

VILLAGE OF NORTH SYRACUSE

Regular Board Meeting

March 12, 2026 @ 5:30 PM

North Syracuse Community Center

700 South Bay Road, North Syracuse, NY

YouTube 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, Deputy Mayor D. Robinson, Trustee J. Bolton, Trustee F. Wilmer, Trustee L. St. Germain.

Personnel Present: Village Clerk-Treasurer N. Zarzecki, Deputy Fire Chief J. Asztalos, Police Chief C. Fieldson, DPW Foreman J. Wallace, Engineer A. Franco. A. Burkinshaw (frmr. Parks Director, to assist with A/V). Excused: Codes Director L. Nestell, Parks Director D. Radell, Village Attorney R. Germain.

RESOLUTION # 45-26

APPROVAL OF REG. BD. MTG. MINUTES- 2/26/2026

Trustee Bolton made a motion to approve the minutes from the February 26, 2026 Board Meeting. Motion was seconded by Trustee St. Germain. The motion was approved: Deputy Mayor Robinson, Trustee Wilmer, Trustee St. Germain, and Trustee Bolton all voting in favor of the same.

RESOLUTION # 46-26

GENERAL FUND ABSTRACT APPROVAL

Trustee Wilmer made a motion to approve General Fund Abstract #20 in the amount of \$104,073.94, covering voucher #1278 through #1350. Included in the abstract is a payment of \$13,518.96 for an annual payment for Taser Replacements (covered by CREST Grant from Senator Ryan). Motion was seconded by Trustee Bolton. The motion was approved: Deputy Mayor Robinson, Trustee Wilmer, Trustee St. Germain, and Trustee Bolton all voting in favor of the same.

NO BUDGET TRANSFERS

CITIZENS VOICE (This is the third of four meetings in a trial period to move the Citizens Voice ahead of business being discussed.)

Ken Ryan (211 Herman Dr) Stated the following:

- Hoping to get an answer regarding the Village following Code about abandoned pools.

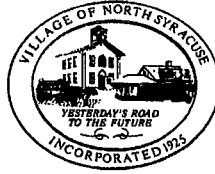
Pat Fergerson (215 S. Main St) Stated the following:

- Many flower donations have been received. Donations go to Friends of the Village and that is a tax-deductible 509(a)(2). Donations for apx 2,100 of the 4,000 hanging baskets/gardening/pots have been received.

OLD BUSINESS

PRESENTATION BY HUEBER BREUER

Presentation By Hueber Breuer's Sean Foran updating the progress of the Proposed New Fire Department building project. Handout summarizing progress to date was provided. Site Plan ("Sheet A"); coming along well, no major issues at this time. Floor Plan ("Sheet B") – drawings are apx 60% developed. Building Elevations ("Sheet C"). Summary Sheet on top includes quick bullet items: design docs = apx 60% complete with final docs ready for permit review mid-April; project would be put to bid early May with Board approval; floor plan is apx 5,400 sq. ft (four apparatus spaces, support spaces,



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training mezzanine). Budget currently being reviewed; target still “all-in” for \$5 million with tax increase being \$68 per \$100,000 home value. Next steps are to complete bid documents and develop next steps for proceeding with the Village.

RESOLUTION # 47-26

DISCUSS/APPROVE ADJUSTED BOND RESOLUTION FOR FD TRUCK #1

Motion was made by Trustee Wilmer to accept an adjusted Bond Resolution to start the estoppel period on 3/12/2026 for the replacement of Truck #1 for the Fire Department. Bond Counsel provided the appropriate resolution to adopt and initiate the bonding process. Motion to approve a Bond Resolution to authorize a new fire-fighting vehicle not to exceed \$2,000,000 for seven or ten years (or 12 years). Motion was seconded by Trustee Bolton. The motion was approved: Deputy Mayor Robinson, Trustee Wilmer, Trustee St. Germain, and Trustee Bolton all voting in favor of the same.

