



VILLAGE OF NORTH SYRACUSE

Regular Board Meeting

Thursday, April 27th, 2023 @ 4:29 PM

North Syracuse Community Center

600 South Bay Road, North Syracuse, NY

Facebook Livestreamed

The Village of North Syracuse Regular Board Meeting began at 4:29 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 Kufel, Codes Enf. Officer Brandy Fry, DPW Superintendent Ed Ware, Past Former Fire Chief Patrick Brennan, Parks Director Tony Burkinshaw, and Police Chief William Becker.

Personnel Absent: Fire Chief Richard Allen, Dep. Fire Chief John Linnertz, Asst. Fire Chief Jozsef Asztalos, Codes Enf. Officer Brandy Fry, Village Engineer Amy Franco, and Village Attorney Robert Germain.

Public Hearing #1-4:29 PM: Please take notice that the Village of North Syracuse will hold a public hearing regarding the "2023-2024" Tentative Budget on Thursday, April 27th, 2023 at 4:29 PM at the North Syracuse Community Center, 700 South Bay Road, North Syracuse and will hear all persons in support of such matters, or any objections thereto. We have Model 3 in front of us, available on the weekend to all the trustees. We received a little bit of feedback, we also had a budget work session prior to our last meeting, the board agreed and made some scaling back of many line items, this model represents and overall, 2.1% increase over last year. This leaves us just under the threshold of the 2% tax cap. This model includes using fund balance money to balance the difference, we can turn this over to our Village Clerk-Treasurer if she would so desire, and anyone who would like to speak for or against or would you like to give a description 1st. Village Clerk-Treasurer Kufel stated so basically, we are staying right under the threshold for the Tax Cap here with this Model. She continued there really is not anything extra that she can speak to that is extra ordinary in this Budget and on pg. 1 it shows you what this Budget includes and what it does not include. She added basically it includes all the raises which many of them are union raises. She explained there are a few items there, it includes: New pumper for the Fire Station which is 1/3, 1/3, 1/3; there has been a little bit of an increase in the LOSAP Entitlement, there has been increases in the NYS Retirement for both Regular Employees and the Police Dept, Health Insurance basically has gone down about \$50,000 due to recent union negotiations and employee contributions, Heritage Lighting included in this model, if that is awarded for the grant, so be it that is an extra \$9,000 we are awarded from the grant monies. She added also there is a 10 Wheel Dump Truck for the Highway Dept., although we will be obligating for that, we will not see a payment for at least another yr., so that will affect the 24-25 Budget. She stated there are several things that were not included, those are at the bottom, again that is the Boards decision, if they have anything that



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they would like to add or delete, again that is what this is about right now. She added the final page on back, this is the Fund Balance right now and again, this is estimated how we will close the books in 2023. She explained she feels more than likely we would turn back in at least \$50,000 to \$100,000, of the Budget, so that will obviously increase that. She stated also, we have some add'l AARP Funds, that have not been spent yet; she did a tally of that today and it looks to be around \$80,000 that has not been spent of that. She continued so all in all and towards the rear of this Budget pg. is 1 of 3 actually, towards the back, it shows we are putting a pretty steep amount of the Fund Balance to balance this Budget. She explained again the reason that we can do that too is some of the AARP monies have funded into the Fund Balance. She stated having stated that, the different models that she has created, have been reflected with some of the highlighted items like: Model 1 was in green, Model 2 was yellow and 3 is blue. She continued so that is about it, she can say that Cicero is only on about an 86% assessment right now, that is something new. She added Town of Clay has always been on an equalization rate, but now Cicero is also doing kind of like an equalization rate now too. She explained the Town of Cicero, if you look at your tax assessment you really only are being taxed at your 86% assessment. The Mayor stated so anyone that would like to speak in favor or against the Tentative Budget for 23-24 in the audience. He asked again if anyone in the audience would like to speak for or against the Tentative Budget. He asked a final time if anyone would like to speak in favor or against the Tentative 23-24 Budget, and with no response closed the Public Hearing.

RESOLUTION # 098-23

APPROVAL OF BOARD MEETING MINUTES-APRIL 13TH, 2023

Trustee Wilmer made a motion to approve the minutes (Facebook Livestreamed) from the March 13th, 2023, 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 # 099-23

GENERAL FUND ABSTRACT APPROVAL

Trustee Wilmer made a motion to approve General Fund Abstract #24 in the amount of \$108,735.24 covering voucher #1538 thru #1633. 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.

