



## **VILLAGE OF NORTH SYRACUSE**

### ***Regular Board Meeting***

Thursday, August 28th, 2025 @ 5:30 PM

**North Syracuse Community Center**

600 South Bay Road, North Syracuse, NY

***Facebook Livestreamed***

The Village of North Syracuse Regular Board Meeting began at 5:30 P.M. with Mayor Butterfield asking everyone to join him in the Pledge of Allegiance. The Pledge was followed by a moment of silence for the victims in Minneapolis.

**Roll Call:** Mayor Butterfield, Deputy Mayor Gustafson, Trustee Bolton, Trustee Wilmer and Trustee St. Germain were all present.

**Personnel Present:** Clerk/Treasurer D. Kufel, Police G. Linstruth, Parks Dir. Burkinshaw, Fire J. Asztalos, Eng. Amy Franco.

### **RESOLUTION # 177-25**

### **APPROVAL OF REG. BD. MTG. – AUGUST 14, 2025**

Trustee Wilmer made a motion to approve the minutes (Facebook Livestreamed) from the August 14th, 2025 Board Meeting. The motion was seconded by Trustee Bolton with discussion. Trustee St. Germain started to explain why the July 10<sup>th</sup>, 2025 meeting minutes were tabled as she wanted her report to be verbatim. Mayor Butterfield explained that motion is to approve August 14, 2025 meeting minutes. Deputy Mayor Gustafson seconded the motion to have minutes approved. The motion was approved. Dep. Mayor Gustafson, Trustee St. Germain, Trustee Wilmer and Trustee Bolton, all voting in favor of the same.

### **RESOLUTION #178-25**

### **GENERAL FUND ABSTRACT APPROVAL**

Trustee Bolton made a motion to approve General Fund Abstract #06 in the amount of \$107,635.12, covering voucher #332 thru #410. The motion was seconded for discussion by Trustee Wilmer. The motion was approved. Dep. Mayor Gustafson, Trustee St. Germain, Trustee Wilmer and Trustee Bolton, all voting in favor of the same.

### **OLD BUSINESS:**

### **INFORMATIVE: UPDATE 517 S. MAIN ST. /UNFINISHED FURNITURE**

Mayor Butterfield updated the Board on the progress of the demolition of the building on 517 S. Main St. He added the following:

- Has been declared an emergency.
- Getting prices from demolition contractors to take building down. Has two waiting on one more.
- Owner has demolition contractor that has provided application and insurance.
- Race between owner and Village. Whoever comes in first will get work done.
- Demolition award will go to lowest bidder.
- Still needs asbestos and environmental reports.
- Question of liability raised by Trustee Bolton. Suggested fencing in building.
- Village prefers owner to complete demolition.
- Timeframe for completion is asap.



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**INFORMATIVE: 2025 ONONDAGA CNTY MAIN ST. GRANT**

Mayor Butterfield stated:

- Applications due by September 30, 2025.
- Have already offered Grant to improve Main St. areas to two businesses. Neither one has responded.
- Advised contractor that may be demolishing 517 S. Main Street to let the owner know of the Grant to fix up the remaining part of the building. Gave contractor the paperwork for grant.
- County pays for 75% and owner pays 25% of updates.
- Information on the Grant has also been put up on Village of North Syracuse website.

**INFORMATIVE: NY BRICKS GRANT - ELEVATOR**

Mayor Butterfield stated:

- Grant encompasses seniors, kids and upgrades.
- The Village has a need for an elevator as the current elevator is no longer able to be fixed as cannot get parts for it.
- Village ran out of time and money was more than what Village was willing to spend.
- Deadline was August 15, 2025.
- There wasn't enough time to turn it around.

**INTELLIGENT QUERY ENGINES – BMSI DATA RETRIEVAL**

Mayor Butterfield stated:

- Discussion of outstanding bill of approximately \$4,000 to Eric Burrell for data retrieval for the Codes Dept. was tabled at last Board Meeting.
- Trustee Bolton concerned that Eric B. not getting paid for his services despite questions.
- Discussion on how this bill originated. Who called Eric B. into the data retrieval issue.? Did Peter Knowles call him or did someone from the Village?
- Monies spent on Codes Integrated Software has totaled \$10,700.
- Every year, the Village will have to pay \$6,800 to maintain/track and update data.
- Trustee St. Germain, Code Officer Larry Nestell and Attorney Robert Germain will continue to look into why the former company will not release data.
- Trustee St. Germain will find out who requested additional work and if Peter Knowles was still under contract with the Village.
- Discussion on this subject was again tabled until next Board meeting.



