



VILLAGE OF NORTH SYRACUSE

Regular Board Meeting

Thursday, August 14th, 2025 @ 5:28 PM

North Syracuse Community Center

600 South Bay Road, North Syracuse, NY

Facebook Livestreamed

The Village of North Syracuse Regular Board Meeting began at 5:28 P.M. with Mayor Butterfield asking everyone to join him in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call: Mayor Butterfield, Deputy Mayor Gustafson, Trustee Bolton, and Trustee St. Germain. Trustee Wilmer not present due to illness.

Personnel Present: Clerk/Treasurer D. Kufel, Lieutenant Zak Misztal, Parks Dir. Burkinshaw, Fire Chief Brennan, Codes Dir. Nestell, DPW Sup't. E. Ware

PUBLIC HEARING #1

NO OVERNIGHT PARKING ON VILLAGE STREETS 1:00 A.M. – 8:00 A.M.

Public Hearing held on August 14, 2025 at 5:28 P.M. at N. Syracuse Community Ctr., 700 S. Bay Rd. N. Syracuse. Local Law #3 of 2025, Code §230-30 “No Overnight Parking on Village Streets” - Modifying times from 1:00 a.m – 6:00 a.m. to 1:00 a.m. – 8:00 a.m. No In Favor and No objections. The Mayor closed the Public Hearing.

PUBLIC HEARING #2

ABANDONED SWIMMING POOLS

Public Hearing held on August 14, 2025 at 5:28 P.M. at N. Syracuse Community Ctr., 700 S. Bay Rd. N. Syracuse. Local Law #4 of 2025, Code §240-47 – Modify the language regarding Abandoned Pools. Proposed in order to alleviate any safety concerns relating to those that do not maintain their pools and leave them abandoned. Modified Section H: Abandonment. Abandoned pools shall be removed and the land returned to its original grade; above ground pools shall be removed entirely. Modified Section I: Modifications. The Codes Enforcement Officer may make modifications to these requirements in individual cases with respect to the nature or location of pools, fences, gates or locking devices, provided that the protection as sought hereunder is not reduced. Modification Section J: An abandoned pool becomes abandoned when it is no longer maintained and kept sanitary. No In Favor and No objections. The Mayor closed the Public Hearing.

RESOLUTION # 167-25

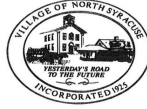
APPROVAL OF REG. BD. MTG. – JULY 24, 2025

Deputy Mayor Gustafson made a motion to approve the minutes (Facebook Livestreamed) from the July 24th, 2025 Board Meeting. The motion was seconded with discussion by Trustee Bolton. The motion of approving the July 24th, 2025 was tabled. Trustee Germain requested another change to the July 10th meeting minutes; conversation pursued. Trustee St. Germain made a motion to table the approval of the minutes, Dep. Mayor Gustafson - No, and Trustee Bolton – Table, Mayor Gary Butterfield – Table. All voting in favor of the same.

RESOLUTION #168-25

GENERAL FUND ABSTRACT APPROVAL

Trustee Bolton made a motion, with discussion, to approve General Fund Abstract #05 (New Budget) in the amount of \$432,018.13, covering voucher #241 thru #332. Discussion on the timely submission of review of minutes for



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Trustees. The motion was seconded for discussion by Trustee St. Germain. Dep. Mayor Gustafson, Trustee St. Germain, and Trustee Bolton, all voting in favor of the same.

RESOLUTION #169-25

BUDGET TRANSFER

Deputy Mayor Gustafson made a motion to transfer monies (New Budget) in the amount of \$200 from A2705 – Gifts and Donations to A7140.449 – Summer Concerts. The motion was seconded by Trustee Bolton. The motion was approved. Dep. Mayor Gustafson, Trustee St. Germain, and Trustee Bolton, all voting in favor of the same.

