



VILLAGE OF NORTH SYRACUSE

Regular Board Meeting

Thursday, September 28th, 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 John Bolton, Trustee Chris Strong (excused until 4:37 PM), and Dep. Mayor Gustafson.

Personnel Present: Village Clerk/Treasurer Kufel, DPW Superintendent Ed Ware, Asst. Fire Chief Jozsef Asztalos, Parks Director Tony Burkinshaw, and Police Chief Chance Fieldson, and Village Engineer Amy Franco.

Personnel Absent: Codes Enf. Officer (Vacant), Trustee LouAnn St. Germain (Excused) and Village Attorney Robert Germain.

RESOLUTION # 220-23

APPROVAL OF REG. BD. MTG. -AUGUST 24TH, 2023

Dep. Mayor Gustafson made a motion to approve the minutes (Facebook Livestreamed) from the August 24th, 2023, Board Meeting. The motion was seconded by Trustee Bolton. The motion was approved: Bolton, Gustafson, and Butterfield, all voting in favor of the same.

RESOLUTION # 221-23

APPROVAL OF REG. BD. MTG. -SEPTEMBER 14TH, 2023

Trustee Bolton made a motion to approve the minutes (Facebook Livestreamed) from the September 14th, 2023, Board Meeting. The motion was seconded by Dep. Mayor Gustafson. The motion was approved: Bolton, Gustafson, and Butterfield, all voting in favor of the same.

RESOLUTION #222-23

GENERAL FUND ABSTRACT APPROVAL

Dep. Mayor Gustafson made a motion to approve General Fund Abstract #09 in the amount of \$74,269.65 covering voucher #541 thru #616. The motion was seconded by Trustee Bolton. The motion was approved: Bolton, Gustafson and Butterfield, all voting in favor of the same.

RESOLUTION # 223-23

BUDGET TRANSFER(S)

The Mayor stated the transfer rec'd from Vet's Wall Damage-Insurance recovery monies. Trustee Bolton made a motion to approve the budget transfers from A2680 Insurance Recoveries in the amount of \$1,950.40 to increase A5110.445 DPW Bldg. Repairs. The motion was seconded by Dep. Mayor Gustafson. The motion was approved: Bolton, Gustafson, and Butterfield, all voting in favor of the same.



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OLD BUSINESS:

RESOLUTION # 224-23

DISCUSS OPENINGS IN CODES: FULL TIME CODES OFFICER

Dep. Mayor Gustafson made a motion to provisionally hire and appoint Nicholas Rohm as a Codes Enf. Officer effective 10/16/23 at \$55,000/yr. this would be provisional since there isn't a civil service list. The motion was seconded by Trustee Bolton. Discussion back and forth. The committee is in agreement with this new appointment, Trustee St. Germain, acting Codes Off. Di Carlo, and the Mayor all felt we should go along with this hire. The motion was approved: Bolton, Gustafson, and Butterfield, all voting in favor of the same.

UPDATE FOR 118 GROVE STREET/130 VAN MARA DR

The Mayor stated the next item on the agenda update for 118 Grove St./130 Van Mara Drive: The Board decided at the last mtg, to begin proceedings to begin to demolish, but after conversations with Atty./NYCOM we really need a Codes Officer. He continued when we get a Codes Officer, we will hit the ground running with both of those properties, he felt they should come down.

RESOLUTION # 225-23

DISCUSS BUCKET TRUCK

Trustee Bolton made a motion to obtain new bucket truck thru 1 Custom Truck for a sum not to exceed \$175,000 with CHIPS monies. The motion was seconded by Dep. Mayor Gustafson. Discussion back and forth: Re: Delivery expected end of this yr., or early next yr. at latest, white; has everything he is looking for. The motion was approved: Bolton, Strong, and Gustafson, all voting in favor of the same.

RESOLUTION # 226-23

**DISCUSS 115 CHESTNUT ST.-APPROVAL NEEDED FOR CHA
TO PREPARE A RFP FOR THE DEMOLITION**

Trustee Strong made a motion to approve CHA to prepare RFP for Demolition of house and garage at 115 Chestnut St. and set the RFP opening date for the demolition for Wed., Nov. 8th, at 2:00 PM. The motion was seconded by Dep. Mayor Gustafson. The motion was approved: Bolton, Strong, and Gustafson, all voting in favor of the same.

RESOLUTION # 227-23

**DISCUSS 115 CHESTNUT ST.-APPROVAL NEEDED FOR CHA
TO PREPARE A RFP FOR ENVIRONMENTAL AND TESTING**

Dep. Mayor Gustafson made a motion to approve CHA to prepare RFP for Environmental and Testing of house and garage at 115 Chestnut St. and set the RFP opening date for Demolition for Wed., Nov.