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**INFORMATIVE: PUBLIC HEARING – PROPOSED VERIZON CABLE FRANCHISE AGREEMENT**

The Mayor updated the Board:

- Public Hearing being held September 11<sup>th</sup>, 2025, at 5:29 p.m.
- Informing the public of the agreement that will extend the original 15-year agreement for another five (5) years.
- Specifying the 5% revenue that the Village will receive based on subscribers.
- Deputy Mayor Gustafson asked Trustee Bolton if he found out if services are free to schools. Trustee Bolton responded that it is not a part of this agreement. However, Robert Germain, Attorney, is working with Verizon on that agreement to try to get those parks and areas added.

**RESOLUTION #179-25      DISCUSS/APPROVE – LOCAL LAW #3 – 2025 MODIFYING NO PARKING TO 1:00 A.M. – 8:00 A.M. PUBLIC HEARING 8/14/2025**

Deputy Gustafson made motion to approve Local Law #3 modifying no parking to 1:00 a.m. – 8:00 a.m. Motion was seconded by Trustee Bolton. The motion was approved. Dep. Mayor Gustafson, Trustee St. Germain, Trustee Wilmer and Trustee Bolton all voting in favor of the same.

**RESOLUTION #180-25      DISCUSS/APPROVE – LOCAL LAW #4 – 2025 MODIFYING THE LANGUAGE REGARDING ABANDONED POOLS**

Trustee Wilmer made a motion to approve Local Law #4 modifying the language regarding abandoned pools. Motion was seconded by Trustee St. Germain. The motion was approved. Dep. Mayor Gustafson, Trustee St. Germain, Trustee Wilmer and Trustee Bolton all voting in favor of the same.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**RESOLUTION #181-25      DISCUSS/REVIEW ACQUISITION OF COLD PLANER/PICK UP BROOM**

Trustee Wilmer made motion to approve for the acquisition of a Cold Planer and Pick Up Broom requested by the DPW Superintendent. Acquisition falls under Budget Line of Brand New Equipment. Purchase price for both is \$32,860.90. Used for patching potholes and grooming streets. Equipment makes jobs more efficient, better quality, and safer. Approved with the adoption of the budget. Approval is required by M&T Bank for Installment Lease Purchase. Trustee Bolton seconded the motion. The motion was approved. Dep. Mayor Gustafson, Trustee St. Germain, Trustee Wilmer and Trustee Bolton all voting in favor of the same.

**RESOLUTION #182-25      DISCUSS/REVIEW (3) YEAR ACQUISITION/ANNUAL PAYMENT AS BUDGETED FOR \$32,860.90 TO M&T BANK**

Deputy Mayor Gustafson made motion to approve (3) year Acquisition/Annual Payment of approximately \$11,000 per year for installment purchase to M&T Bank as required. Motion was seconded by Trustee Wilmer. The motion was approved. Dep. Mayor Gustafson, Trustee St. Germain, Trustee Wilmer and Trustee Bolton all voting in favor of the same.



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**RESOLUTION #183-25**     **DISCUSS/REVIEW/AUTHORIZE MAYOR TO SIGN FIRE HOUSE MGT. SOFTWARE UPGRADE**

Trustee Wilmer made motion to approve the Mayor to sign the Fire House Management Software Upgrade. Deputy Fire Chief Asztalos explained that there was a need to consolidate a couple of platforms with the new software. Last software purchased 30 years ago and was last visited 10-15 years ago. Fire Dept has spoken with their IT department to ensure an open migration. Asking for an additional \$5,000 now to offset some software platforms that are being sunsetted that will not be serviceable within the timeframe of the new budget cycle. This \$5,000 was not already budgeted. Vendor has reduced the cost by 50%. Motion was seconded by Trustee Bolton. Motion was approved. Dep. Mayor Gustafson, Trustee St. Germain, Trustee Wilmer and Trustee Bolton all voting in favor of the same.

**CITIZENS VOICE:** The Mayor asked if any citizen would like to address the Board for any issues outside of the Public Hearing.