OLD BUSINESS:

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

Mayor Butterfield asked Larry Nestell, Code Enforcement Officer, to update the Board with the status of the issue with the 517 S. Main Street building. Larry advised that he has decided to have the building torn down. The building is a public safety issue. Not the whole building will be torn down, only on the left side. The building owners have said two or three times they would have demolished with no action. Both the building owners and their attorneys are aware of the Village's intentions. Larry explained that he has almost completed the bidding process and the final decision will be made Monday. The State will then need to be notified and then the building will be torn down. Mayor Butterfield explained that the cost of the demolition will go on the taxes. When the building is sold, the Village will be reimbursed.

INFORMATIVE: 2025 ONONDAGA CNTY MAIN ST. GRANT

Mayor Butterfield stated that the County is once again offering this grant opportunity to improve Main St. areas. This grant is offered to any business on Main Street and on South Bay Road or any business considered Main St. that would like to update their facade. The County will come up with 75% and the owner is responsible for the other 25%. He stated that there are a few businesses in mind. Information has been sent to Stickley. He added that if anyone wants to "promote," please feel free. The grant announcement is also on the Village website. The grant application is open now and due by September 30, 2025.

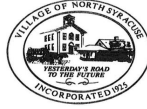
INFORMATIVE: NY BRICKS GRANT - ELEVATOR

Mayor Butterfield advised that the Board received the information/proposal for the NY BRICKS Grant. He explained that this 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. The numbers for the upgrade are currently being gathered. The due date for the application is August 15th, 2025.

RESOLUTION 170-25

ADDITIONAL MONIES FOR CHA EXPANSION OF STATION 1

Motion was made by Trustee Bolton to add \$3,000 for additional monies for engineering services by CHA. Originally the budget was not to exceed \$12,000. There is \$450 remaining. Motion was seconded by Deputy Mayor Gustafson. The motion was approved. Dep. Mayor Gustafson, Trustee St. Germain, and Trustee Bolton, all voting in favor of the same.



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NEW BUSINESS:

RESOLUTION #171-25

DISCUSS/APPROVE A. MYERS PARKS HEAD LIFEGUARD TO \$17.50/HR

Trustee Bolton made motion to approve an increase in hourly rate to \$17.50 to A. Myers, Parks Head Lifeguard, effective 6/28/25. Deputy Mayor Gustafson seconded the motion. The motion was approved. Dep. Mayor Gustafson, Trustee St. Germain, and Trustee Bolton all voting in favor of the same.

DISCUSS INTELLIGENT QUERY ENGINES PROF. IT – BMSI DATA RETRIEVAL - TABLED

Mayor Butterfield advised that the Village has received a bill in the amount of \$4,600 from Erik from Intelligent Query Engines who was recommended by Peter Knowles for the integration of code and permit information into the IworQ software. Peter had recommended put Codes in contact with IQE to retrieve data that BSMI would not release. To complete the integration the total amount would be \$7,606.48. This information is not useful to the Code Enforcement Officer, but is useful for the Codes Department Admin. The Code Enforcement Officer was under the impression that this integration bill would be included in the contract with Peter, but later found out it was not. There is no contract. The former IT company, BMSI had an easy way to transfer this information, but is unwilling to do so since the Village terminated their service. Trustee Bolton added that there has already been \$13,000 already spent on this software upgrade. Adding another \$7606.48 would bring the total up over \$20,000. The Village now has a W9 from IQE and a complete breakdown of the bill received. The issue was tabled until further conversation with Counsel.

RESOLUTION #172-25

APPROVE APPOINTMENT OF J. OTIS TO LIEUTENANT OF N. SYRACUSE FIRE DEPT.

Trustee Bolton made a motion to approve the appointment of J. Otis to Lieutenant of the N. Syracuse Fire Dept. Motion was seconded by Deputy Mayor Gustafson. The motion was approved. Dep. Mayor Gustafson, Trustee St. Germain, and Trustee Bolton all voting in favor of the same.