RESOLUTION # 100-23

BUDGET TRANSFER(S)

The Mayor stated transfer to cover cost of senior supplies. Trustee Strong made a motion to approve the budget transfers from A6772.1 Seniors Personal Services in the amount of \$250.00 to increase A6772.419 Seniors Program Supplies. 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 # 101-23

BUDGET TRANSFER(S)

The Mayor stated transfer grant monies to apply towards expenses related to the bumpout. Dep. Mayor Gustafson made a motion to approve the budget transfers from A3389G Village Hall Front Renovations in the amount of \$31,448.92 to increase A1620.2 Expenses Village Hall Renovations. 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 # 102-23

BUDGET TRANSFER(S)

The Mayor stated the transfer Rescue Funds to augment cost of the bumpout. Trustee Wilmer made a motion to approve the budget transfers from A3389N American Rescue Funds in the amount of \$75,000 to increase A1620.2 Expenses Village Hall Renovations. 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.

RESOLUTION # 103-23

BUDGET TRANSFER(S)

The Mayor stated the transfer to cover the cost of a New Ice Machine. Trustee Strong made a motion to approve the budget transfers from A7110.25 Park Picnic Tables in the amount of \$564.09 to increase A7181.200 Comm. Ctr. Equip. 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.

RESOLUTION # 104-23

BUDGET TRANSFER(S)

The Mayor stated the transfer cover expense(s) related to Bonding New Pumper. Trustee Wilmer made a motion to approve the budget transfers from A231F Fire Apparatus Reserve in the amount of \$8,376 to increase A3410.25 Bonding Fees-New Pumper. 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:

UPDATE: 118 GROVE STREET

The Mayor stated the next item on the agenda is Update: 118 Grove Street: Codes Enf. Officer Fry has an update, but was not able to attend, so, he is making progress; the Codes Officer is working with him.

PENDING: DISCUSS/APPROVE THE LOCAL LAW #4: PROPOSING A NEW SECTION REGARDING BASKETBALL HOOPS/THEIR POSITIONING IN THE RIGHT-OF WAY



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The Mayor stated the next item on the agenda is Pending: Discuss/Approve the Local Law #4: This is the Basketball Hoops/their positioning in the Right-of-Way: This was tabled at our last mtg., the Board wanted some more time to revisit this issue, and the laws contiguous towns have in place; he opened it up for dialogue. He continued he has not had a chance to study this at all. Trustee Strong stated he has not rec'd the proposed update, he knew we were supposed to get that, but Atty. Germain has been busy. He added he does not know that we should un table it when we have not rec'd an update on it. The Mayor added he does not think it is something with a high level of importance on it right now, so we will look at it when we have more information.

NEW BUSINESS:

**ARBOR DAY PROCLAMATION: OBSERVANCE: FRIDAY, 4/28/23 AT
4:00 PM- FORMER MAYORS HOTCHKISS AND ATKINSON**

The Mayor stated Arbor Day Proclamation: Observance: Friday, April 28th, 2023 at 4:00 PM-Former Mayor's Jim Hotchkiss and Mark Atkinson: Now this will be a rededication for both of them, there trees died, so we are replanting a tree in recognition of them in the same place they were near the Vet's Memorial Park on Centerville Place. He continued we will present them with a proclamation, he could read it, but you all know what it says; it is all Whereas. He added for those of you that want to be there April 28th, which is Friday at 4:00 PM, out here; he will be reading the proclamation then. See Attached.

**RESOLUTION # 105-23 DISCUSS/APPROVE THE PART-TIME APPOINTMENT OF SHAWN DARROW/
POLICE OFFICER-EFFECTIVE 5/01/23 PENDING HIS COMPLETE
BACKGROUND CHECK-STARTING AT \$23.15 HR.**

Dep. Mayor Gustafson made a motion to Approve the Appointment of Shawn Darrow as Part-time Police Officer, effective 5/01/23 pending his complete background check, starting at \$23.15/hr. The motion was seconded by Trustee Wilmer. Trustee Strong stated he is fully supported, he interviewed extremely well; he is a great pick up for the Village. Discussion went back and forth regarding his pay being correct which is the bottom step, at entry level. The motion was approved: St. Germain, Strong, Wilmer, and Gustafson, all voting in favor of the same.

