



VILLAGE OF NORTH SYRACUSE

Regular Board Meeting

Thursday, November 12th, 2020 @ 6:30 PM

North Syracuse Community Center

600 South Bay Road, North Syracuse, NY

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, Trustee LouAnn St. Germain, Trustee Chris Strong, Trustee Fred Wilmer, and Dep. Mayor Gustafson.

Personnel Present: Village Clerk/Treasurer Dianne Kufel, DPW Superintendent Ed Ware, Fire Chief Patrick Brennan, Police Chief William Becker, and Village Attorney Robert Germain.

Personnel Absent: CEO Brian Johnstone (Excused), Parks Director (Vacant), and Amy Franco Village Engineer.

RESOLUTION # 192-20

APPROVAL OF BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Dep. Mayor Gustafson made a motion to approve the minutes from the October 22nd, 2020 Board Meeting with one correction under the Pledge of Allegiance it stated the Mayor was present; he was not. The motion was seconded by Trustee Wilmer. The motion was approved: St. Germain, Strong, Wilmer, and Gustafson, all voting in favor of the same.

RESOLUTION # 193-20

GENERAL FUND ABSTRACT APPROVAL

Trustee Wilmer made a motion to approve Abstract #12 in the amount of \$134,339.11 covering voucher #591 to #672. 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 # 194-20

SEWER FUND ABSTRACT APPROVAL

Trustee Wilmer made a motion to approve the Sewer Fund Abstract #12 in the amount of \$88.35 covering Voucher #6 thru Voucher #8. The motion was seconded by Trustee Strong. The motion was approved: St. Germain, Strong, Wilmer, and Gustafson, all voting in favor of the same.

RESOLUTION # 195-20

BUDGET TRANSFER(S)

The Mayor stated transfer monies from the DWI Reserve Account to General Fund Money Market for Drug Impaired Machines that were purchased. Trustee Wilmer made a motion to approve the budget transfers from A231P Police DWI Reserve Account to increase A201 General Fund Money Market in



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the amount of \$5,587. The motion was seconded by Trustee Strong. The motion was approved: St. Germain, Strong, Wilmer, and Gustafson, all voting in favor of the same.

OLD BUSINESS:

CHESTNUT/CHURCH ST. PROJECT:COMPLETED/RESIDUAL

The Mayor stated Chestnut/Church St. is pretty much done and we were told that the numbers came in a bit lower. He continued we are still trying to get a handle on it; we have not gotten a final bill, but they stated there could be some money left. The Mayor added we could use it for additional sidewalks and he has a spot in mind. Discussion went back and forth with few complaints, many compliments; walk thru was completed, some trees were moved because of the gas lines.

UPDATE: GROVE ST. PROJECT

The Mayor stated if you have not driven down Grove Street, they have new sidewalks, that project is done; this week they repaved Grove St. down to where the sidewalk is. He added it looks good; in addition we paved Ferguson Ave, part of George St. and Shaver Ave.

UNFINISHED FURN. STORE: MTG. WITH MAYOR/DPW SUP'T.

The Mayor stated there has been an ongoing issued with the Unfinished Furniture Store. He continued he met with the owner and Ed Ware, and agreed to a solution, but our insurance company has to approve it, before we can move ahead and we still have not heard back from them; we will fit it into our schedule.

**BULK TRASH: MATTRESSES \$15 EACH/TRACKING- QUANTITY
PER YEAR (TIPPING FEES UP\$5 PER TON ALSO)**

The Mayor stated next is the bulk trash - mattresses; we have picked up a fair amount, paid for every mattress as a courtesy up until now. He continued to share that the tipping fees are going up \$5 a pound, and suggested we charge that in addition to the mattress charges and opened it up to the Board for discussion. Much discussion went back in forth with a majority of Board members suggesting the following: \$15 plus some of the tipping; or \$20 per mattress. Also discussion of how fees will be logged came up, and DPW being given training to accept those payments. The Mayor stated we will be look at this at the next 6:30 PM meeting or when we approve it.

