

VILLAGE OF NORTH SYRACUSE

Regular Board Meeting

Thursday, December 11, 2025 @ 5:30 PM

North Syracuse Community Center

700 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.

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

Personnel Present: Clerk/Treasurer N. Zarzecki, Police C. Fieldson, Codes Officer L. Nestell, Parks Dir. D. Radell, Dep. Fire Chief P. Brennan. Excused: DPW Sup't. E. Ware and Attorney Robert Germain.

RESOLUTION #243-25

APPROVAL OF REG. BD. MTG. MINUTES—NOVEMBER 25, 2025

Trustee Wilmer made a motion to approve the meeting minutes from the November 25, 2025 Board Meeting. The motion was seconded by Trustee St. Germain. Motion was approved. Trustee St. Germain, Trustee Wilmer, Trustee Robinson and Trustee Bolton, all voting in favor of the same.

RESOLUTION #244-25

APPROVAL OF PUBLIC WORK SESSION MINUTES—DECEMBER 1, 2025

Trustee Robinson made a motion to approve the meeting minutes from the December 1, 2025 Public Work Session. The motion was seconded by Trustee Bolton. Trustee Wilmer abstained. Motion was approved. Trustee St. Germain, Trustee Wilmer, Trustee Robinson and Trustee Bolton, all voting in favor of the same.

RESOLUTION #245-25

GENERAL FUND ABSTRACT #14 APPROVAL

Trustee St. Germain made a motion to approve General Fund Abstract #14 in the amount of \$67,857.74 covering Voucher #844 thru #943. Which includes payment of \$7,292 for replacement of a damaged light pole on Main St. that has a pending insurance claim. The motion was seconded by Trustee Bolton. The motion was approved. Trustee St. Germain, Trustee Wilmer, Trustee Robinson, Trustee Bolton and Mayor Butterfield, all voting in favor of the same.

RESOLUTION #246-25

SEWER FUND ABSTRACT #14 – VOUCHER #8 & 9 APPROVAL

Trustee Robinson made a motion to approve Vouchers #8 & #9 in the amount of \$605.26 that which includes a Sewer Jet clearing tool for \$574.00. The motion was seconded by Trustee Wilmer. The motion was approved. Trustee St. Germain, Trustee Wilmer, Trustee Robinson and Trustee Bolton, all voting in favor of the same.



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RESOLUTION #247-25

BUDGET TRANSFER

Trustee Robinson made a motion to transfer monies in the amount of \$2915.00 from A2680 – Insurance Recoveries to A7110.26 – Park Repairs for insurance monies received for Fence Repair at 336 Chestnut St. The motion was seconded by Trustee Wilmer. The motion was approved. Trustee St. Germain, Trustee Wilmer, Trustee Robinson and Trustee Bolton, all voting in favor of the same.

OLD BUSINESS:

PRESENTATION BY HUEBER BREUER REGARDING THE PROPOSED NEW FIRE DEPARTMENT BUILDING

Mayor Butterfield announced a presentation by CHA/Hueber Breuer, Sean Foran, regarding the new Fire Department building. He started by handing out copies of blueprints. He updated the Board on the status of accomplishments for the pre-construction phase of the station that is proposed to be built adjacent to the current building. He prepared a summary document for the Board to refer to. He gave a brief overview. The Village received a grant for pre-construction services and have entered into agreements with CHA, and Hueber Breuer as a consultant to develop bid documents for this project. Efforts in the last 4-6 weeks and work with CHA and with the Village and with the Fire Department have made it possible to take the original proposed plan and reduce it in size and improve the bonding capacity for the project. He has presented an updated schematic and site plan which outlines the direction of the project moving forward. They have also done some work with your fiscal advisors and bank council as it relates to the tax implications and the budgeting of the project. Those costs are outlined on the front page under Item #5. These are just estimates. Working with Bond Council, fiscal advisors, the Fire Department and CHA to further develop these numbers. Moving with the next steps, the goal is to continue to work to complete bid documents within the next 8-10 weeks and then it at that point we would prepare a copy of the Comprehensive Budget for the Village Board to review and approve. With that, the Village would be in a position to determine the next steps. Discussion took place on the Site Plan. Trustee Robinson asked to have clarification on the DASNY grant. CHA helped procure the grant and they are the administrator of it. The goal of the site plan, as it continues to develop, is to increase and provide more secure and safe processes for the volunteer firefighters. Mayor Butterfield stated that the project is bigger than what he had originally expected and there will be severe tax implications. The total annual cost to the Village is \$307,000. Based on preliminary discussions, it's a 7.8% increase in the Village budget just for the Fire Department, that's not including the other departments. The main concern is how much money we spend.

