

Village of North Syracuse  
**Regular Board Meeting**  
November 22, 2011 at 4:30 PM  
North Syracuse Community Center  
700 South Bay Road, North Syracuse, NY 13212

Mayor Mark Atkinson called the meeting to order at 4:30 PM with the Pledge of Allegiance.

**ROLL CALL:** Deputy Mayor Chuck Henry, Trustee Gary Butterfield and Trustee Paul Linnertz were all present. Trustee Fred Ferguson had a conflict as he was out of the country.

**PERSONNEL PRESENT:** Clerk-Treasurer Dianne Kufel, DPW Superintendent Gary Wilmer, Parks Director Teresa Roth, Codes Enforcement Officer Wayne Dean, Deputy Fire Chief Tim Ellis, Village Engineer Mary Burgoon, Village Attorney Scott Chatfield.

**RESOLUTION # 205-11**

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Trustee Paul Linnertz made a motion to approve the minutes from the November 10th, 2011 Board Meeting. Trustee Gary Butterfield seconded the motion. The motion was carried unanimously.

**RESOLUTION # 206-11**

**GENERAL FUND ABSTRACT APPROVAL**

Trustee Gary Butterfield made a motion to approve the General Fund Abstract #12 in the amount of \$69,852.35 covering Voucher # 649 to Voucher # 691; the motion was seconded by Deputy Mayor Chuck Henry. The motion was carried unanimously.

**RESOLUTION # 207-11**

**BUDGET TRANSFERS**

On a motion made by Trustee Gary Butterfield and seconded by Deputy Mayor Chuck Henry, the following Budget Transfer was approved totaling \$1,000 with Trustees Butterfield, Linnertz, Henry and Atkinson voting in favor of the same:

11/16/11	From: A7180.12 Pool/Lifeguard Personal Svcs.
\$1,000	To: A7140.1 (\$250) Playground Personal Svcs.
	To: A7110.13 (\$750) Parks Part-time Laborer

Transfer monies to balance Summer Payroll Accounts -- excess Pool Staff money to Playground and Parks Laborer Payroll.

**CITIZENS VOICE:** No one wished to speak.

**OLD BUSINESS:**



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### **2004 FORD EXPEDITION**

Mayor Mark Atkinson spoke of the surplus of the 2004 Ford Expedition at a previous meeting. The Mayor spoke of transferring the vehicle from the firehouse over to Village Hall to replace two older vehicles. The Mayor spoke of gaining some useful life of this vehicle with our aging fleet.

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

#### **RESOLUTION 208-11**

#### **ADD TO AGENDA APPOINTMENT OF 2 FIREFIGHTERS**

Mayor Atkinson requested to add an item to the agenda which is the appointment of 2 new firefighters. Deputy Mayor Chuck Henry made a motion to add this under New Business of the Agenda, seconded by Trustee Gary Buttefield. The motion was approved unanimously.

### **VILLAGE CENTER PLAN**

Mayor Atkinson spoke of the progress that has been made over the past 8 or 9 years with the Village's Parks referring to the great job on the sidewalks, the walkable community; which brings the Village to an initiative that they all need to lead to somewhere – which is the center of the Village. The Mayor spoke of the middle of the Village and how critical it is in order for the Village of North Syracuse to thrive. The Mayor spoke of some blighted buildings right now and the best way to move forward is to have a Village Center Comprehensive Plan, which would be an addendum to the existing plan which would enhance the opportunity to seek grant monies for development of the Village. The Mayor referred to Mary Burgoon from CHA. Mary spoke of the scope of services that CHA would provide for this initiative. Mary spoke how critical it is for a community that has the opportunity for Community Development funds, as well as other funds to have a concept in place. She stressed the significance of this initiative relating to grant monies and how very supportive this document is and the whole concept. Mary spoke how this addendum will gather real thoughts and a complete understanding of the complete picture of the Village as a whole in which we do not have this right now. Mary referred to how the Planning Board uses the current Comprehensive Plan on a regular basis, although the original plan did not go into detail as it was not in the budget. Mary suggested to have a small advisory board to guide through the plan and a sounding board; they would work directly with the business owners with what their concerns are. Mary further spoke of what the patrons of the Village are noticing that some of us don't so much notice as we frequent here daily. Patrons would be more cognizant of parking issues, signage, finding specific locations, etc. Mary spoke of when individuals live in a community they don't always think of some of these things. She spoke of how this Master Plan in itself will be as graphic as possible so it can be referred to quickly and what the ultimate outcome would be. Mary spoke of having an implementation strategy, coordinated effort, with an approach to take, priorities, and suggesting funding sources. Mary said this