NYS DOT PROJECT: PLANS RELEASED/ZOOM



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MTG. /CHA-FOCUS ON DOG DAZE

The Mayor stated the next item is NYS DOT Project on Rt. 11, the job has been bid, so there is a low bidder; the Dog Daze issue has been an ongoing issue. He continued we had a meeting with our engineering firm, we went there, and our engineers did a site survey. He added they contacted DOT; discussed the potential for a change order, because the Rt. 11 Repaving Project is for some sidewalk with ADA improvements, but it is repaving Rt. 11. He stated it is through the Village and both north and south. He spoke of the Dog Daze building when there is a heavy rain gets flooded, hopefully we get some cooperation from the state, so when they are doing that they can improve the drainage. He continued it is going to cost us something, because it is our system and they actually think our system is under Rt. 11. He added he is going to fight that, it should not be ours to fix, but downstream a ways we are probably going to have to do some improvements. He continued it is a capacity issue, 15 minutes, it all drains out, it cannot take all the water; 10 acres drain into that one pitch basin, we will keep working on it, the project will start in the spring.

DISCUSS/APPROVE MOU WITH TEAMSTERS
1149: SEPARATE SCHEDULE

The Mayor stated next is to discuss the MOU with Teamsters 1149; we need a separate schedule for Officer C. Cushman, because of his hire date of 6/23/20 and not receiving the 2.5% raise. He continued his salary schedule is nowhere in the current Teamsters 1149 agreement; he tabled to Executive Session.

UPDATE: POLICE REFORM-> COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

The Mayor stated next is Police Reform and Community Involvement; there is a mandate from the State of NY and the Governor's Office that we have to do certain things. He continued one of them is to form a committee, a Citizen Advisory Board for the Police Dept. He explained three of us did a Webinar today, the Police Chief has already done a lot of homework, and we have started. He stated by April 1st, we have to send a report to the Governor that he has to sign, that we did all the things that we are supposed to do. Police Chief Becker stated the Governor has handed down a lot of mandates this year from Bail Reform to Police Reform Reinvention. He continued we need to address this so we do not lose any funding from the state in the future. He added it is not a big concern; he worked closely with a Police Committee in Town of Manlius, to try to address community concerns and things they wanted to see, to increase the quality of life for people who reside in the community. He continued he likes open dialogue and spoke of this being a reason Sgt. Tripp has done such an excellent job in our public forums: our website, app. and social networking such as Facebook and Instagram, and the various venues they use to push out a lot of information; and shows



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transparency on our part of what we are doing. He stated it is your community, and we want to address the kind of Policing that you feel is important to you regardless of the calls for service that we have to take and the criminal investigations that we have to take. He spoke of the different demographics, needs between residential versus business and meeting the needs of both being important; it helps us to do our job better. Trustee Strong asked people to inform friends and neighbors, before the 1st of the year you will see, we will be contacting Eagle Newspapers, and online some social media outlets, between the Village, the Police Dept., Twitter, Instagram, Facebook and those looking for a nice cross section of our Village to work on this committee. He added we look forward to working with everyone and continue on with this process. Police Chief Becker stated sometimes people are hesitant in joining a committee, because it takes a lot of time, it is not paid; it is volunteered. He continued his expectations are in the beginning to have a committee meeting each month, as we prepare ourselves toward the Governor's expectations is by April 1st. He added then once we reach that peak we are completed what we are bringing together as a Community; then cut that back to the quarterly or even semi-annually to meet, but he wants to integrate the committee's personnel, the volunteers into the department, so they go right along and see what our department does, get a perspective of what our job is and what it entails. He stated that way we both understand where we are coming from.

DISCUSS: TRASH 2021 - COMMERCIAL BUSINESSES:
ALLOWED (1) PAIR ONLY

The Mayor stated next item on the agenda is our Trash, we are in the middle of a contract for our Trash and since the 70's as a Village, we picked up Commercial Trash for certain businesses; not all businesses. He continued when we went to our new system, most of the businesses on Rt. 11 if they are involved, got not just there allotment of 1 green and 1 black tote; they requested totes sufficient to handle the trash. He added the costs keep going up, and every pair of totes costs the Village and we are going to see an increase in our recycling cost as well. He continued he thinks we have to change what we do with our existing Commercial Customers that we pick up multiple totes for. He added we need to address that, make some changes, because it costs the Village money to do that; other businesses handle their own trash, they get a dumpster and haul it away. He spoke of some inequities there, and he asked for the Board for their thoughts. Much discussion went back and forth about the 15 to 20 Commercial Businesses that have multiple totes. Some spoke of 1 trash and 1 recycling. It was suggested reaching out to them to let them know that this is going to likely change, so they can figure their budgets.

