

VILLAGE OF NORTH SYRACUSE

Regular Board Meeting

Thursday, August 11th, 2022 @ 6:30 PM

North Syracuse Community Center

600 South Bay Road, North Syracuse, NY

Facebook Livestreamed

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, CEO Brian Johnstone, DPW Superintendent Ed Ware, Fire Chief Patrick Brennan, Parks Director Tony Burkinshaw, Sgt. Jeff Tripp, and Village Engineer Amy Franco.

Personnel Absent: Village Attorney Robert Germain (Excused).

Business of the Month: The Mayor invited the representative from Utica Pizza Company to come forward and presented the Certificate of Recognition to Philip Russo and congratulated him on being an outstanding Business in the Village of North Syracuse. He asked if he would give us a little history of Utica Pizza Company. Philip Russo thanked the Mayor and stated it is truly an honor to be selected for a Business of the Month in North Syracuse. He continued it is a testament to the employees' dedication, and hard work over the yrs., to be able to be recognized in this manner. He thanked his staff, because without them, there is no Utica Pizza Company. He shared during the pandemic they worked really hard to provide quality products with some sort of normalcy. He added he is proud to be still be doing that for the community. He thanked the Mayor, elected officials and first responders for keeping it safe to live in and to do business in.

RESOLUTION # 176-22

APPROVAL OF BOARD MEETING MINUTES-JUNE 23RD, 2022

Trustee Wilmer made a motion to approve the minutes (Facebook not Livestreamed, audio problem) from the June 23rd, 2022, 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 # 177-22

APPROVAL OF BOARD MEETING MINUTES-JULY 14TH, 2022

Trustee Strong made a motion to approve the minutes (Facebook Livestreamed) from the July 14th, 2022, Board Meeting. 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.



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RESOLUTION # 178-22

GENERAL FUND ABSTRACT APPROVAL

Trustee Wilmer made a motion to approve General Fund Abstract #06 in the amount of \$135,494.88 covering voucher #263 thru #324. 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 # 179-22

SEWER FUND ABSTRACT APPROVAL

Trustee Strong made a motion to approve Sewer Fund Abstract #06 in the amount of \$31.28 covering voucher #5. 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.

OLD BUSINESS:

RESOLUTION # 180-22

TREE BOARD: RESOLUTION FOR 218 FERGERSON PARK

Dep. Mayor Gustafson made a motion to make a decision about leaving the tree at 218 Ferguson Park as is, because it is not a danger to the public. The motion was seconded by Trustee St. Germain for discussion. Much discussion went back and forth regarding: Location of the tree in the right-of-way being unique, ownership of tree and whose responsibility it was. The right-of-way belonging to the homeowner, giving the Village permission to come on that property, if they need to do something. A majority feeling the tree was not a danger to the public or leaning toward the road. The motion was approved: St. Germain, Strong, and Gustafson, all voting in favor of the same. Wilmer-Abstained.

RESOLUTION # 181-22

RESOLUTION BACKHOE: USED VS. NEW

Dep. Mayor Gustafson made a motion to purchase the 2018 John Deere Backhoe, less than 1,600 hrs. from 5 Star Equipment not to exceed \$72,000 with ARPA Funds. The motion was seconded by Mayor Butterfield for purposes of discussion. Much discussion went back and forth regarding: Fixing backhoe out of svc. to include costs, and lack of available parts; no longer make. Also, looked at benefits of purchasing used 2018 John Deere Backhoe with less than 1,600 hrs. which would accommodate the immediate pending jobs. They also spoke of purchasing new equipment down the road when they needed to look at replacing the 2018 John Deere Backhoe. The motion was approved: St. Germain, Gustafson, and Butterfield, all voting in favor of the same. Strong and Wilmer Opposed.

UPDATE: VILLAGE HALL PROJECT-BID OPENING 8/23/2022



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The Mayor stated next item on the agenda Update: Village Hall Project Bid Opening 8/23/2022: Due to the lack of response, we put this out to bid again, we have at least 2 contractors who have stated they going to bid it; so hopefully we get more than that. He continued it is out on the Website that the contractors look at.

UPDATE: GAZEBO PLAN

The Mayor stated next is to Update: The Gazebo Plan: He stated he just got something from Mrs. Franco today, so his plan is to send that on to Assemblyman Stirpe for the Pavilion right outside here, so that is coming up. Trustee Strong asked if there were drawings on that yet or location. The Mayor continued right here. Trustee Strong stated they had not seen it. Mrs. Franco stated she just gave it to him to get his thoughts first, and then she will email it to the Board. The Mayor added so that will be coming out.

