



VILLAGE OF NORTH SYRACUSE

Regular Board Meeting

Thursday, January 9th, 2020 @ 6:30 PM
North Syracuse Community Center
700 South Bay Road, North Syracuse, NY 13212

The Village of North Syracuse Regular Board Meeting began at 6:30 P.M. with Mayor Gary Butterfield asking everyone to join him in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call: Mayor Gary Butterfield, Dep. Mayor Browning, Trustee LouAnn St. Germain, Trustee Chris Strong and Trustee Fred Wilmer.

Personnel Present: Village Clerk/Treasurer Dianne Kufel, CEO Brian Johnstone, DPW Superintendent Ed Ware, Fire Chief Robert Liberatore, and Police Chief William Becker, Village Attorney Scott Chatfield, and Village Engineer Amy Franco.

Personnel Absent: Parks Director Teresa Roth (Vacation).

The Mayor stated he became aware today is National Law Enforcement Appreciation Day which started in 2015. He read, "On the day we will call our nations' citizens to action in support of law enforcement, we are encouraged to show our support." He stated on behalf of Trustee St. Germain, Trustee Strong, Trustee Wilmer, and Dep. Mayor Browning, and Mayor Butterfield we would like to say thank you to the following: Chief William Becker, Sgt. Jeff Tripp, Sgt. Chance Fjeldson, and Officers: Matthew Ewald, Thomas Keeler, Robert Florian, Nicholas Lostumbo, Jeffrey Linstruth, Jeremy Chaney, Casey Placito, Jordan Pannell, Ashley Smith, Vincent Zingaro, Ken Izyk, Donald Backus, and Mary Renna and Andrea Castro. He thanked them and mentioned 2 of our officers are here with our Chief.

RESOLUTION # 001-20

APPROVAL OF BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Dep. Mayor Browning made a motion to approve the minutes from on December 23rd, 2019 Board Meeting. The motion was seconded by Trustee Wilmer. The motion was approved with Trustee St. Germain, Trustee Strong, Trustee Wilmer, and Dep. Mayor Browning, all voting in favor of the same.

RESOLUTION # 002-20

GENERAL FUND ABSTRACT APPROVAL

Trustee St. Germain made a motion to approve the General Fund Abstract #16 in the amount of \$122,697.52 covering Voucher #881 to Voucher #933. The motion was seconded by Trustee Wilmer. The motion was approved with Trustee St. Germain, Trustee Strong, Trustee Wilmer, and Dep. Mayor Browning, all voting in favor of the same.

RESOLUTION # 003-20

SEWER FUND ABSTRACT APPROVAL

Trustee Wilmer made a motion to approve the Sewer Fund Abstract #16 in the amount of \$36.43



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covering Voucher #20. The motion was seconded by Trustee Strong. The motion was approved with Trustee St. Germain, Trustee Strong, Trustee Wilmer, and Dep. Mayor Browning, all voting in favor of the same.

RESOLUTION 004-20

BUDGET TRANSFER(S)

The Mayor stated the transfer monies received from 2019 SLETPP Grant to cover costs for new computers. Trustee Wilmer made a motion to approve the budget transfers from A3389G SLETPP Grant Revenue to increase A3120.211 Equipment New Computers in the amount of \$11,000.00. The motion was seconded by Dep. Mayor Browning. The motion was approved with Trustee St. Germain, Trustee Strong, Trustee Wilmer, and Dep. Mayor Browning, all voting favor of the same.

OLD BUSINESS:

CHURCH ST. /CHESTNUT ST. UPDATE

The Mayor stated the Church St. /Chestnut St. update; we are finally getting really close to having the plans and the specs ready to go out to bid. He asked Mrs. Franco if she had knew anymore on that. Mrs. Franco stated she did not know any more, but wanted to say that they have that drainage structure on Chestnut St. that they wanted to include in the bid, since it is going to be torn up. She continued let us look at it while we are there and she knows that Dory was looking on the final information on that and then we are good to go. He stated maybe we will see them next week and then the bid is about a 3 week process and maybe by the end of the February we will know who the bidder is.