NEW BUSINESS:

FERAL/STRAY CATS: KITTY CORNER



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The Mayor stated there is an issue with a Feral Cats and has been around for a long time, but there have been some more complaints. He tabled this to another meeting until CEO Johnstone was present.

**TEMPERATURE CHECKS: ENTERING
VILLAGE HALL/DPW/FIRE/POLICE**

The Mayor stated next is temperature checks; he explained that the Police and the Village Offices are in the same building. He continued that both the Police Dept. and Fire Dept. have been more restrictive than the Village side. The Village side you have to wear a mask and sign in, with the uptake in Covid cases; the Police Dept. has been in lock down. Much Discussion took place back and forth, the Police have suspended the Car Seat Program and Handi-cap Stickers unless it is an emergency, then they can call for an appointment. They spoke of taking care of Village personnel and locking doors at Village Hall; only letting in people who really need to get in, otherwise they can call or email us. They spoke of temperature checks, sharing information and supplies and a having a plan in place.

**NORTH SYRACUSE HOUSING AUTHORITY:
RELATIONSHIP WITH THE VILLAGE**

The Mayor stated this is just curiosity; the North Syracuse Housing Authority has been affiliated with the Village for a long time. He continued recently our Village Clerk-Treasurer joined the No. Syr. Housing Auth. Board along with Dep. Mayor Gustafson who has been a member. He asked what our relationship with the No. Syr. Housing Auth., and discovered there is no official agreement, but we appoint people to the Housing Auth. Mrs. Ferguson explained the history, it formerly was known as Section 8, but now is called Housing Choice Voucher Program which funds the low income folks that are supported by the Housing Auth. She explained approximately \$1,000,000 is put through a year in rent to the people that are supported by the Housing Auth., serving a territory to include into the school district, currently receiving assistance 200+ folks with a waiting list of 200+; they do have to meet eligibility criteria. She added there are people at Centerville, Toll Road and Maloney Manor receiving assistance. The Mayor stated he still questions the relationship between the two, there is nothing in writing that he knows of, so should we establish an official relationship or not. Atty. Germain stated it depends on what our role is. Mrs. Ferguson stated officially you are the sponsor. The Mayor asked what does that mean. Atty. Germain continued we already sponsored and it has been formed, so it is whatever bylaws and structure is that dictates how they operate. The Mayor asked if there was a liability to the Village. Atty. Germain added not that he is aware of.

RESOLUTION # 196-20

**APPROVE THE 2021 BOARD MEETING SCHEDULE:
DATES AND TIMES**



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Dep. Mayor Gustafson made a motion to approve the 2021 Board Meeting Schedule dates and times. The motion was seconded by Trustee St. Germain. The motion was approved: St. Germain, Strong, Wilmer, and Gustafson, all voting in favor of the same. (Attached)

COMMUNITY CENTER RENTALS: PRE-APPLICATION PROCESS

The Mayor stated next item on the agenda is Community Center Rentals Pre-application Process; the Board received the email from Sgt. Fieldson regarding the rentals and would like to have this opened for discussion. Much discussion went back and forth with the concerns of issues at the Comm. Ctr. during rental times for activities, cleaning people finding things they should not, and the Mayor disapproving of what is taking place. With the Governor's new guidelines, the Comm. Ctr. has been shut down and will not take any new reservations until new Parks Director is here in 2 to 3 wks. and we figure out what they are going to do about the things that are happening here, but there were previous paid reservations. Parks Assistant Radell called and told limit of 25, some cancelled while others still wanted to hold the event. He explained they would forfeit their deposit if they exceed it the 25 limit. Suggestion was made that Parks Part-time employees be brought in to do spot checks on limits for pay. The Mayor stated we should check with counsel, they have already provided a rider of alcohol and it would have to have something into the contract. Atty. Germain stated that is a liability for us with the Covid as well. This was tabled until the New Director is in.

RESOLUTION # 197-20

DISCUSS AGE REDUCTION FOR THE CURRENT LOSAP

The Mayor stated the Fire Chief sent a memo to the Board requesting the possibility of reducing the entitlement age for LOSAP from 62 to 58. The discussion took place of having VFIS perform an actuarial of the plan to see how much of an overall increase this would be. A motion was made to perform an actuarial that would cost \$125/hr. for 4 hrs. Trustee Wilmer initially requested a gradual decrease in the age – 61, then 60, then 59, then 58. Trustee Strong made a motion not to exceed \$625 for VFIS to start the process with the actuarial numbers for the LOSAP from 62 to 58. The motion was seconded by Trustee Wilmer. The motion was approved: Strong, Wilmer, and Mayor Butterfield, all voting in favor of the same. St. Germain and Gustafson, Opposed.

