

## **VILLAGE OF NORTH SYRACUSE REGULAR BOARD MEETING**

**Thursday, November 23, 2010  
4:30 P.M. – Community Center**

### **PUBLIC HEARING**

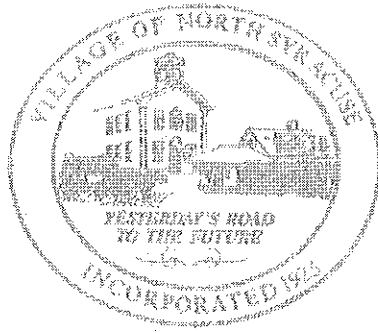
Mayor Browning opened the Public Hearing at 4:30 p.m. The Mayor explained the purpose of the Public Hearing is to inform residents of the new voting procedures, and the option to hold the Village elections in June, as usual, or move the elections to November to coincide with the “general elections.” In either case, Onondaga County Board of Elections will run the elections, and their staff will be in place to handle the new ballots and ballot reading machines. It will cost the Village more to keep the election in June. Any resolution adopted by the Village Board will be subject to permissive referendum.

Mayor Browning asked Treasurer Dianne Kufel to explain cost differences between having the elections in June or in November. Treasurer Kufel said it would cost between \$2,000 to \$2,500 to keep the election in June, which is approximately \$500 to \$1,000 more than it would cost to move the election to November when the County has to hold general elections anyway and would already incur the cost of printing ballots, manning elections sites, etc, and that is why moving to November minimizes the cost to the Village, however, it would extend the terms of the incumbents FOR THIS YEAR ONLY. Instead of the incumbents’ terms ending on June 30<sup>st</sup> 2011, they would end on December 31, 2011.

Mayor Browning asked if anyone would like to speak in favor of changing the election from June to November. Vera Desimone, of 304 Belmore Drive, said yes, she would be in favor of moving the election if it would save the Village money, and would possibly encourage more people to come out to vote since it was a general election.

The Mayor thanked Ms. Desimone for her input, then again asked if anyone wished to speak for or against the new voting procedures. At that point Treasurer Dianne Kufel wanted to clarify what she felt may have been an inaccurate explanation by the Mayor. She said we can keep the election in June, and the cost would be approximately \$2,500 (a high estimate). Deputy Mayor Atkinson asked what the village spent on the last election. Ms. Kufel replied we spent approximately \$1,500 to \$2,000. Mayor Browning asked what the cost would be if we went to November. Ms. Kufel replied that she felt it would cost less than if held in June, because the County would be bringing all of their equipment and personnel out here anyway for the general elections, and they would also have to print the ballots. A rough estimate would be approximately \$1,200 to \$1,500.

Attorney Heather Cole explained that the Board has a few options; they can say they would like the County to take over our elections and want to keep the election in June; or they can say they would like the County to take over our elections and move them to November during the general elections.



Attorney Cole added, that if the Board chooses to do either of those things tonight, it would not automatically go to a vote; that would only happen if a sufficient number of voters signed a petitions requesting it.

Deputy Mayor Atkinson said he prefers having the Village elections remain in June so the village is on a ballot by itself, however if there significant amount of money to save, he would go along with moving to the general election. From what Treasurer Kufel has told us, we are talking about saving between \$500 and \$700 which he feels is not worth having our primary election buried at the bottom of the ballot in a general election. Ms. Desimone then asked, "Would the new November election date be for this year only?" Village Attorney Cole answered; "No, it would change the Village's election permanently to November" At point, Ms. Desimone stated that she is NOT in favor of changing, and agrees with Deputy Mayor Atkinson and would like the elections to remain in June.

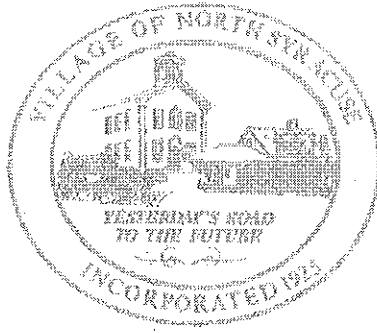
Trustee Butterfield feels there's a bigger picture as well. He reminded the board that when Mr. Ryan from the BOE addressed them in June, he said the costs will increase, in time, but by how much, he could not say because the process was so new. Mr. Butterfield felt it would be a good time to change the Village from a fiscal year to a calendar year to be in sync with the County. It doesn't make sense to move our elections to November if our budget year remains in June.

