

VILLAGE OF NORTH SYRACUSE

Regular Board Meeting

Thursday, June 22nd, 2023 @ 4:30 PM

North Syracuse Community Center

600 South Bay Road, North Syracuse, NY

Facebook Livestreamed (Audio Trouble)

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

Personnel Present: DPW Superintendent Ed Ware, Fire Chief Richard Allen, Parks Director Tony Burkinshaw, Interim Police Chief Jeffrey Raub, and Village Engineer Amy Franco.

Personnel Absent: Village Clerk/Treasurer Kufel (Medical), Codes Enf. Officer (Vacant), and Village Attorney Robert Germain (Absent).

RESOLUTION # 145-23

APPROVAL OF BOARD MEETING MINUTES-JUNE 8TH, 2023

Trustee Wilmer made a motion to approve the minutes (Facebook Livestreamed) from the June 8th, 2023, Board Meeting. 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 # 146-23

GENERAL FUND OLD BUDGET ABSTRACT APPROVAL

Trustee Wilmer made a motion to approve General Fund Old Budget Abstract #28 in the amount of \$138,823.10 covering voucher #1842 thru #1872. 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 # 147-23

GENERAL FUND NEW BUDGET ABSTRACT APPROVAL

Trustee Strong made a motion to approve General Fund New Budget Abstract #02 in the amount of \$59,307.81 covering voucher #25 thru #90. 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:

RESOLUTION # 148-23

DISCUSS/REVIEW ADVERTISE REBID FOR PAVILION PROJECT

The Mayor stated the next item on the agenda is Discuss/Review Advertise Rebid for Pavilion Project:



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He stated it is for the Pavilion Project, we have 4 bidders look at it and nobody submitted a bid it. He continued Mrs. Franco stated they all had stated they still would like to bid it; they just wanted a little more information. He clarified with Mrs. Franco that was correct. Mrs. Franco stated correct, they all stated they all had other projects at the same time, so they wanted to rebid that. Trustee Strong made a motion to rebid the Pavilion Project July 27th, 2023. The motion was seconded by Dep. Mayor Gustafson. Trustee Wilmer stated he still does not think we should be doing this project; he does not think it is necessary. The motion was approved: St. Germain, Strong, and Gustafson, all voting in favor of the same. Wilmer: Opposed.

**REVIEW/DISCUSS/AWARD 2022 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
COMM. CENTER BASEMENT PROJECT REBID**

The Mayor stated the next item on the agenda is Review/Discuss/Award 2022 Comm. Dev. Comm. Ctr. Basement Project Rebid: We rec'd 1 bid for \$88,000 and we have \$50,000 in the Budget; Mrs. Franco agreed to meet with that particular bidder and see if we can eliminate enough stuff to get down to the \$50,000. He added there were somethings that we could clearly do ourselves and modify as long as we get the moisture issue taken care of. Trustee Wilmer asked if that is going to include the replacement of the steel post, that are rotted down there. Mrs. Franco continued some of them could be removed, because they are not serving any general purpose, others may need to be replaced. The Mayor stated he thought you can negotiate with. Mrs. Franco added she will see what their options are. The Mayor continued alright. Mrs. Franco also spoke of the prevailing rate.

NEW BUSINESS:

RESOLUTION # 149-23

DISCUSS/APPROVE INTERIM CODES ENFORCEMENT POSITION

Dep. Mayor Gustafson made a motion start the process. The Mayor seconded the motion for discussion already started with Cicero and Clay for an Interim Codes Official. Discussion took place back and forth: Status of 7 businesses on hold since there has been a change in Codes where those projects stand. Dep. Mayor Gustafson amended her motion with a not to exceed \$5,000, an agreement with the details of hours, and salary in a very short time, and to revisit at the next mtg. Trustee Strong added the monies can come right out of the line item for salary. The amended motion was seconded by Trustee Strong. The motion was approved: St. Germain, Strong, Wilmer, and Gustafson, all voting in favor of the same.

RESOLUTION # 150-23

DISCUSS/APPROVE POLICE RESIGNATIONS

Trustee Wilmer made a motion to accept the Police Resignations of Jeremy Cheney and Nicholas



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

DISCUSS VACANCY IN DPW

Dep. Mayor Gustafson asked DPW Sup't Ware to talk about the vacancy. DPW Sup't Ware stated we do have a vacancy and do have an application coming back in.

