

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
Village of East Syracuse  
November 4, 2013**

Prior to the meeting the Village of East Syracuse Board of Trustees met in joint session with the Town of DeWitt Council and public officials to hear a repeat of presentation made October 3<sup>rd</sup> at East Syracuse Elementary in support of forming a separate East Syracuse Fire District.

**Mayor Robert T. Tackman** called the regularly scheduled meeting for Monday November 4, 2013 of the Village of East Syracuse Board of Trustees to order at 7:00PM.

Present: Trustee James E. Carr, Jr., Trustee Carol Para, Deputy Mayor Barbara Falcone Quonce, Trustee Daniel J. Wagner, and Mayor Robert T. Tackman.

Also Present: DPW Superintendent Ron Russell, III, Parks Director Tom Richardson, Chief of Police Donald Morris, Village Clerk Patricia J. Derby, 1<sup>st</sup> Assistant Fire Chief David Brewster, and Code Enforcement Officer Randy Capriotti.

Approximately 17 Village residents and guests attended, including Firehouse Caretakers Nate Baker and Jim Brewster, and Police Officer Patrick Tousley.

**Review of Correspondence** A record of recent correspondence has been distributed to the Board of Trustees and all department heads to assist in monitoring activities.

**Motion** – by Trustee Wagner, seconded by Deputy Mayor Quonce - To accept the following vouchers for payment:

From **Consolidated Fund** Abstract, vouchers numbered 48891 through 49051 and Abstract in the amount of \$209,777.79.

Polling the Board: Trustee Carr – aye, Deputy Mayor Quonce – aye, Trustee Wagner – aye, Trustee Para – aye, and Mayor Tackman – aye. Motion carried.

**Elections Notice**

For the March 18, 2014 Annual Village Elections there are no offices to be filled.

## **Delinquent Taxes**

**Motion** – by Trustee Wagner, seconded by Trustee Para - To accept the list of **unpaid taxes for fiscal year 2012/13** from the Collector of Taxes. The amount of unpaid taxes is **\$116,477.74** (2012/2013 was \$125,892.69) through October 2013.

Polling the Board: Trustee Carr – aye, Deputy Mayor Quonce – aye, Trustee Wagner – aye, Trustee Para – aye, and Mayor Tackman – aye. Motion carried.

A copy of the **delinquent tax list** is attached herewith and made a part of this record.

**Motion** – by Trustee Wagner, seconded by Trustee Pars - To direct the Treasurer to **forward the delinquent tax list**, in the amount of **\$116,477.74** (plus penalties) to the Commissioner of Finance of Onondaga County. Pursuant to section 1442 of the Real Property Tax Law of the State of New York; Local Law No. 2, of 1978 of Onondaga County authorizing the Commissioner of Finance of Onondaga County to collect, and the County Legislature to enforce collection of delinquent Village taxes; as per Resolution of the Board of Trustees of the Village of East Syracuse, approved on November 27, 1978 requesting the County to collect delinquent taxes.

Polling the Board: Trustee Carr – aye, Deputy Mayor Quonce – aye, Trustee Wagner – aye, Trustee Para – aye, and Mayor Tackman – aye. Motion carried.

## **Employee matters**

**Motion** – by Deputy Mayor Quonce, seconded by Trustee Para - To apply for a \$211 waiver for Director of Operations and Deputy Code Enforcement positions to encompass the full year earnings.

Polling the Board: Trustee Carr – aye, Deputy Mayor Quonce – aye, Trustee Wagner – aye, Trustee Para – aye, and Mayor Tackman – aye. Motion carried.

## **Annual CNY SPCA Agreement**

**Motion** – by Trustee Wagner, seconded by Trustee Carr - To authorize the Mayor to execute agreement with CNY SPCA for 2014 Dog Control. Village pays \$150 per animal, plus any additional services.

Polling the Board: Trustee Carr – aye, Deputy Mayor Quonce – aye, Trustee Wagner – aye, Trustee Para – aye, and Mayor Tackman – aye. Motion carried.

### **Use of Village Property**

**Motion** – by Trustee Wagner, seconded by Trustee Carr - To permit access to Village property to Michael Albanese south of Jamesville/Apulia Road at Wallberger Road north of driveway (approx. 20 feet) and to cross the Wallberger Road Bridge. Will provide certificate of insurance and repair and damage (ruts, mud, etc.) as well as repair of grass (re-seed and cover with straw). Will be in and out a few times over 2 or 3 days.

