



## VILLAGE OF NORTH SYRACUSE

### *Regular Board Meeting*

Thursday, September 24<sup>th</sup>, 2020 @ 4:30 PM

**North Syracuse Community Center**

600 South Bay Road, North Syracuse, NY

The Village of North Syracuse Regular Board Meeting began at 4:30 P.M. with Mayor Gary Butterfield asking everyone to join him in the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

**Personnel Present:** Village Clerk/Treasurer Dianne Kufel, CEO Brian Johnstone, DPW Superintendent Ed Ware, and Dep. Chief John Linnertz, Police Chief William Becker and Village Attorney Robert Germain.

**Personnel Absent:** Parks Director Teresa Roth (Absent), and Amy Franco Village Engineer (Absent).

Mayor Butterfield made an announcement that we are still working and perfecting our “livestream” Facebook capabilities. He continued we are not quite there yet, so please, as we progress it may be hard to hear, but soon it will be the quality we all want to hear.

### **RESOLUTION # 170-20**

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

Trustee Wilmer made a motion to approve the minutes from the September 10<sup>th</sup>, 2020 Board Meeting. The motion was seconded by Dep. Mayor Gustafson. The motion was approved: St. Germain, Strong, Wilmer, and Gustafson, all voting in favor of the same.

### **RESOLUTION # 171-20**

### **GENERAL FUND ABSTRACT APPROVAL**

Trustee Wilmer made a motion to approve Abstract #09 in the amount of \$379,768.04 covering voucher #416 to #476. The motion was seconded by Trustee Strong. The Mayor explained a large portion is an expenditure for the road project. The motion was approved: St. Germain, Strong, Wilmer, and Gustafson, all voting in favor of the same.

### **OLD BUSINESS:**

### **RT. 11 PAVING PROJECT (SPRING 2021) - 517/519** **SOUTH MAIN STREET (UNFINISHED FURNITURE)**

The Mayor stated the Rt. 11 Paving Project for spring 2021, they are scheduled to be out to bid and done in the spring. He continued they failed to have a public hearing due to COVID.



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We had a brief meeting with members of the DOT at the Village Hall and there were some issues that we brought up we thought they would maybe change. He added they agreed to perhaps change some of them. Address 517/519 South Main St. is an issue that we have not dealt with. He stated we thought we had an agreement, but the state will not give us a permit to do the work, so we need to get that resolved. He continued the only other item that is still a work in progress is the Dog Daze drainage issue. He added we will try when we get closer to see if we can make something happen. He reminded again that it is a state highway, state permit; they told us that we know the pipe under the road, because it was there before 1950. He stated he does not agree with it, but we will try to make something happen to improve the drainage there.

**UPDATE CHESTNUT/CHURCH ST. PROJECT**

The Mayor stated Chestnut/Church St. Project update is they are installing signs on Chestnut St. tomorrow. He continued they are working through the punch list and the punch list is pretty minor, so that is a good project. He shared he was told today it is a little under budget, so that is a good thing.

**UPDATE: INTERVIEW PROCESS FOR PARKS DIRECTOR**

The Mayor stated the committee is still working on interviews, we had a couple and we still have not made a decision yet, and we are going to go into Executive Session for a short time to talk about it.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**REVIEW FIRE BUDGET SUBMITTED TO TOWN OF CLAY/  
CICERO FOR VILLAGE FY 21/22 (NEXT YEAR)**

The Mayor stated the next item on the agenda is to review Fire Dept. Budget submitted to the Town of Clay/Cicero for Village FY 21/22. He continued the Chief has prepared their Budget for next year and the Board has received a copy. He explained this is informational and we have yet to plug this into our model for February '21 to better assess our financial situation at the time. He explained they are giving us a Budget because the towns are on the calendar year and we are on a fiscal year, so they need to submit their budget to the town. He stated the last 3 or 4 yrs. we have authorized the Fire Dept. to pass the Budgets on, the town adopts them, but we do not adopt the Budget until our Budget time, so he opened it up for questions. The Mayor asked if everyone had looked at it, it seems like a fair Budget.