**INFORMATIVE: TRAINING PHASE II-3 POLICE OFFICERS-S. DARROW,
A. BAKER, M. APPEL-SUNY MORRISVILLE**

Informative: Training Phase II - 3 Police Officers- S. Darrow, A. Baker, M. Appel who are graduating from Suny Morrisville. Interim Police Chief Raub stated we have 4 people on the cusp to be hired as Full-time officers, to replace the 2nd and possibly a 3rd officer we are going to be losing here shortly. He continued they are in Phase II which is firearms at the Madison Cty. Academy, once they complete it they will be coming to us for a minimum of 160 hrs. of field training. He added then they will be under our supervision closely monitored by our other officers, they are progressing well, he was able to speak to all of them today via phone. He explained they were on their way back from the Academy and they are enthusiastic and upbeat about working for the Vlg. He stated it is definitely going to be a shot in the arm for us, having lost 2 and possibly 3 people right away. He continued we are down 2, but have people that are being trained; and doing a great job there.

RESOLUTION # 151-23

**DISCUSS/APPROVE FIRE DEPARTMENT-CHANGE IN STATUS -
J. DAUGARD-JUNIOR F/F TO ACTIVE MEMBER**

Trustee Wilmer made a motion to approve Fire Dept. -Change in Status of J. Daugard from Junior F/F to Active Member. 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 # 152-23

DISCUSS/APPROVE NEW MEMBERS FIRE DEPT. -J. LISI, E. GUSTAFSON

Trustee Wilmer made a motion to Approve New Members Fire Dept.-J. Lisi, and E. Gustafson. The motion was seconded by Trustee Strong. The motion was approved: St. Germain, Strong, and Wilmer, all voting in favor of the same. Gustafson: Recused.

RESOLUTION # 153-23

DISCUSS/APPROVE BROLEX RETURN TO WORK/FEE



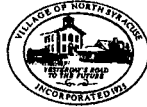
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Trustee St. Germain made a motion is to go back to the original \$21,000. The motion was seconded by Dep. Mayor Gustafson. The Mayor clarified that is the permit fee only and not including the SWPPP fees which are a separate issue. The Mayor stated he could not find and he looked through all the emails, he could not find the exact SWPPP, it is not brand-new starting from scratch; it is a renewal of because that is based on usage, how much money it costs. The motion was approved: St. Germain, Strong, Wilmer, and Gustafson, all voting in favor of the same.

RESOLUTION # 154-23

DISCUSS/APPROVE REVISED POLICE DEPARTMENT MOU

Discuss/Approve Revised Police Department MOU: The Mayor stated when the original came there was no red in it; it was sent to you earlier today with the red in it, if not he has a copy of it right here. He continued so the Vlg. and the Police Union met over the weekend, and offered this as a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with an addendum to the MOU. Trustee Strong and Dep. Mayor Gustafson stated they did not get that. The Mayor added so he has some copies, you have seen the copies that was black and white, just back and right, correct. Trustee Strong stated he thought it was emailed yesterday afternoon. Trustee St. Germain asked if this is something different. The Mayor explained there are changes, the original MOU was revised to a different MOU, the extra changes and he passed out copies on both sides. He stated so basically what has transpired is the union came together and he thinks they did a great job and these are the solutions we can give you to help us, we are down to minimum staffing. He shared he thought this was a very good approach by the union. He continued this is not changing the contract, a MOU of the sunset. Trustee Strong clarified so the emailed document that we got from Mrs. Kimball, has a 3rd page that is listed as Addendum to MOU dated June 23rd. The Mayor stated you should have gotten this. The Mayor asked the Chief if he would like to add anything on this. Interim Police Chief Raub stated no, it is pretty much self-explanatory, as he stated earlier, we are really in a crisis in terms of staffing. He continued we are at 50% now and this MOU will help us to stretch ½ of our manpower into pretty much essentially full coverage, we won't have double people out there. He added we will have someone out there pretty much 24 hrs./day with a few exceptions. He explained if this gets passed, he would be appreciative. He shared working with the union has been pretty easy on this 1. Trustee Strong stated at the initial discussion, there was talk of not having an A watch, so he would like to applaud the union and the officers, we still have gainfully employed and working very hard for the Vlg. of North Syracuse as they are stretched pretty thin; to have some type of coverage on that overnight shift. He continued he thought that was essential, he understands that no going to zero coverage, is a bad option which you agreed with. He added we cannot ask folks to be working multiple 16 hrs. days, and multiple 12 hr. days, it is just a recipe for injury or an accident; so, he thought that works well. He explained just for transparency so the folks know, 1 of the items is a shift that is just temporary as far as time off, they can do switches if they can find someone else who will work an overtime shift. He stated that is something that was given back, so folks know both sides