VILLAGE HALL: FRONT REDESIGN-IN PROGRESS

The Mayor stated the Village Hall front redesign is in progress. He spoke with the architect and the field measurements were done, the design is in progress.

RESOLUTION # 005-20

**DISCUSS SEWER/SEQR LEASE AGREEMENT;
TABLED DECEMBER 12, 2019**

The Mayor stated the next item on the agenda is to discuss Sewer/SEQR Lease Agreement which was table from our Dec. 12th, 2019 meeting. He continued this is not a lease agreement to sign over our sewer lines; this is an agreement to allow the county to be the lead agency for the SEQR. Atty. Chatfield explained every discretionary action in the state of New York is subject to the State Environmental



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Quality Review (SEQR) Law. He stated some actions like this one are pretty big actions and they are called Type I. and when they are a Type I Action, one of their requirements is that there is a coordination between all of the agencies that might be involved. He continued in this case the county is seeking to acquire leases over the sewers of a bunch of different municipalities, so the county would like to be the responsible agency for making the environmental significant determination, in order to do that they have to ask our permission and all the other municipalities for their permission to be the lead agency; this is that request for that permission. He explained by saying yes, you are simply allowing them to proceed with the SEQR process. He stated if you say no then it has to go to the commissioner of environmental conservation for a determination as to who would be the appropriate lead agency and he assured that they would side with the county anyway, so it is one of those steps that has to be taken. Dep. Mayor Browning made a motion to authorize the Mayor to sign a letter that we have no desire to be the Lead Agency. The motion was seconded by Trustee Strong. The motion was approved with Trustee St. Germain, Trustee Strong, Trustee Wilmer, and Dep. Mayor Browning, all voting favor of the same.

NEW BUSINESS:

SALES TAX GRANT SUBMITTAL: PROOF OF EXPENDITURES 2019

The Mayor stated the next item Village Clerk-Treasurer Kufel has been working on and expects to have it by next meeting; that is proof of expenditures.

SALES TAX GRANT SUBMITTAL: PROJECTIONS FOR 2020

The Mayor stated this item is the same as the last, and expects to have it by the next meeting; projections for 2020.

DISCUSS NEW PROPOSED APPLICATION FOR COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT 2020 FOR 2021

The Mayor stated the next item is to discuss Proposed Applications for Community Development 2020 for 2021, this is for \$50,000, he opened it up for input; we do not need to vote on it now, but we do need to talk about it, typically it is sidewalks. Mrs. Franco stated the applications are usually due by mid to end of March. The Village Clerk-Treasurer reminded them that they have to have public hearing also. Trustee Strong stated that grants – there is a higher priority, medium priority and a lower, is that come in to play here. Atty. Chatfield explained this is because Clay is metropolitan



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city, and there is an award and part of the Village is in Clay, so this is an annual amount that we get automatically, but we do have to tell them what we are going to use it for. Mrs. Franco continued you can submit multiple applications and between those, they will choose the one that they feel is more appropriate and we can put a priority project of one, because of generally known as the Atty. stated, that is what the Village is going to get. She explained it is just beneficial to do one application and for reference the awarded application that we did last year that was awarded for this year's project that was awarded the year before, is Grove St. sidewalks. The Mayor spoke of one of the possibilities that they had emailed back and forth is the Gazebo that he would like to see out here, the structure; would that qualify. Mrs. Franco stated it does, it is not the actual structure, they do not like to do municipal buildings, but we did do the parking lot through Community Development and it is for the general public and an open space, so that is a good fit. The Mayor stated a possibility, we could do the sidewalks. He asked the Board to think about it.

