

## VILLAGE OF NORTH SYRACUSE

### *Regular Board Meeting*

Thursday, June 27<sup>th</sup>, 2019 @ 4:29 PM

North Syracuse Community Center

700 South Bay Road, North Syracuse, NY 13212

The Village of North Syracuse Regular Board Meeting began at 4:29 P.M. with Mayor Gary Butterfield asking everyone to join him in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Roll Call:** Mayor Gary Butterfield, Deputy Mayor Browning, Trustee LouAnn St. Germain, and Trustee Art Steere.

**Personnel Present:** Village Clerk/Treasurer Dianne Kufel, DPW Superintendent Ed Ware, Parks Director Teresa Roth, Village Attorney Scott Chatfield, and Village Engineer Amy Franco.

**Personnel Absent:** Trustee Pat Gustafson, CEO Brian Johnstone, Fire Chief Robert Liberatore and Police Chief Steve Rotunno.

**Public Hearing #1 @ 4:29 PM:** This Public Hearing is being held by the Board of Trustees of the Village of North Syracuse to consider the adoption of Local Law #4 for the proposed changes to the Village Code, Section 128-5 Unlawful Deposits and will hear all persons in support of such matters or objections thereto. The Mayor stated this is to “modify” our existing code to expand/expound on it, if a homeowner does his own work on their property, for instance taking down a fence, taking down a deck or something that is part of the property or building and is doing it himself; hauls it out to the road, this change would allow the DPW to pick that up. He continued if someone is hired to do the work, a contractor cannot bring their debris out to the road and have it picked up by the Village; that will be their responsibility as a contractor. He went on to say if it is a paid project, the Village is not going to pick up the debris. He stated the Codes Dept. will be aware of any permits that had been pulled to alleviate a contractor from putting items out. He went on to say DPW and Codes will work and communicate together on this and he opened this up to the Public to discuss. He asked if anyone would like to speak in favor or against this change to our code. He stated what we are trying to do is prohibit what is sometimes happening with trees; they are going to have a tree removed and all the brushy stuff they bring it out to the road for the DPW and the Village to take care of it. He continued they pay to have a tree removed and we do not want to be picking up half of the mess at Village expense. He asked again if anyone would like to speak for or against this change to our Code Local Law #4. He stated we are trying to keep contractors from getting a free ride, it is part of their job; he asked if there were any comments. He again asked if anyone would like to speak for or against and with no response he closed Public Hearing #1.

### **RESOLUTION # 119-19**

### **APPROVAL OF SPECIAL BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

Deputy Mayor Browning made a motion to approve the minutes from on June 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2019 Special



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Board Meeting. The motion was seconded by Trustee Steere. Trustee Steere asked if that agreement was signed. The Mayor stated yes. The motion was approved with Trustee St. Germain, Trustee Steere, and Deputy Mayor Browning, all voting in favor of the same.

**RESOLUTION # 120-19**

**APPROVAL OF BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

Trustee St. Germain made a motion to approve the minutes from the June 13<sup>th</sup>, 2019 Board Meeting. The motion was seconded by Deputy Mayor Browning. The motion was approved with Trustee St. Germain, Trustee Steere, and Deputy Mayor Browning, all voting in favor of the same.

**RESOLUTION # 121-19**

**GENERAL FUND OLD BUDGET ABSTRACT APPROVAL**

Deputy Mayor Browning made a motion to approve the General Fund Abstract #28 (Old Budget) in the amount of \$10,740.82 covering Voucher #1470 to Voucher #1482. The motion was seconded by Trustee St. Germain. The motion was approved with Trustee St. Germain, Trustee Steere, and Deputy Mayor Browning, all voting in favor of the same.