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gave a little bit. He continued then the 2 sergeants in the Vlg. will be changing their shifts to assist with coverage, in case folks were wondering what some of the changes or differences were going to be. Trustee Strong stated although the Addendum to the MOU on page 3, but 7; he feels that line should have the Board, because there is no "Vlg. of N. Syracuse" they actually ratifies the contract and negotiates. He continued so he would not be favor of how 7 is currently written; if that could be changed, he would be open to a number of the other changes. He added but he would be a No vote, if 7 remains as is. Trustee St. Germain clarified without a representative from the Board. Trustee Strong stated the Board and the Vlg. are actually the ones who negotiate the contract on the Vlgs. side, not the Chief of Police. He explained he did have a chance to talk to Chief Raub on the phone today, just to let him know, so it was not a surprise to him. The Mayor stated so we do have 2 union reps. here, Police Officer Pannell, the newly elected rep for the police and the union rep from the official union. He continued are you guys' O.K. with something like that. The union reps stated they were O.K. with this. Dep. Mayor Gustafson asked should it be a just any Board member or should it be the liaison to the Police, that may change also; it should be any Board member as a representative. They replied the Board is O.K. The Mayor asked if they are O.K. if we make that change., he added again, to him this is a great document; it is really going to help us out and we do have people in the pipeline, it is going to take a while to get them up to speed. He asked if there was any further discussion. Deputy Mayor Gustafson made a motion for the Mayor to sign with this change. The motion was approved: Gustafson, Wilmer, St. Germain and Strong all voting in favor of the same. Motion is carried.

RESOLUTION # 155-23

**DISCUSS/APPROVE FIRE DEPARTMENT ADMINISTRATOR-EFFECTIVE
6/23/2023-\$35/HOUR, 19/HRS.-NOT TO EXCEED \$35,000/YEAR**

Dep. Mayor Gustafson made a motion to Approve Fire Department Administrator-Effective 6/23/2023 at \$35/Hr., 19/Hrs. per wk., Not to Exceed \$35,000/Yr. will be Paul Linnertz. The motion was seconded by Trustee Wilmer for discussion. Discussion took place back and forth re: If we have reached out to anybody else, him being a resource and probably the ideal person for this to start, not doing long time, will settle position making changes or tweaks as needed and after yr. or 2 yrs. will step aside. The motion was approved: St. Germain, Strong, Wilmer, and Gustafson, 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.

Joseph Asztalos of 118 Palmer Dr. shared a concern with an actual member of the Onon. Cty. Bd. of Elections, 1 of the poll takers, giving out bad information on how to fill out ballot for the trustee. Discussion took place on the confusion when the polls first opened. The Mayor stated that we take note.



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Doug Hummer of 128 Herbert St. stated he had talked to the prior Codes Enf. lady and had disagreement whereas some of the Codes make absolutely zero sense, and gave an example of bringing in a 10 yd. dumpster versus a fully assembled 10' x 10' shed, and noted the insurance requirements for the shed.

Pat Ferguson of 215 S. Main St. from the N. Syracuse Hsg. Auth. stated HUD gave them a clean bill of health, they approved a program using Emergency Funds for someone on our program to receive emergency funds to be housed if they have a landlord; you get reimbursed from HUD from the N. Syracuse Hsg. Auth. for placement into a hotel when landlord did not provide heat in February.

Ken Ryan of 211 Herman Dr. stated most of the Codes followed are by the state, so the Vlg. has no control. He continued re: Codes: 215 Herman Dr.: There is tree down by the utility which is against NYS Code, 209 Herman Dr.: the pool and the fence, dealing with for yrs., pool is still there, fence is still down, certain places too high; also spoke of overgrowth and having to call in to report. Spoke of last mtg, where teacher spoke of unprofessionalism of Codes Officer, felt it should not have been allowed to continue.

Laura Lynch of 125 Oakley Dr. stated serious issue next door, 14 people want to live there, spoke of it being very filthy; and unsafe. She explained it is affecting her house, you can literally smell it from inside her kitchen and if guests come, she cannot enjoy her yard, because of it. She shared it is a 3-bedroom ranch, if allowed to put egress window in; then all 14 people would be back, and there are 5 humongous dogs; concerns for the kids and dogs. She continued we deserve to be able to go in our backyards and have peace and quiet.

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

ATTORNEY REPORT: (Robert Germain): No Report. (Absent).

