



VILLAGE OF NORTH SYRACUSE

Regular Board Meeting

Thursday, January 14th, 2021 @ 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, and Trustee Fred Wilmer.

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

Personnel Absent: Dep. Mayor Gustafson (Quarantine), Parks Director Tony Burkinshaw, and Amy Franco Village Engineer.

RESOLUTION # 001-21

APPROVAL OF BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Trustee Wilmer made a motion to approve the minutes from the December 22nd, 2020 Board Meeting. The motion was seconded by Trustee Strong. The motion was approved: St. Germain, Strong, and Wilmer, all voting in favor of the same.

RESOLUTION # 002-21

GENERAL FUND ABSTRACT APPROVAL

Trustee Strong made a motion to approve Abstract #17 in the amount of \$120,926.18 covering voucher #858 thru #932. The motion was seconded Trustee Wilmer. The motion was approved: St. Germain, Strong, and Wilmer, all voting in favor of the same.

RESOLUTION # 003-21

SEWER FUND ABSTRACT APPROVAL

Trustee Wilmer made a motion to approve the Sewer Fund Abstract #17 in the amount of \$35.51 covering Voucher #13. The motion was seconded by Trustee St. Germain. The motion was approved: St. Germain, Strong, and Wilmer, all voting in favor of the same.

RESOLUTION # 004-21

BUDGET TRANSFER(S)

The Mayor stated money transfers to cover costs of microphones and equipment rack for Audio-Board Meetings. Trustee St. Germain made a motion to approve the budget transfers from A7180.24 Pool Equipment to increase A7181.22 Building Equipment in the amount of \$230.21. The motion was



Village of North Syracuse
Regular Board Meeting
Thursday, January 14th, 2021 6:30 PM

seconded by Trustee Strong. The motion was approved: St. Germain, Strong, and Wilmer, all voting in favor of the same.

RESOLUTION # 005-21

BUDGET TRANSFER(S)

The Mayor stated money transfers to cover updated software at Lonergan-new hardware. Trustee Strong made a motion to approve the budget transfers from A7110.25 Picnic Table/Frames to increase A7110.475 Equipment Maintenance in the amount of \$554.60. The motion was seconded by Trustee Wilmer. The motion was approved: St. Germain, Strong, and Wilmer, all voting in favor of the same.

RESOLUTION # 006-21

BUDGET TRANSFER(S)

The Mayor stated money transfers to cover cost of battery charger for DPW-can handle 24 volts-for larger equipment. Trustee Wilmer made a motion to approve the budget transfers from A5110.43 DPW Equipment Rental to increase A5110.21 DPW Equipment in the amount of \$500.00. The motion was seconded by Trustee St. Germain. The motion was approved: St. Germain, Strong, and Wilmer, all voting in favor of the same.

OLD BUSINESS:

UPDATE ON MATTRESS PICKUP: SYSTEM IN PLACE

The Mayor stated the Mattress Pickup, we have put that into place, the System is not in place; the Board voted to initiate the \$15 fee and we are just checking if the system is in place over at DPW and has anyone actually put a mattress out yet. DPW Sup't Ware stated no we have not started Bulk Trash yet and have not had any calls on it. He continued we are going to implement cash and check, when they call in they have to set up a time, so we can meet with them to get the cash or check and give them a receipt.

**DISCUSS BULK TRASH/BRUSH FOR
COMMERCIAL BUSINESSES**

The Mayor stated next is to discuss bulk trash/brush for Commercial Businesses; this has come up as an item for discussion, so he opened this up dialogue. He continued we have in the past picked up sometimes for commercial. He added if you go to our local laws, it states we do not pick up any for commercial, however; it was done as a favor in the past. Much discussion went back and forth with Trustee Wilmer, Trustee Strong, and Trustee St. Germain, all agreeing to continue to offer the service



Village of North Syracuse
Regular Board Meeting
Thursday, January 14th, 2021 6:30 PM

for commercial pickup. Trust Wilmer stipulated as long as they did not pay to have work done. Trustee Strong spoke needing to offer services to support our local businesses. They made a soft decision, if a place went over the top, they would speak with the individual business. The Mayor stated we will continue on as we are.