NEW BUSINESS

DISCUSS/APPROVE INCREASE IN PAYMENT TO MEMBERS OF PLANNING AND ZONING BOARDS

Trustee Wilmer made a motion to discuss an increase in payment, effective 6/1/2026, to members of Planning and Zoning Boards to \$75.00 per meeting for members and \$100.00 per meeting for Chairperson. Motion was seconded by Deputy Mayor Robinson. Discussion included reasoning for the request to increase payment. The motion was opposed: Deputy Mayor Robinson, Trustee Wilmer, Trustee St. Germain, and Trustee Bolton all voting in favor of the same.

RESOLUTION # 48-26

DISCUSS/APPROVE APPT OF G. STEVENS TO DPW ASST. SUPT

Deputy Mayor Robinson made a motion to discuss/approve the appointment of Gilbert Stevens to DPW Assistant Superintendent provisionally, contingent on passing an exam when one becomes available. This would be effective 3/13/2026 and the salary will be set tentatively at \$60,000/year. The motion was seconded by Trustee Wilmer. The motion was approved: Deputy Mayor Robinson, Trustee Wilmer, Trustee St. Germain, and Trustee Bolton all voting in favor of the same.

RESOLUTION # 49-26

DISCUSS/APPROVE HIRING OF J. DAVIS & C. BRAGMAN AS F/T POLICE OFFICERS

Trustee Wimer made a motion to discuss/approve the hiring of Justin Davis and Cameron Bragman as full-time officers in the Police Department effective 3/16/2026 at the Recruit Pay salary per CBA. Both will be hired off current eligible Civil Service list and will begin their Police Academy Training at the Oswego County Police Academy on 3/30/2026. Motion was seconded by Trustee Bolton. The motion was approved: Deputy Mayor Robinson, Trustee Wilmer, Trustee St. Germain, and Trustee Bolton all voting in favor of the same.

RESOLUTION # 50-26

DISCUSS/APPROVE ATTENDANCE AT NYS ASSOC. OF CHIEFS OF POLICE CONFERENCE

Trustee Wimer made a motion to discuss/approve Police Chief Fieldson’s attendance at the NYS Association of Chiefs of Police Conference in Lake Placid May 18th-21st. This item is budgeted and contractual. Motion was seconded by Trustee St. Germain. The motion was approved: Deputy Mayor Robinson, Trustee Wilmer, Trustee St. Germain, and Trustee Bolton all voting in favor of the same.



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RESOLUTION # 51-26

DISCUSS/APPROVE SECTION 211 WAIVERS K. ISYK & R. MARSHALL

Trustee Wimer made a motion to discuss/approve signing Section 211 Waivers for Officers Ken Isyk and Robert Marshall, effective 3/13/2026. The waivers are designed to waive retiree earning limits and will allow the officers to assist with current and projected staffing shortages. Motion was seconded by Trustee Bolton. The motion was approved: Deputy Mayor Robinson, Trustee Wilmer, Trustee St. Germain, and Trustee Bolton all voting in favor of the same.

RESOLUTION # 52-26

DISCUSS/APPROVE APPT OF M. YORKEY AS VOL FIREFIGHTER

Trustee Wimer made a motion to discuss/approve the appointment of Mark Yorkey as a new Volunteer Firefighter for the North Syracuse Fire Department. Motion was seconded by Trustee St. Germain. The motion was approved: Deputy Mayor Robinson, Trustee Wilmer, Trustee St. Germain, and Trustee Bolton all voting in favor of the same.

RESOLUTION # 53-26

SET DATE FOR PUBLIC HEARING RE: 5-YEAR COMM. DEV. PLAN

Deputy Mayor Robinson made a motion to set the date for a Public Hearing for community input regarding the application and update to our 5-year Community Development Plan. The application for the 5-Year Community Development Plan is due by 4/10/26; Public Hearing will be held on 3/26/26 ahead of the scheduled Village Board Meeting. Motion was seconded by Trustee Wilmer. The motion was approved: Deputy Mayor Robinson, Trustee Wilmer, Trustee St. Germain, and Trustee Bolton all voting in favor of the same.

RESOLUTION # 54-26

**SET DATE FOR PUBLIC HEARING RE: CODE CHANGE
UNDER PD ZONE FOR NSVFD BLDG**

Trustee Bolton made a motion to set the date for a Public Hearing regarding a potential change to code under the PD Zone for the proposed Fire Department building. A Public Hearing will be held on 4/9/26 ahead of the scheduled Village Board Meeting. Motion was seconded by Trustee Wilmer. The motion was approved: Deputy Mayor Robinson, Trustee Wilmer, Trustee St. Germain, and Trustee Bolton all voting in favor of the same.