**RESOLUTION # 106-23 DISCUSS/APPROVE THE FY 23/24 BUDGET FOR GENERAL FUND
AND SEWER FUND**

Trustee Wilmer made a motion to Approve Adopting the FY 23/24 Budget for General Fund and Sewer Fund. The motion was seconded by Dep. Mayor Gustafson. Discussion went back and forth re: Canteen getting more than \$6,000, majority in favor of leaving at \$6,000 this yr., with possible higher donation



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from Friends, if Friends' Board agreed. Trustee Strong asked if we could add as an amendment to the motion the Vlg. of No. Syr. adopts their 24/25 Budget no later than 3/14/2024. The Mayor stated he would leave it up to the person that made the motion and the person that seconded it, are you O.K. with that. Trustee Wilmer agreed. Trustee Strong stated we did not get feedback back if the Dept. Heads were O.K. with it. Village Clerk-Treasurer stated Codes Enf. Officer Fry is not here and she knows she was not, she specifically explained to her she was not happy. Dep. Mayor Gustafson stated she went to Dept. Heads herself with her questions and was satisfied with the answers that she got. Parks Dir. Burkinshaw agreed with adopting Budget earlier to give opportunities to meet with Board to explain ideas, needs, and answer questions. Trustee Wilmer stated he has 1 more thing he would like to bring up, everybody in this Budget is getting a 2.5% pay raise, except for 1 person. He continued and thinks that should be straight across the Board, so he thought we should change that also. DPW Sup't raise was discussed: Higher amount, past practice for Dept. Heads wanting a raise, the process taken; agreement was a while before Budget time, but included in Model 1. Dep. Mayor Gustafson continued that she did meet with him, was satisfied and it is well deserved. DPW Sup't Ware explained coming in at \$2,000 lower to start, waiting 5 yrs., sent letter requesting more and did not get what he asked for. Trustee Strong shared frustration in not catching it in Model 1, and the agreement not being communicated in the Work Session later when the 2.5% supposedly agreed upon across the board. He added then he got the paper copy, and the emails from Village Clerk-Treasurer Kufel, he saw this is something that we discussed as a Board with the Mayor and the 4 of us present; then it was a change. He explained he has issue with that. Dep. Mayor Gustafson stated this conversation and this agreement, took part way before the conversation on the Budget, so that was already cut and dry to this person before we had that mtg. The Mayor stated well it was in there in the 1st Model. Trustee Strong stated right, and we discussed that they should all be 2.5%. The Mayor reiterated as he stated, he came to me, and the Mayor argued with him a little bit; he defended his position. DPW Sup't Ware stated and you also did not give me what he asked for, we negotiated, you did not tell me what he was getting at that time. He continued he did write a letter requesting a little bit more, because when he was hired there was "X" amount budgeted, you started me out \$2,000 lower. He added for the past 5 yrs. he has been going along doing his job, he thought after 5 yrs., it was time to review it and asked for a raise. He explained he did not receive what he asked for, he understands that the Budget that we are going through; but he thought after 5 yrs., it was time to ask for a raise. Trustee Strong stated he appreciated your responding, and as we have discussed before, it is not a directed shot at you. He continued that is fine and he is good, he appreciated it. DPW Sup't Ware reiterated again, that he did request more, he did not get an answer; it just kind of got put in the Budget what it was. Dep. Mayor Gustafson added she does believe it was also included in the Model 1. Village Clerk-Treasurer Kufel stated it was. Trustee Strong stated it was, then we made changes to 1 of the other depts., and we had the discussion, we need to all be across the board on those depts.; if they are not all being looked at that differently, we will shoot across the board. He continued that question did take place. The Mayor stated he does not remember that particular discussion, he knew that we talked about the Codes. Trustee Strong added