RESOLUTION # 198-20

**APPROVE THE APPOINTMENT OF A NEW NORTH
SYR. VOL. FIREFIGHTER**

Dep. Mayor Gustafson made a motion to approve the appointment of David Evangelista as a No. Syr. Vol. Firefighter. The motion was seconded by Trustee Strong. The motion was approved: St. Germain, Strong, Wilmer, and Gustafson, all voting in favor of the same.



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

Pat Ferguson of 215 S. Main St. stated she does Arbor Day which is part of Tree City and you may see a ceremony, but Village Clerk-Treasurer and DPW Sup't are doing the bulk of the paperwork. She thanked them for the hours they spend preparing the submittal for the Arbor Day Foundation.

Mark Allen of 420 Ferguson Ave. spoke of a paving drop off on Ferguson Ave. where they just paved.

Ken Ryan of 211 Herman Dr. spoke of paving and flooding issues.

Marie Robeson of 206 Church St. stated she could call if there are problems. She continued she has dealt with Kitty Korner and encouraged working with them. She suggested electronic sign up for mattresses and suggests they have to sign that it is theirs.

The Mayor asked if anyone else would like to speak and closed Citizen's Voice.

ATTORNEY REPORT: No Report.

ENGINEER REPORT: No Report (Absent).

DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS:

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

- So Far for November: 379 Total Calls for service, 194 Property Checks, 7 Domestic, 4 Motor Vehicle Accidents, 82 Traffic Stops, 48 Traffic tickets, 5 Arrests

Fire Department: (Fire Chief Patrick Brennan) No Report.

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

- 4:30 today, parts in for leafer -will be up tomorrow and going non-stop for leaf pickup
- Getting equipment ready for plow season, marking street corners; will be busy

Parks and Recreation Department: (Parks Director: Vacant)

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



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Clerk-Treasurer: (Village Clerk-Treasurer Kufel) She stated the following:

- She is new on the No. Syr. Housing Board, she has received their latest audit, she feels good about the numbers that she is seeing; good sound audit. A lot of things are happening there.
- She apologized for the speakers this evening, her batteries are dead, we do not have a Parks Director, does not think Assistant is very familiar and a problem with the wiring; soon to come

DEPUTY MAYOR-TRUSTEES REPORT:

Trustee St. Germain: No Report.

Trustee Strong: He stated the following:

- Looking forward to working with Chief Becker on Police Reform issues and Community involvement and getting our citizens involved in that
- Walked through Heritage Park, tremendous amount of usage by Dog Park. Spoke of knocking on doors of those not in favor, have not heard much; getting used to it; no concerns and thanked the Police Dept. for extra patrols and look at the fence at the baseball end – down by the Pavilion – not used, not maintained and grown over. Spoke of moving good fence, pen up park for other things in parks like winter events.
- Support local businesses, some effected by Governor's new rules

Trustee Wilmer: He stated the following:

- He did research on camera systems and emailed Board, looking to spend approx. \$5,000 for 2 wireless cameras.
- Nate has offered to bring in additional cables he has to do the Tree Lighting Svc.; we will need a motion in order to move forward with this.

RESOLUTION # 199-20

PURCHASE 2 CAMERA SYSTEM

The Mayor stated it is not only for the Comm. Ctr. with the COVID, not knowing how long it will last but have it for other activities that we could use as well. He continued it does not look like we are going to have our Holiday Parade this year, but he would like to do a remote Tree Lighting. Dep. Mayor Gustafson asked if this system would include close caption, because we do have deaf residents in the Village. Trustee Wilmer stated he did not know, but would find out. Trustee Wilmer made a motion to spend \$5,483.00 for the 2-Camera System. The motion was seconded by Trustee Strong. Much discussion went back and forth regarding the number of viewers, the sound quality difference between downstairs and upstairs, and whether the new camera system has closed caption for the deaf. The motion was approved: St. Germain, Strong, Wilmer, and Gustafson, all voting in favor of the same.