Patrick Maloney – 426 Church St. – I recently sent an email to Pearl Fuller and Larry Nestell regarding fowl, chickens and roosters being allowed in the Village of North Syracuse. Pearl responded that fowl is prohibited in the Village and Larry told me that Code 240.40 – Livestock and Pets – is up to date as of 4/28/25. I informed Larry that the residents at 418 and 428 Church St. have fowl living on the property. He informed me that he let the resident at 428 Church St. know of the local laws. He also told me the Deckers who live at 428 Church St. are getting a petition together and getting it signed to present it to the Board. He also stated that he supports their efforts to keep their chickens and that if he fails to get the right to keep them, the chickens will be gone. He gave me no information on how long the Deckers have to gather this petition. Shortly after that date, the Deckers added a rooster to their flock. The rooster wakes my wife and I up at 4:30 a.m. or 5:00 a.m. every day. We can hear the rooster in our home through closed windows and doors. My wife works from home 2-3 times a week and is distracted from her work due to the crowing of the rooster. I take care of my elderly parents in the overnight hours and have a great difficulty getting a nap to catch up on my sleep to stay rested to give my parents care. On 8/16/25, I discovered a dead coyote in my backyard. I have lived on Church Street basically my entire life. I have never seen a coyote in the backyard of any of my family's property until now. The presence of farm animals is going to keep attracting predators to the area that could become dangerous to everyone in the area including the elderly and children. I emailed Pearl about the coyote and sent pictures. She informed me that Codes Officer Nestell is in the process of addressing the chickens. The Deckers appeared before you last week and admitted they do not have a signed petition to present to the Board, but they asked a couple of neighbors if it was alright with them. They did not put in the work to fight to get their right to keep their chickens and rooster. Therefore, I am asking the Codes Enforcement Officer to do his job and enforce the codes of the Village and be a man of his word and get rid of the chickens and roosters. I'm not singling out the Deckers. I would expect the chickens to be removed from 418 Church Street as well. This code has been long standing on the books for many years at least since the 1960's with good reason behind it, I am sure. Thank you for your time. I appreciate it.

Ken Ryan – 211 Herman Dr. – With respect to the contours of the IT stuff; I was at the meeting with either C. Strong or John, you know, before Trustee Wilmer. At that time, somebody asked Larry about getting their own IT people to check this out before we're going to spend this money. And Larry said there is no need to. He's got it all taken care of. He handled it. And now, we're, we fight about whatever and it comes down to him making decisions on his own like he's done with other things that didn't work out. He, Mayor Butterfield: "come on." Ken Ryan – There



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is no come on. This is exactly what I heard from this Board. You go back and listen to your own tapes. Mayor Butterfield "All right." Ken Ryan continued and then you'll find out that he said he didn't need it. It was taken care of. Then all of a sudden, you need more money. You need the this and that. You gave him more. Now you need more money. That is an issue. Secondly, I think that with Larry or any Village employee, there should be somebody looking in and watching what he's doing. Not just running around freebie to do what he wants and whatever. It should be some type of report or something to somebody. So somebody can answer for it. Because the answer he gives the public, it's not true. And that's for the whole Board. Thank you.

Dr. Benjamin Haywood – 100 Park Lane: I haven't drove by recently, but the sign for the Village of North Syracuse is covered by bushes 100%. You can only see the center part of that and I think we should just trim the bushes back to see the whole sign. It's a shame to cover a whole sign with bushes. Mayor Butterfield: Dan – unfortunately, we will do it, but that's not, that's just outside the village. So, we have to go on somebody else's property to clean it. The right side as you go south on Belmore. That's the Town of Clay. On the other side of the street is the Village of North Syracuse. So, but we have done it before, we'll do it again. I'll talk with the DPW Superintendent. We did it last year when we put the sign up. It was overgrown. It is not us, but we will do it. Trustee Wilmer – I think you will find out it was cut just recently. Someone was over with a lawn mower in the last couple of days.

**DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS:**

**Attorney Report: (Robert Germain):** Excused

**Engineer Report: (Amy Franco):** No Report – Question from Mayor Butterfield:

- The Mayor saw a note from NYCOM that there is a round 2 of the Swims Grant Application.
- Suggested talking to Tony as the last one was rejected for Kennedy Park.
- We can try again.
- Deadline is a month away.
- Engineer A. Franco agreed to pursue.

**Parks and Recreation Department: (Director A. Burkinshaw):** He stated the following:

- Thanked both the Police and Fire Departments for participating in the Big Truck Day and their interaction with the kids and the community.
- Will be making some changes for next year.

**Codes Department: (Director L. Nestell):** Excused. Trustee St. Germain gave report:

- Already reviewed update on Unfinished Furniture store.
- Update on 118 Grove St. – Larry is giving them a couple more weeks to make progress or he is going to go ahead with demolition. Left messages for Ellithorpes. Still waiting for them to clean out.
- Brolex – Passed all inspections by the electrical, the plumbing, and the fire suppression system and now waiting for the MEP = Mechanical, Electrical, Plumbing.
- Just One Bite – Only a few weeks away from the opening. Still a few changes that Larry has requested before he will pass the fire inspection. Still a work in progress.