RESOLUTION #248-25

REVIEW/RESOLUTION FOR SEQR (STATE ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY REVIEW)

Trustee Robinson made a motion to approve the assignment of the Village Board as the Lead Agency on Fire Department project. Engineer, Amy Franco, presented a report regarding the new Fire Department building. She stated it has been determined that this project has no environmental impact. This project is an unlisted action and declares a negative declaration that the project does not significantly impact the environment. The Board has to declare themselves as the Lead Agency. Motion was seconded by Trustee Wilmer. Motion was approved. Trustee St. Germain, Trustee Wilmer, Trustee Robinson and Trustee Bolton, all voting in favor of the same.



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INFORMATIONAL:

REVISIT RENTAL REGISTRY

Code Enforcement Officer, Larry Nestell, answered questions that were brought up in the prior Board meeting regarding the Rental Registry. Trustee Bolton had a question regarding the legalities of homes where people are renting from a person that is not living there. At the last meeting it was conveyed that it was only going to be about apartment buildings. Trustee Bolton explained that he thought the registry was for any dwelling that was being rented in the Village. That the legalities of the rental registry were being researched to accommodate being allowed to enter the dwellings for inspections. Codes Officer Nestell explained that the registry covers every type of rental, but there is a limiting factor. If it is not a registered business, there are no legal rights in forcing any kind of inspection on that property. The home has to be registered as a legal business and need an LLC or sole proprietorship to allow any jurisdiction over the unit. The inspections are very thorough. Most home owners are very receptive to the inspections.

UPDATE: BOARD OF ETHICS: COMMITTEE – STATEMENTS:

Mayor Butterfield stated that all statements have been received.

NEW BUSINESS:

DISCUSS THE VACANCY OF THE ZONING BOARD CHAIRPERSON

Mayor Butterfield stated that a new person to serve on the Zoning Board is needed, as well as a chairperson. He is currently looking for a person and asked if anybody knows of someone, please let him know.

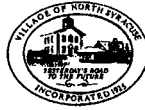
DISCUSS THE VACANCY OF THE PLANNING BOARD CHAIRPERSON

Mayor Butterfield stated that a new person to serve on the Planning Board is needed, as well as a chairperson. He is currently looking for a person and asked if anybody knows of someone, please let him know

RESOLUTION #249-25

**DISCUSS/APPROVE AUTOMATION OF TIMEKEEPING AND PAYROLL
PROCESSING WITH THE USE OF PAYCHEX**

Trustee Wilmer made a motion to approve Paychex for timekeeping and payroll processing. Mayor Butterfield explained that now that the new year is coming, it is a good time to automate the timekeeping and payroll process. The Mayor stated that he had reached out to Paychex 4 or 5 years ago and received a proposal. The Deputy Clerk has contacted other municipalities that use Paychex. The Mayor, the Village Clerk and the Deputy Clerk met with a representative from Paychex regarding options. Paychex gave a presentation and demonstration on what they could offer. By automating it will save time, improve payroll accuracy and save money. It may be a sticky transition, but it will be beneficial. Paychex also has HR services available. Currently waiting on a proposal for a more enhanced HR service they offer. The Mayor is considering an HR person on retainer and will have to update the personnel policy. Trustee Robinson questioned the salary of the person currently doing the payroll to the price of Paychex. A copy of the proposal has been sent to Board Members. Trustees Wilmer and Bolton asked why other payroll agencies were not approached. Trustee Bolton added that he was not comfortable just hearing from one vendor. Trustee Robinson seconded the motion. Trustee Wilmer and Trustee Robinson voted in favor of the



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motion. Trustee Bolton and Trustee St. Germain voted against the motion at this time. Mayor Butterfield voted in favor of motion. The motion was approved.