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we specifically discussed all of them. Trustee Wilmer stated we did, 2.5% across the board. Trustee Strong explained his is certainly not, not going to vote for the Budget based on this, but we need to be better about communication. The Mayor continued sure and also, as you know, the Trustees and the Mayor did not get 2.5%. Dep. Mayor Gustafson added we gave ours up. The Mayor reiterated they gave theirs up, so it was not across the board. He asked if there was any further discussion. Trustee Wilmer stated he would like to Amend his motion to make sure that the pay raise is rectified to a 2.5% across the board. Dep. Mayor Gustafson asked if he is saying for now or the future. Trustee Wilmer continued no for now. Dep. Mayor Gustafson stated no. Trustee Wilmer added that is his amendment to the vote. The Mayor added well you need a 2nd. Trustee Strong asked if these are separate amendments or are we voting on them separately. Trustee Wilmer stated all on 1. The Mayor explained the amended motion to add your language, and now to amend his motion for 2.5% across the board, so then the Mayor and the Trustees get 2.5%. Trustee Wilmer explained no. Dep. Mayor Gustafson stated that is the way you are making it sound for everybody. Trustee Wilmer stated the amendment would be for all the employees to 2.5%, not the elected officials. The Mayor stated not the elected officials, but it is going to die for lack of a 2nd, unless we have a 2nd the motion dies. Trustee Strong stated he did just kind of side bar with Trustee St. Germain reminded him that he was not on the Board, when we 1st brought DPW Sup't Ware on board, and that number was lower; than what was initially discussed, he was not aware of that. He continued it does play a role in it, from what was provided so. The Mayor stated so the motion dies for lack of a 2nd, so we will go back to the original motion with the amendment for the language of the dates of the 24/25 Budget by 3/14. The motion was approved: St. Germain, Strong, Wilmer, and Gustafson, all voting in favor of the same.

RESOLUTION # 107-23

**DISCUSS/APPROVE THE SEASONAL PART-TIME PARK LABORER
AT \$16.50 – D. DOLBEAR - STARTS 5/01/23**

Dep. Mayor Gustafson made a motion to Approve and Authorize the Hiring of Duane Dolbear as Part-time Laborer for Parks Dept., effective 5/01/2023 at \$16.50/hr. The motion was seconded by Trustee Strong. Discussion went back and forth regarding how many days a week he will work and if he would be working at the same time as Mr. Thompson. He will be working anywhere from 24 hrs., 3 or 4 days and if needed for a project may work with Mr. Thompson. The motion was approved: St. Germain, Strong, Wilmer, and Gustafson, all voting in favor of the same.

RESOLUTION # 108-23

SURPLUS CAR 4-FIRE-1FM5K8AR3GGC73538-FORD INCEPTOR

Dep. Mayor Gustafson made a motion to authorize: Surplus Car 4 for the Fire Dept., its VIN #: 1FM5K8AR3GGC73538 when it is ready to go. The motion was seconded by Trustee Wilmer. 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 Arbor Day is Friday, you are all welcome, Mayor Hotchkiss is coming; Mayor Atkinson is not. She continued they sent a message; she is please that you will be able to present that day and we will make sure Mayor Atkinson gets his. She added Friends are working on the Festival and this is a raffle for anybody, tickets are at Vlg. Hall for those who would like to participate in support the Friends.

Ken Ryan of 211 Herman Dr. spoke of the Basketball hoops: People not wanting to lay them down, as would have to removed the weight and put it up. He stated Tree Board: Tree at 215 Herman Dr. was left as a nuisance than a danger, and spoke of a Code that says you cannot have a tree within 10' of a utility. The Mayor stated we will check the Code.

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): No Report (Absent).

DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS:

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

- Thanked Trustee Strong his help with interviews, interviewed 7-8, 4 are processing
- Thanked DPW Sup't Ware for getting Auction items out of the garage send to auction off
- Vehicle at auction has bids on it totaling to date \$2,100, value for condition \$3,000; has time left may go higher
- So far for April: 553 Total Calls for service, 204 Property Checks, 10 Domestic, 13 Motor Vehicle Accidents, 37 Traffic Stops, 29 Traffic Tickets, 12 Criminal Arrests

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

- Used to hold Budget public hearing with all Board to discuss needs/requirements
- Fire Dept. has been very busy
- Just finishing up a few projects that we had going on
- Great news, grease trap finally in
- Started floor today, have tile, doing in house
- Blower motor went back in the kitchen on the roof, done in house



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- Emergency Repair: Rescue 3 currently out of svc., air conditioning compressor froze up; have to replace compressor and a bunch of other parts with that
- Failure of 1 of our engines, within last 2 wks. the turbo went bad on the vehicle; got back and in svc.
- 312 Chestnut St.: Kitchen fire today: Kudos to contractor, Police, and Fire for quick response
- New Fire Dept Officers are up and running, really doing great job, very eager