RESOLUTION #173-25

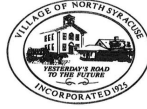
**DISCUSS/APPROVE ADDITION OF AN ADD'L EMPLOYEE BASED ON EXPERIENCE:
LABORER 1, LABORER 2, MTC. WORKER**

Mayor Butterfield opened discussion regarding the hiring of an additional employee based on experience – Laborer 1, Laborer 2 or Mtc. Workers. Pay would be based on experience. Superintendent Ware shared that rotations during the summer and winter months, having the additional employee would help with the burden of grounds keeping and snow removal. Deputy Mayor Gustafson made a motion to start the process of hiring an additional employee for the DPW. Motion was seconded by Trustee Bolton. Dep. Mayor Gustafson, Trustee St. Germain, and Trustee Bolton all voting in favor of the same.

RESOLUTION #174-25

SET A PUBLIC HEARING FOR THE PROPOSED VERIZON CABLE FRANCHISE AGREEMENT

Trustee Bolton made a motion to set the Public Hearing for the proposed Verizon Cable Franchise Agreement for September 11, 2025 at 5:29 p.m. Legal Counsel has already in contact with Verizon. This is not to be construed with the Wifi – only cable. The motion was seconded by Trustee St. Germain. The motion was approved. Dep. Mayor Gustafson, Trustee St. Germain, and Trustee Bolton all voting in favor of the same.



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RESOLUTION 175-25

**DISCUSS/REVIEW/APPROVE REPLACEMENT WINDOW PURCHASE –
COMM. CTR/PAID WITH RESERVE**

Mayor Butterfield opened discussion on the replacement of a window that was broken over the weekend at the Community Center. Parks Director Tony Burkinshaw has looked into Pella replacement window. He stated that he has not gotten the quote he requested. Trustee Bolton read that the window would be \$2,480 to replace. Deputy Mayor Gustafson asked if there was a warranty on the broken window. Mayor Butterfield stated that there was no warranty as the window is too old. Windows purchased by Pella in 1986. Director Burkinshaw stated that he would look into if there was a warranty. He also shared that he asked Pella to put together a quote for the replacement of all windows that maybe a future grant would cover. Would like to earmark monies out of the Village's Comm. Ctr Reserve account to cover the window. The Reserve has approximately \$10,000 in it. Motion was made by Trustee Bolton to approve \$2,480 to purchase the replacement window. Motion was seconded by Deputy Mayor Gustafson. The motion was approved. Dep. Mayor Gustafson, Trustee St. Germain, and Trustee Bolton all voting in favor of the same.

RESOLUTION #176-25

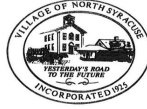
**DISCUSS/APPLY FOR NY BRICKS GRANT – SEE PROPOSAL/DECLARE US A LEAD
AGENCY/NEGATIVE DECLARATION**

Trustee Bolton made a motion to approve submission of the grant application and SEQR for the Community Center to get the ball rolling for approval at the August 14, 2025 Board Meeting. Use of the grant money will be determined at a later time. Mayor Butterfield explained that the estimate to repair the elevator in the Comm Ctr would be upward of \$500,000. \$400,000 from CHA and \$150,000 Village match. The Mayor expressed that he is not comfortable with paying that much for the elevator. The elevator alone is \$150,000. There are other things that could be done. Trustee Bolton suggested a revisit on the warming place and cooling station. There was discussion on the submission date of the grant application and SEQR. According to Amy (Engineer), August 14, 2025 is the deadline for the SEQR. Trustee Bolton suggested that the grant and SEQR be applied for at today's meeting and decide on what the grant would be spent on later. Motion was seconded by Deputy Mayor Gustafson. The Motion was approved. Deputy 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.

Joe Aszlatos – 118 Palmer Dr. - Spoke in behalf of Pete Knowles. He brought Pete to the Fire Dept and then to the Village. Pete has done dozens of migrations at the Fire Dept. He has never steered either department wrong. He is a professional in the industry and Joe informed that he worked at Verizon over 25 years. He is one of the best in the industry. Asked the Board to speak with Pete directly.