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8th, at 2:15 PM. The motion was seconded by Trustee Strong. The motion was approved: Bolton, Strong, and Gustafson, all voting in favor of the same.

RESOLUTION # 228-23

DISCUSS/APPROVE THE ENG./CONSULTANT AGREEMENT FOR THE 2022 TAP GRANT-SIDEWALK PROJECT

Trustee Strong made a motion to authorize the Mayor to sign the draft of CHA Consulting Agreement for the 2022 TAP Grant Sidewalk Project. The motion was seconded by Trustee Bolton. The motion was approved: Bolton, Strong, and Gustafson, all voting in favor of the same.

UPDATE ON MAIN STREET FUNDING: JUST ONE BITE

The Mayor stated next on the agenda is to Update on Main Street Funding: Just One Bite: He spoke of it being a Comm. Dev. grant with a time frame ending Dec. of 2023, it has been almost 2 yrs. now. He continued, but there is some activity, he got a few calls, and the bank will not sell just 1 property; they are selling both, there have been several candidates looking, but nobody wants to do the whole project. He added they just want to fix up 1 bldg. for them, he explained that does not work, because we have seed money from the Cty., looking to get a return on the investment. He stated so the fellow that has been working on the larger project call him this wk., and stated he thought we might have some news here soon. He continued it is difficult, because we were right in the middle of the pandemic, it is more expensive; and materials are harder to get, we have to downsize our desired project. He added it looks like something good maybe happening here soon.

UPDATE ON THE MAIN ST. GRANT/COMM. DEV.-NESTICOS/FERGERSON FUN. HOME/MUGSHOTZ

The Mayor stated next on the agenda is to update on the Main Street Grant/Comm. Dev. for Nesticos/Ferguson Fun. Home/Mugshots: We had 3 projects for Comm. Devel. Projects, 2 of them have been done, the 3rd is falling behind; he will continue to encourage them to follow through. He continued the others are about to get their reimbursement soon from the Cty. Trustee Bolton asked about Mugshots that we have not heard from until recently, is there going to be a timeline from them. The Mayor explained both he and Trustee Strong have been trying to reach out, they were all on board, and they knew what they were accepting; he thought there was cold feet, he does not want to move on yet. He stated because the place needs some work, he would like to see it improved. Trustee Strong stated he agreed with the Mayor, he thinks that they knew it was 75/25, 90/10; or whatever for matching grant, but thinks the sticker shock when everything went awry. He continued however; we are not in that much of a time rush, but it is nice to know we have another couple of businesses in, so we kind of have a backup plan and let them know we are still working with the folks initially. He stated they should have some decent numbers at the business, so he planned to stop over then to see if he can catch 1 of the owners.



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He asked the Village Clerk-Treasurer if they reached out to her at all. She stated no. Trustee Strong explained that was requested when both he and the Mayor stopped in, that Village Clerk-Treasurer Kufel is the point of contact, so please reach out to her. The Mayor stated he may try to visit there again. He continued he tomorrow is the deadline for the DRI Downtown Revitalization Initiative, along with grants up to \$10 million, and then there is a \$5 million grant; we have been encouraged to apply for those, and there is going to be another 1 of those coming up. He added there was a time crunch, and he has some ideas, and who he would like to have involved; with a Revitalization. He stated if there is going to be another a yr. from now, he would like to get some businesses involved. He continued we did not put in a bid, some people are and some are going to get an award; they asked how come N. Syracuse, it is a lot of work and we have a lot going on.

UPDATE ON PAVILION PROJECT: PAVILION HAS BEEN ORDERED

The Mayor stated the next item on the agenda is Update on Pavilion Project and Assemblyman Stirpe: It is really regarding the Pavilion and this project. He continued he cannot tell you how many responses they have sent into the state, the DASNY and they keep asking us for more information and more information. He added we give them more information and they ask for more, but now that we have the final pricing in, and we are still within the amount of the grant; we are waiting for them to officially give us a number which makes it official, we still have not got the number. He explained so we have been following up with them numerous times, we are moving on, we still have not gotten the number.

The pavilion has been ordered by the low bidder and they have been given the formal notice to proceed. He continued we are just waiting for our final approval from DASNY and we should be good to go.

DISCUSS MOA-CSEA

The Mayor stated the next item on the agenda is Discuss MOA-CSEA: He got a call this afternoon, the Board knows what it is for, and 1 of the needed parties was on vacation; so, there was a delay. He continued the union rep for the Vlg. stated today he is going on vacation, we need to talk about it, but it is not going to impact this yr. so there is no real rush. He added the union rep stated we could wait until he returns from vacation to have the discussion. The Mayor explained he agreed, as long as it does not impact this yr., so we do not have to have it done right now. He stated he has already given the Board an update, he thought it was going to be solved today, but it is not. He continued he thought there were just minor details to iron out.