RESOLUTION # 55-26

SET DATE FOR PUBLIC HEARING RE: LOCAL LAW #1

Trustee Wilmer made a motion to set the date for a Public Hearing regarding Local Law #1 passing of the tax levy over the 2% tax limit. A Public Hearing will be held on 3/26/26 ahead of the scheduled Village Board Meeting. Motion was seconded by Trustee Bolton. The motion was approved: Deputy Mayor Robinson, Trustee Wilmer, Trustee St. Germain, and Trustee Bolton all voting in favor of the same.

RESOLUTION # 56-26

SET DATE FOR PUBLIC HEARING RE: FY 2026-2027 TENTATIVE BUDGET

Deputy Mayor Robinson made a motion to set the date for a Public Hearing regarding the tentative budget for FY 2026/2027. The deadline to hold a public hearing is April 15th. A Public Hearing will be held on 4/9/26 ahead of the scheduled Village Board Meeting. Motion was seconded by Trustee Bolton. The motion was approved: Deputy Mayor Robinson, Trustee Wilmer, Trustee St. Germain, and Trustee Bolton all voting in favor of the same.



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DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS

CODES: TRUSTEE ST. GERMAIN on behalf of L. NESTELL Stated the following:

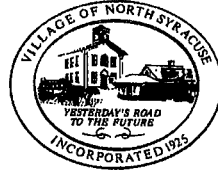
- Dollar General renovations will be completed and ready to open on 4/20.
- In past two weeks, there have been five violations written for property maintenance and doing work without a permit.
- Three cases are in court.
- "Permit season" is warming up; more permit requests coming in.
- Fire Inspections are studied each week.
- Most of the apartment complexes are completed for the registry; the verbiage for the apartment registration is complete and will be delivered to the Board next month.
- Software migration is complete but needs to be cleaned up. Meeting on 3/13 with iWorQ on how to move forward. Eric also offered to assist.
- Regarding the abandoned pool inquiry, that case is in court. The court advised that it is her Constitutional right to complete the work, she does not want to fill it in.

DPW: ASST. SUPT. J. WALLACE Stated the following:

- Currently doing coal patching.
- Currently doing building maintenance.
- Currently trying to do vehicle maintenance; having some issues with a couple of pieces of equipment for picking up brush and heavy trash.
 - Loader is currently down (10-15 days); A ram on the bucket went.
 - Once back in service, brush truck will be going down (hydraulic issues).

FIRE DEPARTMENT: DEPUTY CHIEF J. ASZTALOS Stated the following:

- Thank you to the Board for replacement of Truck 1.
- NSFD responded on 3/11 at apx 11:30pm to an incident at Woodland Garden Apartments (460 S. Main St)
 - Currently under investigation (NYS Police, Office of Emergency Management Fire Investigators)
 - Multiple building had intentional fires set; none spread beyond area of origin due to quick work by NSFD and mutual aid partners.
 - Encourage residents to secure property and be vigilant.
- Date that Model One of the budget will be sent? (Per Mayor Butterfield – will be sent 3/13/26)
- Thanked Deputy Mayor Robinson for coming to the firehouse over the weekend and learning about FD operations, projects, etc.



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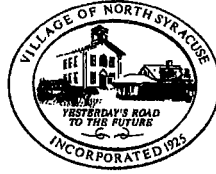
- Statement prepared as member of the Fireman's Association, not as Fire Chief, with permission from Fireman's Association President and Chairmand of the Board:
 - To Mayor Gary Butterfield and the Village Board of Trustees from the North Syracuse Volunteer Firefighters Association, dated today, regarding direct fiscal impact of the North Syracuse Volunteer Firemen's Association financial contributions 2020 to 2025.