RESOLUTION 006-20

DISCUSS/AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR TO SIGN THE LEASING AGREEMENT SOLVAY BANK FOR CODE ELEC. VEH.

The Mayor stated the next item is to authorize the Mayor to sign the Leasing Agreement with Solvay Bank for the Codes electric vehicle which was a budgeted item and is a plug-in vehicle. He continued because we are certified as a Clean Energy Community once we get this, we can apply for a grant to offset some of cost, if not all. Trustee Strong made a motion to authorize the Mayor to sign the Leasing Agreement to lease/purchase at (1) payment each year for (3) years with Solvay Bank for Codes electric vehicle. The motion was seconded by Trustee St. Germain. The motion was approved with Trustee St. Germain, Trustee Strong, Trustee Wilmer, and Dep. Mayor Browning, all voting favor of the same.

RESOLUTION 007-20

SURPLUS THE 2008 FORD ESCAPE-CODES VEHICLE

Dep. Mayor Browning made a motion to authorize the process of surplus the codes vehicle, 2008 Ford Escape to send to the auction. The motion was seconded by Trustee Strong. The motion was approved with Trustee St. Germain, Trustee Strong, Trustee Wilmer, and Dep. Mayor Browning, all voting favor of the same.

RESOLUTION 008-20

DISCUSS/APPROVE THE PURCHASE/ACQUISITION OF A 1998 BOMBARDIER SIDEWALK MACHINE

The Mayor stated next is to discuss the purchase of a 1998 Bombardier Sidewalk Machine; the Board has received the details on this machine that was found on craigs list. He continued he supported this because of the width, it is a track machine with a 4' blade; for those of you that pay attention to the



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“cut up” earth on both sides of the sidewalks the last 2 to 3 yrs. and has been a mess. He stated he thinks of the amount of time spent repairing the areas around the sidewalks, it would not be doing as much damage as we are due to the operator and new DPW employees, but also walking he sees sidewalks that do not line up, early on it is kind of messy. Trustee Wilmer made a motion authorizing DPW Sup’t Ware to offer a not to exceed amount of \$16,500 for the 1998 Bombadier Sidewalk Machine. The motion was seconded by Dep. Mayor Browning. DPW Sup’t Ware shared the following: a new unit comparable to that would be a \$120,000 to \$140,000, this machine is 48” outside of the tracks which would not hang over a 5’ sidewalk, it would not straddle 3’ as much, being a track machine the tires would not spin, and the blade would not catch as much earth. He continued the tracks are worn on it; it would be \$4,200 for a new set of tracks, in 1 - 2 yrs. He spoke of riding in it and seemed to be in good condition; the engine that was totally refurbished in 2011 runs good. Much discussion went back and forth to include: Trustee St. Germain stated she has seen something like it in Baldwinsville that looks great and does a nice job, the Mayor added we have 2 machines and neither is ideal, we use them for many other things, but this would be ideal for snow removal of sidewalks, Trustee Wilmer questioned whether a skid steer with tracks would be better to be sold every 2 yrs. like the trucks and try to stay current with a newer vehicle. Trustee Strong clarified this machine was good for a variety of uses. The motion was approved with Trustee St. Germain, Trustee Strong, and Dep. Mayor Browning, all voting favor of the same. Opposing this motion was Trustee Wilmer. Motion carries.