RESOLUTION #250-25

DISCUSS/APPROVE FUNDS NEEDED FOR INVESTIGATION

Trustee Robinson made a motion to approve an additional funding of \$10,000 necessary for an ongoing investigation that the Village is required to fund. Funding is needed for a second, separate investigation. The first funding amounted to \$6,500. \$10,000 is requested for the second investigation. Trustee Bolton questioned where the money is coming from for the additional \$10,000. Mayor Butterfield stated that at this time, the source of funding is unknown. Information on the harassment complaint investigation is confidential. The investigation is not covered under the Village's contracted legal counsel. Motion was seconded by Trustee Wilmer. Motion was approved. Trustee St. Germain, Trustee Wilmer, Trustee Robinson and Trustee Bolton, all voting in favor of the same.

CITIZENS VOICE: The Mayor asked if any citizen would like to address the Board:

Pat Ferguson – 215 S. Main St.: Tree City is a precursor to Arbor Day. Arbor Day is a piece of that. Submittal has gone in. It takes a whole bunch of people to prepare the submittal. Arbor Day is at the end of April. She also thanked the Police Department and Parks Department for rescuing a float that was broken in the Christmas Parade.

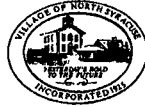
Ken Ryan – 211 Herman Dr.: Advised the Board that everything (fence etc.) at 209 was supposed to have been up to code; he was in court the other night, alarms were purchased but not yet installed- the place has never been up to code. Also, the Code Enforcement Officer has allegedly been telling neighbors (i.e. at 208 with an above ground pool) that he is turning them into the Code Enforcement Office for violations. He reiterated that he is not turning his neighbors in (neighbor – Jimmy- advised him that he does make those calls though). He just wanted the Board to "know what was going on the bad side of Codes".

Attorney Report: (R. Germain): No report.

Engineer Report: (Amy Franco): No report.

Police Department: (Police Chief Fieldson): Stated the following:

- Thanked Don Radell – Parks Director for all of his hard work on a successful Holiday Parade. This was Don's first year of coordinating the parade. The event was very, very well attended.
- Statistics:
 - Total for 2025: 1016 events
 - 449 Property Checks
 - 9 Domestic Incident Investigations
 - 24 Vehicle Crashes
 - 207 Traffic Stops
 - 77 Traffic Tickets
 - 7 Criminal Arrests
 - 2 DWI's
 - 7 Larceny Investigations



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- Reminded the public of the parking ban to assist DPW with clearing roads. No parking on streets at night until 8:00 a.m. (was 6 a.m.)

Code Enforcement : (Code Enforcement Officer L. Nestell): Stated the following:

- Winter is slower for Codes.
- Has had 5 total violations of building codes and 1 violation of fire code.
- Has issued 7 permits (fences, garages, renovations, roofs, new gas stove)
- Inspected 88 units this month
 - St Lawrence Ave Apts., Parkland Apts., Church St LLC Apts., St. Rose of Lima School – will need to do a more detailed inspection report for the state for St Rose of Lima
- 3 cases currently in court, 2 getting ready to go to court
- Meals on Wheels expansion going pretty good. Some issues with building and electrical contractors; working with them to fix.
- Brolex Apts. – rear building is in progress with insulation and drywall completed; dryer vent issue corrected; heat is being put in place and is functional; cabinets, fixtures, hot water tanks near ready for install.
- 118 Grove – the contractor has been in, working on getting permits for renovation. Waiting on ownership to be transferred.