Lisa Liota – 356 Chestnut St. – Not too long ago I stood at this microphone at a previous village meeting and described my first negative experience with the new Code Enforcement Officer, Mr. Larry Nestell. I am standing here before you today to inform you of another negative experience I had with him. Not only was Mr. Nestell rude, unprofessional and condescending towards me and others on my property, again, last week he also provided me with false information, misinformed me, and failed to provide me with supportive information related to his claim that I was required to have a permit. I asked Mr. Nestell several times for specific codes he was referencing when he informed me that I was required to have a permit a brick paver walkway and patio. As well as a repair to a side porch which was pre-existing. But I still have not received that information. On Tuesday, August 5th, late afternoon, Mr. Nestell came to my home because he stated "the DPW relayed



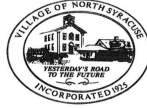
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concerns and made a complaint about the work being done on your residence and that is what prompted me to stop here.” I asked Mr. Nestell to provide me with a specific DPW complaint and concerns. He declined to provide me with that information. The next afternoon, I decided to file for a FOIL request to understand the current concerns and complaint against me. Within 48 hours, I received an email from Dianne Kufel, Village Clerk, who forwarded a response from DPW Supervisor Ed Ware stating “there was no communication between the DPW and Codes Department regarding 356 Chestnut St.” Mr. Nestell issued a stop work order without providing specific codes I was in violation of and then so kindly doubled the fines. I was strong armed to apply for a permit that I did not need. I was recently informed that there are members of the Village Board who are standing by the attitude of there are two sides to every story regarding Mr. Nestell’s unprofessional interactions with me on my property. Well, I am here to tell you that I will not be bullied, silenced, harassed, or retaliated against for asking questions, seeking out transparency and correct information. I, if I am never again asked to join another village committee or terminated from the Planning Board, it will be worth my voice being heard. I know you all have my contact information and I would be more than happy to have you at my home, including you, Mr. Mayor. To show you the actual work being done at my home. I work hard, take care of my property, and I pay my taxes. My taxes help to pay for the salaries of all who run the village. And I expect confidence, honesty and integrity and to be treated with respect. I would encourage all residents to come to Village meetings and become active and voice any concerns you have through the proper channels to be heard. I was informed by the Codes Department months ago that brick paver work did not require a permit. In addition to other hardscape companies, an engineer, and a building developer, all who have done business in the Village of North Syracuse, informing me of the same. Mr. Nestell has made false and misleading statements to me such as repeatedly stating that I needed to provide him with an aggregate cost of any work that I am doing at my home at any time. He has requested to have copies of contracts. He has also informed me several times that he will need to report me to the County because “he knows the work being done at my home exceeds \$24,000.” Amongst many, many other false statements that I would be happy to provide you with in detail any time you would like to meet with me. I will not let this go. I want a public apology, my unnecessary permit ripped up and the fees, fines and extra costs that I have incurred returned to me. Lastly, Mr. Nestell is not welcome to my home unless I personally am contacted and arrangements have been made with me prior. And to think that Mr. Nestell was just provided with a substantial raise totaling just under \$14,000, as well as, appointed to the Fire Inspector in addition to being the full-time Code Enforcement Officer. I again, stood at this microphone not too long ago where it was being voted on and voice my concerns about one person having too much power. And, here we are. And if you would like to discuss it further, you have my contact information. I have many examples and I can provide you in detail of the conversation. Thank you.

