

Village of North Syracuse  
**Regular Board Meeting**  
October 11th, 2012 at 6:30 PM  
North Syracuse Community Center  
700 South Bay Road, North Syracuse, NY

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 Attorney Scott Chatfield, DPW Sup't. Gary Wilmer, Parks Director Teresa Roth, Codes Enforcement Officer Pam DiCarlo, Police Chief Michael Crowell, and Fire Chief Pat Brennan.

**RESOLUTION # 168-12**

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Trustee Ferguson made a motion to approve the minutes from the September 27th, 2012 Board Meeting. Deputy Mayor Henry seconded the motion. The motion was carried unanimously.

**RESOLUTION # 169-12**

**GENERAL FUND ABSTRACT APPROVAL**

Trustee Ferguson made a motion to approve the General Fund Abstract #9 in the amount of \$175,518.67 covering Voucher # 473 to Voucher # 528; the motion was seconded by Trustee Linnertz. The motion was carried unanimously.

**RESOLUTION # 170-12**

**SEWER ABSTRACT APPROVAL**

Trustee Linnertz made a motion to approve the Sewer Abstract #9 in the amount of \$70.27 covering Voucher #7; the motion was seconded by Trustee Ferguson. The motion was carried unanimously.

**RESOLUTION # 171-12**

**APPROVAL OF BUDGET TRANSFER**

Trustee Linnertz made a motion to approve the Budget Transfer in the amount of \$15,728.00 from A909 (General Fund – Fund Balance) to A885F (Fire Department Reserve Account) this represents the “unspent” monies of the Fire Dept. Budget for FY 11/12, the motion was seconded by Trustee Ferguson. The motion was carried unanimously.

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



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**OLD BUSINESS:**

**RESOLUTION # 172-12**

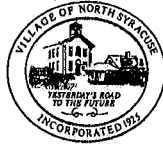
**APPROVE LEGAL COUNSEL FOR EEOC APPEAL**

Mayor Atkinson explained that the Board received a letter explaining in detail, from Germain and Germain, the Federal Court Matter recommending representation from Hancock and Estabrook LLP. Mayor Atkinson explained how unhappy he was with the lawsuit. The Mayor continued to express how he felt the Village of North Syracuse did nothing wrong, and it is a waist of taxpayers' money. Mayor Atkinson continued to say that he met with Senator Schumer this week and expressed his concern of this issue and felt optimistic that he could try to assist with this matter; and discussed another issue with him as well regarding some SCBA equipment on a previously submitted grant. Mayor Atkinson made the following motion, move the adoption of a resolution hiring Hancock and Estabrook, LLP to jointly defend a suit filed in the Federal Court for the Northern District of New York by the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission regarding the Length of Service Award Program ("LOSAP") for firefighters. Defense efforts and costs will be shared equally by the Town of Clay, Village of North Syracuse and Town of Cicero in the matter and will be billed in accordance with negotiated rates defined in a letter dated September 26<sup>th</sup>, 2012 from Timothy P. Murphy, Esq. Unfortunately, this action is necessary even though this municipality fully cooperated with conciliation, and this Board previously agreed to settle the LOSAP issue with the EEOC. This resolution also authorizes the execution of any and all documents necessary to carry out the intent of this resolution. The motion was seconded by Trustee Linnertz. The motion was carried unanimously.

**RESOLUTION # 173-12**

**APPROVE PURCHASE OF POLICE CAR(S)**

Mayor Atkinson explained that the Board received the information from the Police Chief regarding vehicles and the vehicle maintenance costs; and continued to speak how the Police Chief put a good plan together. The Mayor explained that it is currently in the budget to lease one vehicle, although after reading the information the Chief put together, he is interested in obtaining two cars. The discussion continued on acquiring a purchase-lease of the two cars with an annual percentage rate of 2.6%. The Mayor continued to recommend that the equipment for the cars would be purchased outright and absorbed by the budget at approximately \$5,000 each. Mayor Atkinson explained after looking at the maintenance costs over the past year, going with the two cars will give them a foundation to start with. Chief Crowell followed up with confirmation that there aren't any limits or mileage restrictions with this particular lease purchase. At the end of the three years, the Village would own these vehicles, with an option to trade them in and go another cycle or to keep them. Discussion continued on an annual line item for a new vehicle and a vehicle rotation plan for new vehicles. Trustee Linnertz explained he would rather go with the one car purchase, as that is what is in the budget. Trustee Linnertz continued to explain that he discussed with DPW Sup't. some in-house maintenance on many of the Village vehicles, as a way to cut down on expenses and do routine maintenance at our DPW garage. Mayor Atkinson also spoke of not being