Fire Department: (Deputy Chief Brennan): Stated the following:

- Notified by DOT that South Bay bridge is now open. Will close again in Spring for final work to be done.
- FD was called out at 3 a.m. this morning for fairly large house fire on Caughdenoy Rd. Were one of first vehicles there; did an excellent job in adverse conditions.
- FD on track to have one of the busiest years it has had in a number of years; responses have picked up significantly. Goal is to only respond when there is a true emergency- have cut back on some EMS calls, but still very, very busy.
- Hopefully hosting Santa for the children at the firehouse this weekend; looking forward to that.

Parks and Recreation Department: (Parks Director D. Radell): Stated the following:

- Thanked all for coming out to the parade Appreciated support from trustees and police department who helped block roads, DPW with barricades, Fire Department offered help
 - 40 groups signed up; a few no shows. Approximately 38 participated
- Holiday decorating contest sponsored by Twin Trees (1st, 2nd, 3rd place prizes). Submissions due 12/17- residents can send Parks and email with address. There will be a vote on the best decorated.
- Dwayne and Don set “end of February” date for the Cardboard Sled event.
- Community Center painting is currently being completed.
- Don has had meetings with camera companies for two cameras in this room and also quotes for the entire Community Center building.
- Quote was sent to trustees regarding furnace. Hefty cost; will need to look at that closer in summertime.
- Potential meeting next week with National Fitness Campaign regarding funding they potentially offer to install an outdoor gym at a park.



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Clerk-Treasurer: (Village Clerk-Treasurer N. Zarzecki): Stated the following:

- Met with Paychex to get automation going. Have discussed with other department heads who are receptive and excited to make changes.

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

DEPUTY MAYOR-TRUSTEES REPORT:

Trustee St. Germain: Stated the following:

- Asked about status of Just 1 Bite (Mayor says they are very close. They need to reach out to Larry for final inspection).
- Thinks that it is important that the Community Center return to being a heating/cooling location. Thinks each (Board) person can take a turn manning the station. Unsure on how to reinstate that; acknowledges that elevator would need to be repaired first.
- Don did a great job with Holiday Parade.
- Not against Paychex. Needs a new pamphlet, booklet that shows the right things to do because the village could get jammed up easily without.

Trustee Wilmer: No Report

Trustee Robinson: Stated the following:

- Regarding transition to Paychex – be very careful. They are saying they will begin taking care of everything in January for 2026, but we still have '25 to close out

Trustee Bolton: Stated the following:

- All departments stepped up and worked well under Don's leadership and organization. There was a large turnout and that should generate more people for next year.

MAYOR'S REPORT: Mayor Butterfield stated the following:

- Mayor's Association has a dinner next Wednesday at Vito's; includes Trustees and their significant others- plan to attend (call Judy tomorrow), plenty of (good) food.
- Great parade. Tree lighting went well.
- Other issues that have been discussed previously, no need to repeat.

Mayor Butterfield entertained a motion to adjourn to Executive Session at 7:15 P.M. to discuss a personnel issue. The motion was made by Trustee Wilmer. The motion was seconded by Trustee Bolton. The motion was approved: Trustee Wilmer, Trustee Bolton, and Trustee St. Germain all voting in favor of the same.

Mayor Butterfield made the motion to end Executive Session, and move to Regular Board Meeting at 8:40 PM. The motion was seconded by Trustee St. Germain. The motion was approved: Trustee Bolton, Trustee St. Germain, Trustee Wilmer and Mayor Butterfield all voting in favor of the same.



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Trustee Wilmer made the motion to adjourn at 8:40 P.M. The motion was seconded by Trustee St. Germain. The motion was approved: Trustee Wilmer, Trustee Bolton, Trustee St. Germain, Trustee Robinson and Mayor Butterfield all voting in favor of the same.

Respectfully submitted,

Nick Zarzecki
Village Clerk-Treasurer

