

Village of North Syracuse  
**Regular Board Meeting**  
September 27th, 2012 at 4:30 PM  
North Syracuse Community Center  
700 South Bay Road, North Syracuse, NY

The Village of North Syracuse Regular Board Meeting began at 4:30 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, DPW Sup't. Gary Wilmer, Parks Director Teresa Roth, Village Engineer Amy Franco, Codes Enforcement Officer Pam DiCarlo, Police Chief Michael Crowell.

**RESOLUTION # 164-12**

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Mayor Mark Atkinson made a motion to approve the minutes from the September 13th, 2012 Board Meeting. Trustee Ferguson seconded the motion. The motion was carried unanimously, with Trustee Linnertz abstaining from the vote, whereas the draft was distributed late and he did not have a chance to review.

**RESOLUTION # 165-12**

**GENERAL FUND ABSTRACT APPROVAL**

Trustee Linnertz made a motion to approve the General Fund Abstract #8 in the amount of \$106,880.82 covering Voucher # 409 to Voucher # 472; the motion was seconded by Trustee Ferguson. The motion was carried unanimously.

**RESOLUTION # 165-12**

**SEWER ABSTRACT APPROVAL**

Trustee Linnertz made a motion to approve the Sewer Abstract #8 in the amount of \$63.00 covering Voucher #6; the motion was seconded by Trustee Ferguson. The motion was carried unanimously.

**RESOLUTION # 166-12**

**BUDGET TRANSFER**

Trustee Linnertz made a motion to approve the Budget Transfer in the amount of \$184.32 from A3389B (Police BUNY Revenues from Onon. County) to A3120.141 (BUNY Overtime Shifts Police). The motion was seconded by Trustee Ferguson. The motion was carried unanimously.

**RESOLUTION # 167-12**

**BUDGET TRANSFER**

Deputy Mayor Henry made a motion to approve the Budget Transfer in the amount of \$970.60 from A1910.436 (Police Professional Insurance) to A1110.12 (Village Justice Part-Time Clerk). The



**Village of North Syracuse**  
Regular Board Meeting  
Thursday, September 27th, 2012 @ 4:30 PM

motion was seconded by Trustee Butterfield. The motion was carried unanimously.

**CITIZENS' VOICE:** No one responded.

**DISCUSSION OF NEW POLICE CAR(S) PURCHASE**

Mayor Atkinson spoke of recent talks about replacing some police cars. The Police Chief put together a nice plan on this issue. Mayor Atkinson explained that he did not want to take any action on this tonight, and would prefer to do this at our next meeting. He explained that we are in the process of closing out our fiscal year and we will have a better illustration of where we are at; and we may have a better option to look at, after we see our final closing balances. Trustee Linnertz asked if the Police Chief could provide average miles per car and if the lease(s) impose a penalty if we have an overage on mileage, and if there is, what that penalty is. Trustee Linnertz also requested that Dianne provide the difference between a purchase and lease and the differences there with financing. Trustee Linnertz commented on this being the second vehicle that the Police Department did not have budgeted. He realizes that the new Chief is trying to do what is best for the department, although hopefully in the future, there will be a planned replacement schedule that the Board can work with.

**DISCUSSION OF CODES ENFORCEMENT OFFICER AND THE HIRING PROCESS**

Mayor Atkinson spoke of his talking to Chief Brennan at the Fire Dept. and had a short discussion about getting the Fire Dept. involved in the hiring process of the Village's Codes Enforcement Officer. The Mayor continued to say that he spoke with Police Chief Crowell about getting him involved in the process as well as getting Trustee Gary Butterfield involved in the process. The three of them will work together as a panel to go through the process of hiring a Codes Enforcement Officer for the Village of North Syracuse. The best interviewed candidate will be recommended to the Mayor's Office and we will move forward. The Mayor suggested this process for the hiring of the Codes Officer, he feels that this is a solid process and we just completed this process with our Police Chief and it worked out very well.

**ENGINEERING REPORT:** Engineer Amy Franco spoke of the sidewalk work being nearly completed on North Main Street. She spoke of CHA initiating a punchlist next week as it pertains to this work.

**DEPARTMENT HEADS REPORT:**

**Police Department:** No report

**DPW/Highway Department:** No report



**Village of North Syracuse**  
Regular Board Meeting  
Thursday, September 27th, 2012 @ 4:30 PM

**Parks and Recreation:** Parks Director Teresa Roth spoke of the Village's Halloween Party to be held at St. Rose of Lima on Friday, October 26<sup>th</sup> from 6PM until 8:30 PM. This is for the Village youth 12 years of age and under. Teresa also mentioned her recent attempts to obtain quotes for the renovations of the Community Center. She spoke of this being appropriated in the budget for removing wallpaper in the lobby area and adjacent room.

**Codes Department:** Codes Enforcement Officer Pam DiCarlo informed of recent happenings within the Village. The new "7-11" (replaced Wilson Farms) has completed their interior design changes, Centerville Court is almost done with their renovations of the 1<sup>st</sup> building, and the demolition of 108 Wells Ave. East has begun.

