

VILLAGE OF NORTH SYRACUSE

Regular Board Meeting

April 9, 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 Deputy Mayor Robinson asking everyone to join him in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call: Deputy Mayor Robinson, Trustee J. Bolton, Trustee Wilmer, Trustee L. St. Germain. Mayor G. Butterfield resigned.

Personnel Present: Village Clerk-Treasurer N. Zarzecki, Fire Chief P. Brennan, Police Chief C. Fieldson, Parks Director D. Radell, Codes Director L. Nestell, DPW Asst. Superintendent G. Stevens, Engineer A. Franco, Village Attorney R. Germain.

Public Hearing #1 held by the Board of Trustees of the Village of North Syracuse on the 9th day of April 2026 at 5:28 PM regarding tentative 2026/2027 Budget after Public Works Sessions by Board of Trustees. Deputy Mayor Robinson prefaced the discussion by reiterating that Department Heads were tasked with maintaining current Village services, not increasing them. Increases in fixed expenses, i.e. electric bills, and other incidentals account for budget increase.

Patience Frysinger (102 Oakley Dr):

- 9% budget increase equates to an overall 15% property tax increase according to the Real Property tax line under General Funds Revenue. This is the 3rd year the Village has proposed a budget and subsequent levies at/around double digits. NYS tax cap was set to protect homeowners from what is happening here. Budget is increasing taxpayers' burden instead of cutting spending. Residents are facing a 33% jump in tax levy in 3 years. This is unsustainable, especially when compared to towns of Clay and Cicero who pay less non-school taxes comparatively.
- Once a municipality hits 80% of levy to market value of properties held to that levy, it is considered insolvent. Village has been trending at mid to high 40% for last 15 years; can quickly increase if a bubble is hit (as seen in 2009) or market returns to previous trends.
- Concerns about State of NY Comptrollers' 2024 audit of Village fund management. AFR reports are missing or filed late. Since Board voted for an audit, they must be concerned as well. How is a 15% budget increase justified when state auditors and Board are questioning what happened fiscally?
- DPW and Parks are only departments showing constraints.
- "Math ain't mathin'". Some rows in budget do not total, installment purchases do not align. Either a spreadsheet problem or lack of transparency.
 - *This was checked at Village Hall after meeting: "all good", formulas are accurate*
- A 15% tax levy increase, when the average salary increase in Onondaga County is 3%, is not sustainable; implores the Board and Department Heads to dig deep and cut at least 2/3 of this budget. All major capital projects should be suspended unless it is an emergency. Village needs to consider consolidation, shared services, and termination of services.

Lisa Lioto (356 Chestnut St):

- Appreciates the time and effort it took to decrease the budget from 18% to 9%, but there are still opportunities to decrease it more. Happy to sit down with anyone at anytime to review what she sees.
- Questions if Planning and Zoning Board members received an increase to their stipend? (no)
- Questions if every employee is receiving between 5-20% pay increase. (except DPW who got a negotiated 2.5% increase). Asks this to be reconsidered.



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- Time to cut services, cannot go on like this. Urges residents to attend Monday's public workshop meeting.

Ken Ryan (211 Herman Dr):

- Attended one workshop and part of another; there are still things in the budget that can be removed.
 - Share cars, share whatever. Do not need a clothing allowance. Do not need raises across the board.
 - Some numbers on budget do not add up. Budget does not read well.

Trustee Bolton wanted to make all aware that great efforts were made in cutting the budget. Still working on how to address services in the Village. Which services do we cut? Leaf and bulk trash pick-up? Mattress pick-up? Board needs resident input. Other items in the budget, Board/Department Heads have no control over: pensions, retirement, and health insurance increased significantly. Where should cuts be made? Cut DPW positions? Cut Police Officers? Cut frequency of services? Village does not have any land that can be developed. Village is bound by contracts; can be renegotiated in the future, but not this year. Many significant increases were budgeted in due to increase/uncertainty in what National Grid will do. Email him with what residents think; there is a meeting on Monday evening. Do not want to cut services without residents giving feedback first.

Deputy Mayor Robinson encouraged residents to pay attention to the details in the Comprehensive Plan; Village needs a deliberate plan going forward on how the village will be maintained as a village.

Public Hearing was closed.

Public Hearing #2 held by the Board of Trustees of the Village of North Syracuse on the 9th day of March 2025 at 5:29 PM regarding community input on Local Law #2 of 2026: PD Zone Change for the Proposed Fire Dept Building on Chestnut St. The proposed new firehouse building's drawings come closer to the property lines than current codes allow; a zone change will be required in the future. No comments were made.

Public Hearing was closed.

CITIZENS VOICE

(This is the first of four meetings in a trial period to move the Citizens Voice after Roll Call - and Public Hearing(s), if applicable - and then again after Old & New Business being discussed, before Department Head or Attorney Reports.)