Heather said we can have the resolution tonight allowing the county to run the election in June and then if we decide to have the election moved to November at a later date, we can do so at that time. The first issue at hand is to have a resolution to allow the BOE to run the Village elections.

Trustee Ferguson said he had spoken with another commissioner and was told that Villages have to have their elections in either March or June. The expense to the Village in legal fees alone to change everything over would be cost prohibitive, and he would therefore prefer to leave our elections in June.

Mayor Browning wanted to remind everyone of another major issue to consider when talking about changing from our current budget year. That is that our residents would receive two (2) tax bills in January, one of the worst months to be faced with a new bill

Trustee Chuck Henry stated that he would prefer to leave the elections in June to keep the identity of the Village intact, which he feels is very important & would be lost in a general election.



Mayor Browning asked if anyone else wished to be heard, either for against the Board of Elections running the village elections. Mayor Browning asked this three (3) times with no response. Mayor Browning closed the Public Hearing at 4:46 p.m.

## **Regular Board Meeting**

The Village of North Syracuse Regular Board meeting began at 4:47 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 Fergerson, 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 Wayne Dean. DPW Superintendent Gary Wilmer & Parks and Recreation Director Teresa Roth were excused.

### **RESOLUTION 263-10**

### **APPROVAL OF 11/09/10 MINUTES**

Trustee Fred Fergerson made a motion to approve minutes from the November 9, 2010 meeting; Deputy Mayor Mark Atkinson seconded the motion. The motion was carried unanimously.

### **RESOLUTION 264-10**

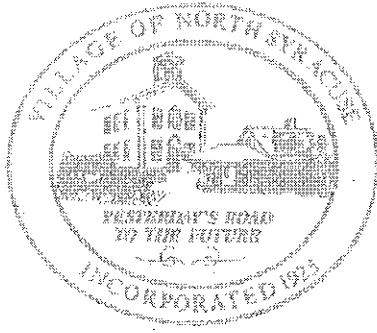
### **GENERAL FUND ABSTRACT #13:**

Trustee Fergerson made a motion to approve General Fund Abstract #13 covering vouchers #707 to #767; Deputy Mayor Atkinson seconded the motion. The motion was carried unanimously.

### **RESOLUTION 265-10**

### **COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT ABSTRACT #13:**

Deputy Mayor Mark Atkinson made a motion to approve the Community Development Abstract #13 covering vouchers #23 & 24; seconded by Trustee Fred Fergerson. The motion was carried unanimously.



**RESOLUTION 266-10**

**SEWER ABSTRACT #13:**

Trustee Fred Ferguson made a motion to approve Sewer Abstract #13, covering voucher #7; seconded by Deputy Mayor Mark Atkinson. The motion was carried unanimously.

**RESOLUTION 267-10**

**VETERANS MEMORIAL ABSTRACT 13:**

Deputy Mayor Mark Atkinson made a motion to approve Veterans Memorial Abstract #13 covering voucher #3; seconded by Trustee Fred Ferguson. The motion was carried unanimously.

**CITIZENS' VOICE:**

Patricia Ferguson of Main Street, wanted to tell everyone that the folks in England has decided to have the Royal Wedding on the same day as our Village's Arbor Day; April 29<sup>th</sup>, 2011. Ms. Ferguson also offered her assistance to the new Village Clerk with the Tree City and Arbor Day paperwork just let her know.

Vera Desimone, of 304 Belmore Drive wanted to let the Board know that she had been checking on the progress of the Toll Road Park Apartments and she said it's coming along nicely. She is very pleased and hopes everything continues to go well.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

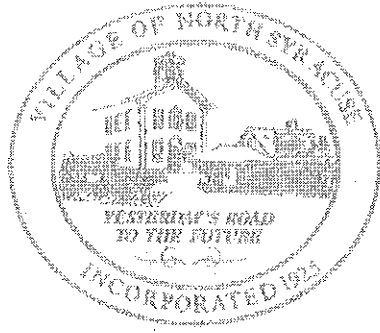
None.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**RESOLUTION 268-10**

**JUSTICE COURT AUDIT:**

In accordance with section 2019-a of the Uniform Justice Court act, the Town and Village justices are required to provide their court records and dockets to their respective Town and Village auditing boards on an annual basis. These records are then required to be examined or audited and entered into the minutes of the Board's proceedings. Trustee Ferguson made a motion to verify that an audit was conducted by Koagel & Vincentini dated November 4, 2010, and a copy of such audit will be forwarded to the New York State




Office of Court Administration. The motion was seconded by Deputy Mayor Mark Atkinson.