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

The Mayor stated next on the agenda is an update on Unfinished Furniture Store, we had resolved this issue, but do not think that we got anything officially from our insurance company. He asked counsel if we received anything that the owner is satisfied. Atty. Germain stated he will get a copy of the release tomorrow. The Mayor continued that he would consider it resolved and the owner is happy, if he is removing what he was trying to do.

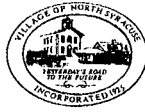
**UPDATE ON MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING-
SEPARATE SCHEDULE**

The Mayor stated there is an update on Memorandum of Understanding; Separate Schedule is to be tabled until our next meeting.

**POLICE REFORM: UPDATE ON COMMITTEE-
COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT**

The Mayor stated next is Police Reform: Update on Committee-Community Involvement, the Police Chief and Trustee Strong has been keeping track of this. He asked Trustee Strong to share what he knows as the Chief is at another meeting. Trustee Strong stated Chief Becker has attended the Northeast and Northwest Section meetings, and is now serving on a committee. He continued these were held with one of the County Legislatures leading, along with the D. A. and a number of the Police Chief's. He added we decided to host a virtual meeting after the 1st of the year. He stated we are looking for membership with: business members, residents, homeowners, renters; all walks of life throughout the Village, so that is still forth coming. He spoke of the Police Chief having additional specifics to speak on during his Police Dept. report. He suggested people that are interested reach out to: the Police Chief, or email Trustee Strong, and he will forward it on to the Board members or contact Village Hall directly. He explained Village Hall now has controlled access; you will need to knock on the door and do a temperature check when entering. He continued we appreciate your support and continued support of our Police Dept.

DISCUSS AGE REDUCTION FOR THE CURRENT



Village of North Syracuse
Regular Board Meeting
Thursday, January 14th, 2021 6:30 PM

LOSAP-SERVICE AWARD PROGRAM

The Mayor stated next is to discuss age reduction for the current LOSAP-Service Award Program; the Board has received the information. He continued the issue is for the possibility of decreasing the age from 62 to 58; meaning the Volunteers can start collecting at 58, it was just provided to us early this week. We are planning to continue research and request more data and he asked the Village Clerk-Treasurer to give basic round numbers. Village Clerk-Treasurer Kufel stated basically it is going to cost an extra \$440,000 to be amortized over 10 yrs., so it would be an additional \$44,000 or \$45,000 per yr. She continued again, split 3 ways, because we have contractual agreements with the Towns, so it would be \$17,000-\$18,000 each yr. for us to the Village to be added into our Budget. She added once the 10 yrs. is up, the cost decreases by a few thousand and it is just general numbers. She explained right now we do not have any backup supporting it; she is sure that there is some analytical formula for each person, based on their age and they buy these annuities and spread them out. She stated she is sure that there is some kind of data behind it and she is trying to get more data to support the numbers. The Mayor continued the data that we do have is from BFIS. Village Clerk-Treasurer Kufel explained that is the carrier that we have had in place for yrs. here to handle the LOSAP Program. Trust Wilmer asked if it is going to be more money. The Mayor added he did not think the information was going to change too much, but it is going to increased cost. Trustee Strong shared he is a member on the N. Syr. Fire Dept. Board, and how much emphasis on recruitment and retaining firefighters they have put forth. He spoke government programs like their retention program funded through the federal grants to bring back former trained members. He hoped that the Board would support this initiative.

TRASH AS OF 6/01/2021-COMMERCIAL BUSINESSES: ALLOWED (1) PAIR ONLY -NOTIFICATION

The Mayor stated next item on the agenda is Trash for Commercial Businesses; again this is something that we have picked up Commercial Trash for some businesses and not for others; a lot have dumpsters. He continued when we went to the new systems, some of the businesses that we picked up before got a bunch of totes. He added it is the opinion of the Board to treat everybody the same, the Commercial Businesses and most of Rt. 11 and some on South Bay Rd., some have 6 or 7 pair of trash cans which cost \$188 a pair. He stated our recycling costs, all of our trash costs are increasing, it is my intent and all of the Board to still give to those that are getting totes (1) pair; the rest is on use to pass on to the trash hauler and opened it up for discussion. Village Clerk-Treasurer Kufel share it is based on OCRRA's increases and now we have got the recyclables impacting it. Discussion went back and forth with the Board, both Trustee St. Germain and Trustee Strong agreed with the limit of (1) pair of totes, Trustee Strong wanted to make sure letters were going out. Village Clerk-Treasurer assured him they were going out beginning of February, March, and April and so on,



Village of North Syracuse
Regular Board Meeting
Thursday, January 14th, 2021 6:30 PM

so they are aware of it. Trustee Wilmer suggested looking at doing our own trash pickup in house, and they discussed the pros and cons. The Mayor explained they are in the 3rd yr. of a 3 yr. contract with the option to renew for 2 yrs. more and it is staying, the actual cost of the ton age that they get charged, if it increases we pay more, but the contract amount stays the same.