NEW BUSINESS:



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RESOLUTION # 229-23

**DISCUSS/APPROVE THE MAYOR TO SIGN DAVIS ULMER
INSPECTION-ALARM SYSTEM AND WET SYSTEM**

Dep. Mayor Gustafson made a motion to authorizing the Mayor to Sign Davis Ulmer Inspection Alarm System and Wet System Agreements listed below effective 9/1/23. The motion was seconded by Trustee Strong. Discussion took place re: Had price increased, nominal 3% as normal business costs do. The motion was approved: Bolton, Strong, and Gustafson, all voting in favor of the same.

Station 1	Annual Alarm System	\$320
Station 2	Annual Alarm System	\$320
Station 1	Annual Wet System	\$320
Station 2	Annual Wet System	\$320

RESOLUTION # 230-23

DISCUSS/APPROVE THE SPCA SERVICES FEES TO INCREASE

Trustee Bolton made a motion to approve SPCA Service Fees \$900/yr. The motion was seconded by Trustee Strong. The motion was approved: Bolton, Strong, and Gustafson, all voting in favor of the same.

**DISCUSS/APPROVE GENERATOR TESTING/MTC. AGREEMENTS
FOR VILLAGE HALL AND THE DPW BUILDING**

The Mayor stated the next item on the agenda is approve Generator Testing/Mtc. Agreements for the Village Hall and the DPW Building: This is for mtc. /service for the DPW and Village Hall Generators, Kraft Power is \$240/yr. (DPW) and \$220/yr., Penn Power is much more comprehensive service which is \$1,420 (includes both DPW/V. Hall) and we can sign on for 1 yr., 2 yrs., or 3 yrs. Much discussion went back and forth re: Svcs. provided by ea. vendor, svc. vs. cost, getting all depts. on same vendor, Comm. Ctr. still being under warrantee, but adding later and need for only 1 load test/yr. Looked at Comm. Ctr. re: Emergency Operation Warming Ctr. and wanting to look at quote for 1 load test and svc. /yr. Tabled until next mtg.

RESOLUTION # 231-23

**DISCUSS A BID OPENING DATE FOR THE RESURFACING
TENNIS/PICKLEBALL/BASKETBALL COURTS**

Dep. Mayor Gustafson made a motion to authorize CHA to do RFP for the work at Heritage Pk. with Bid Opening Date for Dec. 13th at 2:00 PM. The motion was seconded by Trustee Strong. The motion was approved: Bolton, Strong, 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.

David Robinson of 163 Slindes Woods Cir. spoke of working with Dept. Heads to put articles together to either put on Webpage or in Star News to advertise, inform and educate what departments are doing for the Community. He continued the goal is to put more money in the budget so we are not pennywise in stuff that we do.

Vera Desimone of 304 Belmore Dr. stated she has been in N. Syracuse 91 yrs.; she has seen it grow from nothing and she agrees with Mr. Robinson, we have talked about it and there should be a little more information in the newspaper in the Star News. She does not say she can write it, but should make it interesting, have some pictures and she is available to help. She asked if there was going to be a big celebration in 2025 or something. The Mayor suggested it be spearheaded by Friends of N. Syracuse. Ms. Desimone stated what they are trying to do is make people aware and build up N. Syracuse.

Pat Ferguson of 215 S. Main St. stated Friends of N. Syracuse are recently Inc. as a 501C, so donations are tax deductible. She continued we are working on a bunch of things, and are here to support the Vlg. and provide for the well-being of the Vlg.

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.

DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS:

Police Department: (Police Chief Chance Fieldson): He stated the following:

- Busy: Hiring and training
- Graduation Officer Darrow from Field Training to Solo Patrol; proud of his accomplishment
- Approved Det. Shawn Wallace doing Background Investigations
- 2 Still on Field Training: Full-time officers: Officer Baker, and Officer Thompson; project end of October we will be at 60% Full-time, so will be looking for 4 Full-time candidates
- Interview 3, waiting for on information for Background Investigations, most non-certified; no Phase I or Phase 2 training, so may have to train
- Police Explorers, use Facebook to communicate what is happening with Police Dept.
- Thanked DPW for painting they did



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- So far for September: 467 Total Calls for service, 59 Property checks, 6 Domestic, 4 Motor Vehicle Accidents, 158 Traffic Stops, 51 Traffic Tickets, 4 Criminal Arrests

Fire Department: (Asst. Fire Chief Jozsef Asztalos): He stated the following:

- Superior color for bucket truck would be red, will let that go, white is acceptable
- Thanked Police, Fire, Parks: All who worked toward common goal of Annual Safety Day to held on Saturday, October 7th; everyone is welcome
- Remembrance: Christopher Villager died 20 yrs. ago on way to call; turned out to be false alarm; new laws put in place thanks to his family
- Congratulated and welcomed 5 new Interior NYS Certified Firefighters, completed probationary period
- Training: Past wk. did live application training at Custom Cars, and on Oct. 17 doing Live Fire Evolutions at Clay Tower

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

- Busy helping other depts.
- Last Bulk pickup is October 2nd, that is the day we start, usually takes more than 1 day
- Doing brush, mowing, preparing Leaffer for leaf season
- Painting decorative Lightpoles and changing out Sign posts on Main St.
- Have some guys off next week for vacation

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

- Had 1st Friends mtg., talked about: What is coming up and adding more members to Board, ideas for Bunny Breakfast and Festival; Celebrating 100th Anniversary in 2025
- Partnered with Senator Mannion for Disabilities Fair
- Partnering with Senator Mannion with Trunk or Treat in October
- 9/29/23: Take part in Ride for Missing Children
- Tree work has all been set
- Couple incidents, spoke to Police Chief about smoking in the park, we discuss guidelines 1 yr. ago, need to revisit; to help combat problems we are having in the parks re: smoking

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

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

- Doing books, into May, hope to get caught up quickly
- Staff mtg. in October typically on a Wednesday at 10:30 AM
- In process of all Board Members to have northsyracuse.org email addresses



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DEPUTY MAYOR-TRUSTEES REPORT:

Trustee St. Germain: No Report. (Absent).

Trustee Strong: He stated the following:

- Congratulate Sgt. Linstruth and Sgt. Pannell in their new rolls
- NYS Office of Cannabis Mgt. article re: Cease and shutdown in N. Syracuse on Main St.
- Congratulations Officer Darrow for completing FTO
- Congratulations Firefighters on Interior Firefighting: Winston, Odis, Carolyn, Matthewson
- Spoke of getting trails and Cross-Country trees at Heritage
- Thanked Vil. Clerk-Treasurer for help with hiring in mass at Police Dept. and Codes

Trustee Bolton: No Report.

Dep. Mayor Gustafson: She stated the following:

- Congratulate Fire Dept. on new members
- Thanked Police Chief Fieldson and Trustee Strong on hard work and things coming around
- Congratulations and Happy Birthday Village Clerk-Treasurer Kufel

MAYOR'S REPORT:

The Mayor wished Village Clerk-Treasurer Kufel a Happy Birthday! He stated he stopped at the Brolex property, spoke to owner, some people are working there; still slow going. He continued spoke with some other guys, cannot force them to do anything, but can encourage them; we can stop them, but does not want to stop them. He added the old Bowling Green, we still do not have a permit, they have to do asbestos testing, lead testing, before they can actually start work on the property. He explained it is going to be a Blood Plasma Facility. He stated NewComer Funeral Home just sent in some plans for an addition on their property. He continued he is glad that we are going to have a Codes Enf. Officer again. He added we also have a Part-time that started this past wk., doing Fire Inspections only. He explained so far, he is jumping in, it is a limited number of hrs., he knows it is going to help us as well. He wasof walking and looked at a property on Main St., that had a whole bunch of trash around the trash can; but not in the trash can. He continued they were open and he went in, he did not have a card, but introduced himself; he stated he wanted it cleaned up. He added they replied, sure. He asked that he tell his boss, well it is still there, so we have sent him a violation and he thought a 2nd violation. He explained it is the 1 that was visited by the Cannabis Mgmt., it is disgusting; they do nothing. He spoke of another, he just happen to be at the Vlg. Hall when the guy was at the Codes window, but; but, but. He stated he is a landlord, there was a house in a nice neighborhood that was run down and overgrown. He continued he happen to catch him and he did not have a handrail on the front steps which is a Code



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violation. He added this fella that he was going to play amateur hr. and put up some 2 x 4's. He explained to him and made it very clear to him, right now his property is vacant, and you are not going to have anybody in there; until the front steps is fixed. He stated it is a Code violation, so do not plan on putting anybody in there. He replied well he does not have time; you hear all the same stories. The Mayor continued just fix it. He added he was sent a 2nd violation, he says he does not have time, he has all these properties; the Mayor stated that is not our problem, fix it and do it right; it is not amateur hr. He explained school is back in session here – watch out for the school zones. He added so some good things are happening in the Vlg., he is so thankful that we have got our Codes position, plus a part-time; our new Codes Officer will be starting October 16th. He stated our Police, we are marching in the right direction and all the departments seem to be doing well.

Trustee Strong made a motion to adjourn at 5:35 P.M. The motion was seconded by Dep. Mayor Gustafson. The motion was approved: Bolton, Strong, and Gustafson, all voting in favor of the same.

Respectfully submitted,

Dianne M. Kufel
Village Clerk-Treasurer

