

VILLAGE OF NORTH SYRACUSE

Regular Board Meeting

Thursday, August 24th, 2023 @ 4:30 PM

North Syracuse Community Center

600 South Bay Road, North Syracuse, NY

Facebook Livestreamed

The Village of North Syracuse Regular Board Meeting began at 4:30 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 (Late), and Trustee John Bolton.

Personnel Present: Village Clerk/Treasurer Kufel, DPW Superintendent Ed Ware, Asst. Fire Chief John Linnertz, Parks Director Tony Burkinshaw, and Interim Police Chief Jeffrey Raub, and Village Engineer Al Yager.

Personnel Absent: Codes Enf. Officer (Vacant), Dep. Mayor Gustafson (Medical), and Village Attorney Robert Germain.

RESOLUTION # 190-23

APPROVAL OF REG. BD. MTG. -AUG 10TH, 2023

Trustee St. Germain made a motion to approve the minutes (Facebook Livestreamed) from the August 10th, 2023, Board Meeting. The motion was seconded by Trustee Bolton. The motion was approved: Bolton, St. Germain, and Butterfield, all voting in favor of the same.

RESOLUTION # 191-23

GENERAL FUND ABSTRACT APPROVAL

Trustee Bolton made a motion to approve General Fund Abstract #07 in the amount of \$74,890.97 covering voucher #352 thru #447. The motion was seconded by Trustee St. Germain. The motion was approved: Bolton, St. Germain, and Butterfield, all voting in favor of the same.

OLD BUSINESS:

RESOLUTION # 192-23

DISCUSS/APPROVE SPECIFICATIONS FOR THE COMMUNITY

CTR. PAVILION AND ENTRANCE PROJECT

The Mayor stated the next item on the agenda is Discuss/Approve Specifications for the Community Ctr. Pavilion and Entrance Project: The Board rec'd the Bid Documents for this from CHA, does anyone have any questions. He continued we rejected the last bids, and once those were rejected, we had some more work that did not get included in the original 1, so now they have been included; and have been sent to the Trustees, do you have any questions. He added he believed it was right according to specs.



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RESOLUTION # 193-23

**SET/DISCUSS/APPROVE BID OPENING DATE FOR THE
COMM. CTR. PROJECT FOR SEPT. 13TH AT 2:00 PM**

Trustee Bolton made a motion to Set the Bid Opening Date for Wednesday, September 13th, at 2:00 PM for the Community Ctr. Pavilion and Entrance Project. The motion was seconded by Trustee St. Germain. The motion was approved: Bolton, St. Germain, and Strong, all voting in favor of the same.

RESOLUTION # 194-23

UPDATE FOR 118 GROVE STREET

Trustee Strong made a motion to proceed with Demolition of 118 Grove St. The motion was seconded by Trustee St. Germain. The motion was approved: Bolton, St. Germain, and Strong, all voting in favor of the same.

RESOLUTION # 195-23

UPDATE FOR 130 VAN MARA DR

Trustee St. Germain made a motion to proceed with Demolition of 130 Van Mara Dr. The motion was seconded by Trustee Strong. Discussion went back and forth re: Making contact to deceased owners' family, Atty. working on that and being a danger. The motion was approved: Bolton, St. Germain, and Strong, all voting in favor of the same.

RESOLUTION # 196-23

**DISCUSS SENIOR TAX EXEMPTION: SEE RESOLUTION
#169-23- JULY 13TH, 2023**

Trustee St. Germain made a motion to rescind Resolution #169-23 of July 13th, 2023 regarding the Senior Tax Exemption. The motion was seconded by Trustee Bolton. The motion was approved: Bolton, St. Germain, and Strong, all voting in favor of the same. Discussion went back and forth re: How to proceed next, Schedule K and the effects on the seniors and the Vlg. and waiting for more information to come

NEW BUSINESS:

RESOLUTION # 197-23

**ACCEPT RESIGNATION FROM DETECTIVE ROBERT FLORIAN-
RETIRING EFFECTIVE 8/31/23**

Trustee Strong made a motion to Accept Resignation from Detective Robert Florian-Retiring Effective 8/31/23. The motion was seconded by Trustee Bolton. The motion was approved: Bolton, St. Germain,



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and Strong, all voting in favor of the same.

RESOLUTION # 198-23 **ACCEPT RESIGNATION FROM SGT. JEFF TRIPP-RETIRING EFFECTIVE 8/30/23**

Trustee Strong made a motion to Accept Resignation from Sgt. Jeff Tripp-Retiring Effective 8/30/23. The motion was seconded by Trustee Bolton. The motion was approved: Bolton, St. Germain, and Strong, all voting in favor of the same.