**Clerk Treasurer:** Dianne Kufel clarified that the budget did absorb (1) new car for the Police Dept. for \$9,000 classified under the Installment Debt Purchase for a lease. She continued to say that she is gathering leasing rates as well, currently has (1) quote for a 2.5%/(3) year lease and is waiting on (1) additional quote.

**DEPUTY MAYOR/TRUSTEES REPORT:**

**Trustee Linnertz:** Spoke of the Planning Commission meeting on Thursday, September 20<sup>th</sup>, whereas they approved the application for Miracle Salon in the old "Millbrook Store" building. He explained that one major difference would be that the driveway closest to Bear Road traffic light has been eliminated. He continued to say that the Hair Salon will occupy the front of the building and there will be private storage in the rear.

**Trustee Ferguson:** Announced that Saturday, October 6<sup>th</sup> is the 23<sup>rd</sup> Annual Safety Day being held at Station 1 on Chestnut Street. Trustee Ferguson also made mention that last Saturday he presented the Ataxia proclamation to Mary Jane Damiano and conducted a small memorial service in honor of the deceased members of the Central NY Ataxia Support Group, downstairs at the Community Center.

**Gary Butterfield:** Spoke of an issue he has had for quite some time relating to Chestnut Street and has been in contact with the Codes Dept. He reiterated that it is in total disrepair and the owner is not following through and is not beneficial to the neighborhood. Trustee Butterfield said that this is very frustrating to this Village. Mayor Atkinson spoke of several discussions on this before and they appear to be playing a game. It currently is in the legal system, and very unfortunate that it is not a quick moving issue, although we continue to try and stay attentive of this.

**Deputy Mayor Henry:** Spoke of attending the latest Mayor's NYCOM conference. He spoke of a speaker from the FBI – an agent, and their concerns of cyber space, tampering with computers, etc. He also spoke of another spokesperson on Landbanks and the movement with this in local communities.



**Village of North Syracuse**  
Regular Board Meeting  
Thursday, September 27th, 2012 @ 4:30 PM

**MAYOR'S REPORT:**

Mayor Atkinson spoke of the Village Center Plan and it recently being completed. He continued to say that he met with Mary Burgoon from CHA and has requested additional copies so everyone on the Board can receive a copy. The Mayor said there is more internal work to be done. There are different sectors of the plan and he would like to detail each sector with streetscapes so that these "plans" are shelf ready to hand out. The Mayor continued to speak on the Landbanks, and because we have this Village Center Plan we are ahead of many local communities, whereas we may be able to be closer to acquiring these parcels. We are in-line to take advantage of some of these opportunities – commercial and residential. He explained a few of the guidelines, vacancy, behind in taxes, etc. in order to be eligible. The Landbanks Board committee is comprised of City and County representatives.

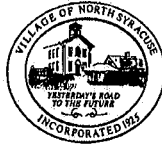
The Mayor continued to inform that Board that he has not reached an agreement as of this date with the CSEA, more to follow on this.

Mayor Atkinson also mentioned the 60 plus acres of land on Gateway Park Drive and talks surrounding this whereas we may be obtaining this through a donation. More to follow on this as well.

The Mayor mentioned his involvement with the Codes Dept. and Fire Dept. regarding vacant properties and the hazards within. He will continue to work on this to resolve this and identify these properties.

The Mayor mentioned that there is a flyer on the website regarding the Flu and Pneumonia Clinics that are being offered from the County.

Lastly, the Mayor wanted to mention the most recent media and suit that was served to the Village. He continued to speak on the suit involving the Town of Clay, Town of Cicero, Village of North Syracuse, and Moyers Corners Fire Dept. The EEOC (Federal Government) decided to drop a lawsuit on the 4 municipalities regarding the LOSAP program, which allows firefighters to collect a pension once they are at entitlement age. He explained that over the years there has been some changes. The program initiated in 1992 administered by the NY State. On or around 2003, we changed the law to coincide with NY State Law. In 2008, the Federal Government said that you have been following the State Law, but there is this Federal law that has to do with discrimination, whereas people were entitled to received credits after the age of 62. Mayor Atkinson spoke of the Village agreeing and passing this. The Village put together the 4 years that lapsed, agreed to put it all together, and make it good; then Syracuse.com came out with an article that we are being sued. The Mayor continued to say that we just received copy of this in our office today. He also spoke of the last correspondence of July 2<sup>nd</sup> and everything looked good. The Mayor spoke of his concern is that we will have to pay more money to defend this lawsuit when we have already agreed upon settling this with EEOC and agreed on the



**Village of North Syracuse**  
Regular Board Meeting  
Thursday, September 27th, 2012 @ 4:30 PM

numbers. This is very concerning, we are a small municipality and have to expend funds on what we have already spent a lot of time working on with them and actually agreed upon. More to follow on this as well, but said he wanted to bring this to the Board's attention as well as the residents. Trustee Linnertz reiterated that we followed the procedures that we should have, and the last few years the Federal Government came in and said that we did follow the State Guidelines but we are still wrong, he continued to speak on how frustrating this was.

Trustee Gary Butterfield made a motion to adjourn at 4:50 PM. The motion was seconded by Trustee Ferguson. The motion was carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Dianne Kufel  
Clerk/Treasurer