**Certification of vote:**

Mayor Diane Browning:	voting	Aye
Trustee Butterfield:	voting	Aye
Deputy Mayor Atkinson:	voting	Aye
Trustee Ferguson:	voting	Aye
Trustee Henry:	voting	Aye

Dated: 12/09/10

  
Christine Pollock, Village Clerk

**RESOLUTION 269-10**

**BOARD OF ELECTIONS TO RUN  
VILLAGE ELECTIONS:**

Trustee Ferguson made a motion to keep the Village of North Syracuse elections in June, and have the County run the elections effective this June 21, 2011; the motion was seconded by Trustee Henry. The motion was carried unanimously.

**Certification of vote:**

Mayor Diane Browning:	voting	Aye
Trustee Butterfield:	voting	Aye
Deputy Mayor Atkinson:	voting	Aye
Trustee Ferguson:	voting	Aye
Trustee Henry:	voting	Aye

Dated: 12/09/10

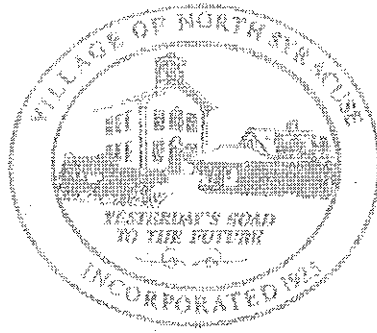
  
Christine Pollock, Village Clerk

**ATTORNEY REPORT**

No report. There is an employee history issue for Executive Session.

**ENGINEERS:**

No Report – Engineers had not been required to attend.



## **DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS:**

### **POLICE DEPARTMENT:**

No Report – Chief Connelly just wanted to wish everyone a Happy Thanksgiving. Mayor Browning took a moment to offer the Chief condolences for the sudden loss of his mother last week.

### **FIRE DEPARTMENT:**

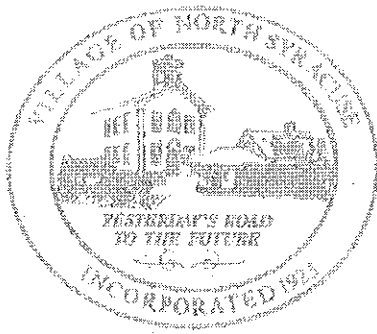
Chief Pat Brennan reported that he and Attorney Cole had made revisions to the Rules & Regulations based on some concerns raised during earlier meetings. Mayor Browning said she still wanted something requiring a representative from the Fire Department be present at Village Board meetings. She reiterated that it did not have to be the Chief, but someone should be present. Chief Brennan said that has nothing to do with the Rules & Regulations which deals strictly with the day to day running of the Fire Station. "What the Mayor is asking for is more of a Personnel policy issue".

Deputy Mayor Atkinson interjected by stating that if the Mayor would accept this requirement as a stand-alone policy, he would work with the Village Attorney to work up a policy letter that would address the Mayor's concern, without adding further delay with signing the Rules and Regulations. "

Everything else looks fine and if that's the only issue delaying its' signing I would be willing to work with Attorney Cole to draft a policy specifically addressing the Mayor's attendance requirement.

Mayor Browning asked if anyone else had anything to add to the discussion. Trustee Henry had a question as to the exact purpose/authority of the Fire Police. Chief Brenan explained that the sole purpose of the Fire Police is to provide protection and safety in a traffic control capacity, during responses by the Fire Department. They do not carry a gun, or have the authority to make arrests, however they are registered with the NYS Justice Department.

Trustee Butterfield said he had read over the correspondence between the Chief and Village Counsel and feels it's time to "put it to bed." Trustee Ferguson also felt the Rules and Regulations were ready to be signed. Trustee Henry felt the prior issues had been addressed by the Fire Dept. and Attorney Cole and we should move forward. Attorney Cole said she



would provide the exact revisions of Fire Department Rules and Regulations to the Village Clerk so they could be incorporated into the minutes.

**RESOLUTION 270-10**

**FIRE DEPT. RULES & REGULATIONS:**

Trustee Fred Ferguson made a motion to authorize the Mayor to sign the most recently amended Fire Department Rules & Regulations noted below; Deputy Mayor Atkinson seconded the motion. The motion was carried unanimously.