**RESOLUTION # 121-19**

**GENERAL FUND NEW BUDGET ABSTRACT APPROVAL**

Trustee Steere made a motion to approve the General Fund Abstract #02 (New Budget) in the amount of \$87,967.45 covering Voucher #34 to Voucher #86. The motion was seconded by Deputy Mayor Browning. The motion was approved with Trustee St. Germain, Trustee Steere, and Deputy Mayor Browning, all voting in favor of the same

**RESOLUTION # 122-19**

**BUDGET TRANSFER(S)**

The Mayor stated the transfer of monies requested by the Police Chief received fair market value for the 2013 Old Detective Car; transfer to offset the cost of the new car. Trustee St. Germain made a motion to approve the budget transfers from A2665 Sale of Equipment to increase A3120.29 Police Ford Fusion in the amount of \$5,000. The motion was seconded by Trustee Steere. The motion was approved with Trustee St. Germain, Trustee Steere, and Deputy Mayor Browning, all voting in favor of the same.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**RESOLUTION # 123-19**

**DISCUSS LOCAL LAW #4 - AMEND UNLAWFUL  
DEPOSITS IF HOMEOWNER DOES THE WORK-  
NOT CONTRACTED OUT/DO THEMSELVES**



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The Mayor stated the Public Hearing just took place and we need a motion to adopt Local Law #4 that amends the Code of the Village to permit the homeowner to put construction items to the curb as long as the work is not contracted out. Trustee Steere made a motion to adopt Local Law #4 as written to amend the code of the Village to permit the homeowner to put construction debris to the curb, if work was not contracted out, and they do the work themselves. The motion was seconded by Trustee St. Germain. The Mayor stated this basically just changes the language. Atty. Chatfield stated it just adds a phrase at the end of the existing language. The motion was approved with Trustee St. Germain, Trustee Steere, and Deputy Mayor Browning, all voting in favor of the same.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**RESOLUTION # 124-19**

**DISCUSS RED HAWK AGREEMENT:  
UPGRADING TO CELLULAR**

Deputy Mayor Browning made a motion to authorize the Mayor to sign the Red Hawk Agreement for upfront costs for transition of current phone system to a Cellular System in the amount of \$895. The motion was seconded by Trustee Steere. The motion was approved with Trustee St. Germain, Trustee Steere, and Deputy Mayor Browning, all voting in favor of the same.

**RESOLUTION # 125-19**

**APPOINT ALTERNATE TO THE ZONING  
BOARD TO FILL A VACANT SEAT**

The Mayor stated the Zoning Board is in need of an alternate; this term will fill the vacancy that exists from Chris Strong being elected as a trustee on the Board, the term will expire 7/01/2021. Deputy Mayor Browning made a motion to approve the appointment of Anthony Irick for the Alternate position on the Zoning Board of Appeals for the remainder of the term to expire on 7/01/2021; filling the vacancy of former Alternate Chris Strong. The motion was seconded by Trustee St. Germain. The motion was approved with Trustee St. Germain, Trustee Steere, and Deputy Mayor Browning, all voting in favor of the same.

**RESOLUTION # 126-19**

**DISCUSS EASTERN SECURITY SERVICES:  
UPGRADING TO CELLULAR**

Trustee St. Germain made a motion to authorize the Mayor to sign the Eastern Security Services Agreements for the transitions upfront cost in the amount of \$1,725 and thereafter \$38 a month for monitoring. The motion was seconded by Trustee Steere. The motion was approved with Trustee St. Germain, Trustee Steere, and Deputy Mayor Browning, all voting in favor of the same.



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**RESOLUTION # 127-19**

**DISCUSS/APPROVE TRAVEL POLICY**

The Mayor stated the Board received the policy that is a basic policy covering a pre-approval, guidelines for reimbursement, etc. He continued he thought we already had something in place. Village Clerk/Treasurer Kufel stated this is just a refresher; the previous Mayor had sent out a request that any higher education or conferences be preapproved before going or taking, so this is just more of a formal policy. Deputy Mayor Browning made a motion to authorize the adoption of the Village Travel Policy. The motion was seconded by Trustee St. Germain. The motion was approved with Trustee St. Germain, Trustee Steere, and Deputy Mayor Browning, all voting in favor of the same.