RESOLUTION 009-20

DISCUSS NEW SEWER JET: 2020 PROPOSALS
HIGH END OR BASIC

The Mayor stated the next item is a discussion, not the proposal, for the new sewer jet. He continued we are in need of a sewer jet, even if it is years down the road, that we end up with a leasing agreement with the county; they can take over the sanitary lines. He stated we still have over 600 catch basins in the Village, storm sewer lines needing to be worked on, so we do need a sewer jet; we have got proposals for a souped up model and a basic model. DPW Sup’t Ware stated one model has eliminated some items that would make the unit safer to operate to lessen the cost like: a wireless remote, some rear working lights, some D.O.T. cones, cone holders, automatic level line for the hydraulic to come down and bring the line in, 6” reducers and cameras for forward and backward. He went on to say in his opinion those are some of the things that would make the operations a little safer, but those are the 2 estimates we got for the machine. The Mayor clarified everyone seen the estimates. He explained we do have the money in the sewer reserve but it is legal and we can purchase out of the sewer reserve. Atty. Chatfield stated the Sewer Reserve is for the maintenance of sewer systems, so it would be an appropriate expenditure. Dep. Mayor Browning stated she thought for the safety of our employees, definitely foremost. The Mayor continued it is on its last legs and has been. DPW Sup’t Ware stated it is 30 yrs. old; we have already got duct tape on some of the parts holding it together, he is afraid



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something is going to happen or a line is going to get blown. He continued it would take a minimum of 8 months if we did order one to have it built and delivered to us. Trustee Strong made a motion to approve not to exceed \$388,000 to purchase a new sewer jet with the additional items added on as described provided through DPW Sup't Ware. The motion was seconded by Dep. Mayor Browning. The motion was approved with Trustee St. Germain, Trustee Strong, Trustee Wilmer, and Dep. Mayor Browning, all voting favor of the same.

**DISCUSS NYSERDA-DUE TO RECEIVE GRANT TOWARDS
ELEC. VEH./DISCUSS SUBMITTAL FOR DPW BLDG.**

The Mayor stated NYSERDA; we are due to receive a grant award for the Elec. Veh. He continued the DPW Bldg. needs a new roof and there is not any insulation in the building. He went on to say we are a Clean Energy Community, so CEO Johnstone is going to look and see what grants are available for thermal improvements. CEO Johnstone stated he did not get to it this week, but if it is something that we want to pursue he will go on the NYSERDA page and see if there is funding for energy improvement for the DPW Bldg., as the Mayor already stated being a Clean Energy Community he is going to ask for money for the vehicle. He continued that is one of their big things is municipalities "going green".

RESOLUTION 010-20

**DISCUSS VILLAGE OF NORTH SYR. "CODE" AS IT PERTAINS
TO DIGITAL SIGN REPLACING EXISTING SIGN**

The Mayor stated the next item is to discuss the Village of No. Syr. Code as it pertains to Digital Signs and replacing an existing sign. He continued if a customer wants to take the existing sign, when the sign itself does not change and they just want to replace the face with a message board, it has to go to the Planning Commission/Zoning Board and it costs the Village money to do that, to just go through the process. He stated the other item is in R-9 districts, there are 2 or 3 churches that would like to change to message boards, but are not allowed to; because they are in a residential district. He went on to say they cannot have that, even thou message board signs are allowed, because of our code, they would also have to go before the Planning Commission/Zoning Board; we should not disallow it, it would exempt churches in R-9 districts. Atty. Chatfield stated this would require a public hearing, CEO Johnstone and he would have to draft amendments, and then submit it to you for your review, if you wished you could schedule a public hearing and we would go through the normal process. Dep. Mayor Browning made a motion to set the Public Hearing on February 13th Meeting at 6:29 PM to discuss the modifications to the Village of No. Syr. Code as written that will pertain to Digital Signs for churches in R-9 Zones and business owners with existing signs wanting to replace existing signs to message board signs without changes to size, structure, etc. to do so without having to go in front of the Planning/Zoning Boards. The motion was seconded by Trustee Wilmer. Trustee Strong clarified



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almost like an existing code where if they have the structure taking it from plastic sign letters to digital electric they would not have to come before the Zoning or Planning. CEO Johnstone explained last year when people first requested to do a message board, we had a Sign Committee who wrote the Code that all message boards had to go to the Planning Commission. He stated for example, the Lutheran Church whose existing sign got hit by a car; they decided to change out from adding their letters to a message board. He continued even if it did not get hit by a car, if the base was still there and the poles were still there; why can they not take the plastic out and put the message board in without going to a Planning Commission Meeting. Trustee Strong stated square footage is the same, and it meets the code for 8 secs. The motion was approved with Trustee St. Germain, Trustee Strong, Trustee Wilmer, and Dep. Mayor Browning, all voting favor of the same.

