



VILLAGE OF NORTH SYRACUSE

Regular Board Meeting

Thursday, September 25, 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, Trustee Bolton, Trustee Wilmer and Trustee St. Germain were all present. Deputy Mayor Gustafson was excused.

Personnel Present: Clerk/Treasurer D. Kufel, Fire Chief P. Brennan, Engineer A. Franco, DPW Supt. E. Ware

Personnel Absent: Codes Director L. Nestell (Excused), Parks Director T. Burkinshaw (Excused), Village Attorney R. Germain (Excused), Police Chief C. Fieldson (Excused)

RESOLUTION # 198-25

APPROVAL OF REG. BD. MTG. – SEPTEMBER 11, 2025

Trustee Wilmer made a motion to approve the minutes (Facebook Livestreamed) from the September 11, 2025 Board Meeting. The motion was seconded by Trustee St. Germain. The motion was approved. Trustee St. Germain, Trustee Wilmer and Trustee Bolton, all voting in favor of the same.

RESOLUTION #199-25

GENERAL FUND ABSTRACT APPROVAL

Trustee Bolton made a motion to approve General Fund Abstract #08 in the amount of \$105,842.95 covering voucher #469 thru #538. The motion was seconded by Trustee Wilmer. The motion was approved. 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.:

- Permit was issued on 9/24/25 to remove the part that is falling down.
- Owners supposed to have dumpsters delivered.
- Is on schedule.

REMINDER: 2025 ONONDAGA CNTY MAIN ST. GRANT

Mayor Butterfield stated:

- Applications due by 9/30/25.
- Competitive bid process.
- Village submits application on behalf of business.
- Has 4 applicants to date: Twin Trees, Big Dip, Karp Law Firm and Body Works Massage.
- County pays for 75% and owner pays 25% of updates.

REMINDER: PUBLIC HEARING SCHEDULED FOR 10/9/2025 RE: ZONE CHANGE R9-PD 115 CHESTNUT ST.:

- Combining the property to make it possible to expand on the property.
- Cannot do anything with R9. Has to be PD.



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DISCUSSION: CODE AS IT RELATES TO CHICKENS

- Mayor Butterfield opened the discussion stating the following:
 - Information was posted on the Community Board. Many people both for and against chickens. Most against roosters.
 - Currently has between 5-10 pieces of information from other neighborhoods, towns and other areas of the state and they are all different.
 - Board is currently working on the process of changing the law. To change the law, there needs to be a Public Hearing and Board would vote. Then it has to be passed and sent to the State to be codified.
 - Currently, chickens are not allowed in the Village.
 - The Board will continue to analyze the information received and hold a public hearing.
- Trustee Wilmer:
 - Suggested that the topic be tabled so that the Board can have further discussion on the information that has been provided.
- Trustee Bolton:
 - Stated that he posted a comment section on his Facebook page and received a lot of comments both for and against chickens in the Village.
 - A link to his Facebook page to review the public's comments was sent to all members of the Board.
 - The most important thing is to hear from the citizens of the Village.
 - The Board would have to do their due diligence on the size of the lots within the Village, the quality of life within the Village and how to enforce something that may or may not come true.
- Trustee St. Germain:
 - Main concern in other towns and villages seems to be the lot size.

NEW BUSINESS:

RESOLUTION #200-25

DISCUSS/APPROVE INCREASE DPW CLERK, S. BUCCI/20 YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE VILLAGE TO \$25/HR

Mayor Butterfield entertained a motion to increase the pay for DPW Clerk S. Bucci to \$25/hour, a raise of \$4.75. Ms. Bucci has worked for the Village for 20 years and holds a part-time position without benefits. She works for the DPW and also does work for the Village offices. Trustee Bolton made a motion to table the discussion, stating that such a significant raise should not be based solely on tenure or in response to another department hiring at a higher pay rate. He suggested that the Board review the roles and benefits of other clerks in the Village offices before making a decision, expressing concern about setting a precedent for off-cycle raises that could impact future discussions regarding salaries. Trustee St. Germain echoed Bolton's concerns about the fairness of the increase and emphasized that raises should generally be based on annual reviews rather than large lump sums for individual employees because a person has the responsibility of more than one job. She stated that she is not for any substantial increase in a lump-sum. DPW Superintendent Ed Ware noted that Ms. Bucci's responsibilities exceed typical duties and that her long service merits consideration. She keeps track of all the DPW employees, all the jobs, the sales tax, fixed assets for the Village Hall; she does a lot more than just her job; to hire somebody at a higher rate than somebody who has been here for 20 years is not good for the employee - they look at it as "Am I appreciated?" Trustee Wilmer questioned why the pay raise wasn't addressed during budget discussions. Superintendent Ware advised that they didn't know someone would be paid at a higher level that was just hired off the street. Trustee Bolton agreed and acknowledged understanding the request now. The Board agreed to table the motion until further information could be provided, with Superintendent Ware promising to submit detailed justification for the proposed increase within