Polling the Board: Trustee Carr – aye, Deputy Mayor Quonce – aye, Trustee Wagner – aye, Trustee Para – aye, and Mayor Tackman – aye. Motion carried.

### **Police Grant**

**Motion** – by Trustee Para, seconded by Trustee Wagner - To accept the grant award of \$850 from NYS Governor's Traffic Safety Committee to participate in the statewide Child Passenger Safety program.

Polling the Board: Trustee Carr – aye, Deputy Mayor Quonce – aye, Trustee Wagner – aye, Trustee Para – aye, and Mayor Tackman – aye. Motion carried.

### **Parks Trips**

**Motion** – by Trustee Para, seconded by Trustee Wagner - To offer trip to *Disney on Ice, Passport to Adventure* on Thursday, January 2<sup>nd</sup>. Trip includes bus transportation to Syracuse War Memorial and ticket to the show. Cost is \$16 for residents and \$18 for non-residents.

Polling the Board: Trustee Carr – aye, Deputy Mayor Quonce – aye, Trustee Wagner – aye, Trustee Para – aye, and Mayor Tackman – aye. Motion carried.

## **DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS**

### **Department of Public Works – Superintendent Ron Russell, III**

PARKS & REC – DPW with assistance from the FD removed the pool cover for repairs. It will be reinstalled when returned. The large slide at the pool was removed from the Park due to insurance concerns. The area was restored with topsoil and seed. The water lines to the fields and pavilion were shut down and

blown out to prevent freezing. Two handicap parking spots were marked at ESE on James St. near the football field at the request of Pop Warner. Fields were mowed as well as the Park itself. Mowing is winding down for the season.

**SIDEWALKS-** DPW replaced some sidewalk areas at 617 & 147 W. Manlius St.  
**TREE WORK** – Trees were trimmed in various areas of the Village and preparations to plant 35 bare root trees were made. The trees will be planted Nov 6 & 7. Tree stumps from summer removal were ground and DPW will remove the piles of grinding and refill with topsoil. Leaf season began and crews will try to be out daily if we have the manpower.

**SNOW OPERATIONS** – DPW began putting the plows/salt spreaders on our vehicles for winter.

**DRAINAGE** – Piping was installed at 300 East Ave after the resident informed us of a freeze problem and ice formation due to standing water during the winter. Storm sewers were cleaned in the 400 block of E. Yates due to an overflow observation. Drainage ditches and culverts were cleaned at 100 block of Johnson St. & 100 blocks of East & West First Street. Basins were routinely checked for leaves to prevent street flooding during rain events.

**BUILDING MAINTENANCE** – Painting of the DPW 200 building and attached storage buildings was completed.

**YARD WASTE** – The final yard waste pick up was October 28.

All other operations required of the DPW were performed. November operations will consist of leaf pick up, finishing equipment change over for winter operations and servicing and storing summer season equipment.

DPW has 3 employees out of work due to injury or illness. 1 employee will return Nov 12 and another Nov 18. These are tentative dates and may change. The third employees return to work is unknown.

**Justice Court – Judge Donald M. Benack, Jr.**

Reminder to all that Winter Ban Parking has started again. No parking on the streets from 2 AM to 6 AM - Parking tickets will be issued. Police Dept usually gives warning first week or two.

JCAP has been sent in by Court. Never know if we are given grant until late December or January.

No Court November 5 due to elections - good luck to all candidates. No court also for November 19 or 26<sup>th</sup>.

Judge Benack has been ill and Judge Jokl has been covering his court. Also Judge Gideon is also helping with arraignments. Expecting to have Judge Benack on the bench back in December. Please keep him in your thoughts and prayers.

Also, ticket count is down to due new system being added to police computer system throughout the county. Have not received many tickets due to this problem. Hope to be getting tickets soon through track system.