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- 407 Shaver Ave. – Is cleaned up and now doing additional properties that need to be cleaned up.
- Codes Software System Update: When Larry said he was set with it, he was ok with it, didn't need anything, it was during the period of being transferred. Peter was notified that it had stopped. They needed to retrieve some more and at that point, it was Peter that suggested that Eric would do it. Larry never asked. Pearl never asked. All they did was say, hey, it kind of stopped right here. We need to get more information – the retrieval. That was the answer, John. Trustee Bolton – So our current IT individual brought this gentleman? Trustee St. Germain – That's correct. Our Codes just told Peter who was here that they didn't get it that was everything that was supposed to be received. Trustee Bolton – So, should we ask Peter to submit a bill? Clerk Treasurer Kufel – We could, that is up to you. Additional monies to be billed yet too. Mayor Butterfield – That is why I want Trustee St. Germain and R. Germain (Attorney) to look into it.

**Fire Department: (Fire Joe Azstelos):** He stated the following:

- Alarms to date for 2025 is 600.
- August calls topped out at about 80.
- Calls may be close to 1,000 by end of year, which is up a couple of hundred.
- Call of interest: Monday, August 18, 2025 at 5701 Caughdenoy Rd., Cicero – Fatal Fire  
Involved hoarding conditions, high heat, and visibility issues.  
Crews remain on the scene for hours after a fire to make sure it doesn't reignite.  
Truck 1 assisted the Coroner, Medical Examiner with the victim removal.
- Stressed the importance of Onondaga County Mutual Aid System.  
Stated cannot do it alone – For big alarms depends on mutual aid partners.  
Mutual aid partners as far as Fayetteville and Solvay.  
Recently assisted with a second alarm apartment fire in Fayetteville/Solvay area.
- Very fortunate to have a good fire department and proud and privileged to be one of the leaders.
- New Bunk In firefighter named Brett Jacobs.  
Currently attending OCC Fire Protection Program.
- Thanked the Board for supporting the Red Alert upgrade.
- Recently hosted the Upstate Clark Burn Center Summer Camp reception held in conjunction with the NY Burn Unit Coalition.  
They host a summer camp for pediatric burn survivors.  
Was privileged to be there to see the courage in the eyes of kids with severe burns and scars.
- Special thanks to our newly promoted Lieutenant Otis and his family for taking a burn survivor to the NYS Fair with them.
- Chief Brennan apologizes for not being at the Board Meeting
- Chief Brennan recently went to a family day care center operated by Angelica Tomasino and spoke with 14 children about the importance of fire safety and getting the kids comfortable with firefighters and fire trucks.
- Thanked the Board for their continued support.



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**Police Department: (Sargeant Linstruth):** He stated the following:

- Former SPD member, Harry Brush, passed away.
- Harry worked along side the Sargeant for over 20 years.
- Calling hours Tuesday. The Sargeant will be in attendance.

**Public Works Department: (DPW Sup't: Ed Ware):** Excused

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

- Bills are sent out for sets of totes that the residents have received other than the one set and the money has been trickling in. It's been working out great.
- Currently there are 19 residents that have not paid for their additional set of totes. Amounts to approximately \$7,000 in revenue.
- If the resident does not pay for the extra set of totes, the Village does.
- Letter was sent on July 11, 2025.
- Starting in September, the Village will be retrieving the unpaid for totes.
- Totes will be collected by DPW and Butler will pick up.
- A list of residents is available.

**DEPUTY MAYOR-TRUSTEES REPORT:**

**Trustee Bolton:** No Report

**Trustee St. Germain:** No Report. Gave report for Codes Department

**Trustee Wilmer:** No Report

**Deputy Mayor Gustafson:** No Report

**MAYOR'S REPORT:** Mayor Butterfield stated the following:

- Comprehensive Plan Committee:  
Still underway and making good progress.
- Tap Grant – Sidewalks  
Should be finished drawings any day. Confirmed by Engineer A. Franco  
If sidewalks are to be started by Spring 2026, we need the drawings.  
Asked Engineer A. Franco to look into progress of drawings.
- Crosswalk at Nestico  
Flashing lights are now at the crosswalk.  
Unsure if lights are currently working.



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- Resignation of Clerk Treasurer and Deputy Clerk Treasurer

Both Dianne Kufel and Diane Ilaqua are retiring in November, 2025.

Dianne K. has been with Village for 25 years

Dianne K. has requested no party.

A couple of resumes have already been received.

Dianne K. will be assisting with transition.

Mayor Butterfield stated "You will be missed but enjoy your retirement, both of you."

Trustee Wilmer made a motion to adjourn at 6:12 PM. The motion was seconded by Trustee Bolton. The motion was approved with Dep. Mayor Gustafson, Trustee St. Germain, Trustee Wilmer and Trustee Bolton all voting in favor of the same.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Dianne M. Kufel  
Village Clerk-Treasurer