**FORMAL APPOINTMENT TO THE POSITION OF:
DIRECTOR OF RECREATION**

The Mayor stated next is the formal appointment to the position of Director of Recreation: Anthony Burkinshaw is not here; as you remember when we appointed him it was a temporary provisional appointment because of the salary. He continued we recanvassed the list, and rather quickly we got through the list, so he was in the top 3, so we did not have to interview anybody; we were able to formally appoint him. The Mayor welcomed Anthony Burkinshaw as a Permanent Director of Recreation effective 12/21/2020, the date of the canvas list.

NEW BUSINESS:

**VILLAGE HALL: SECURED ENTRANCE BOTH POLICE AND
VLG. HALL/TEMPERATURE CHECKS/LOG AT ENTRANCE**

The Mayor stated next is Village Hall, has Secured Entrance, so both Police and Vlg. Hall/Temperature Checks/Log at Entrance. He continued it is hard to get used to, having to push a button to get in, then take your temperature and sign in; with no more than 2 people in lobby at the same time. He added maybe someday we will not have to do it; it is good for security, even if we get past this.

RESOLUTION # 007-21

**SET PUBLIC HEARING FOR 407 SOUTH MAIN
ST.: CHANGE FROM R-9 TO C-1**

The Mayor stated next is to set a public hearing for 407 South Main St.: Change from R-9 to C-1. He continued the Board is aware of the project at St. Rose of Lima Convent. Trustee Wilmer made a motion to set the Public Hearing for Thursday, February 11th, 2021 at 6:29 PM. The motion was seconded by Trustee Strong. The motion was approved: St. Germain, Strong, and Wilmer, all voting in favor of the same.

RESOLUTION # 008-21

**ESTABLISH BY RESOLUTION POLLING LOCATION AND
TIME FOR JUNE 15TH, 2021 VILLAGE ELECTIONS**

The Mayor stated there are (3) Trustee vacancies coming up for election, (1) position thru 2023, and



Village of North Syracuse
Regular Board Meeting
Thursday, January 14th, 2021 6:30 PM

(2) positions thru 2025. Trustee Wilmer made a motion to establish the North Syracuse Comm. Center as the Polling location with polls opening at Noon and closing at 9:00 PM, on June 15th, 2021. The motion was seconded by Trustee Strong. Trustee Wilmer asked if there would be any mail in votes. Village Clerk-Treasurer Kufel stated there would be. The motion was approved: St. Germain, Strong, and Wilmer, all voting in favor of the same.

SALES TAX GRANT SUBMITTAL: PROOF OF EXPENDITURES FOR 2020

The Mayor stated next on the agenda is the Sales Tax Grant Submittal- this is Proof of Expenditures for 2020, the Board received the data that the County requires to reflect that the monies they send us semi-annually is used for VIP items, which are itemized in detail. He continued we have to specify through our expenditures the money we get from VIP through our categories and he stated if there were any questions you could ask Village Clerk-Treasurer Kufel; he verified it went in. Village Clerk-Treasurer Kufel stated it did go in.

SALES TAX GRANT SUBMITTAL: PROJECTIONS FOR 2021

The Mayor stated next is the Sales Tax Grant Submittal: Projections for 2021: The Board also received this, this is an estimate of what we project to spend on all these items for the FY 2021, if you have any questions you can ask Village Clerk-Treasurer Kufel. He continued that we are going to spend more than we get in and clarified he was correct. Village Clerk-Treasurer Kufel stated yes, we have to support at least that amount.