**DISCUSS PROPOSED CHANGES TO SECTION 87-1:  
GROWTH OF VEGETATION RESTRICTED**

The Mayor stated again this is a Code issue, we already have a Code language, but this is particularly this year with the amount of rain that we have had and the amount of lawns in our neighborhoods that get high, because there are some homes that are abandoned, some homes owned by banks, etc. and we are basically changing ours to look more like the Town of Cicero. Village Clerk/Treasurer Kufel stated we are changing it from 6 inches to 10 inches. The Mayor continued also the wait from the time there is a citation issued; there is a shorter time frame to get it mowed. The Mayor went on to say there was an instance where somebody was injured and could not mow his lawn. He stated a lot of them are just vacant properties and by the time we get to it, because there was such a long period of time, it went from 10 inches to a hayfield; so we are trying to speed it up. He reiterated the proposed changes are from 6 inches to 10 inches, but had a question, so he wanted clarification. He tabled this to the next meeting when CEO Johnstone will be here; he is excused today.

**SET PUBLIC HEARING FOR LOCAL LAW #5: GROWTH  
OF VEGETATION FOR JULY 25TH AT 4:29 PM**

The Mayor stated it is just for discussion now and we will wait on setting the Public Hearing.

**RESOLUTION # 128-19**

**APPROVE THE APPOINTMENTS OF (2) NEW  
NORTH SYR. VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS  
AND (2) NEW JUNIOR FIREFIGHTERS**

Deputy Mayor Browning made a motion authorizing and approving the appointments of Andrew Oot and Austin Scully as new Volunteer Firefighters to the North Syracuse Fire Dept. and Carson Shostack and Kaylee Ilacqua as new Junior Firefighters. The motion was seconded by Trustee Steere. The



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motion was approved with Trustee St. Germain, Trustee Steere, and Deputy Mayor Browning, all voting in favor of the same.

**CITIZENS' VOICE:** The Mayor invited anyone that wished to share concerns or thoughts to address the Board.

Pat Ferguson stated she contacted the Department of Environmental Conservation (D.E.C.) to remove Fred Ferguson and some other obsolete names. She continued she has gone through the list for North Syracuse and will be updating the Tree Board being the five of you, as established in 1988, when we established the Tree Board for Arbor Day, among other things. She stated she is fixing it and wanted to let the Board know.

Vera Desimone of 304 Belmore Dr. stated she just wanted to make known how great our North Syracuse Family Festival was. She commended Parks Director Roth for doing a beautiful job, because at the last minute the grounds were wet and she worked very hard to get us settled at The Gathering Place. She also thanked everyone and she stated had only received positive feedback from people, so we have decided we will go there again.

Jeremy Fetterman of 28 Lincoln Rd. stated he would like to see drainage put in, in front of his house, so that the water drains. He continued he has a pipe right now in his driveway and up the street from me the neighbors removed theirs; he does not know if they were allowed to, but it is gone. He stated it looks better like that and there are no longer animals living at the bottom of their driveway. He spoke of a lot of skunks and that happens in his driveway; it just would look nicer. The Mayor stated it was his understanding that there was, over the years some people have filled in where there was a swale there which leads to catch basin. Now there is no swale in parts, there is swale, there is pipe, there is no pipe, so we need to go look back at the original intent of the whole area and see if we can work something out; then we will get back to you.

He asked again if anyone wished to speak and closed Citizen's Voice.

**ATTORNEY REPORT:** No Report.

**ENGINEER REPORT:** She stated she assumed the Mayor would discuss their meeting yesterday and that was all she had to discuss.

**DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS:**

**Police Department:** No Report.



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**Fire Department:** No Report.

**Public Works Department:** He stated the following:

- We are working on holes in the streets
- Getting caught up with the manpower
- We are getting caught up on parks, lawns, and catch basins

**Parks and Recreation Department:** She stated the following:

- Kennedy Park Pool opened on 6/14 for the summer season
- Swim Lessons start Monday; registration increase due to Williams Beach closed this summer
- Summer Camp Registration over 145 kids signed up; starts Monday
- 1st concert was last night and it was a big success; there are 8 more left
- Most summer programs have started or will start next week

**Codes Department:** No Report.

**Clerk-Treasurer:** She stated the following:

- There are a lot of old, old pictures at Village Hall that are being put into collage on huge poster board to be put on 1st and 2nd floor Of Comm. Ctr. if have enough