UPDATE: CROSSWALK SOUTH BAY

The Mayor stated next is to Update: The Crosswalk South Bay. Mrs. Franco stated we have the money for that from the Grant of TAP through the Sidewalks, Village wide that were identified, that includes this project in that. She continued it is very similar to the Church/Chestnut Street Project, so it may be not even next yr., it may be the following yr. that, that project actually gets done and addressed for the sidewalk. She shared in just listening to what DPW has on their plate, it would just be putting 1 more thing on there. She stated she feels like it should be part of that whole project that is Village wide. She continued obviously to go to bid for a project like that gets more expensive, which we can do that as well, and then it takes it out of DPW; and maybe we use the ARP Funds to get it done instead. She added it is obviously more DPW, Bid or wait 1 yr. or 2 yrs.; she knew that we talked about this. She explained now that the TAP grant has been awarded, she wanted see how you guys want to proceed with that project. The Mayor stated we would have to ask DPW Sup't Ware, because if we do it with our own forces it is DPW Sup't Ware and his crew to see if they can fit it in the schedule. DPW Sup't Ware continued the DPW does what it can with the equipment and the guys that we have. He continued it is up to the Board how they want to deal with it. The Mayor continued he thought we would throw that right back at you, if you can fit it in. He added look at your schedule and see what you have got a head of you and if you can fit it in before. Dep. Mayor Gustafson stated either way, if you want to wait a couple of yrs. for the federal grant, she is O.K. The Mayor stated even if DPW Sup't Ware stated some concrete. DPW Sup't Ware stated a push button for the solar panel crosswalk, he did not know how long they would take to get. The Mayor continued we could do the work that we could do, the crosswalks you have to order that and set those, and then the pads for the blind; you have to place those. DPW Sup't Ware continued the detectible line. Dep. Mayor Gustafson stated either way they know it is in the works.



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RESOLUTION # 182-22

**2022 COMM. DEV. MONIES: \$50,000-EARMARKED FOR BASEMENT
COMM. CTR.-SPEND IN 2023 NEED MOTION APPROVING THE SEQR**

Trustee Strong made a motion to approve having the SEQR determination be an Unlisted Action for the 2022 Comm. Dev. Monies, \$50,000 Earmarked for Basement Comm. Ctr. to Spend in 2023. The motion was seconded by Trustee Wilmer. The motion was approved: St. Germain, Strong, Wilmer, and Gustafson, all voting in favor of same.

RESOLUTION # 183-22

**2021 COMM. DEV. MONIES: \$50,000-EARMARKED COMM. CTR. FLOORING
PROJECT: SPEND IN 2022-NEED A MOTION APPROVING THE SEQR**

Dep. Mayor Gustafson made a motion to approve having the SEQR determination be an Unlisted Action for the 2021 Comm. Dev. Monies, \$50,000 Earmarked for Comm. Ctr. Flooring Project to Spend in 2022. The motion was seconded by Trustee Strong. The motion was approved: St. Germain, Strong, Wilmer, and Gustafson, all voting in favor of same.

NEW BUSINESS:

RESOLUTION #184-22

**AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR TO SIGN (3) YR. LEASING PAYMENTS
FOR THE 11 FT. MOWER (BUDGET)**

Dep. Mayor Gustafson made a motion to authorize the Mayor to sign (3) yr. Leasing Payments for 11 ft. mower. The motion was seconded by Trustee Wilmer. Much discussion went back and forth regarding modifying the trailer to accept the mower, the bolts underneath the suspension and brakes. DPW Sup't Ware stated there is no sense in modifying it with the mechanical problems, so just adding a strobe light on it to make do, so they can get the 3 large parks done for the yr. He spoke of looking into purchasing a brand-new trailer, the trailer also trails the toolcat and skidsteer. The motion was approved: St. Germain, Strong, Wilmer, and Gustafson, voting in favor of the same.

