



VILLAGE OF NORTH SYRACUSE

Regular Board Meeting

Thursday, January 25th, 2024 @ 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 LouAnn St. Germain, Trustee Chris Strong, and Dep. Mayor Gustafson.

Personnel Present: Village Clerk/Treasurer Kufel, Codes Enf. Officer Nicholas Rohm, DPW Superintendent Ed Ware, Parks Director Tony Burkinshaw, and Police Chief Chance Fieldson.

Personnel Absent: Fire Chief Richard Allen (Excused), Village Engineer Amy Franco (Excused) and Village Attorney Robert Germain (Excused).

RESOLUTION # 008-24

APPROVAL OF REG. BD. MTG. -JANUARY 11TH, 2024

Trustee Strong made a motion to approve the minutes (Facebook Livestreamed) from the January 11th, 2024, Board Meeting. The motion was seconded by Dep. Mayor Gustafson. The motion was approved: Bolton, St. Germain, Strong, and Gustafson, all voting in favor of the same.

RESOLUTION #009-24

GENERAL FUND ABSTRACT APPROVAL

Trustee St. Germain made a motion to approve General Fund Abstract #18 in the amount of \$147,798.61 covering voucher #1170 thru #1250. The motion was seconded by Trustee Bolton. The Mayor shared included was Streetscape Payment for \$38,047 and Rescue 7 payment of \$80,380 in that. The motion was approved: Bolton, St. Germain, Strong, and Gustafson, all voting in favor of the same.

OLD BUSINESS:

SENIOR TAX EXEMPTION-DISCUSS/REVIEW INCREASING THE LIMIT: TOWN OF CLAY ROB BICK TO SPEAK

The Mayor stated the next item on the agenda is Senior Tax Exemption-Discuss/Review Increasing the Limit: We have a guest Rob Bick, from the Town of Clay, who is here to share information with us regarding the Senior Exemptions. He invited Mr. Bick to speak. Mr. Bick spoke about the packet of information he shared with the Board regarding the change in the income amount for the "Senior Citizens Exemption". He continued if you adopt of 58,399, it means you are going to lose about 2% off your assessment roll, based on the information they have. Much Discussion went back and forth re: whether to adopt a higher income limit for the seniors, whether to add the IRAs income, some



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would benefit while others would share the burden of an increase. Also, how it would impact low-income families that do not qualify for the senior exemption if the income level was increased, increasing a rate elsewhere to compensate for the revenue loss. Concerns of having to perform multiple calculations for each 1 with different percentages and having to recalculate depending on changes. Suggestions: Look at the demographics for the area for not only low-income seniors, those with disabilities and those not all seniors. Some suggested an increase money limit to the 40's, including the IRAs; having a work session to include the following: Representatives from school district, Clay, and Village all together.

NEW BUSINESS:

RESOLUTION #010-24

**DISCUSS/REVIEW THE PASSING OF A LOCAL LAW RE:
SMOKING: "SMOKE AND VAPE FREE ZONES"**

Trustee Strong made a motion to set Public Hearing for 5:28 PM to discuss the passing of a Local Law re: Smoking and Vape Free Zones. The motion was seconded by Trustee St. Germain. The motion was approved: Bolton, St. Germain, Strong, and Gustafson, all voting in favor of the same.

**RESOLUTION #011-24 DISCUSS/REVIEW 2024 BOARD MEETING TIMES FOR THE 2ND THURSDAY AND
4TH THURSDAY OF THE MONTH RESOLUTION APPROVING THE MEETING TIMES**

Trustee St. Germain made a motion to hold the Village Bd. Mtgs. at 5:30 PM. The motion was seconded by Dep. Mayor Gustafson. Discussion went back and forth re: Holding mtgs. the 2nd Thursday and the 4th Thursday; both at 5: 30 PM. Mayor asked the audience opinions - some expressed liked it early, but would be fine with later, some 5:30 PM better coming from work; and others had no opinion. Dept. Heads to attend 2nd mtg. only if they had something on the agenda to report back on and looking into flex time. The motion was approved: Bolton, St. Germain, Strong, and Gustafson, all voting in favor of the same. The Mayor stated we try it until the beginning of next FY. Trustee St. Germain continued July.

MAIN STREET GRANT PROGRAM PUBLIC HEARING: TIME CHANGE- FEBRUARY 8TH, 2024 AT 5:29 PM

Village Clerk-Treasurer Kufel stated we originally had a motion to have this Main Street Public Hearing at 6:29 now it will be at 5:29 PM - Mrs. Franco will be here for the Grant. Village Clerk-Treasurer Kufel continued we already passed that, but we just need to change the time of it.

DISCUSS/REVIEW DEPT. HEADS REQUIRED TO BE PRESENT AT BOTH MEETINGS

Discuss/Review Dept. Heads to Be Required To Be Present At Both Mtgs.: At present the Dept. Heads



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are required to be at both mtgs., it is a requirement, but what he has done in the past in formerly, if you are coming to an evening mtg., the 4:30 PM mtg., people would just stay. He continued after working hours if they were required to be here. He added but the 6:30 PM mtg., he has kind of stated you can come in late some morning to make up for staying late and work your time out. He explained that has been a kind of informal agreement, so what does the Board think. Discussion went back and forth re: flex-time if Dept. Head has to attend 2nd Board mtg., check with Atty. Germain if change for flex-time req'd. to our Policy Hand Book and stipulation, if something specific to your department; it would be understood they would be there. Agenda items: Turn in by Friday, so Dept. Heads know, if they need to be there. However, Facebook: Parks Dir. Burkinshaw does that, and Nate does that, difficult with conflicts, need to find somebody to have another backup person as we still get glitches. Setup just dumped on Park Dir's. position, but not part of his job description, we need to look at what is a better/another alternative. Nate has been willing to show up, we have been giving him a little monetary, he is willing to do it for nothing; but should compensate his for his time.