**RESOLUTION # 172-20**

**REVIEW/AUTHORIZE MAYOR TO SIGN DEFIBRILLATOR  
PURCHASE AGREEMENT FROM STRYKER MEDICAL**

The Mayor stated the next item on the agenda is to review and authorize the Mayor to sign the



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Defibrillator Purchase Agreement from Stryker Medical. He continued that the Board has received a memo from the Fire Chief and supporting documentation, it is off state bid pricing, we do not need to get additional quotes, and he reached out to the Dep. Chief Linnertz, as he stated there was an attempt to find one. Dep. Chief Linnertz stated the Dewitt Fire Dept. had the same model for sale for \$15,000 that was a used unit. He continued however, it is an older version so they went back to the manufacturer, the problem is the version that they were trying to sell is also not in service any longer, because of its age, 8 yrs., it would have been a great find. It is not being serviced, and it would cost us another \$5,000-\$6,000 to get it up, and at the end of the day if it failed, we would be out of luck if it we were on a call it could be a life issue. He went on he was pretty excited to find it, but in the long run it is not a value. Trustee Strong made a motion to authorize the Mayor to sign the Defibrillator Purchase Agreement from Stryker Medical for \$25,513. The motion was seconded by Trustee Wilmer. Dep. Mayor Gustafson stated thinks it is worth it if it can save a life, \$25,000 is nothing. Trustee St. Germain stated she agreed. The motion was approved: St. Germain, Strong, Wilmer, and Gustafson, all voting in favor of the same.

**RESOLUTION # 173-20**

**REVIEW/AUTHORIZE MAYOR TO SIGN 2021 MS4  
STORMWATER COALITION AGREEMENT**

Dep. Mayor Gustafson made a motion to authorize the Mayor to sign the 2021 annual MS4 Stormwater Coalition Agreement for \$3,600 payable in the calendar year of 2021, in January of 2021. The motion was seconded by Trustee Germain. The motion was approved: St. Germain, Strong, Wilmer, and Gustafson, all voting in favor of the same.

**DISCUSS POLICE REFORM**

The Mayor stated he received a call yesterday from the governor's representative from the governor's office asking how we were coming on Police Reform. He continued he has a workbook that came to him from the governor's office, and he asked who else got it. Village Clerk-Treasurer Kufel got it online and Trustee Strong has it. The Mayor explained that we have to go through this process, the Planning Phase which started in August, and through all 4 Phases; one includes coming up with a Citizen Review Committee. The final phase of this includes public comment and writing an application which must be completed and submitted by April 1st, 2021. He went on to say there was indication if we did not do this, funding might not be forth coming to us. He stated it is an unfunded mandate. He asked Police Chief Becker to give an overview of what we are already doing. Police Chief Becker stated it is not a requirement in New York State for any Police Dept. to go through the accreditation process. He continued there are less than 200 of almost 500 Police Depts. in New York State that are accredited; we are one of them. He added all the agencies in Onondaga County including the Sherriff's Dept. are accredited. He added this was the drive for the agencies that do not meet the accreditation standard, which this basically displays up to the same level, so that everybody was on the same sheet of music.



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He stated in our area, because the governor emphasized he did not want to deal with 500 Police Departments, he basically only wanted to deal with the mayors of the largest 6 cities in New York State and then he expected the county executives of every county to report on their county as being in compliance. He continued if an agency in their county was not in compliance, they were supposed to report on that and the governor would reach out to that specific municipality and talk to them about why. He stated it could have a conflict with the obtaining of grants in the future for that agency to get state funding for different projects. He continued in his opinion we exceed most of these standards as an agency right now. He added the county has taken on a project right now, Chief Crowell from Manlius Police Dept. is the representative for County Chiefs Association and the D.A. has a member assigned. He stated Fitzpatrick is very deeply involved in it, the Sherriff is involved, and the city is involved. He explained the reason we are doing it in that matter is the city is much different that the towns and villages; they want their program designed for them and ours to be designed for us. He continued saying that they are trying to set up meetings, that are going to be throughout the county, and everyone is going to be able to attend; there would be like north, east, south and west of meetings. He explained at that time there would citizens who would come forth with their prospective of what they would like to see in their policing and what kind of changes they would like to see in their policing. He spoke of his recommendation for us to complete our own Citizen Police Committee that could represent the Village specifically as the Village of North Syracuse; we are much different than other Villages and much different than the City of Syracuse, so we have our own unique demographics. He explained between himself and that Committee we could bring citizens in for meetings here to voice their concerns specifically for our jurisdiction and we could develop our plans based on that. He stated our plans would then be submitted to the county, according to the state and everybody in the county would be in full compliance with the Governor's standards and that is what we are aiming for. The Mayor explained the times frames for each of the requirements on New York Police Reform and Reinvention Collaborative Plan Certification Form which requires his signature and must be submitted by April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021 to the Director of the New York State Division of the Budget. He added it sounds like there is a financial component since it is going to the Director of the Budget. The Mayor stated this is what we have got. He continued he believes we are in good shape, but we still have to do these things and we have to do them respective to what the county is doing or we stand a chance of maybe not getting some funds.