RESOLUTION #185-22

**DISCUSS/AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR TO SIGN THE
QUOTE FOR (2) NEW CHARGERS (POLICE)**

Trustee Wilmer made a motion to Approve/Authorize the Mayor to sign the quote for (2) New Chargers for Police Dept. with the \$64,685 from the Budget, plus monies from 2017 vehicle from auction using proceeds to apply toward the cost. The motion was seconded by Dep. Mayor Gustafson with discussion. Much discussion went back and forth regarding: The 2017 has over 100,000 and they are keeping the 2015 in case a car goes down. Where the additional \$8,000 for the blue color and it could be more, because there is more equipment to go into it. Sgt. Tripp explained he has got a lot of equipment already through



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grants such as: The Computer for it, Trax Equipment, Radar Unit he got through DCJS for free; so, we have a lot of stuff for it that we normally would not which is why he cut the outfitting in at least ½. He stated we will get some money for the 2017, the market is good right now, but we have had a lot of problems with it; so, he does not know how much they will get for it. Village Clerk-Treasurer Kufel continued you could say that, you could earmark the 2017 vehicle through surplus. 2 cars found in Niagara Falls are blue and were a police package. Village Clerk-Treasurer Kufel may have to find funding if there is a difference. The Mayor mentioned any of these purchases fit the components of the ARPA Fund. The motion was approved: St. Germain, Strong, Wilmer, and Gustafson, all voting in favor of the same.

RESOLUTION #186-22

DISCUSS/APPROVE THE RECOMMENDED "PAVING OF VILLAGE STREETS": PROVIDED BY DPW SUP'T

Trustee Wilmer made a motion to approving the recommended contractor and the streets to be paved in the Village. 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 #187-22

DISCUSS/APPROVE THE TRAVEL PLANS FOR FIRE DEPT'S-A. LAMICA & D. BROOKS 09/24/22-10/01/22

Trustee Wilmer made a motion to approve travel plans for Fire Dept's: A. Lamica and D. Brooks for 09/24/22-10/01/22 to attend Firehouse Expo in Ohio. The motion was seconded by Trustee Strong. Dep. Mayor Gustafson asked where the expo is being held. Fire Chief Brennan stated this yr., it is in Ohio. The motion was approved: St. Germain, Strong, Wilmer, and Gustafson, all voting in favor of the same.

RESOLUTION #188-22

DISCUSS/APPROVE PART-TIME FIREHOUSE CARETAKER-J. LEUBNER

Trustee St. Germain made a motion to approve part-time Firehouse Caretaker, James Leubner as overnight Firehouse Caretaker at \$17/hr. effective Monday, August 15th, 2022. The motion was seconded by Dep. Mayor Gustafson with discussion. Much discussion went back and forth to include: Paid positions during the day, the duties, staffing issues at night; and the need for night, and overnight hrs. coverage. 3 positions Budgeted, would not serve together, not volunteers; obtaining people from out of area through Mutual Aid Agreement with their home fire depts. Hoping. Rotation was discussed, but did not fit the fire dept needed coverage. The motion was approved: St. Germain, Strong, and Wilmer, all voting in favor of the same. Opposed: Gustafson.

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RESOLUTION #189-22

DISCUSS/APPROVE PART-TIME FIREHOUSE CARETAKER-D. MALLARO

Trustee Wilmer made a motion to Approve Part-time Firehouse Caretaker, Dante Mallaro to be approved as an Overnight Firehouse Caretaker at \$17/hr. effective Monday, August 15th, 2022. The motion was seconded by Trustee St. Germain. The motion was approved: St. Germain, Strong, and Wilmer, all voting in favor of the same. Opposed: Gustafson. Fire Chief Brennan asked what that reason is. Dep. Mayor Gustafson stated because you have 7 paid people and she does not think that you are utilizing your personnel that way that you should. She continued that she felt the 4 on days, should also be rotated.

RESOLUTION #190-22

DISCUSS/APPROVE/AUTHORIZE THE STAR FIRE TRAINING SYSTEMS

Trustee Wilmer made a motion to authorizing the Mayor to sign the Star Fire Training Systems (bus extrication) for a sum not to exceed \$7,000. The motion was seconded by Trustee St. Germain. The motion was approved: St. Germain, Wilmer, and Gustafson, all voting in favor of the same. Abstained: Strong.

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 took paperwork the law office to move forward on the 501C3 for Friends of the Village, it is in process, it is coming.

Ken Ryan of 211 Herman Dr. shared his opinion on rotating shifts, equipment, and safety; trees, and grinding the streets.

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

ATTORNEY REPORT: (Robert Germain): Absent - Excused

ENGINEER REPORT: (Amy Franco): No Report.

DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS:

Police Department: (Sgt. Jeff Tripp): He stated the following:

- He thanked everyone who has shared information, helped with the bike rodeo event
- He thanked Parks Dir. Burkinshaw for helping him get it as an event on Facebook
- CEO Johnstone has been great with sharing information



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- DPW Sup't Ware has done a million things for us, especially our cars and his guys
- We have gotten more Stop Mean Stop Signs, we have a few more this yr. to go up
- Rec'd Walmart Grant: Got more Hide, Lock, Take signs going up; Community Project to tell people to lock their cars, lock their houses, so people do not become a victim of a crime
- Sharing information about vehicles, good sources and good information next time
- So far for August: 361 Total Calls for service, 181 Property Checks, 7 Domestic, 12 Motor Vehicle Accidents, 30 Traffic Stops, 25 Traffic Tickets, 6 Criminal Arrests

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

- Thanked CEO Johnstone for working with on nuisance/false alarms at church on Church St.
- Thanked Joel at DPW assistance with grease trap, new will cost \$10,000; waiting on Cty.
- New Engine, returning 1st wk. of September, working on financing to present next mtg.
- Will put proposal together to replace the 2011 Squad
- Caretakers position: Spoke of invitations to Dep. Mayor Gustafson to come to firehouse. Dep. Mayor Gustafson thanked him, but feels some answers she wants on public record.

Public Works Department: (DPW Sup't.: Ed Ware): No Report.

Parks and Recreation Department: (Parks Director: Anthony Burkinshaw): He stated the following:

- Today was big celebration for Summer Camp, Friday is last day of 6 wk. program
- 2 Concerts left at Loneragan Pk. on Wednesday nights
- When Summer Camp ends will get to Gazebo
- Sunday, August 28th: Last day of pool, closes at 7:00 PM

Codes Department: (CEO: Brian Johnstone): He stated the following:

- LED Decorative Street Lights paperwork sent to NYSEDA and approved, this is another action toward our clean action community status, were at 1300 points; not even ½ way to a \$10,000 grant, he will bring more options of things that can be done, to see if feasible to do

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

- Process of trying to help someone to help in back office there, not a lot of success, but trying
- Very busy with Grants that we have got, coupled with yr. end, and Budget opening; Bid openings, it has been really super busy

DEPUTY MAYOR-TRUSTEES REPORT:

Trustee St. Germain: She stated the following:



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- Tough times for all, hard to find employees, hard to come to work; it is hard to make things work, we have a limited amount of people that do an extraordinary job
- Parks Dir. Burkinshaw running things, people do not think about what they see on tv
- CEO Johnstone, she would not want to be somebody that was on top of everybody's property, because nobody's demeanor is wonderful
- DPW Sup't Ware, he has so many items in the fire, appreciates whatever comes to him
- Fire Chief and Police: Always helping: Each other, somebody else, put themselves last, deal with media, and people, but are still out there. She thanked them for everything they do, hardships they go through, we need to appreciate each other and the little things. She added it is a bad time and we need to trust in God, she hoped it is not a bad thing to say, but it is not a bad thing for her to say.

Trustee Strong: No Report.

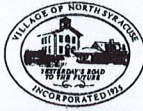
Trustee Wilmer: No Report.

Dep. Mayor Gustafson: She stated the following:

- Thanked the Police for the Bike rodeo that was very well done, very enjoyable
- Parks Dir. Burkinshaw had the Carnival today

MAYOR'S REPORT:

He stated as you see we have got new flower pots out there, we do not have flowers in them yet, but we are working on that. He shared he has an idea to reach out to some of the businesses that are in that sphere and see if they want to adopt a pot. He continued let them put the plants in there that they would like, and let them take care of it, we would water them for them; just an idea we can bring forth over the winter. He added today he had a briefing with Evan Grenier, the Operations Dir. from NAVAC. He stated be ready, you may not have had complaints yet, but the EMS Svc.; the EMS delivery, the Ambulances are getting stacked up more and more at the hospitals. He shared pretty soon it will be forced rotation, you go where they send you, you do not have a choice of what hospital you want to go to. He added he was just letting you know that people maybe complaining if it gets any worse there. He explained their call volume is way up from previous yrs., the last 2 yrs. He stated he did want to say at the last mtg., that he got a little frustrated and he may be stated some things that were not appropriate. He apologized to the 2 Trustees that he may have offended, and added he was sorry for that. He continued hopefully this will get to the Trustees, as soon as we look this over, so then we can ask for some money; funds for that.



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Dep. Mayor Gustafson made a motion to adjourn at 8:00 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