ENGINEER REPORT: (Amy Franco): She stated the following:

- 130 Van Mara: Muffled. The Mayor stated he sent out an email to the Trustees, and asked Mrs. Fuller to find who the owner is, because it is his determination that it needs to demolished as quickly as possible; but we have to find the owner and Mrs. Fuller was looking at that this afternoon. He explained as soon as we find the owner, we will send a registered letter and it is going to come down, that should not still be there; that is a danger. Trustee Strong stated that was unanimous too.

DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS:



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Police Department: (Interim Police Chief Jeff Raub): He stated the following:

- Appreciate sitting here with the Board and appreciates comments from public as we really do serve you
- Patience, unstaffed next few mos., silver lining: hired some young people, who are excited about coming out and responding to your homes if you need them and deal with complaints
- So far for June: 436 Total Calls for service, 135 Property Checks, 5 Domestic, 14 Motor Vehicle Accidents, 39 Traffic Stops, 19 Traffic Tickets, 9 Criminal Arrests

Fire Department: (Fire Chief Richard Allen): He stated the following:

- Thanked Board for approving the position
- Thanked DPW Sup't Ware for going over and doing work around sidewalk and gate

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

- Pot hole patching, truck went down replacing leaf springs
- Storm drain success on Chestnut St. should not be ponding any longer
- Busy picking up brush and mowing lawns

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

- 1st Concert: CNS Marching Band last night, great turnout, he thanked them for coming out
- Saturday, 6/24 at 1:00 PM at Kennedy Pool Pavilion: Lifeguards doing evaluations as to level children are at, then assigned to a time for swim lessons this season
- Pool: Clarity issues, trying different chemicals to clear up, almost there; hope to open Saturday

Codes Department: (Codes Enforcement Officer: Vacant): No Report.

Clerk-Treasurer: (Village Clerk-Treasurer Kufel): No Report. Absent.

DEPUTY MAYOR-TRUSTEES REPORT:

Trustee St. Germain: She stated the following:

- Heard someone say no Codes, no Police, do not think that; along with other agencies that do respond whether short staff or not, always have a Cty. unit and State unit in the area
- Long term officers for so many yrs., they are still here
- Codes: Out of ordinary to have all those businesses, each person's instance is confidential



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Trustee Strong: He stated the following:

- Congratulated, Officer Lostumbo as well as Officer Chaney with the Sheriff's Office
- Update: 115 Chestnut St. was going to take over by June-
 - Mayor: Did get documentation, deal is signed, still other channels to go through, kind of technically we own it, have to wait for final paperwork to come to us
- Reminder for Board: 115 Chestnut St-Grass getting kind of high
- Reminder for Board: 118 Grove St-Want to stay on top of that
- Before Annual mtg., discuss whether 4:30 mtgs. work for residents or not

Trustee Wilmer: No Report.

Dep. Mayor Gustafson: She stated the following:

- Thanked Police Dept. for help with MOU and helping us out
- Hoped Codes will be straightened out soon, appreciate everyone's cooperation and patience

MAYOR'S REPORT:

The Mayor stated he apologized for being late, has been spending a lot more time at Vlg. Hall as we are so shorthanded. He thanked the Interim Police Chief, the Fire Chief, and everybody for holding up their end. He stated we had our Vlg. elections on Tuesday, he was running, he is re-elected. He continued there were 2 Trustee seats, 3 candidates, and it was very close. He explained it was within 4 or 6 votes election night and we looked at the absentees. He added we have a new Trustee elect, John Bolton, not officially until he is sworn in. He explained then 2 Trustees were back and forth, Dep. Mayor Gustafson was reelected and Trustee Wilmer just missed. He shared he knows what it is like, he lost 3 times running for election, it hurts; he is sad, he would have been sad for either 1. He continued it was very close, but that is the results we have to this point. Trustee St. Germain stated dated June 21st, Notice to the Candidates, per NYS Election Law: Manual recount is required when the margin of victory is 20 votes or less, or margin of victory is .5% or less. She continued our race was within that margin for recount, so a hand recount will occur that will on Monday, June 26th at 1:00 PM. The Mayor added that is correct. He thanked everyone and Dep. Mayor for filling in here.

Trustee Strong made a motion to adjourn at 6:09 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

VILLAGE OF NORTH SYRACUSE

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DATE: 6/22/23

PLEASE SIGN IN

NAME

ADDRESS

Douglas Hummel
Mike Backett
KEN RYAN
John
Pat Fergerson
Linda Fontana
Laura Lynch
Kathleen Kottage

128 Herbert St
315 SINGLE Dr
211 HERMAN DR
350 Chestnut St
215 So Main St. N. Syr 13212-3100
121 Oakley Dr
125 Oakley Dr
120 Tuller Rd.