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opposed to having the DPW do some maintenance on the Village vehicles. Trustee Ferguson was concerned of the pricing of these vehicles and Chief Crowell confirmed that they are off of State Contract – competitive government rate for the recommended Dodge Chargers and continued to speak on how affordable they are and are comparable to the cars they have now. Mayor Atkinson made a motion authorizing the lease purchase of (2) new police cars – Dodge Chargers off of State Contract, whereas the outfitting of them will be paid through an appropriation of the budget and will include the signing of documents relating to this lease purchase. The motion was seconded by Trustee Ferguson, with Dep. Mayor Henry and Trustee Butterfield voting in favor of the same. Trustee Linnertz voted against the proposed motion.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**RESOLUTION #174-12**

**APPROVE CHANGE ORDER TO LAN-CO**

The Board received a change order from Lan-Co. in the amount of \$930.00 for additional stone to raise the grade on the sidewalk. This was preapproved by CHA - Amy Franco, and this would increase the total cost of the job to be \$47,346.00, still under the \$50,000.00 threshold from Community Development. Mayor Atkinson made the motion to approve the change order. Trustee Ferguson seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

**RESOLUTION # 175-12**

**ACCEPTING SINGLETON AVE.**

The Board received a copy of paperwork from Scott Chatfield regarding Singleton Ave., specifically the Warranty Deed. Gary Wilmer is required to file paperwork with the Department of Transportation with any additions or deletions for CHIPS money (for paving - Consolidated Highway Improvement) that allows us additional “street” monies. We officially need to pass a resolution accepting Singleton Ave. as a Village Street. Mayor Atkinson made a motion to accept Singleton Ave. as a Village Street. Trustee Ferguson seconded the motion. The motion was carried unanimously.

**RESOLUTION # 176-12**

**PART-TIME CLERK FOR FIRE DEPT.**

The Board received a memo from the Fire Chief that the current part-time clerk resigned his position, and at this point in time they are requesting to fill the position by John Hogan as an interim Part-Time Clerk 1. Mayor Atkinson made a motion to appoint John Hogan as an interim Part-Time Clerk 1 at \$15.00 hour. Trustee Ferguson seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

**DISCUSSION OF SNOWPLOWING/COUNTY ROAD/ .5 MILE OF CHESTNUT ST.**

The Board received a copy of the letter from Travis Glazier from the County referencing the ongoing



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relationship with the County regarding plowing. Mayor Atkinson explained it is referring to Chestnut Street; extending from Belmore Drive to Allen Road, basically a half mile. The County currently pays us \$3,600. Mayor Atkinson just wanted to discuss this and get some dialogue going, they will not vote on this tonight. Mayor Atkinson would like to go forward with plowing that stretch due to a very sharp curve, and is concerned of this being a safety issue. DPW Sup't. Gary Wilmer explained they went down that half mile stretch (31) times and dispersed about (15) tons of salt for the season at a cost of about \$650.00 dollars. It is a small price to pay for the safety of the residents. Trustee Linnertz explained the County doesn't want to plow it although it is a County Road; and the Town won't plow it. He continued to say that they want the Village to plow it; but is not so happy that we only receive half of the value of what it cost to plow. He continued to say that we paid \$650.00 this year only because the winter was so mild and voiced his concern that he didn't like putting us at risk for the liability of a road with a bad curve. Attorney Scott Chatfield explained the \$3,600 the Village receives is a "break-even" of the maintenance of vehicles and road salt, etc. Deputy Mayor Henry explained he sees it as a safety issue for our residents. Trustee Butterfield explained he was in favor of the road to be plowed by the Village of North Syracuse. He continued to say that wherever he sees efficiencies in these tough times, he is all in favor. Mayor Atkinson explained they would wait for the contract to be forthcoming and we will revisit this again on a future agenda.