1. In Section 2.3, the Fire Department will follow OSHA regulations with regard to certification of physical fitness.
2. In Section 4.5.d, the Fire Department will follow the American Heart Association Guidelines for CPR certification.
3. In Article II, Membership, the Village Board will act as an appeals board for discipline imposed by the Fire Council.
4. In Article IV, Section 11.1, the Fire Department will add that of the two dates for taking of office, it will be whichever of those dates is earlier.
5. In Article VIII, the Village Board will approve of any changes to the Rules.

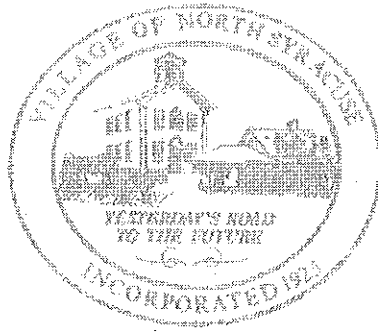
Chief Brennan also wanted to know if Codes Officer Wayne Dean had received the decision from the State Department regarding the "turn around" needed at Toll Road Park. He also asked Mr. Dean if he had informed the builder of the new requirement. Mr. Dean said he had not, however he planned to contact the builder regarding site work. He had informed the Mayor as to what is going on.

**PARKS & RECREATION:**

No report. No one was present from Parks & Rec.

**CODES ENFORCEMENT:**

Mr. Dean had nothing to report.



## **DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS:**

No report. No one was present.

## **TREASURER REPORT:**

Treasurer Dianne Kufel reported that she had attended a Mayor's meeting in Solvay this past week, where they discussed the County's plan to oversee and control how the Villages use the sales tax revenues. The County's goal is to review and approve/disapprove each time the Village wants to use any of their sales tax revenues. The Village currently relies on that revenue to balance the budget. The County would oversee it and we would have to fill out a Grant type application to use any of the sales tax revenue.

Mayor Browning said the Mayors have been instructed not to sign anything until it is tweaked, and tweaked a lot more. Trustee Henry questioned Attorney Cole if it was legal for the County to dictate to the Village how they can spend these tax revenues, has it been challenged? This is still being disputed and researched as we speak.

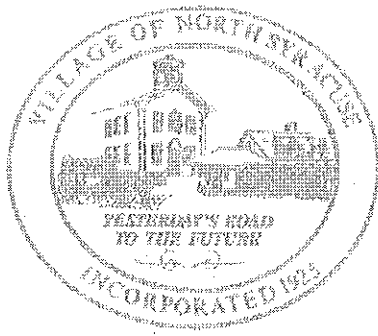
## **DEPUTY MAYOR/TRUSTEES REPORT**

**Deputy Mayor Atkinson** wanted to wish everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

**Trustee Fred Ferguson** offered Chief Connelly his condolences. The next Public Safety Meeting will be held Monday, December 6th at 4:30 pm downstairs in the small room of the Community Center.

**Trustee Gary Butterfield** said "Back to the tax revenue issue. The paperwork I looked over (from the County) refers to having "green projects" to spend our tax revenue. Since we are already a "Tree City" we're already pretty green. It looks like their way around allowing the Village to spend the money for what they deem necessary. Since one of the platforms our Governor elect ran on was consolidation, I'd say we have a long road ahead of us if we want to save the Village. Other than that, I just want to wish everyone a Happy Thanksgiving."

**Trustee Chuck Henry** wishes everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.



## Mayors Report

Mayor Browning asked the Village Clerk to talk about this years' Christmas Party. Village Clerk Christine Pollock said that we are having a Christmas Party for employees in the Village.

Mayor Browning also stated that she has received more than 400 signatures on petitions to save the Village Post Office which will be mailed to the Post Master, with copies to Senator Schumer. The Chamber of Commerce is sponsoring "Boxes for Seniors", and they will be dropping a box off in the lobby of the Village Hall. All donations of warm gloves, hats, scarves, toys, blankets, are appreciated. The donations will be collected on December 20<sup>th</sup> and will then be distributed to residents in the Village.

Trustee Butterfield made a motion to adjourn to executive session to discuss employee work history as well as collective bargaining negotiations; Deputy Mayor Atkinson seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned to Executive Session at 5:12 p.m.

The Mayor and Trustees returned to regular session at 5:47, at which time Trustee Gary Butterfield made a motion to adjourn; seconded by Deputy Mayor Atkinson, the motion was carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Christine Pollock".

Christine Pollock  
Village Clerk