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

**Brad Moyer of Shaver Ave.** shared a complaint of Shaver Ave. becoming a speed, cut through; and there needs to be a stop sign Tolbert Dr. and Shaver Ave. and provided additional letters in support of the stop sign. Chief Becker asked for contact, so his Traffic Sgt. Jeff Tripp of Traffic Enforcement could contact him to get the specifics of times of days most prevalent and they will be happy to set up traffic enforcement.



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**Eric Lamphere of 143 Maple Manor Dr.** asked about the policy for employees taking equipment home from the DPW. The conversation continued on the guidelines and if damage occurs.

**Ken Ryan of 211 Herman Dr.** also spoke of the procedures and policies.

Trustee Strong stated there were some comments about 316-318 Chestnut St. He continued the lawns have been damaged and wants to know if it going to be repaired, it is not graded. The Mayor stated he has an engineering representative that will be there tomorrow while installing signs; he will have them look at it. He spoke of a couple of complaints about their driveways; he did not see any driveways that looked like it was in bad shape as a result of the contracted work. He stated they will have to look at the specs and see if they are on the hook until the grass grows, he does not think that they are. He continued there are a lot of people that are driving on the grass and everything. The Mayor asked if anyone else would like to speak and closed Citizen's Voice.

**ATTORNEY REPORT:** No Report (Absent).

**ENGINEER REPORT:** No Report (Absent).

**DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS:**

**Police Department: (Police Chief: William Becker):** He stated the following:

- North Syracuse Police Department has created its own interactive website that we developed and published which can be viewed at: [www.northsyracusepoliceny.com](http://www.northsyracusepoliceny.com)  
The police location tab on the Village website is now synced to redirect users to our new website. An Icon has also been listed on the NSPD Mobile Phone App which will take you to our new website. This website allows our agency to continuously update our citizens on current events while allowing them to provide information, request house checks, register bikes, complete non-criminal reports and join the senior registry to name a few.
- The departments DASNY grant which supported the renovation of the Police Departments basement has been concluded. The \$50,000 grant with matching \$5,000 commitment from the Village ended with a total expenditure of \$54,246.08. All necessary reporting along with the DASNY packet, Account Ledger with copies of all invoices and checks were sent by FedEx to DASNY Accounts Payable, on Tuesday, Sept. 22<sup>nd</sup>. Per our grant coordinator Vincent Blond, the Village should receive an electronic transfer of \$50,000 in the next two weeks (upon completion of their review). This concludes our renovation project.
- The Police Dept. has obtained the following equipment through grant funding at no cost to the municipality:



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1. One Abbott SoToxa Portable oral fluid test kit. This device is utilized to perform a prescreening test of an impaired operator during a traffic stop. Similar to the Alco sensor which tests for blood alcohol content, the SoToxa tests a person's impairment caused by drug usage. By means of a mouth swab sample, the device can confirm the presence of Cannabis, Amphetamines, Benzodiazepines, Cocaine, Methamphetamine and Opiates. The value of this device is approx. \$4,000, all training has been completed and the unit is fielded for use at this time.
  2. The Police Dept. is currently replacing in all car printers utilized to complete motor vehicle accident reports, issue Uniformed Traffic Tickets and appearance tickets. All 5 patrol cars are being refitted with the new upgraded printers. The value of this project is approx. \$3,800
  3. The Police Dept. has obtained a 10 x 10 enclosed tent to support community policing operations during inclement weather. Value of the Tent is \$480.
  4. Current the Dept. has several Community Policing grant applications pending through State, Federal and Corporate organizations.
- So far in September: 871 Total Calls for service, 456 Property Checks, 11 Domestic, 4 Motor Vehicle Accidents, 177 Traffic Stops, 89 Traffic tickets, 13 Arrests
  - Year to date for service: 9,441 Total Calls for service, 4,456 Property Checks, 157 Domestic, 108 Motor Vehicle Accidents, 1,270 Traffic Stops, 778 Traffic tickets, 131 Arrests, 43 Violation Charges, 137 Misdemeanor Charges, 64 Felony Charges, 16 DWI Arrests