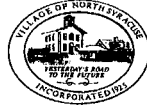
**DEPUTY MAYOR-TRUSTEES REPORT:**

**Trustee St. Germain:** No Report.

**Trustee Gustafson:** Village Clerk/Treasurer Kufel read from Pat Gustafson: "To Mayor, Fellow Board Members and Department Heads. Please excuse me for not being able to deliver this to you in person. It has been my honor and pleasure to be able to serve the people of the Village of North Syracuse for the last four years; but most of all I value all of the kindness and friendship I've gotten from all of you. I may be saying good-bye to my position of Trustee, but I value the time I had with you, my extended family. With much love and sincere thank you, Pat Gustafson." The Mayor stated she served 4 years and did a good job.

**Trustee Steere:** He stated thanks for letting me appear on the Board; this is his last meeting. He is closing on a house outside of the Village.

**Deputy Mayor Browning:** No Report.



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**MAYOR'S REPORT:**

He stated he had a letter that he was not going to read, but stated Trustee Steere got good use out of his Village apparel. He thanked him; he asked good questions and he was engaged, so he appreciated that. He gave that to Trustee Steere and stated he had one for Trustee Gustafson as well. He wanted to thank the two Board members that were going off. He stated we met yesterday, because OCWA is starting to tear up Church St. and Chestnut St. as we speak. He continued we had the meeting yesterday and they were starting today, so they are starting on the Church St. side. He stated they are going to soft cut the road, then they are going to run a new water main along Church St and then down Chestnut St.; it is going to be a mess for a while. He continued once they are done, hopefully, because they are talking about not being able to finish until October which could put in jeopardy our paving project; we will have to see how it goes. He explained once it is "out to bid", somebody maybe able to jump on it and get it done; it will be tight. He stated so expect construction in our main east to west thorough fare; we just have to deal with it. He continued it is a good thing that we did not put the road in first and then have OCWA here later come in and say you have to put in a new 12 inch water main, so we have to tear up the brand new road, so the timing is although unfortunate; the timing is also good. He stated last year and we talked about "A Taste of North Syracuse." He continued this year we actually have a brochure ready to send out to the restaurants to see if maybe in October, that we have some specials and advertise it; trying to get Village residents to visit Village restaurants. He stated we are going to give it a try and see what happens. He added if it does not happen this year, he would like to see it happen next year. He continued for those of you that are rarely come to the Village Hall, there have been ongoing improvements. He stated we have a new Lobby in the Police Dept. He continued presently we are doing construction on a Handi-cap accessible restroom, and a Village Office. He went on to say we have a new conference room, which is a multi-purpose room which can be used by our Parks Dept., because it is right next door; they requested a special door. He added in the new Police Lobby we have a new medicine drop box which other municipalities have had, but we did not have room for it, so now those that have opioids can bring it in and put it in a secure location. He stated that is coming along nicely. He added in addition we are upgrading to VOIP (Voice Over Internet Protocol), we are getting a new servers downstairs, all new wiring; anybody that went down in the basement and looked up it was an absolute mess, wires running thru our duct work, so we are fixing it up. He stated the State Budget finally passed, in the new Budget it did include winter recovery monies; they were threatening to take away from us, we are getting an additional \$18,000 per road paving. He continued NYCOM was a huge advocate for us in fighting for that. He stated another passing was the Retirement Cap, before NYS Public Employees that retired could only earn up to \$30,000 without a reduction in their pension benefits; this has been increase to \$35,000. He continued although we have not started the road project on Church/ Chestnut St. yet, National Grid has been moving poles, so those of you who live around there; there is going to be a planned power outage on July 9th from 8 AM to Noon. He continued Rt. 11 and Chestnut St. intersection, heading west on Chestnut St., down



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to Herman Dr. to include Wells Ave W., Fairfield Dr., and Lynhurst Ave. He stated there will be 560 total customers impacted and if it is bad weather then it will be the next day.

Deputy Mayor Browning made a motion to adjourn at 4:55 PM. The motion was seconded by Trustee Steere. The motion was approved with Trustee St. Germain, Trustee Steere, and Deputy Mayor Browning, all voting in favor of the same.

Respectfully submitted,

Dianne M. Kufel  
Village Clerk