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a week. Superintendent Ware believes the monies are in the DPW budget to approve the raise. The motion was tabled with support from Trustees St. Germain, Wilmer, and Bolton.

RESOLUTION #201-25 **DISCUSS/APPROVE EMPLOYEE PROPOSING UNPAID TIME OCT/NOV/DEC 2025 – FIRE DEPARTMENT**

Trustee Wilmer made a motion to approve unpaid overtime during October, November and December, 2025. Allows the employee to not exceed a certain threshold of hours. If employee works more than a certain number of hours and goes over a certain dollar limit, employee has to start paying taxes. Allow employee to take unpaid leave. Motion was seconded by Trustee St. Germain. The motion was approved. Trustee St. Germain, Trustee Wilmer and Trustee Bolton all voting in favor of the same.

INFORMATIVE: PUBLIC OUTREACH MEETING: TUESDAY, OCTOBER 7, 2025 6:00 P.M. – 7:00 P.M.: DISCUSS/PUBLIC INPUT ON THE VILLAGE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN BEING MODIFIED FOR FURTHER GROWTH – N. SYRACUSE COMMUNITY CENTER, 700 SOUTH BAY ROAD:

- CHA is facilitating this meeting.
- Looking and hoping for as much public input as possible; public's input will be helpful in putting plan together.

RESOLUTION #202-25 **DISCUSS/APPROVE THE FULL-TIME HIRING OF C. JOHNSTONE AS LABORER 1 AT THE RATE OF \$16.50/HR.:**

Motion was made by Trustee St. Germain to approve the full-time hiring of C. Johnstone as Laborer 1 in the DPW at \$16.50/hour. Employee will work part-time until December 1, 2025 then will be full-time. This will fulfill the DPW additional labor count. Motion was seconded by Trustee Wilmer. Motion was approved. Trustee St. Germain, Trustee Wilmer and Trustee Bolton all voting in favor of the same.

RESOLUTION #203-25 **DISCUSS/APPROVE PROPOSED FIRE DEPT. BUDGET FOR FIRE PROTECTION FOR THE VILLAGE/FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICTS OF CICERO/CLAY PROVIDED BY THE FIRE DEPT. FOR FY 26/27 – TOWNS 2026**

Mayor Butterfield stated that the Fire Department recently submitted its budget for discussion with the Board. He noted that the Village of North Syracuse Fire Department provides coverage for both the Town of Clay and the Town of Cicero, with both municipalities seeking their budget in order to proceed with their calendar year budgeting. The Village's budget is set for June. Fire Chief Brennan expressed gratitude to the Board Trustees for their visit to the firehouse, where they discussed the budget, fire department expansion, and the bladder truck, which will be addressed in the next Board meeting. The contracts with the Towns of Cicero and Clay have increased from approximately \$260,000 to \$280,000, primarily due to rising insurance costs. Money that was cut last year, asking to be held for the fire department for the future, never made it into the Reserve Account. The Fire Chief will be answering to that in a meeting tomorrow with the Town of Cicero. Trustee Bolton, the Fire Chiefs and the Mayor will be present. Mayor Butterfield clarified that \$25,000 is intended annually to go into the Reserve Account to facilitate future capital purchases. There were a couple of years where money did not go in and the Board was not aware of that. Despite the previous year's request for \$47,000, the Mayor maintained the \$25,000 allocation. Concerns were raised by Fire Chief Brennan about the lack of funds in the Reserve Account, which are crucial for managing upcoming expenditures, including a new vehicle for the Fire Chief. Fire Chief Brennan stated "the Reserve Account is how we balance the budget. The Village put their portion in. Clay and Cicero put additional money in. We talked about this at budget time. Clay and Cicero put in \$18,148 which is what we got cut out of the Reserve Account last year Purpose of the Reserve Account is when we have expenditures coming up. This particular year is part of our replacement plant as we are to buy the Fire Chief a new vehicle this year. Cost will be somewhere in the