Angelica Tomasino – 112 Eden Lane – I am here in support of Lisa. I went through a similar situation of what she is facing now. Just condescending, completely unnecessary requests. It dragged on for months creating tremendous stress and disruption to my business and my life. I genuinely believe that my business was trying to be sabotaged. Up to contact in the Office of Children and Family Services and what appeared to be an attempt to force my closure of my business that was on the books, professional and up to code with the County. Last one, I stood before this Board to share my concerns only to be treated like an impetuous child in front of everyone by the current Codes Officer. What should have been a simple conversation turned into a better public battle and it ultimately took a letter from the OCFS lawyer in Albany to get Codes to back down confirming that everything I was doing was legal and by the book. Throughout this ordeal, I consulted with several local and county officials, including some officials right here in the Village of North Syracuse and every single one agreed I was being unfairly treated. Multiple requirements being demanded of me had no basis in any local codes or regulations. I felt like I was treated like a problem to be eliminated and not a resident to be supported. I wanted to point out you know we are just a couple of examples in the short time frame. So, who knows who’s out there, who has been victimized by the Codes office that has been giving false information, blatant lies or bullied. Who didn’t realize the reality of what happened to them. Are too afraid to speak out for fear of retaliation or do not know they have the right to voice their concerns in this public forum. I am here tonight to stand with Lisa, because no one in this community should have to go through the same intimidation and drawn out ordeal that I did. Thank you for your time

Ken Ryan – 211 Herman Dr., - Is in agreement with L. Liota and A. Tomasino. Has been working with Codes Department since 2015 to address a pool issue. He assumes that issue is now going to court soon. Would like Codes Department to get on top of the issue.

Lance Decker/Lorraine Ellen Decker – 428 Church – Requested to be able to keep chickens on their property. Stated that they have 1-1/4 acre. Wanting to keep them to be able to feed family healthy food. Mayor Butterfield stated that currently chickens are not allowed in the Village of North Syracuse. Would have to have public hearing. Mayor Butterfield also added that they are the first people to ask for the allowance of chickens in the Village.



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Lori Vale Taft Rd. - Stated that she would also like to ask that chickens be allowed in the Village. Requested Board to have Public Hearing.

Chris Strong – 202 Lynhurst Ave. – Stated that this is not the first time that the allowance of chickens in the Village has been requested. Tammy Agatto of Shaver Rd., requested the Board to look into the allowance of chickens during the COVID pandemic and then again after to COVID pandemic.

Pat Ferguson – 215 S. Main St. – Stated that historically in her property was the chicken coop 100 years ago. She thanked Superintendent Ed Ware for his assistance. She advised that Friends had sent a letter to BRICKS in support of the grant for the Community Center.

DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS:

Attorney Report: (Robert Germain): Excused

Engineer Report: (Amy Franco): No Report

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

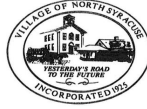
- Concert series ended Wednesday.
- Summer playground is ending Friday.
- Thanked all departments for participating in a successful summer playground program.
- Thanked both the Fire Dept. and Police Dept. for their participation in last day celebration.
- Reminder of Big Truck Day – Saturday from 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. 30 big trucks.

Codes Department: (Director L. Nestell): He stated the following:

- Update on 118 Grove St. Dave Ellithorp - owner – present at meeting. Architect drawing up plans for renovation.
- Sammy's NYC Deli finally opened.
- Akina – Has a final inspection tomorrow. Passed health inspection.
- Imunitech – Decided to sell – Tariffs.
- Dollar General – Plans going forward. Spoke with Zoning Officer. Moving to old Walgreens building. Lease runs out 2027.

Fire Department: (Fire Chief P. Brennan): He stated the following:

- 90 Alarms – July
- 43 Alarms – August
- 6 alarms on Sunday and 9 on Monday alone this month.
- Many power outages in Town of Cicero which echoed into Village of North Syracuse.
- Significant fire at Candy's Diner on 3914 Brewerton Road, Friday, Aug. 8, 2025.
- Final stages of background check on potential bunking candidate for Fire Dept.