RESOLUTION # 009-21

DISCUSS/AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR TO SIGN THE CICERO FIRE PROT. AGREEMENT FOR 2021

The Mayor stated next on the agenda is to authorize Mayor to sign Cicero Fire Prot. Agreement for 2021; the Board has been copied on this. He continued once again, once we get into our budget process is when we will physically plug these numbers into our budget to see where we are at. Trustee Wilmer made a motion to authorize the Mayor to sign the Cicero Fire Prot. Agreement for 2021. The motion was seconded by Trustee Strong. The motion was approved: St. Germain, Strong, and Wilmer, all voting in favor of the same.

RESOLUTION # 010-21

SET PUBLIC HEARING FOR 2021 COMM. DEV. FUNDING

Trustee Strong made a motion to set a Public Hearing to discuss projects for the 2021 Community Development Monies to be held Thursday, February 11th at 6:28 PM. The motion was seconded by



Village of North Syracuse
Regular Board Meeting
Thursday, January 14th, 2021 6:30 PM

Trustee St. Germain. The motion was approved: St. Germain, Strong, and Wilmer, all voting in favor of the same.

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

- Just came late from the req'd public forum for the northern district of Onon. Cty. group effort with all local communities involved to participate in and focus on the involvement portion. No negative comments regarding NSPD. 5 Sub Committees formed, waiting for approval of policies/procedures from Cty. Legislature, if approved then sent to the Mayor and Board to accept with resolution. All agencies unified, Village can have own committee, and take further with specifics unique to the Village; once you accept Cty. Program, you are in compliance with state policies, and in no jeopardy of losing state funding.
- Year of 2020 were: 12,298 Total Calls for service, 6,302 Property Checks, 261 Domestic, 182 Motor Vehicle Accidents, 1,812 Traffic Stops, 1,124 Traffic tickets, 428 Arrests
- So far for January: 548 Total Calls for service, 333 Property Checks, 8 Domestic, 4 Motor Vehicle Accidents, 73 Traffic Stops, 32 Traffic tickets, 13 Arrests

Fire Department: (Fire Chief: Patrick Brennan) He stated the following:

- Rec'd LOSAP actuary, this program enhances for members and allows them to collect a benefit at upper age; used as leveraging tool for to bring back members, getting 3 back so far
- and costing a Village contribution of \$14,000. He compared the cost to Village contributions for all employees' health care and pension benefits. He spoke of them saying they do a great job, you appreciate what we do; asked put money where your mouth is. He asked to consider turnaround in the organization in last 6 mos.
- Sent letter about his 6 wk. vacation, in case Board action is required. Spoke of new lieutenant's position appointment for the Fire Dept. needing approval, and contacting Atty. about signing on an abstract in his absence, in case Dep. Chief not available.



Village of North Syracuse
Regular Board Meeting
Thursday, January 14th, 2021 6:30 PM

- Covid Vaccine: many members already rec'd them; rest are scheduled to receive them.
- Town of Cicero Emerg. Response Mtg.: Covid discussions on seeing a lot seeing a lot more sick people waiting at hospitals up to 4 hrs. to take patient in; clogging up EMS System and closing hospital, very busy. To his knowledge no exposures within Fire Dept., all gotten from outside of area. NAVAC seen direct result in decrease of cases in members with HVAC System and U. V. lights we did; others implementing.
- Premise history at 911 for emergency entry, when cannot let them in to avoid damage by using keypad on doors with code to be set up at 911, suggested for Village Hall; would like to discuss at Staff Mtg. Chief Becker stated they had a code. Chief Brennan asked Trustee Strong to look into that.
- Success story over weekend: Fire Dept., NAVAC, Cicero Police; call came in as unconscious person in full arrest, a retired St. Police Zone Sgt. in Hilar Heights; had successful save.
- It is great the Board approved the Cicero Contract; keep in mind what they approved.

RESOLUTION # 011-21

**APPROVAL N. SYR. FIRE DEPT. LIEUTENANT
MIKE LOVTERE**

Trustee Wilmer made a motion to approve the appointment of Mike Lovtere to the N. Syr. Fire Dept. for the Lieutenant Position. The motion was seconded by Trustee St. Germain. The motion was approved: St. Germain, Strong, and Wilmer, all voting in favor of the same.

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

- Christmas: decorations down, picking up Christmas trees; 1/15 last day OCCRA for free
- Applied Tree City App., have been Awarded 32 yr.
- Working on normal maintenance: signed storm drains, bldg., vehicle and equip. maintenance
- Quotes for renovation of breakroom, ran into high level of asbestos in couple areas will be a bit costly, have 4; meeting with 5th tomorrow, will turn in when get enough quotes

Parks and Recreation Department: (Parks Director: Anthony Burkinshaw) No Report (Absent).