Ken Ryan (211 Herman Dr) Stated the following:

- Regarding not filling the pool next door to him at 209; state says they received the right to fix it, but that right passed eight years ago. Once pool is abandoned, it needs to be filled. Would like to know where it is at in court?
 - Codes Director advised that the meeting is on the 14th; the judge gave her the option to repair it and that is what she chose. She has been fined for the pool before, the Village has taken her to court twice now (along with fence issue). On the 14th, she either decides that she is going to meet the demands of the court or we proceed from there.



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- Spoke to state about fence also, they said they addressed that as well but did not receive a picture of the falling over back of the fence.
 - Codes Director confirmed that the state did get all pictures/information and they provided a document stating that matter is closed.
- Asked if Monday's meeting was open for input (it is not, could give Board concerns before).

Pat Ferguson (215 South Main St) Stated the following:

- On Arbor Day, Friday 4/24, at 1pm on Parkway Drive (park in the loop). Housing development was put in in the 1930s. A hydrangea tree was put in; it is doing very well. Thank you to DPW gentlemen.
- Festival is coming May 23rd – keep in mind.

Lisa Lioto (356 Chestnut St) Stated the following:

- Wanted to talk about efficiency; consolidating office supplies and where ordered from.
- Do Village Hall employees work 35-hour work week? Who keeps track of overtime and comp time?
 - Paychex and Department Heads, Trustee liaisons if necessary
- Village Hall employees should work 40 hour weeks if they are getting such large raises. Would provide more efficiencies.

DISCUSS/ APPROVAL OF REG. BD. MTG. MINUTES– 3/26/2026

Trustee Wilmer made a motion to approve the minutes from the March 26, 2026 Board Meeting. Motion was seconded by Trustee St. Germain. Trustee Bolton requested Discussion, questioned what was being approved as he did not receive the Minutes prior to this Board Meeting. Trustee St. Germain advised that she read them online where they were posted. Trustee Bolton stated that he never has approved Minutes that were posted online before being approved. The motion and second were withdrawn and tabled until next Board Meeting.

ABSTRACT APPROVAL

Trustee Wilmer made a motion to approve General Fund Abstract #22 in the amount of \$125,313.35, covering voucher #1401 through #1459. Included in the abstract is a payment of \$40,085.62 to M&T Bank as the first payment for the new DPW dump truck. Motion was seconded by Trustee St. Germain. Trustee Bolton requested Discussion, questioned whether the abstract was sent out to everybody on the Board. Clerk-Treasurer N. Zarzecki advised that due to current staffing issues, the abstract was completed for Trustee Bolton to audit; however, it was not able to be sent to the remaining Board members in time for this meeting. Trustee Bolton completed viewing the abstract in person at Village Hall this afternoon. Deputy Mayor Robinson clarified that "assistant Clerk- Treasurer" went out on Medical, will be out for next three weeks. Village Hall is down that person and simultaneously managing budget input; currently overwhelmed with amount of work. The motion was withdrawn and tabled until the next Board Meeting.

BUDGET TRANSFER(s)



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The motion to discuss/approve Budget Transfer(s) was also tabled until the next Board Meeting for the same reasons as the Abstract Approval.

OLD BUSINESS

FIRE TRUCK 1 ESTOPPEL NOTICE

Review of Estoppel Notice for Proposed Fire Truck #1 – Expiration of Estoppel is 4/12/26. The Clerk- Treasurer's Office published notice of this and the public has until April 12th to come forward to raise issue with that bonding.

RESOLUTION # 68-26

DISCUSS/APPROVE LOCAL LAW #1 FOR 2026: 2% TAX CAP OVERRIDE

Trustee Wilmer made a motion to approve Local Law #1 – 2026: Increase the Village Tax Levy Above the 2% Threshold. Motion was seconded by Trustee Bolton. A Public Hearing was held on 3/26/2026 regarding this Local Law. The motion was approved: Trustee St. Germain, Trustee Wilmer, Trustee Bolton all voting in favor of the same.

NEW BUSINESS

RESOLUTION # 69-26

DISCUSS/APPROVE HIRING OF DPW EMPLOYEE M. GRYSKO

Trustee St. Germain made a motion to approve hiring Mark Grysko as a Full-Time DPW Laborer effective 4/6/2026. Motion was seconded by Trustee Bolton. The motion was approved: Trustee St. Germain, Trustee Wilmer, Trustee Bolton all voting in favor of the same.

RESOLUTION # 70-26

DISCUSS/APPROVE DATES OF MAY 15, 16, & 17 FOR ANNUAL VILLAGE GARAGE SALES

Trustee Bolton made a motion to discuss and approve the Resolution of Dates for the Annual Village Garage Sale Weekend. The motion was seconded by Trustee Wilmer. Sign-ups will be at Village Hall and no permit is required. Dates are May 15-17, 2026. The motion was approved: Trustee St. Germain, Trustee Wilmer, Trustee Bolton all voting in favor of the same.