**RESOLUTION #177-12**

**SURPLUS OFFICE EQUIPMENT/CHAIRS**

The Board has received a copy of a list of items that Dianne has gathered in the garage bays that are not used and would like to send to the County auction. These items are then transferred to other municipalities. These are no longer needed. This is part of the on-going housekeeping initiative to clean up our facilities and rid of any items not being used. The DPW will assist with a trailer to remove these items from the garages and deliver to the auction site in Mattydale. Mayor Atkinson made a motion to approve the list of items declare they are surplus and taken down to the County auction. Trustee Linnertz seconded the motion. The motion was carried unanimously.

**ATTORNEYS REPORT:** No report

**ENGINEERING REPORT:** Brian Bouchard from CHA is covering for Amy Franco. He was prepared to speak on the change order for Lan-Co that was addressed earlier, if any questions surfaced.

**DEPARTMENT HEADS REPORT:**

**Police Department:** Chief Crowell stated his department is gearing up for Halloween. He continued to say that he will be out on Halloween, along with all four cars, and they will be handing out glow sticks to promote safety for all the kids.



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**Fire Department:** Chief Brennan explained they had a successful Fire Safety Day this past weekend. He appreciated all the help and support from the community including Police Department, NAVAC/Ambulance; they had a great turn out. He continued to say that this was the Fire Department's way of showing the community exactly what they have to offer the residents of this community.

**Highway Department:** DPW Sup't Gary Wilmer explained next week is another week for bulk pick up. They are initiating this extra week as there is a demand for it, so they are going to do one more pick up for this year. He continued to say that throughout the Winter it will be picked up as needed.

**Parks and Recreation:** Parks Director Teresa Roth explained they had a nice bus trip today with the senior group and the adult basketball program started a couple weeks ago. The Halloween Party is scheduled for Friday October 26, 2012 from 6 PM to 8 PM. Registration is through the Parks Office. It will be held at St. Rose and it is for Village youths.

**Codes Department:** No report

**Clerk-Treasurer:** Dianne Kufel explained she handed out a memo to the Board in reference to closing out the fiscal year and felt all the departments had a successful year considering some of hardships the Village had absorbed; with all departments coming in under budget. She also reflected on some of the revenues came in higher than projected which also was beneficial. All in all, the overall savings is captured in the Fund Balance.

**DEPUTY MAYOR/TRUSTEES REPORT:**

**Trustee Linnertz:** No report

**Trustee Ferguson:** Great job to the Fire Department open house. The next Public Safety meeting will be December 3rd, 2012 at the Community Center.

**Trustee Butterfield:** It is very refreshing to live in a community that comes in under budget for the year and wanted to express a great job to all the Departments.

**Deputy Mayor Henry:** Explained they had a meeting on the Emergency Operations Plan. The meeting went well and they will be meeting twice a month until they complete the plan.

**MAYOR'S REPORT:**

Explained they would be hiring a full-time Codes Enforcement Officer, and he in the process of finalizing a committee. He also mentioned he had a meeting with Senator Schumer and his staff and



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shared with them the EEOC lawsuit against us and they are interested in taking a look at it. He also had the opportunity to talk to them about the grant application they have in right now for our Fire Department the self contained breathing apparatus whereas the Fire Dept. is in desperate need of air packs and are just about at the peak of their longevity. He continued to inform of a Community Presentation at NOPL on Thursday, October 18, 2012 at 6 PM, focusing on energy and money saving tips for residents. The Mayor also updated all on the donation of land to the Village on Gateway Park Drive whereas Scott Chatfield generated a letter of interest and further clarification on an appraisal may be necessary.

Trustee Butterfield made a motion to adjourn 7:20 PM. Trustee Linnertz seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Dianne Kufel  
Village Clerk/Treasurer