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

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

- Busy time of year, concentrating on W-2's,
- Closing books for December, moving forward with 1099's
- Rec'd the final draft report of the FY ending 5/31/2020, ended up dipping into Fund Balance



Village of North Syracuse
Regular Board Meeting
Thursday, January 14th, 2021 6:30 PM

by \$39,000 which was not horrific with all the things we have going on in just incidentals; report will be out soon

- Then will be starting the Budget Worksheets for next year

DEPUTY MAYOR-TRUSTEES REPORT:

Trustee St. Germain: No Report.

Trustee Strong: He stated the following:

- Thanked Wayne Rochette, for helping with audio expertise; many comment audio is better. He shared we are expecting add'l equip. due to Covid, work in progress, will continue to tweak; for those of you watching on Facebook live to get those things ironed out.
- Thanked CEO Johnstone for coming in earlier to set up.
- Took part in NYCOM Webinar on Elections which we established the location for this June. There are new laws and the percentages of folks. Residents that are interested in running for one of the slots, it is based on the number of folks and percentages from the last gubernatorial and the presidential elections, so those numbers are out there. Onon. Cty. Board of Elections is who you would seek out to get those numbers. He will forward anything he saw in the PowerPoint to Village Clerk-Treasurer Kufel and give you a chance to talk with her. He shared that there are some Covid concerns and deadlines. He thanked Village Clerk-Treasurer Kufel and the Mayor for the things that they put in place tonight or they would have missed the deadlines.
- He reached out to Dep. Mayor Gustafson who is watching from home and has no additional report.
- He spoke of seeing in the paper every other day of businesses closing and encourages continuing to support those local businesses, try to stay out of the orange zone, and support the local businesses as they support us.

Trustee Wilmer: No Report.

Dep. Mayor Gustafson: No Report (Absent).

MAYOR'S REPORT:

He stated the Fire Dept. is helping us on their sign, and the Lonergan Park Sign when possible support local businesses; we have had long time at Lonergan Park. He continued we are all small business and most are still open, but it has to be a struggle. He added yes, the orange zone is open; our



Village of North Syracuse
Regular Board Meeting
Thursday, January 14th, 2021 6:30 PM

restaurants were never in the orange zone. He continued there is some dialogue, this spring Rt. 11 is going to be paved, repaved some sidewalk work done and dialogue about adding an additional crosswalk down near Lonergan Park. He added the Board is not in favor of adding another crosswalk across to Rt. 11. He went on they are talking about one that could go across the driveway entrance of Lonergan Park, but that is something that we can discuss. He stated he received a call this week from our new Senator elect Mannion who is our state senator representative; we have 2, because we are Cicero and Clay. He continued he asked if there was anything that we need. He stated yes, he wants to send letters out to 2 senators and Assemblyman Stirpe. He continued he has some ideas of things that we would like to see happen, that we cannot afford on our own, so he is going to send a letter out asking for some help; when we have some more information. He added he has also sent out an email to Assemblyman Stirpe, for help with how to get reimbursed, and where to go to get reimbursed for Covid expenses, but he has not heard back. He stated they have heard stories, some people are getting money back, we have accumulated several thousands of dollars in Covid Expenses. He added nobody is coming back; federal government has to release it to the state, to the county to us, so we are working on that.

The Mayor stated he would like to entertain a motion to go into executive session to discuss a personnel issue. He continued we will probably not be doing any business after executive session.

Trustee Wilmer made a motion to enter into **Executive Session** at 7:25 P.M. The motion was seconded by Trustee Strong. The motion was approved: St. Germain, Strong, and Wilmer, all voting favor of the same.

Trustee Wilmer made a motion to return to **Regular Session** at 8:55 P.M. The motion was seconded by Trustee Strong. The motion was approved: St. Germain, Strong, and Wilmer, all voting favor of the same.

Mayor Butterfield made a motion to adjourn at 8:56 PM. The motion was seconded by Trustee Strong. The motion was approved: St. Germain, Strong, and Wilmer, all voting in favor of the same.

Respectfully submitted,

Dianne M. Kufel
Village Clerk-Treasurer