RESOLUTION # 71-26

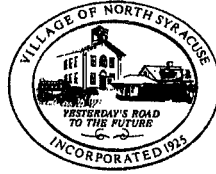
DISCUSS/APPROVE RESULTS OF NORTH SYRACUSE FIRE DEPARTMENT OFFICER ELECTIONS

Trustee Bolton made a motion to discuss and approve the results of the North Syracuse Fire Department Officer Elections. The motion was seconded by Trustee St. Germain. The elections were held on April 7, 2026. The motion was approved: Trustee St. Germain, Trustee Wilmer, Trustee Bolton all voting in favor of the same.

DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS

ATTORNEY (R. GERMAIN): No Report

ENGINEER (A. FRANCO): No Report



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PARKS DEPARTMENT: DON RADELL Stated the following:

- Earth Day 4/25/26 from 10am – noon. Will clean up all parks, along Main Street, get Village looking nice for summer months. Will help DPW when they start mowing to not have to get on and off mowers.
- 4/25/26 is also Village Shred Day at the Community Center from 10am – noon. Free event; stop in if you have documents to shred.
- Was contacted by the County regarding the Community Center being a Cooling Station. Was told qualifications are only that it needs to be manned. Hours can be listed as the current Village hours or “call for hours”, so scheduled events do not need to be impacted.
- Elevator install started on Monday; an issue arose that at the top of the elevator shaft there needs to be a beam where there currently is not one. Meeting on Friday with the company, Larry, Trustee Wilmer, Don to discuss next steps.

CODES DEPARTMENT: CODES DIRECTOR L. NESTELL Stated the following:

- Been at Codes Training all week (NYSBOC).
- Has been in talks with iWorQ to create Apartment Registry for past several months. They have come up with a design software package using information provided to them so that those who own an apartment can register online through a link on Village website.
 - Additional fee for this - total is \$5,250 annually with a \$1,050 set-up fee (reduced to this amount).
 - 331 apartments times \$100 each = \$33,100 on the homes and an additional \$1,800 on apartment complexes, plus fire inspections on the 331 homes (only currently able to do fire inspections on the apartment complexes because they are registered businesses).
 - Would also allow Codes to have detailed tenant information with copies of their contracts. This would also feed over to Fire Department if they need access.
 - Not meant to make money, meant to create safety, but it would also bring in revenue. Would like to add this to the budget.

FIRE DEPARTMENT: FIRE CHIEF P. BRENNAN Stated the following:

- Alarm this past weekend at Palmcrest off Taft Road in Town of Cicero. They have also been looking at a similar registry as Larry talked about (AirBnB in a basement that Fire Department was not aware existed).
- Shout-outs to Gil and Amy regarding getting trees removed by firehouse before deadline. Neighbor was also appreciative that Trustee Bolton and Deputy Chief Asztalos spoke to him and also that the tree was removed.
- Changing of the Chiefs – Chief Brennan’s last day will be April 21st as Fire Chief. Deputy Chief Asztalos will be taking over, along with Dante and Chris who will be the two other chiefs. Thanked the Board for their support that was given to the Fire Department during his tenure as Chief.

DPW: DEPUTY SUP'T. GILL STEVENS Stated the following:

- Wished Chief Brennan Good Luck.



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- Bulk Brush pickup started March 16th, second round has begun. On Monday, switched to Bulk Trash. First round for April will be finished Friday. Start again May 4th – call DPW the Friday before by 3pm to get on the pickup list.
- Hiring of Mark has worked out well; he is also a village resident and will be a good asset to the DPW. Hopefully, they can hire one more person with a CDL to fill his (Gil's) position.
- Equipment issues with the Brush Truck- has gone down a couple of times, major leaks, major problems. Trying to band-aid it together to keep it going because it is needed all year long (as well as loader issues, but have that figured out- will have new loader June/July through Highway CHIPS program, not coming out of budget). Need to make a plan for the Brush Truck. Estimated replacement cost is \$240,000.
 - Brush Truck is used in Spring for bulk trash and bulk brush, lawn repair, moving dirt around/picking it up. Snow removal in wintertime (cul-de-sacs, ends of road, etc). Many miles and hours put on it (including to Amboy to get rid of the brush...).

DEPUTY MAYOR/TRUSTEES REPORTS

TRUSTEE ST. GERMAIN Stated the following:

- Services the Village is trying to maintain are the biggest thing that the budget revolved around.
- Village has just shy of 6,800 residents; has its own “perks” (that are not free, but exclusive only to Village residents). DPW, Police Department, Parks, Codes, Volunteer Fire Department.
- Residents may not be crediting the Board for remaining diligent and steadfast while trying to be financially responsible and also not cut essential services that everyone welcomes. Creating the budget is challenging, but the Board is going line-by-line, sitting with all Department Heads and spending more time with each other than at home to come up with this budget. Village of North Syracuse’s logo says “Yesterday’s Road to the Future” – let’s keep going for the future.