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plan is valuable for the Board Members now, our predecessors, and what future Board Members can refer to. Mayor spoke of the fee associated with this service would be a not to exceed \$30,000. Trustee Gary Butterfield spoke of the current Comprehensive Plan and it suggesting the re-evaluating of it every 5 years. The Mayor spoke of his discussing with Dianne K. and she suggested she would find the funding in line items that come shy of spending with any balance to follow through the fund balance. Trustee Linnertz inquired on the boundaries of the Village Center; where they were exactly. Mary spoke of a small zoning map that is labeled in green in front of the Comprehensive Plan booklet. The Mayor spoke on the concentration of the Village Center as it being a logical step forward for a more specific direction of the Village Center. Mary continued to talk of the different options and inviting the stakeholders of the Village Center to all get together. Dianne K. stated that she is in the process of having the Comprehensive Plan as a quick link on the Village website. Mayor Atkinson stated that he was hoping to have approval this evening, although if the Board does not feel comfortable voting on this tonight, we can keep this under Old Business for the December 8<sup>th</sup> meeting. Mary spoke of most importantly this study will identify what businesses are most needed, working well, and the Community will be a part of the process as well as the Village Board will be a integral part of the planning process. Mary Burgoon stated that the current Comprehensive Plan cost approximately \$52,000. Resident Cheryl Morgan spoke of the closed down gas station on North Main Street and was inquiring if this would address this type of vacant building. The Mayor suggested that the comprehensive plan would recommend a facility that would be best fit for that parcel. Mary Burgoon spoke of CHA's involvement with the marketing and targeting of certain developers from the area. Mary spoke that North Syracuse is a small Village with Main Street, which is a highly populated area, whereas a realtor will be focusing on this. Mayor stated that once there is a defined list, the Board will target these businesses. Mary spoke of more defined perimeters as far as parking, and signage; they will be looking at all of this including building materials and a cohesive look for this Village. Mary spoke of the plan for Liverpool with JGB Enterprises and how well this took off. Mayor spoke that he had spoken with Trustee Ferguson who is out of the Country, and he is in favor of moving forward with this. Trustee Gary Butterfield stated he would prefer having more time to review the current Comprehensive Plan; he continued to say that he is not uncomfortable with the concept would just like to study what he has in front of him. The Mayor chose to keep this on the agenda under Old Business for the December 8<sup>th</sup> meeting.

### RESOLUTION 209 – 11

### PREAPPROVAL OF DPW – LABOR READY

Mayor Atkinson spoke of the DPW Sup't. Gary Wilmer and the need to hire on temporary labor for two weeks, to allow him to continue with the brush pickup and leaves being picked up. The Mayor mentioned that Gary was short manpower due to a medical leave and a subsequent termination. Trustee Paul Linnertz made a motion to approve the spending of monies for this temporary labor, seconded by Deputy Mayor Chuck Henry. The motion was carried unanimously.



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**RESOLUTION 210 -11**

**APPOINTMENT OF 2 NEW FIREFIGHTERS**

Trustee Gary Butterfield made a motion to approve the two new members to the North Syracuse Volunteer Fire Dept., Michael Chimber and Alexander Hughson, seconded by Trustee Paul Linnertz. The motion was carried unanimously.

**ATTORNEY REPORT:** Attorney Chatfield spoke of the final approval of the Toll Road Project whereas it has been approved by the Planning Board.

**ENGINEERING REPORT:** Mary spoke of the partial payment request from LanCo regarding the sidewalk job on Main Street. She continued to state that CHA suggested holding the 5% retainage due to a gas valve that still needed minor repair.