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Dep. Mayor Gustafson: She stated the following:

- She attended the Zoning as Liaison and they passed 2 variances for St. Rose Project for convent. The next step is to appear before this Board probably in January and third step is Planning.
- She complimented Police Dept. on their Website and information they put out, does 9 O'clock Routine

MAYOR'S REPORT:

He stated to all the Dept. Heads, everybody is doing a good job including Mr. Radell is handling all the Parks office during this interim time. He continued we have to be careful this season Covid season, we do not know what is going to happen. He added the quicker we get on the same page that would be appreciated. He stated he received an email about the Cares Act which is running out and we need to put together a list of Covid expenses that we have incurred, extra monies that we have spent and see if we can get reimbursed.

The Mayor stated he would like to entertain a motion to go into executive session to discuss a couple of personnel issues and he does not think that they will be making any decisions during the meeting when we come back.

Dep. Mayor Gustafson made a motion to enter into **Executive Session** at 7:45 P.M. The motion was seconded by Trustee Wilmer. Trustee Wilmer invited DPW Sup't Ware to join them to discuss a personnel issued. The motion was approved: St. Germain, Strong, Wilmer, and Gustafson, all voting favor of the same.

DPW Sup't Ware exited the Executive Session at 7:48 P.M.

Trustee Wilmer made a motion to return to **Regular Session** at 8:34 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.

RESOLUTION # 200-20

**APPROVE/AUTHORIZE MAYOR TO SIGN MOU WITH
TEAMSTERS 1149: SEPARATE SCHEDULE**

The Mayor stated next is to approve/authorize the Mayor to sign the MOU with Teamsters 1149 for separate schedule for Officer C. Cushman with hire date of 6/23/20. Dep. Mayor Gustafson made a motion to approve and authorize the Mayor to sign the MOU with Teamsters 1149 Separate Schedule



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for Officer C. Cushman with hire date of 6/23/20. The motion was seconded by Trustee Wilmer. The motion was approved: St. Germain, Strong, Wilmer, and Gustafson, all voting in favor of the same.

Trustee Wilmer made a motion to adjourn at 8:36 PM. 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.

Respectfully submitted,

Dianne M. Kufel
Village Clerk-Treasurer

2021 BOARD MEETING SCHEDULE

Approved: 11/12/2020 Resolution: 196-20

The 2021 Annual Meeting will be held on Thursday, July 8TH , 2021 at 6:30pm (combined with Board Meeting)

Meetings are held on the 2nd and 4th Thursday of each month (unless otherwise noted) at the North Syracuse Community Center, 700 South Bay Road, Upstairs.

Thursday	January 14th	@ 6:30pm Community Center – Upstairs
Thursday	January 28th	@ 4:30pm Community Center – Upstairs
Thursday	February 11th	@ 6:30pm Community Center – Upstairs
Thursday	February 25th	@ 4:30pm Community Center – Upstairs
Thursday	March 11th	@ 6:30pm Community Center – Upstairs
Thursday	March 25th	@ 4:30pm Community Center – Upstairs
Thursday	April 8th	@ 6:30pm Community Center – Upstairs
Thursday	April 22nd	@ 4:30pm Community Center – Upstairs
Thursday	May 13th	@6:30pm Community Center – Upstairs
Thursday	May 27th	@4:30pm Community Center – Upstairs
Thursday	June 10th	@ 6:30pm Community Center – Upstairs
Thursday	June 24th	@4:30pm Community Center – Upstairs
Thursday	July 8th	@ 6:30pm Community Center – Upstairs Annual Meeting and Board Meeting Combined
Thursday	July 22nd	@ 4:30pm Community Center – Upstairs
Thursday	August 12th	@ 6:30pm Community Center – Upstairs
Thursday	August 26th	@ 4:30pm Community Center – Upstairs
Thursday	September 9th	@ 6:30pm Community Center – Upstairs

Thursday	September 23rd	@ 4:30pm Community Center – Upstairs
Thursday	October 14th	@ 6:30pm Community Center – Upstairs
Thursday	October 28th	@ 4:30pm Community Center – Upstairs
Thursday	November 9th	@ 6:30pm Community Center – Upstairs
Tuesday	November 23rd	@ 4:30pm Community Center – Upstairs
Thursday	December 9th	@ 6:30pm Community Center – Upstairs
Tuesday	December 23rd	@ 4:30pm - Village Hall