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vicinity of \$60,000. Outfitted is \$80,000. It will be in the fleet of the Fire Department for up to 10 years. Had to take the money out of the Fire Department Reserve Account which is in here to balance the Budget this year. Next year it is the goal to have and make a reserve deposit. ...". Mayor Butterfield emphasized that the Reserve Account should not be utilized for budget balancing but rather for capital expenses. Fire Chief Brennan stated that is correct - in this particular case, the capital expenditure that is in the budget this year is coming from the Reserve Account. That is what will help balance the Budget. Trustee St. Germain and Trustee Bolton presented funding figures from the Town of Cicero (\$281,630) and the Town of Clay (\$280,071), along with a request for the Village to contribute \$275,600 to ensure operational functionality in the upcoming year. Mayor Butterfield expressed apprehension regarding the approval of the entire Fire Department budget at this meeting as that is not how it was previously done and due to uncertainties in costs. Fire Chief Brennan cited a history of budget cuts imposed on the Fire Department, raising concerns about the Village not paying "their fair share to the Fire Department". Mayor asked Clerk Treasurer Kufel if the village has cut money from the Fire Department budget; Clerk Treasurer Kufel affirmed and noted that budget cuts have affected all departments. Fire Chief Brennan emphasized that two-thirds of the Fire Department's budget is covered by two neighboring municipalities and requested the Village pay its fair share, any shortfalls can be made up with the towns in the following budget year. Trustee St. Germain questioned why the motion should not be passed now if all parties agreed to pay one-third; Mayor Butterfield expressed concerns about locking in the budget prematurely, while Trustee Wilmer opined "it is the right thing to do" and Trustee Bolton argued that voting now would ensure equal contributions from all parties and that there would be "no concern going forward that any of that money is going to be cut". Mayor reiterated that the village budget discussions begin in March and approving now locks the village into the Fire Department budget. The motion to approve the Fire Department's budget was made and seconded, resulting in approval by Trustees St. Germain, Wilmer, and Bolton. Mayor Butterfield voted against.

CITIZENS VOICE:

Carol Murphy – 140 Slindes Woods Circle: Carol Murphy expressed her strong opposition to keeping chickens in the Village. She noted that the Village comprises six districts and highlighted that zoning regulations require ample agricultural land for keeping chickens. In the Town of Clay, five acres are needed, while Cicero requires two acres. Murphy mentioned that several nearby towns, including Salina, Liverpool, Fayetteville, Minoa, and Skaneateles, do not allow chickens due to insufficient acreage. She pointed out that the property in question is less than half an acre, making it unsuitable for chickens.

Mayor Butterfield confirmed that no chickens are currently allowed in the Village, adding that there have been citations for keeping chickens. Murphy argued that the presence of chickens is unfair to neighbors, as they can be noisy, dirty, and pose health risks. She criticized the inconsistency in regulations for those living on the same streets but in different towns that have varying rules on chicken ownership. Murphy emphasized that the predominance of residential zoning in the area makes it inappropriate to allow chickens, as most residents do not want them.

Kathy Miller – 118 Slindes Wood Circle: The presence of chickens in the Village is concerning due to health risks, especially with diseases like chicken flu. Living close to others increases this risk, particularly for people with health issues. Therefore, chickens should be kept in the country.

Ken Ryan – 211 Herman Dr.: The Mayor needs to consider the property, which is residential and not suitable for agriculture. It could lead to lower taxes as agricultural land. Plans to allow chickens would mean a lot of rating changes. Chickens do not belong in the Village.

Pat Malone – 426 Church St.: The Livestock Code, established in the 1960s, prohibits livestock in suburban areas to prevent issues caused by close living quarters. Chickens, often misrepresented as pets, actually need space to



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thrive. Keeping chickens in small enclosures makes them vulnerable to predators. Allowing chickens in the Village would lead to increased sightings of various animals such as raccoons, coyotes, foxes, weasels, cats, skunks, mice and rats. Food scraps left by chickens would attract rodents. With ongoing development and less natural space, suburban environments could become unsafe for chicken owners due to higher predator and rodent activity. Chickens are meant for farms, not suburbs.