RESOLUTION # 199-23

**DISCUSS/APPROVE POLICE CHIEF'S AGREEMENT-
SALARY AND BENEFITS PACKAGE**

Trustee Strong made a motion to Approve Police Chief Agreement-Salary and Benefits Package 9/01/23. The motion was seconded by Trustee Bolton. Discussion: Trustee Strong and Trustee Bolton stated to negotiate a few minor changes that Police Chief Chance Fieldson wants. The motion was approved: Bolton, St. Germain, and Strong, all voting in favor of the same.

DISCUSS/APPROVE MOU FOR THE TEAMSTERS 1149 AGREEMENT

The Mayor stated next on the agenda is Discuss/Approve MOU for the Teamsters 1149 Agreement: The Board has reviewed and there are changes, and he sent the latest 1 to the union, and he sent back some questions; he thought we needed a little clarification. He shared he did send in his mind, there is already 1 that is approved which is the cutting back on the evening shift, which was approved which sunsets on 12/31 back on the evening shift. He continued the next 1 was cessation of the bottom 2 steps and the union rep stated he made an executive decision to approve that, but we have not seen anything from him yet on that. He added so the latest 1 that we approved at our last work session, was the retention items, and he sent that to him and he had question about it; the Mayor stated we need to hear back from you, so he does not know if we could approve anything tonight. He continued but will need we need to enter into further discussion with the union; he thinks we are on the right track. Trustee Strong stated if we could further ask to see the documents that he approved that was weeks ago. He continued we have yet to receive any documentation, so that would be appropriate, before moving forward with another MOU. He added we have not seen the official signed documents from the last MOU. Trustee St. Germain stated he just made an executive decision. Trustee Strong explained we should truly not be moving forward in another agreement until we actually see the second. The Mayor explained he did ask for that in writing. He stated we will table that until we get more information on those MOUs and have more discussion with the union regarding those MOUs.



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**INFORMATIONAL: NEW PLAN NORTH LLC LOOKING FOR A
REDUCED ASSESSMENT FYI TO CLAY ASSESSOR**

The Mayor stated the next item on the agenda is Informational: New Plan North LLC. looking for a Reduced Assessment: That is the old Maines Plaza, this is common, developers do not want to pay as much in taxes as they pay; so, they ask for relief. He continued Clay Assessor is handling that, we are just recipients 1 way or the other. Trustee Bolton clarified that we rec'd an email from Atty. Germain saying that there is no way this would happen. Village Clerk-Treasurer Kufel stated yes, basically, but they test it. She continued she thought she would let them know, because it could get reduced a little bit.

RESOLUTION # 200-23

APPROVE APPOINTMENT OF NORTH SYR. VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTER:

T. LABONTE

Trustee Bolton made a motion to Approve Appointment of North Syr. Volunteer Firefighter-T. Labonte. The motion was seconded by Trustee Strong. The motion was approved: Bolton, St. Germain, and Strong, all voting in favor of the same.

RESOLUTION # 201-23

DISCUSS/APPROVE THE RE-HIRING OF PART-TIME POLICE OFFICER

C. PLACITO AT \$30 EFFECT. 8/26/2023:

Trustee Strong made a motion to Approve the Re-Hiring of Part-time Police Officer Casey Placito at \$30 Effect. 8/26/2023. The motion was seconded by Trustee St. Germain. The motion was approved: Bolton, St. Germain, and Strong, 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.

Ken Ryan of 211 Herman Dr. spoke of neighboring property regarding mowing.

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

ATTORNEY REPORT: (Robert Germain): No Report.

ENGINEER REPORT: (Al Yager) No Report.



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DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS:

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

- So far for August: 399 Total Calls for service, 39 Property checks, 13 Domestic, 17 Motor Vehicle Accidents, 88 Traffic Stops, 52 Traffic Tickets, 11 Criminal Arrests

Fire Department: (Asst. Fire Chief John Linnertz): He stated the following:

- You should have rec'd proposed Budget going to towns; should have long range copy also, business administrators hoping to go over with Village Clerk-Treasurer Kufel next wk.
- New Member approved tonight is 1 of 3 in line, Tim has prior experience; other 2 do not

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

- Dep. Mayor Gustafson and he interviewed candidate for DPW position, looks like good candidate, will put on Agenda for next Board mtg. as a Maintenance Worker.; good fit.
- Helping other depts. as needed
- Working on catch basins
- Brush, cleaning up, mowing; been busy, getting along O.K.