The North Syracuse Volunteer Firefighters Association provides a substantial documented offset to the village's fire protection budget. The association has absorbed hundreds of thousands of dollars in departmental costs since January 1st, 2020. This memorandum, which I'll provide a copy to everybody, outlines some of the equipment, infrastructure, and operational items funded entirely or in part by the association and their approximate rounded down cost. Please know that this is no way a comprehensive list, but we wanted to take this opportunity to educate both the board and the public on the advantages that the association provides. For example, this doesn't include the facilitation of purchasing varied vehicles, rather a summary of easy to convey items. Major capital improvement and equipment purchases. These following one-time high value items were purchased or funded by the association, directly sparing the village's capital improvement expenses.

- In 2020, the Firemen's Association installed turnout gear lockers in compliance with new NFPA standards. The installation was \$4,500.
- Coincidentally, the association also purchased those gear lockers. They were just previous to 2020.
- In 2020, on Truck 1, Engine 4, Engine 6, and Rescue 7, the association purchased and had installed vehicle headsets, improving vehicle and firefighter safety to the tune of \$30,000.
- The association pays for all the information technology for the fire department, including a server replacement in 2020, to the tune of \$5,600.
- They renovated our training room in 2020 to the tune of \$9,400.
- They renovated the bump room and washer and dryers at Station 1, \$4,100 in 2021.
- They funded the radio room renovation in 2021 to \$7,600.
- And then in 2026, you'll notice that there's a significant gap there.
- The Fireman's Association is endeavoring to renovate the Station One kitchen to the tune of \$65,000.
- On top of those one-time capital expenses, there are specific line items that the association covers annually.
- If the association were to cease these payments, the fire department would be forced to increase the operating budget by approximately \$75,000 per year.
- Computer and information technology over five years, the association has paid \$75,000.
- Uniforms.
- \$15,500, training \$21,000, public education \$75,000, health and wellness \$70,000, and the maintenance of our antique apparatus \$5,000 for a grand total of \$261,500 over five years.

Beyond the contributions listed above, the association funding of soft costs, insurance, morale, and benefits protects the village from the single greatest potential expense, the transition to a paid fire department. By partnering with the North Syracuse Fire Department through association funds, the village avoids an estimated \$2.5 to \$4 million in annual personnel costs that a career department would require. The NSVA is a primary partner with the Village of North Syracuse Fire Department. These contributions represent over \$400,000 in the last five years and beyond since the incorporation of the association. They represent a significant taxpayer dividend, allowing the village to maintain a premier level of protection while keeping municipal debt and taxes significantly lower.

So we respectfully submit this for education purposes to everybody, so you understand a little bit more about the benefits of the Fireman's Association.



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ENGINEERING: A. FRANCO Stated the following:

- No Report

PARKS & RECREATION (Excused)

POLICE DEPARTMENT: CHIEF C. FIELDSON Stated the following:

- Statistics for the month of February:
 - 524 total events
 - 226 property checks
 - 8 domestic incidents
 - 15 motor vehicle crashes investigated
 - 57 traffic stops
 - 40 traffic tickets
 - 9 criminal arrests
 - 3 DWIs
 - 1 larceny
- Winter parking ban in effect until April 15th: 1am – 8am

CLERK-TREASURER: N. ZARZECKI Stated the following:

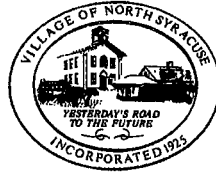
- Model One of the budget is completed; work sessions need to be scheduled with Dept Heads before Public Hearings and before final tax levies decided on.
- Flower donations have been steadily coming in.

ATTORNEY REPORT (Excused)

DEPUTY MAYOR/TRUSTEES REPORTS

TRUSTEE ST. GERMAIN Stated the following:

- Apologized for recent absences; father has had heart issues and hopefully he will continue to do better.
- All Village departments are extremely important, and the FP and PD budgets are the biggest budgets because they are the most requested services.



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TRUSTEE WILMER Stated the following:

- Would like to make a motion to have an audit performed for Village finances for 2023-2024 (Mayor requested to address this during his report).

TRUSTEE BOLTON Stated the following:

- Attended a press conference in E. Syracuse last week where NYS Fire Chiefs Association presented information about recruiting and retaining volunteer firefighters.
- Attended Tree City luncheon in E. Syracuse on 3/12/26, representing the Village.
 - Village has been a Tree City for 37 years; one of longest of all NY municipalities.