RESOLUTION 011-20

**DISCUSS DPW FACELIFT: APPROVE ARCHITECT
DESIGN PLAN**

The Mayor stated the next item is to discuss the DPW Bldg., it is not necessarily a facelift, because this is internal work we are going to be doing; he explained for those that have not been there, the place is a mess with original 1960 construction. He continued it needs a larger locker room, and a break room, so we are just talking about moving some things around. He entertained a motion to allow us to have an architect come and do some field measurements and draw up some plans. Trustee St. Germain made a motion to approve the architect to design plans for the DPW Bldg. The motion was seconded by Trustee Strong. The motion was approved with Trustee St. Germain, Trustee Strong, Trustee Wilmer, and Dep. Mayor Browning, all voting favor of the same.

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

Daniel Liza, a member of World Mission Society Church of God of 137 Gertrude St. explained they were a global church who has received various awards for voluntary service from different levels of government. He continued the church is hosting an Environmental Seminar this Sunday at 12:30 PM; Assemblyman Al Stirpe will speak as well as other speakers on the effects of plastics in our environment, in the ocean it gets into the Eco System, and effects humans as well. He stated they want to create awareness, take action and partnership with governments to actually sign memorandums to see what can be done on the local level and global level. **Ashley Casey**, Associate Editor for the Star Review, spoke of a feature that they have in the Baldwinsville paper called "Mystery of History;" historians provide a photo a week and questions, and readers try to guess when the picture was taken. She stated she wants to replicate this feature in the Star Review, has reached out to some historians with a little response, if the Board supports this you can have the local historian send in photos and we



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will run this here as well. The Mayor spoke of the Board in back, downstairs, and as well at the Village Hall that has a lot of old pictures. He stated his friend grew up right over here that has lots of information, so he could do a lot for us and he thinks we could take advantage of his knowledge. He continued it sounds like a good idea for the Village of North Syracuse to get in there. **Pat Ferguson** congratulated the Village, the Tree City Application is in, approved, and we are in. The Mayor asked if anyone would like to speak and closed Citizen's Voice.

ATTORNEY REPORT: No Report.

ENGINEER REPORT: No Report.

DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS:

Police Department: He stated the following:

- Officer Lily Hohmann turned in her resignation as an employee of the North Syracuse Police Department effective 1/7/2020. In my briefing out with Lily, she stated that it had been pleasure working without team over the past three months and thanked us for the opportunity that was given her. Lily resigned for personal reasons.
- Dec. 21st, NSPD's Shop with a Cop program was a big success. Sgt. Tripp, Officer Lostumbo, Officer Placito, Officer Keeler, Mary Renna and he, took 5 local area children ages 2 through 7 on a \$130.00 each shopping extravaganza. This program was supported by our local Walmart located on Rt. 11 in Cicero who also donated a bike that went to another child in the Village. Funding for this event was contributed through the departments "No-Shave November Program".
- So far in January: 240 Total Calls for service, 127 Property Checks, 04 Domestic, 06 Motor Vehicle Accidents, 34 Traffic Stops, 23 Traffic tickets, 03 Arrests

Fire Department: Fire Chief Liberatore stated the following:

- Totals for year are 918, 3 more than last year, it equates to 2,031 hrs. of time on calls
- They have all participated in 3,626 hrs. of training for the Fire Dept. this year
- The Association is helping to do a facelift in our apparatus bays, they purchase \$20,000 Gear Lockers for us to be installed in the apparatus bays; he thanked them for doing that for us

Public Works Department: He stated the following:

- Thanked the Board for the support in our department; it will help us do a job better and safer
- Currently they are taking care of Christmas Trees, took down the Christmas decorations
- Doing vehicle/equipment maintenance



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- Doing drop ceilings next week in Village Hall and Bldg. Maintenance that needs to be done

Parks and Recreation Department: Absent

Codes Department: He stated the following:

- Morales Collision at 802 N. Main St. opened Wednesday morning; doing business solely in the Village
- Corso's Cookie location at 628 S. Main St., Fire Inspection tomorrow to open. He stated their cookie operation is all automated by robot and then they are baked and then hand decorated. He shared some of their customers are Target, COSCO, Walmart; they ship all over the country.

Clerk-Treasurer: She stated the following:

- Mayor's Meeting this next Wednesday at 6:00 PM at Village of Liverpool, speaker is Colleen Deacon from governor's office
- Holiday Party we usually have 60 people, it looks like 85 and growing, that is a good thing, and that is at Twin Trees.

DEPUTY MAYOR-TRUSTEES REPORT:

Trustee St. Germain: No Report.

Trustee Strong: He stated he is sure the Police Dept. is being inundated with unfortunate changes that were made in the Discovery and Bail Reform Law that passed starting January 1st. He continued he wanted to let the citizens know they may be calling and doing their due diligence, "see something, say something," the Village of North Syracuse Police Officers are acting; they are out there and you see them. He explained if you see someone detained, or arrested and you see them an hour later, that is not because of the Village of North Syracuse; that is the unfortunate state law that was passed. He stated there was legislation that was discussed from the Republican Caucus today, to try to repeal that, to try to right some of the wrongs that got push through in the Budget Act under Governor Cuomo. He continued he wanted to make sure that everyone in the community understands that this is not the Police Department just haphazardly releasing folks; they are unfunded, required mandates which are also a burden on our Police Department and our local dollars that could be used in other areas. He stated speaking for himself, the Board members in their supporting of the Police Dept. and their efforts against this, as well as our legal counsel with questions and he will leave it at that. Police Chief Becker shared he got an email from NYS Chiefs Association this afternoon and it stated that the governor mentioned today, it is a work in progress. He continued that is a good sign, there is a flexibility of getting some of the changes we requested and try to act positive about it. The Mayor shared the



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president of NYCOM was Mayor of the Village of Freeport, that is a large village. He continued in his letter to us he stated it is going to cost his village \$2.3 million. The Chief shared New York City is estimating over \$100 million.

Trustee Wilmer: No Report.

Dep. Mayor Browning: No Report.

MAYOR'S REPORT:

The Mayor stated there is finally going to be a kick-off meeting for the North Syracuse Block Builders on Monday, Jan. 27th, 2020 at 6:30 PM at the Comm. Center. He continued there is a Recycling Electronics/TVs event at the Fairgrounds this Saturday, Jan. 11th from 9 AM until Noon at the Center of Progress Building. He stated he will be going on vacation for our next meeting, so Dep. Mayor Browning will be sitting here. He continued we have applied for and passed the 1st hurdle, so hopefully we are going to have one of those blue and yellow historical markers near Singleton Ave. He stated we cannot put it on the marker, but it was the 1st Toll Road, a wooden plank road in the country; we charged a toll, there were several toll routes and we have pictures of that. He spoke of doing a dog park in one of our existing parks that is situated away from residents, there are plenty of dogs that go there already and we are going to be putting a fence for little dogs and big dogs. He shared we have a donation of 2 real hydrants, that are going to go in, so the dogs can feel at home; our DPW are going to install the hydrants in there.

Trustee Wilmer made a motion to adjourn at 7:19 PM. The motion was seconded by Trustee St. Germain. The motion was approved with Trustee St. Germain, Trustee Strong, Trustee Wilmer, and Dep. Mayor Browning, all voting in favor of the same.

Respectfully submitted,


Dianne M. Kufel
Village Clerk