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

- Officially done with Concert Series
- Working on Trunk or Treat; partnering with B'ville Connection with Park at Dark and people interested in the Halloween parade

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

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

- Last mtg. discussed FOILs, called 5 villages, many chg. \$.25 per pg. we used to past; Chief Crowell wanted more substantial when asking for data cutting video, taking a lot more time, many for Codes Dept., electronic we do not chg.
- Canvassing for Police: Rank 1-13 responded, 7 replied yes, some sent resumes; followed up with phone calls, resumes coming, have got several 32-35 interested with resumes
- \$15,000 Veteran's Grant Program: Grant for Veterans Home Improvements
- Found someone to fill in for Mrs. Fuller while she is gone, mtg. tomorrow with Mrs. Fuller, then stay on a little bit after; handle phone calls and complaints

DEPUTY MAYOR-TRUSTEES REPORT:

Trustee St. Germain: She stated the following:



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- Spoke of the Village Board has been working very hard, especially Trustee Bolton and Trustee Strong, on our Police Dept.; we are progressing, and moving forward. Wanted the residents to know we strongly appreciate our Police Dept and need them, we are going to be O.K.
- Backing on what Trustee Bolton just stated regarding the vacant position of Codes Officer, it is not that we do not have, whatever we do have we will take your concern and get back to you as soon as we possibly can.

Trustee Strong: He stated the following:

- Congratulations to Det. Florian, time well served
- Jeff Tripp 20+ yrs. of excellent svc.
- Did we hear back from Cicero re: Codes

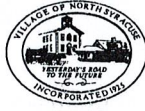
Trustee Bolton: He stated the following:

- Phone calls from residents concerned with neighbors' yards with auto repair being done at neighbors' yards, that kind of thing, voice same concern: We do not have a Codes Officer, being told we do not have a Codes Officer when call Vlg. Hall, want people to know we do not have 1; but still functioning, people not calling Mrs. Fuller, have to make sure they know we will still take concern/complaint and look into it

Dep. Mayor Gustafson: No Report. (Absent).

MAYOR'S REPORT:

The Mayor stated regarding Codes, you can tell them that we do have a Codes Officer, it is Temporary Part-time, but we do have a Codes Officer. He continued he had lunch with Supervisors of Clay and Cicero and he reminded Supervisor Aregano that he reached out to him asking for Codes help and you have not responded to me yet. He shared we are getting by, Codes Officer Di Carlo is doing as good a job as she can, but kind of poked him a little bit. He added he will say that he believed that we were short with 1 Full-time officer, this was part of discussion yesterday with Supervisors. He explained Fire Inspections are very important for Comm. bldgs., Res. Multi families, places of public assembly; we do have a person that is interested in being a Part-time Fire Inspector who has completed the classes. He stated he is not interested in Full-time, but it is something that he would like to do. He continued we are setting up an interview for next wk. with the Fireman, he just finished up some of the Fire courses, and he felt it would be a great benefit to us long-term; even with a Full-time Codes Officer we are falling behind on Fire Inspections. He shared to him it is vital, there was a fire call, and they went to an apartment; they stated the fire doors are being held open by a rope, that is definitely Fire Code, and it is illegal. He explained if we are not there checking, and we cannot be there all the time, but at least we



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can do our job; he thought public assembly is every yr. and multi-family is every 3 yrs. for fire inspections. He stated he is optimistic that we are going to find a Part-timer, Full-timers: Everybody is looking for the same people, just like the Police issues. He shared that he spoke with the Codes Officer and she told him she cannot do fire inspections, just does not have enough time and the Supervisor stated she is not doing fire inspections and these are the things that she does not expect to be doing; he stated he gets that. He continued what she is doing is helping us greatly, but we still need Full-time. He stated he met with some people who are interested in the Just 1 Bite/Smoke Shop property, there is a broker that is actively marketing that, so he may have some news on that. He continued the Brolex property: Early this wk., he met with our Temporary Codes Officer, the architect; and the owner for a couple of hours and went through the project again, emphasized 2024 is the end of the permit, and you need to get this thing done. He added he told them when you get to the underground utilities, the parking lot, the subbase has got to be done; there will be an engineer there checking on this, because he is not confident on what has been done so far, so we definitely need to check on it. He explained he met with a couple of people with the Cty., about updating our Comprehensive Plan, there will be more news on that down the road. He shared he is very please that we will have a new Police Chief.

Trustee Strong made a motion to adjourn at 5:05 P.M. The motion was seconded by Trustee St. Germain. The motion was approved: Bolton, St. Germain, and Strong, all voting in favor of the same.

Respectfully submitted,

Dianne M. Kufel
Village Clerk-Treasurer