Patrick Greenfield – 205 Sunnybrook Dr.: Two years ago, a neighbor decided to get chickens and let them roam freely, causing them to wander into nearby yards where they were not wanted. Codes was contacted, and over the winter the chickens disappeared. A friend who owns chickens in a rural area shared his experience. He initially got them for tick control, but it was ineffective - his dog got Lyme disease, and he didn't use their waste for fertilizer due to wet conditions. His coop must be enclosed for safety, as predators like owls and raccoons have attacked his flock. Chickens also attract other wildlife such as foxes, hawks, and eagles. The feed attracts squirrels, chipmunks, rats and mice. Chickens can be noisy, especially when laying eggs; prompting him to move the coop farther from his house. When buying chickens, there's no guarantee of gender, and he's experienced losses, with two of six chicks dying recently and a predator killing half his flock in a day. He finds chickens destructive and cleans the coop monthly while using a full respirator due to the smell.

Liz Forth – 313 Herman Drive: The speaker acknowledges valid points about concerns regarding chickens in communities, and shared her own journey of changing opinions based on personal experiences. Initially she also had fears about chickens causing illness, but after renting a property on Long Island with chickens, she learned more about them and found that chickens do not need to be restricted to rural areas. Each chicken requires about 10 square feet of space, and certain smaller breeds (Bantams) allow for more chickens in limited spaces.

The speaker discusses both the positive and negative aspects of keeping chickens. She highlighted the nutritional benefits of home-raised eggs, which universities like Penn State have researched. Raising chickens can enhance family self-sufficiency, support food budgets, and provide a buffer against disruptions in food supplies. Although there are concerns about pests, the speaker suggests that proper hygiene and maintenance can mitigate health risks. Roosters probably are not a good idea for the village, and based on an individual's budget- results of keeping chickens may vary. Many successful urban models exist for chicken keeping, noting that cities like Syracuse and New York City allow it despite not being rural. They recommend a system of permits and thoughtful spacing to manage concerns and emphasize the many benefits of keeping chickens, including education, therapy, and hobbies, while acknowledging that individual circumstances may vary. Collaboration will give residents and opportunity for self-sufficiency.

Lisa Lioto – 356 Chestnut St.: I would vote no to the chickens due to the safety, health and environmental concerns.

DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS:

Attorney Report: (Robert Germain): Absent- not required

Engineer Report: (Amy Franco):

- Working on a grant for Kennedy Park. Information will be coming at next Board meeting.

Parks and Recreation Department: (Director A. Burkinshaw): Absent- not required

Codes Department: (Director L. Nestell): Absent- not required

Public Works Department: (DPW Supt: Ed Ware):



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- Reminder that Bulk Trash Pickup is October 6th; call to schedule a pickup by 3:00 p.m. on October 3rd.
- Preparing for fall season.
- Completing road repairs and filling potholes with new equipment; will last longer than throwing hot mix in a hole.
- Appreciates all that Board does in support of DPW.

Fire Department: (Fire Chief Brennan):

- 84 Calls in August, 62 Calls in September
- Call on 500 Block of Melrose Dr.
 - o Odor investigation.
 - o Turned out to be multiple codes issues; Code Enforcement Officer Nestell assisted.
- Call on Route 41 Near Northern Boulevard.
 - o Assisted by two employees of DPW.
- Calls on Highway are picking up due to busier traffic.
- Special shout out to Ed Ware and Joel of DPW for helping with braking issue on truck.

Police Department: (Police Chief Fieldson): No Report

Clerk-Treasurer: (Village Clerk-Treasurer D. Kufel):

Shared some background information in support of consideration for Sue Bucci.

- Did filing cabinet project which took 1-1/2 years.
- She has done a wonderful job since day 1.
- Responsible for multiple reports i.e. Fixed Assets, Sales Tax Infrastructure.
- Filled in for Payroll and Accounts Payable.
- Need to consider something for her.

New Retirement Rates:

- Every dollar you pay an employee (not police) going up 17.6 cents.
- Every police dollar going up to 36.5 cents.