**DEPARTMENT HEADS REPORTS:**

**Fire Department:** Deputy Fire Chief Tim Ellis thanked the Board for approving the (2) new members. Tim reminded everyone of the importance of cooking safety this time of year; and he requested the need for hydrants to be free and clear throughout the Winter as it only complicates matters and the call for “adopting a hydrant”. The Mayor suggested for Dianne to place a notice on the Village website.

**Department of Public Works:** DPW Sup’t. Gary Wilmer thanked the Board for approving the temporary labor from Labor Ready. Gary also spoke of an opening in his department for a laborer and he also has this information posted on the Village’s website.

**Parks and Recreation:** Parks Director Teresa Roth reminded all of the Holiday Parade to be held on December 4<sup>th</sup> which starts at 5:00 PM. She also spoke of her department promoting a holiday bus trip on December 15<sup>th</sup> to Beaches Restaurant in Rome, a Dinner Theatre and outing, - please call her for details. Teresa said the elevator has been completed and works great. Teresa also spoke of the vandalized signs at Centerville Park and Kennedy Park – once again, destroyed. She has posted on the Village Website any information would be appreciated to prevent the reoccurrence or prevent this from happening again.

**Clerk/Treasurer:** Dianne Kufel spoke once again on the 2% cap. She stated that she will continue to speak on this so that the public understands the complexity of the formula involved encompassing several key elements; pilots, tax growth, and retirement are all components of the formula. Dianne stated that she will continue to expound and expand on the 2% tax cap as budgeting cycle is nearing closer and closer. Dianne expressed that the formula is not as easy as taking last year’s tax bill and



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increasing by 2% to see if the guidelines have been met; she wished it was this easy although there are several components that are a part of this. Dianne mentioned she will continue to discuss this as we near closer to more definitive calculations.

**DEPUTY MAYOR/TRUSTEES REPORTS:**

**Trustee Linnertz:** No report

**Trustee Butterfield** spoke of the two properties on Chestnut Street that continue to be unsightly, and how frustrating it is with the process to take action, the length of time, and the legal process to get something done. Codes Enforcement Officer Wayne Dean said he has been working on these 2 specific properties regarding demolition, asbestos, and a survey costing \$1,000. Wayne also said that now because there is asbestos the cost is \$2,000, and the woman is living out of town with her daughter, she has a medical condition that prevents her from doing anything healthwise and financially. Wayne spoke of the other property going through the courts and nothing happens which is ultimately so costly for the municipality. Trustee Butterfield wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving

**Deputy Mayor Chuck Henry** wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving; and congratulated the Mayor on being a Grandpa.

**MAYOR'S REPORT:**

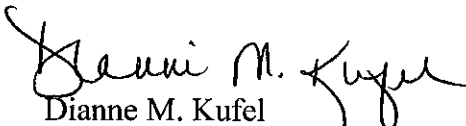
Mayor Mark Atkinson spoke of a letter he wrote for a grant opportunity for Centerville Court which is being offered through the Regional Economic Grant Authority. A substantial grant opportunity for them – keeping their rates low. Mayor wished good luck to them on securing this. The Mayor spoke of his 2<sup>nd</sup> recent article in the newspaper, and subsequently placed on the website, regarding Communication and Feedback. The Mayor spoke of his timetable and needs another 60 days to accomplish the task he put himself in charge of relating to Heavy Trash. The Mayor thanks Gary W. for the great job his forces have done on the picking up of the leaves around the Village. The Mayor spoke of a seminar attended by himself and Dianne regarding the Seneca Falls Dissolution whereas the voters voted to eliminate the Village. The Mayor spoke how unpleasant the process is and how this is truly an eye-opener for other municipalities; the taxpayers didn't truly know what the true costs were once this took affect. The Mayor spoke of all the new special districts that are created because of this, a sidewalk district, sewer district, lighting district, and a debt service district. The Mayor continued to dwell on the debt that becomes a district as the new municipality will accept the assets but not the debt associated with those assets. The Mayor reassured the Board and the constituents of our attentiveness to this 2% Tax Cap whereas Dianne and himself are keeping cognizant of any all information relating to this and will keep everyone informed.



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Trustee Gary Butterfield made a motion to adjourn at 5:05 PM; seconded by Deputy Mayor Chuck Henry. The motion was unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Dianne M. Kufel  
Village Clerk-Treasurer