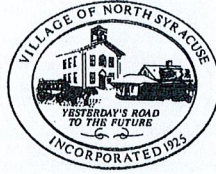
DEPUTY MAYOR ROBINSON Stated the following:

- Acknowledged appreciation to Fire Chief for recent meeting; educational and enlightening.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Butterfield Stated the following:

- Annual Comptroller's report measuring fiscal and environmental stress of the village reported Village of North Syracuse at a three-year aggregated financial stress score of 3.3 (zero being the best, 100 being the worst).
- Former Clerk-Treasurer's medical issues prevented the AFR being submitted on time. They were submitted, very accurately, however.
- An audit is conducted on the village every year by an independent accounting firm. This costs \$18,000 and is in the budget.
 - Information can be obtained from the Comptroller's Office; another audit is not necessary.
- **RESOLUTION # 57-26** **DISCUSS/APPROVE AN IMMEDIATE FINANCIAL AUDIT FOR FY 23/24**
- Trustee Wilmer made a motion to discuss/approve having an audit performed for Village finances for FY 2023-2024. Motion was seconded by Trustee Bolton. Discussion was held. This motion was made due to the change in Clerk-Treasurer and want for a "clean slate" for new Clerk-Treasurer. Mayor reiterated that an annual audit/review is already completed for the Village, the information can be obtained from Clerk-Treasurer, and the cost for another one would likely be very high. The motion was approved: Trustee Wilmer, Trustee St. Germain, and Trustee Bolton all voting in favor of the same. Deputy Mayor Robinson opposed.
- **RESOLUTION # 58-26** **DISCUSS/APPROVE OBTAINING RFP FOR FINANCIAL AUDIT FOR FY 23/24**
- Trustee Wilmer made a motion to discuss/approve obtaining an RFP (Request for Proposal) from the Fund Balance for an immediate audit to be performed for Village finances for FY 2023-2024. Motion was



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seconded by Trustee Bolton The motion was approved: Trustee Wilmer, Trustee St. Germain, and Trustee Bolton all voting in favor of the same. Deputy Mayor Robinson opposed.

- Police Officers were observed potentially raiding Skunk City Smoke Shop

DISCUSS/APPROVE DPW EMERGENCY GENERATOR REPLACEMENT

Deputy Mayor Robinson made a motion to discuss/approve and emergency purchase for a DPW generator that quit; three people have looked at it and determined it is not able to be fixed. Since the generator is a necessity at the DPW, this is considered an emergency repair. Three prices for new generators were obtained, with the low price being \$11,700 (includes sub-panel). Motion was seconded by Trustee St. Germain. Trustee Bolton initiated discussion; Board has not received any information on this emergency purchase (size, capabilities, warranties, etc) and since DPW, Mayor, and Trustee Liaison Robinson have been aware of issues for a couple of weeks, this is not an emergency. Motion was denied: Deputy Mayor Robinson and Mayor Butterfield voting in favor of, and Trustee Wilmer, Trustee St. Germain, and Trustee Bolton all voting against.

Trustee Wilmer made the motion to adjourn to Executive Session at 6:45pm to discuss a personnel issue. The motion was seconded by Trustee Bolton. The motion was approved; Deputy Mayor Robinson, Trustee St. Germain, Trustee Wilmer, and Trustee Bolton all voting in favor of the same.

Trustee Wilmer made the motion to end Executive Session and move to Regular Board Meeting at 7:54 PM. The motion was seconded by Trustee St. Germain. The motion was approved: Deputy Mayor Robinson, Trustee St. Germain, Trustee Wilmer, and Trustee Bolton all voting in favor of the same. In attendance for Executive Session was Mayor Butterfield, Trustee St. Germain, Trustee Wilmer, Deputy Mayor Robinson, and Trustee Bolton.

Deputy Mayor Robinson made the motion to adjourn at 7:55 P.M. The motion was seconded by Trustee Bolton. The motion was approved: Deputy Mayor Robinson, Trustee St. Germain, Trustee Wilmer, and Trustee Bolton all voting in favor of the same.

Respectfully Submitted,

Nick Zarzecki
Village Clerk-Treasurer