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- New member recently approved by Board doing fantastic.
- Fire crew visited Fayetteville Fire Dept on Sunday to see ladder truck to help get ready to make final decision to discuss with Board. Also looked at new renovations on fire building.
- Attended Evac Course on August 5, 2025 located on old air base. Annual requirement by State.
- Will be attending the Big Truck display.
- Will be supporting the Upstate Burn Center with a Burn Camp Reception on Sunday, August 24th at Station #1.
- Thanked all departments, especially the Parks and Rec Dept., for all the cooperation.
- Will be hosting an Open House on Oct. 4th, 2025, for Fire Safety Day. Kickoff for Fire Prevention Week.
- Provided assistance with L. Nestell (Code Enforcement Officer) with Brolex and one other building. The hydrant extension has been installed and sewer lines are being tied in. Advised Board that permit may be expiring soon. Mayor Butterfield explained that the permit expired on July 23, 2025, but the permit has been extended and paid for. He explained that you cannot refuse a permit. The Village only has authority to put a stop work order on or grant a TCO or CO. Only front building is close to being finished.

Police Department:(Lieutenant Zak Misztal): He stated the following:

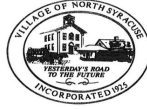
- **Snap Shot – Month of July:**
 - o 1080 Calls for Service
 - o 299 Property Checks
 - o 342 Traffic Stops – 2 DWI's
 - o 23 Domestic Incidents
 - o 27 Motor Vehicle Accidents
 - o 16 Criminal Arrests
 - o 13 Larcenies
 - o Couple of Death Investigations
- Of 19 CNY Police Agencies the Village of North Syracuse in Top 5th for most DWI's for 1st 2 Qtrs.
- Will continue to work with other departments.

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

- 28,560 tons bulk trash from 130 residents
- 124,000 tons brush and clippings
- Repaired 8 storm drains and 9 manholes
- Milling will start the end of September and paving will start beginning of October
- Continued work on flowers, vehicles, building maintenance and park maintenance

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

- Received \$6,231 on top of \$89,000 from AIM. Money was just wired in our account and labeled "Temporary Municipal Assistance".



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- Received \$8,702 of additional cannabis money. This is broken down by division by the Town, the Cities and the Villages

DEPUTY MAYOR-TRUSTEES REPORT:

Trustee Bolton: No Report

Trustee St. Germain: She stated the following:

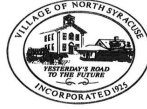
- She thanked the DPW for picking up all of the bulk trash.
- She stated that she is very much in support of the DPW requesting more help during certain months.
- She also stated that she supports more help in the Clerk's office.

Trustee Wilmer: Excused

Deputy Mayor Gustafson: No Report

MAYOR'S REPORT: Mayor Butterfield stated the following:

- Comprehensive Plan Committee:
 - o Has been meeting. CHA is managing for Village.
 - o Many good ideas.
 - o Looking for input from Trustees and Department Heads.
 - o Where will be we 5 years, 10 years, 20 years?
 - o Continues to make progress.
- Gateway Park Community
 - o Potential for developing.
 - o Very little land left that we can do anything with.
 - o Looking into re-purposing some properties
- Impact of Micron On Village of North Syracuse
 - o Trying to determine what that is and how much will it impact.
 - o Most of the major impact will be north of Village.
 - o Still something that needs to be looked at.
 - o We will be surmising but at least working on a plan.
- Vision Statement – What We Have Come Up With So Far:
 - o “The Village in North Syracuse will grow to be a more vibrant, attractive, and inclusive community with clearly defined gateways, walkable neighborhoods and a unified village identity.”
- Shout out to the DPW Flowers
 - o The Mayor received a phone call from a person that lives in Skaneateles. That person stated that the flowers looked “better” than the flowers in Skaneateles. Superintendent Ed Ware said that Gary Wilmer is the “flower watering man.” He has done a great job.



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- Crosswalk at Nestico
 - o Will have flashing light like the one similar to the one near the village.
 - o State trucks have been seen working on the light.

Deputy Mayor Gustafson made a motion to adjourn at 6:47 PM. The motion was seconded by Trustee Bolton. The motion was approved with Dep. Mayor Gustafson, Trustee St. Germain, and Trustee Bolton all voting in favor of the same.

Respectfully submitted,

Dianne M. Kufel
Village Clerk-Treasurer