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. asked if a draft for the Vape Public Hearing was available beforehand, so he was better educated prior to it.

Pat Ferguson of 205 S. Main St. asked for update on Bunny Breakfast.

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 Chance Fieldson): He stated the following:

- Staffing: 1 Full-time vacancy, 1 Part-time officer in Field Training, 2/5 2 officers start Police Academy; have helped: Organizing keys, business inventory, with Emer. Nite-time Contacts
- Training: Jordan Pannell attended NYS Cannabis Law, focused on illegal locations/soc. Clubs
- Holiday Party: Jordan Pannell awarded Officer of the Yr. Award; Congratulations
- Testing Therapy Dog Candidates for future Therapy Program for Crisis Victims of Trauma
- So far for January: 620 Total Calls for service, 160 Property Checks, 10 Domestic, 24 Motor Vehicle Accidents, 248 Traffic Stops, 130 Traffic Tickets, 16 Criminal Arrests



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Fire Department: (Fire Chief Richard Allen): No Report. Absent.

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

- We are slow, there is no snow
- 115 Chestnut St.: Helping clean out the garage and house out, a lot there, a lot more to go
- Dept. going smooth

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

- He thanked them about the Facebook, it was handed to this position, if we could find somebody to do it when he is absent, happy to do it when he is here, in his absence, he has had some incidents that have come up; nice to have backup, they are not always available
- Monday, 1/29/24-Friends Mtg. at 6:30 PM at Vlg. Hall, open to public
- Sunday, 3/24/24: Bunny Breakfast (Palm Sunday) at Applebee's
- Kennedy Pk: Wkg. with engineering firm, so can start project asap
- Heritage Pk: Wkg. with engineering firm, resurfacing, on next agenda to pick resurfacing co. and get that out
- 115 Chestnut St. wkg. with DPW to get house cleaned out and renovated
- Awarded \$2,000 Grant from Home Depot for hand tools, thanked Trustee Bolton for help

The Mayor stated the Parks and DPW are working together on a property we acquired next to the Fire Dept., for future renovations for our Fire Dept. He continued the entire house and 2-story garage was packed full. He added if we had to send it out with an RFP, it would have cost us a lot of money, we are getting it done in house; saving a lot of money, probably will fill up 5 big dumpsters before done. He thanked them, thought it was really nice wkg. together and saving money for the Vlg.

Codes Department: (Codes Enforcement Officer: Nicholas Rohm): He stated the following:

- Certain Wks. limited availability for training for NYS Code Enforcement, just started
- Immuno Tek: Gypsum Board is going up, inside looking nice, outside slow due to weather
- Brolex: Digging up site, DEC no word, Rec'd letter from Fire re: Safety concerns-site: Ongoing
- 103 George St: Stop Wk. Order Issued: Replacing structural on front porch

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

- Busy: Wkg. on getting W-2s out and 1099s out
- 1st Model of Budget out, worksheets to return by Feb. 2
- Wkg on Infrastructure Form: Show forecasting for coming yr. Tree Removal, Garbage, all items that allows us to get \$760,000 (Infrastructure Revenue)/Proof for last yr. spent



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DEPUTY MAYOR-TRUSTEES REPORT:

Trustee St. Germain: No Report.

Trustee Strong: He stated the following:

- Shred Event: Asked if reoccur or if need someone to take on/April 13th – Earth Day Event
- Thanked Vlg. Clerk-Treasurer for getting Budget stuff out, looking for ea. Dept. Head to present what is needed and why, sharing short- and long-term goals

Trustee Bolton: He stated the following:

- Thanked Mr. Bick from Town of Clay for valuable information, will really help us

Dep. Mayor Gustafson: She stated the following:

- Thanked Mr. Bick as well for valuable information, and thanked guests/residents for input

MAYOR'S REPORT:

The Mayor stated we have another opportunity for Main Street Grants, the deadline is February 16th. He continued we have 4 that have reached out to us and are interested, so we are trying to put all that together. He added we already talked about Chestnut St., that is moving along. He thanked everyone that is here and those that show up, the input is appreciated.

Trustee Bolton made a motion to adjourn at 5:42 P.M. The motion was seconded by Dep. Mayor Gustafson. The motion was approved: Bolton, St. Germain, Strong, and Gustafson, all voting in favor of the same.

Respectfully submitted,



Dianne M. Kufel
Village Clerk-Treasurer

Handwritten text, possibly a signature or date, located in the lower right quadrant of the page.

VILLAGE OF NORTH SYRACUSE

REGULAR BOARD MEETING

DATE: Jan. 25, 2024

PLEASE SIGN IN

NAME

J Robinson
Tara DeGennaro
P. Ferguson
Yisa Kwao
Rob Brier - Town of Clay Assessor
Michael Redman

ADDRESS

SLINTS WOODS
304 Belmont Dr, No Syr.
215 South Hill Dr U.S.R. NY 13212-3100
356 Chestnut St