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

- Picking up brush, falling behind, the 2nd Dump Truck we had, the '97; it is starting to rot out pretty bad to the point his mechanic tells him, he cannot take it down the road at all
- Other Dump Truck in being serviced, the box won't lift; so, we are falling behind in brush, we are doing the best we can with what we have, we continue on and move forward

The Mayor stated he went over there at DPW Sup't Ware's request, the Dump Truck really is not road worthy anymore, so we pulled it off; we will not go out anymore, we are going to send it to auction. He continued there is a bunch of other material, scrap and excess material of which they are going to gather up and send either for auction or for scrap. He shared there is a Cty. bid, if we have to use the Dump Truck, we can use 1, so it is available. He added he thinks the main 10-Wheeler, it stated it was being worked on yesterday, is it fixed yet. DPW Sup't Ware stated no, we have to send it down to dealership, because we are unable to diagnosis what is going on with it. He explained there is something wrong with the electrical between the control panel and going to the pump, we cannot locate what the issue is. The Mayor stated we also agreed the dump truck is about a yr. or 2 out, but there is another make of Dump Truck that could be had more quickly, may be a little more money. DPW Sup't Ware continued there is possibly, but he does not know for sure, he is going by here say. The Mayor continued but you are working on it. DPW Sup't Ware added we are working on it, and we can possibly reach out to other municipalities nearby, but we are doing the best that we can with what we have.

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

- Thanked the Trustees for Shred Event and all the work you put in on Shred Day
- Earth Day: Great turnout, 4 Pks. cleaned up, and freshly mulched; thanked volunteers
- 5/1/23: Summer Camp Signup: Registration for Vlg. Residents Only that 1st wk. starts
- Agreed earlier Budget, more opportunity to go over with Board, explain ideas and needs

Codes Department: (Codes Enforcement Officer: Brandy Fry): No Report. Absent.

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



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- 118 Grove St.: Demolition fees and extra mow charges being placed on Homeowner's Tax Bill this yr., and stuff like that \$1,525 Vlg. pd. out of FY 21-23 Budget
- Burns Wildlife catching, son took over after Al passed, was working fine; main job is EMT working 12 hr. shifts. She explained he was going to keep the Vlg., as liked the svc., but had a couple calls and going to voicemail, so do not really know for sure how that svc. is, not really many of them out there.

DEPUTY MAYOR-TRUSTEES REPORT:

Trustee St. Germain: No Report.

Trustee Strong: He stated the following:

- Thanked Board: Working with Police Chief for quick turnaround for hires, still 2 openings; Part-time and Full-time
- Thanked: Parks Dir. Burkinshaw for your comments
- Thanked: Past Fire Chief Brennan for historical prospective
- He like the idea of the Work Session, while have Liaison, trying to get everybody on same pg.
- Any update on 115 Chestnut Property next to Firehouse; Mayor will give

Trustee Wilmer: He stated the following: No Report.

Dep. Mayor Gustafson: No Report.

MAYOR'S REPORT:

He stated 115 Chestnut St. closing will be by end of May 31st, the purchase offer has been extended, it is really a formality now; so, Atty. stated it will be in our hands by May 31st.

The Mayor stated he would entertain a motion to go into Executive Session to discuss about personnel issues, there will not be any business afterwards.

Trustee Wilmer made a motion to enter into **Executive Session** at 5:27 P.M. The motion was seconded by Trustee Strong. The motion was approved: St. Germain, Strong, Wilmer, and Gustafson, all voting favor of the same.

Trustee Wilmer made a motion to return to **Regular Session** at 6:10 P.M. The motion was seconded by Dep. Mayor Gustafson. The motion was approved: St. Germain, Strong, Wilmer, and Gustafson, all



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voting favor of the same.

Trustee Wilmer made a motion to adjourn at 6:12 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

VILLAGE OF NORTH SYRACUSE

REGULAR BOARD MEETING

DATE: April 27, 2023

PLEASE SIGN IN

NAME

ADDRESS

Pat Ferguson

215 So Main St N Syracuse NY 13212-7100

KEN RYAN

211 HERMAN DR

JOHN BOLTON

79 COOLIDGE RD.