TRUSTEE WILMER Stated the following:

- Thanked Chief Brennan for his service for all of the years.
- Thanked residents for showing up and giving input. Please continue to do so and reach out.

TRUSTEE BOLTON Stated the following:

- Thanked Chief Brennan for the knowledge and partnership he has brought. Taught a lot. Knows that Joe and Chris will do a great job, and Chief Brennan will be missed.
- Commended DPW on getting trees down at minimal cost to village.
- Echoed what Trustee St. Germain stated- this is a great Village; we do a lot here but need to look at how to make it more affordable. Encourages everyone to take one of his business cards and email him with questions on any budget line – he will do his best to get back to everybody to explain where the money comes from and where it goes. Encourages everyone to come out Monday at 5pm to Village Hall conference room to sit in and listen to budget meeting. Not a “give and take” information from the public, but can email, call, etc. afterwards. Glad residents are participating to the extent they are this year and showing an interest in what they want to do.



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DEPUTY MAYOR'S REPORT

Deputy Mayor Robinson Stated the following:

- Update about Comprehensive Plan: was written with a \$50,000 grant (Village has been fully reimbursed this amount. CHA is billing \$60,000 and after 2/27/26 payment, the Village has paid \$56,500). Expects to bring the Comprehensive Plan to the Board to adopt at the next meeting. Thinks that this is a good plan, talks about the Village future. It also includes that the sewer system is 50 years old – this will need to be replaced and will be a big bump in that budget.
- June 16th election to fill the term of the current mayor and fill the trustee role.
- Regarding the money received from the Town of Clay to replace the elevator; beam is missing, had to do radon testing, replace old wiring. Not expecting those; nothing is free.

DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS (continued from earlier)

POLICE DEPARTMENT: CHIEF CHANCE FIELDSON Stated the following:

- March Statistics – 740 Events:
 - 266 Property Checks
 - 6 Domestic Incidents Investigated
 - 21 Motor Vehicle Crashes Investigated
 - 138 Traffic Stops
 - 79 Traffic Tickets
 - 8 Criminal Arrests
 - 2 DWIs
 - 1 Larceny
- Unfortunately, one recruit from last meeting's Swearing-In did not make it through the first week of the Police Academy.
- Child Safety Seat Program – Police Department has members that are certified Child Safety Technicians. Seeing an uptick of that; plan to send another officer to training. This is a great service provided. Can make an appointment on PD website.
- Police Explorer Program – for ages 14 -21 that has an interest in Law Enforcement. They come to PD, have meetings and learn about profession, may be allowed to ride along with an officer (based on attendance and merit). Formidable program that the Village is one of only three in county.
- 9pm Routine: Summertime is an uptick of pedestrian and vehicle traffic overnight; lock house and car doors, take mail out of mailboxes, ensure outside lights are on, bring valuables inside.

CLERK-TREASURER: NICK ZARZECKI: No Report



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****Note that the order for this meeting was not followed.***

Ken Ryan (211 Herman Dr) Stated the following:

- Who do Department Heads answer to? Not just Codes, this has been going on way before Larry, but who does he and all others answer to? There must be an overwatch for all. Cannot do for Fire, etc. He has come in for meetings at around 10:30 many times and he (Larry) is not in yet. Blames Mayor if he is the "overwatcher" that he did not do his job.
- DPWs Brush Truck also does trailways, everything. Most important piece of equipment; when he was there, he was in it constantly.
- In short time since change of leadership, things changing for the better. Has noticed the police officers and cars are around more.
- Thanked Chief Brennan for giving up most of his life for FD; no one will surpass him in any way shape or form.

Patience Fryinger (102 Oakley Dr) Stated the following:

- Agrees that the Village has great services, great people that work for the Village; not attacking anyone, but fiscal changes are needed. Has raised daughters here but knows she cannot afford to stay here when she retires if the Village continues on this trend. Future grandchildren will not be able to enjoy either.

Pat Ferguson (215 South Main St) Stated the following:

- Police Chief Fieldson came to Bunny Breakfast, won 50/50, and he gave it back. That paid for the Can-teen kids that were volunteering to be able to eat. Thank you, Chief!

Trustee Wilmer made the motion to adjourn at 6:45pm adjourn. The motion was seconded by Trustee St. Germain. The motion was approved; Trustee St. Germain, Trustee Wilmer, Trustee Bolton all voting in favor of the same.

Respectfully Submitted,

Nick Zarzecki
Village Clerk-Treasurer