**Fire Department: (Dep. Chief John Linnertz)** He stated the following:

- We have new members that were approved; been busy getting them trained and up to date; had members comeback and outside members with experience and couple of new ones still on the horizon
- Chief is working hard to find ways to save money as much as he can
- Had some projects internally that we cost effective using people

**Public Works Department: (DPW Sup't.: Ed Ware)** He stated the following:

- Sewer jet should be coming in within next 2 weeks
- They put in for a plow truck, manufacturer stated would be 12 months due to COVID to get, so it will not be in this Budget, they put the P.O in and locked in at that price, put purchase order in
- Last winter he did over 88 hours in overtime, checking roads and do various other things that he was not compensated for.

**Parks and Recreation Department: (Parks Director: Teresa Roth)** No Report. Absent.

**Codes Department: (CEO: Brian Johnstone)** No Report.



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**Clerk-Treasurer:** No Report.

**DEPUTY MAYOR-TRUSTEES REPORT:**

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

**Trustee Strong:** He stated the following:

- He saw the P.O. for the child safety seats, glad to see program expanding, not many municipalities have it; KUDOS to the Chief.
- While walking on Shaver Ave. traffic is plentiful from West and Shaver to Edden and Shaver, straight shot, he does see law enforcement there a lot. Officer Chaney has stopped several cars, Sgt. Tripp will be over there, but positive thought to consider 4 ways stop through Public Safety Committee.
- Thanked DPW for trimming limbs hanging over Dog Park, park constantly used, positive feedback from neighbors.

**Trustee Wilmer:** No Report.

**Dep. Mayor Gustafson:** She stated she has been talking with Ed Ware about the Crosswalk by Maxwell to Van Mara and Grove. She continued he has been getting figures together and it should be started by spring. She added KUDOS to the Fire Dept. for their increased enrollment.

**MAYOR'S REPORT:**

The Mayor stated he is pleased that CHA plans to do some aerial drone photography this fall regarding the Chestnut/Church St. project; they will share with us. He continued that project seemed to go rather smooth and we are in the punch list phase now. He added the destruction was minimal, and the roads and sidewalks are great. He continued Grove St. project is in full swing, he drove by today, the concrete is not poured, but they are getting ready for it and all the stone is in; that should be done maybe next week. He added the Crosswalk that was approved in the works. He spoke of Election day is November 3<sup>rd</sup>, and the Census deadline is September 30<sup>th</sup>. He stated were working on update for the Bulk Trash Flyer that we send out in November. He continued we should probably tweak it a little bit, because all year long, as soon as the Bulk Trash goes out; we go through and then somebody is putting their trash out every week. He added we have given them plenty of notice; maybe you can get it out by such and such date. DPW Sup't Ware stated also the mattress cost we need to address that. The Mayor stated we need to address that, because it is getting more and more expensive. The Mayor continued he does not know how many mattresses are in the Village of North Syracuse, but there seem to be a lot that



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they are putting to the curb. Dep. Mayor Gustafson spoke of seeing on house with 5 mattresses to the curb. The Mayor spoke of it not being for other family to bring their mattresses in and stated we would have to keep our eyes open. He continued he received a comment that Syracuse Haulers trash is not picked up, they are short manpower; it only takes 1 man to operate or automated trash and if he is sick, but they stated they are working on it. He added he knows this is something that we talked about repeatedly and are we making the right decision. He stated as far as he is concerned we made the right decision to go with the system that we have now, you do not see trash blowing around and there are very few complaints since we started it.

The Mayor stated he would like to entertain a motion to go into executive session to discuss a personnel employment issue and there will be no business conducted after we come out.

Trustee Wilmer made a motion to enter into **Executive Session** at 5:07 P.M. The motion was seconded by Dep. Mayor Gustafson. The motion was approved: St. Germain, Strong, Wilmer, and Gustafson, all voting favor of the same.

Dep. Mayor Gustafson made a motion to return to **Regular Session** at 5:32 P.M. The motion was seconded by Trustee Wilmer. The motion was approved: St. Germain, Strong, Wilmer, and Gustafson, all voting favor of the same.

Dep. Mayor Gustafson made a motion to adjourn at 5:33 PM. The motion was seconded by Trustee Strong. The motion was approved: St. Germain, Strong, Wilmer, and Gustafson, all voting in favor of the same.

Respectfully submitted,

Dianne M. Kufel  
Village Clerk-Treasurer



