire contracts with the Town of Cicero and the Town of Clay and explained that this Board will continue to research the most financially efficient way to provide the service to the Village of North Syracuse, Clay and Cicero. Mayor Atkinson explained that without any further questions the Board would approve the budget as submitted. Mayor Atkinson made a motion to approve the budget as it was presented. Trustee Ferguson seconded the motion. The motion was carried unanimously.

**RESOLUTION # 162-12      APPROVAL TO REIMBURSE POLICE CHIEF FOR CELL PHONE**

Mayor Atkinson explained the Police Chief Crowell has preferred to retain his own cell phone as other Department Heads currently do as well. It is \$35.00 a month towards his personal cell phone bill for the time he expends on Village business. Mayor Atkinson made a motion to approve. Trustee Ferguson seconded the motion. The motion was carried unanimously. Trustee Linnertz asked if this could be put in the personnel policy – rather than vote on this every time there is a new Department Head. Mayor Atkinson explained the personnel policy is reviewed once a year and would take it into consideration.

**RESOLUTION #163-12      APPROVE AND APPOINT NEW FIREFIGHTER**

The Board received a request to approve (4) new members to the North Syracuse Volunteer Fire Department. They are as follows: Josh Heitzenrater of North Syracuse, and Brandyn Blunt of North Syracuse as well as “Bunk-In” members – Robert Briggs of Hawthorne, NY and Patrick Buck of Whitesboro, NY. Trustee Linnertz made a motion to approve. The motion was seconded by Trustee Butterfield. The motion carried unanimously.

**ATTORNEYS REPORT:** No report



**Village of North Syracuse**  
Regular Board Meeting  
Thursday, September 13th, 2012 @ 6:30 PM

**ENGINEERING REPORT:** Engineer Amy Franco explained they had started the sidewalk work today in the center of the Village. She also wanted to remind the Board of the RARP submittal as it relates to the Old Post Office building and to keep in touch with your representatives and local politicians.

**DEPARTMENT HEADS REPORT:**

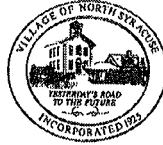
**Police Department:** Police Chief Mike Crowell spoke of the reduction of cars being broken into; this is down from his report at the last meeting. He continued to say that people are starting to lock their cars. Chief Crowell spoke of a new system he is enacting to log traffic complaints, he has instituted a new traffic complaint book on all the shifts. Chief Crowell made mention of a fundraising event to be held at Applebees on September 20, 2012 focused on the Special Olympics; he has put it out on the Village Beat. It is called "Law an Order" and all proceeds will go to the Special Olympic program. Chief Crowell continued to say that they have an intern beginning in the Police Dept. from OCC. Lastly, Chief Crowell requested that the Board review some information and facts for the purchase of a new vehicle(s), and hopes to discuss this at the next meeting.

**Highway Department:** DPW Sup't Gary Wilmer spoke of the bulk pick up whereas it has been going fairly smooth. He continued to say that it should lighten up soon; so far they have picked up 43 ton. They are picking up a lot of E-Waste, TV's, microwaves etc.; and if anyone has this kind of waste they can drop it off at the DPW garage.

**Parks and Recreation:** Parks Director Teresa Roth explained she had a bus trip with the senior's today, it was a nice day. Teresa asked if anyone had any feedback on the summer programs let her know.

**Codes Department:** Codes Officer Pam DiCarlo explained current activity taking place; 108 Wells Ave. East has picked up their demolition permit, Utica Pizza is occupying space in Maine's Plaza, Nesticos' outside addition is progressing and the Key Bank project is doing very well.

**Clerk-Treasurer:** Dianne Kufel explained that she recently attended the NYCOM conference. She continued to say that she had not been in 3 years and can't emphasize the importance of the material and information that was disseminated that relates to current and upcoming requirements from the State Comptrollers Office. They spoke of information regarding the 2% tax cap, NYS Retirement and tax growth that impact each municipality and the second year impacts of the 2% Tax Cap. She also spoke of having the final numbers for the closing of the books for fiscal year 5/31/12 and the fund balance although she is awaiting for the auditors to perform their audit and to concur with her balances. Overall, it looks like a good year for the Village with monies being returned to the fund balance.



**Village of North Syracuse**  
Regular Board Meeting  
Thursday, September 13th, 2012 @ 6:30 PM

**DEPUTY MAYOR/TRUSTEES REPORT:**

**Trustee Linnertz:** Inquired about the two new stop signs in the Village although the Mayor commented on them having been there previously; specifically - at the Community Center and at Toll Road Park.

**Trustee Ferguson:** Explained they had their Public Safety Meeting most recently and the minutes are on the website. The next meeting will be held at the Community Center on December 3<sup>rd</sup> – Monday. The Fire Department has something going on that conflicts with the meeting being held at Fire Station 1. Trustee Ferguson mentioned October 6<sup>th</sup> is Safety Day to be held over at the Fire Department.

**Trustee Butterfield:** No report

**Deputy Mayor Henry:** Explained he went to the Public Safety Meeting Monday night and there was an open discussion about the Emergency Operations Plan. He continued to say that it is going to need some more serious work. They are going to meet every two weeks until it is completed.

**MAYOR'S REPORT:**

Mayor Atkinson explained that he recently had a final meeting with Mary Burgoon of CHA to discuss the final document relating to the Village Comprehensive Plan. He continued to say how pleased he is with the results and will get copies out to everyone. The Mayor also spoke of the CSEA contract which still remains an open item with one final issue. Mayor Atkinson spoke of some property on Gateway Park Drive whereas the owners are looking to get rid of it and would like to donate to the Village. We have a letter going out to the Realtor this week, to see what their looking for and if it will work for us. The Mayor also made reference to the municipal parking lot in the center of the Village and how it is in bad shape. We are responsible for this whether it be some serious patching or paving the lot. Mayor said he is still working with the owner on this issue although made mention that something needs to be done this fall. Mayor Atkinson spoke of recent talks regarding the vacant properties and how the Village will be identifying these properties; whereas the Fire Department and Police Department need to be aware of these properties. The Mayor is working with the Codes Enforcement office to go over all that is needed to make people aware of such properties. Mayor also spoke of the recent sidewalk work being done in the Village generated from the 2011 Community Development monies. He continued to say that a small change order may be needed to complete this entirely. The Mayor also mentioned that Meals on Wheels will be at Village Hall on Monday, September 17<sup>th</sup>, 2012, to share with Village employees exactly what they do so that the Village employees can share this information with our constituents. They will explain how the volunteers make this much needed program work.



**Village of North Syracuse**  
Regular Board Meeting  
Thursday, September 13th, 2012 @ 6:30 PM

Trustee Butterfield made a motion to adjourn 7:06 PM. Trustee Ferguson seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Dianne Kufel  
Clerk/Treasurer