DEPUTY MAYOR-TRUSTEES REPORT:

Trustee Bolton: Shout out to the Highway Dept. Great job with the road repairs getting ready for the new paving coming up. Thanked Tony and Dwayne for getting the first coat of paint on the building down at Lonergan. Trunk or Treat is coming up on October 10th. Fire Dept. Safety Days is coming up. Great to hear about the relationship between the Fire Dept. and DPW. Is working behind the scenes with Joe Asztelos and Senator Ryan's office. There are 2 bills through that could bring financial relief to the fire department.

Trustee St. Germain: No report.

Trustee Wilmer: Thanked James Trasher for his report.

Deputy Mayor Gustafson: Excused.

RESOLUTION 204-25

WORK SESSION – PROPOSED ADDITION TO 115 CHESTNUT ST.

- Includes making it a PD along with 119 Chestnut St.
- Has a report from CHA Architecture.
- James Trasher from CHA in attendance and made presentation.
- Started process about 4 years ago.



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- Wants to consolidate Station 2.

Presentation from James Trasher – CHA:

- Money and property already acquired.
- Plans to advance project were done by committee.
- CHA got involved about 1 year ago.
- Designed roughly an 8,000 ft. addition that would connect an existing fire station.
- Worked up preliminary budget of \$5-6 million.
- Reached out to Huber Breuer in a pre-construction management role.
- Proposed initial design fees \$441,000 for professional services.
- Village Clerk Treasurer has worked up some either cost per unit or cost per thousand.
 - o 9.6 for Cicero
 - o 9.6 for Clay
 - o Village tax up approximately \$140
- Could present to Village residents cost to \$5-6 million.
- Put out in a Bond Resolution – Board would vote.
- If Village residents unhappy, they could file a petition which would force a referendum.
- Village has a \$300,000 grant.
- May open opportunity for other grant monies.
- Looking to bring the best value to the village.
- Discussion on design process.
- If done in October, could start in April, 2026.
- Largest project for the Village.
- Size of the building could vary.
- No wiggle room on some of the Fire Department's requirements. Will be addressed with the rightsizing of the project.
- Has spent \$200,000 of \$300,000 to date on remediation.
- Next meeting, has public hearing to go for a zone change.
- 115 is still considered residential.
- Chief's report came out July of 2024.
- Mayor Butterfield stated that CHA is right on with their estimate
 - o Is nervous about coming up with additional needed money.
 - o Is in favor of the proposal.
 - o Hoping to get other grants for the Fire Department.
 - o Have to prove to the bonding company that Village can pay for it.
 - o Trying to get grant for Kennedy Park.
 - o A CM will have to be hired down the road, which is expensive.

Trustee Bolton made a motion to approve the proposal from CHA and Huber Breuer in the amount of \$424,733 to do the design, architectural work that was submitted to the Board on 9/8/25, not to exceed \$424,733. Made a motion to move forward. Motion was seconded by Trustee Wilmer. Motion was approved. Trustee St. Germain, Trustee Wilmer and Trustee Bolton all voting in favor of the same. Mayor Butterfield voted against.

MAYOR'S REPORT: Mayor Butterfield stated the following:

- Tap Grant Sidewalks – Construction planned for Spring 2026.



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Trustee Wilmer made a motion to adjourn at 7:35 PM. The motion was seconded by Trustee Bolton. The motion was approved with Trustee St. Germain, Trustee Wilmer and Trustee Bolton all voting in favor of the same. Mayor voted against.

Respectfully submitted,

Dianne M. Kufel
Village Clerk-Treasurer

VILLAGE OF NORTH SYRACUSE

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DATE: Sept. 25, 2025

PLEASE SIGN IN

NAME

ADDRESS

Thomas Stewart
JACQ BATHJUM
ROB GEREMSKI
PAT & JULIE MALONEY
Christina Adams
Yante Mallard
Catherine Miller
KEVIN RYAN
Patrick Greenfield
Carol Murphy
Liz Forth
Lisa Duke
PAUL LINDERTZ
Ken Howe

119 Wylshul Dr
4760 Freestone Rd
908 BLVA ST.
426 Church St
25 Sunbrook
109 Chestnut
118 Gindes Woods Cir
211 HERMAN DR
205 Sunnybrook Dr
140 Slindes Wds Cir
313 Herman Drive
356 Chestnut
8781 JUSTIN DR
100 Park Ln.