**Trustee Carol Para** reported that Judge Benack is home, resting.

### **Code Enforcement – Director of Operations Randy Capriotti**

- I.     Rental Inspections
  - A. Initial inspection – 11 units
  - B. Re-inspections – 22 units
  - C. Total potential rental UNITS – 912; Currently rental UNITS – 810
  - D. Registered 2013 – Roughly 333 STRUCTURES as of 10/31/13
- II.    Fire Inspections- 8
  - A. Place of Assembly – 5
  - B. Commercial – 3
  - C. Multi-families;
    - 3 structures
    - 19 units
- III.   Housing Court
  - A. Court Order to Inspect - 0
  - B. Rental Inspections - 7
  - C. Ordered to apply to ZBA for use variance – 0
  - D. Ordered to register – 0
  - E. Outdoor Storage – 2
  - F. Nuisance Vehicles – 4
  - G. Parking Violation - 0
  - H. Property Maintenance - 1
  - I. Illegal Signs -0
  - J. Zoning -0
  - K. Container Location- 0
- IV.    Notices/Violations Cited
  - A. Outdoor Storage – 0
  - B. Nuisance Vehicles – 2
  - C. Grass – 0, Ordered cut - 0
  - D. Property Maintenance – 1
  - E. Signs – 0

- F. Pools – 0
- G. Rental Reg. – delinquent notices - 0
- H. Communication Towers – 0
- I. Sprinkler Inspections – 8
- J. Stop Work Orders – 0
- K. Order to repair/demolish - 0
- L. Disruptive Conduct Notices Mailed – 0 Eviction Proceedings - 0
  
- V. Uniform Code Complaints – 3    Corrected/Unfounded – 3    Pending - 0
  
- VI. Planning Board – 380 Carr Street
  
- VII. Zoning Board of Appeals – No meeting
  
- VIII. Building Permit Plan Reviews – 14, Permits Issued- 6
  
- IX. Appearance Tickets Issued - 9

**Code Enforcement Officer Randy Capriotti** reported that still working on finishing up 2013 inspections. Will take until end of year with Kerry and him working on them without Keith. 2014 registrations are coming in at a steady pace.

Still have a dozen fire inspections to complete.

**Mayor Tackman** commented that work on Key Bank looks good and reconstruction at Carr Street was in to the Planning Board.

### **Parks Department – Parks Director Tom Richardson**

#### Youth Programs

The Village Annual Children’s Halloween Party was held on Thursday, October 31<sup>st</sup>. 45 children attended event. Children had opportunity to play games and make crafts at East Syracuse Elementary. At 4:00 pm children paraded down to The Fire Department for costume judging, cider, donuts and a special bag of treats. Thank you to the Police Department & Fire Department for their involvement in the Halloween Party.

Family Bingo night will be held at East Syracuse Elementary on Friday, November 15<sup>th</sup> from 6:00 – 7:30. Cost is \$2.00 per family.

The Children’s Annual Thanksgiving Turkey Shoot bowling Tournament will be coming up on Wednesday, November 27<sup>th</sup> at Bowl Mor Lanes at 9:30 am

Breakfast with Santa will be held on Saturday, December 14<sup>th</sup> at the American Legion from 9:00 – 11:00

### Senior Programs

In October seniors attended trips to Abbots Apple Orchard (22 attended) and the Turning Stone Casino on Tuesday, October 22<sup>nd</sup> (51 attended)

50 seniors will be attending the trip to the Seneca Niagara Casino on Thursday, November 7<sup>th</sup>

The 3<sup>rd</sup> floor Community room was filled on Friday, October 18<sup>th</sup> with 28 seniors for the Monthly card Party. This month's Party is on Friday, November 15<sup>th</sup>

Bennett Manor luncheon was Tuesday, October 29<sup>th</sup>. 37 attended. Next luncheon is November 26<sup>th</sup>

Children from ESE started the intergenerational program involving youth and seniors at the Heman Street Senior Center. Miss Albanese class came on Monday, October 21<sup>th</sup> and Mrs. McGinley class came on Wednesday, October 30<sup>th</sup>. Students interviewed seniors to get to know them and also made Halloween crafts.

The Senior Citizen Annual Christmas Party will be on Thursday, December 19<sup>th</sup> at the American legion. Upcoming trips include Lights on Lake on December 3<sup>rd</sup> and the Texas

Tenors Christmas Show on December 11<sup>th</sup>.

**Food Sense** Deadline to order food for November is Friday, November 8<sup>th</sup> at 12:00 noon. Call 952-0038 for more information.

**Director Tom Richardson** reported that still a lot going on. Second month for Food Sense – getting more interest. All the monthly activities are going well.

### **Village Office – Village Clerk Patricia J. Derby**

**Taxes** - Delinquent taxes will be turned over to the County for collection. We received a couple of sizable payments last week. \$118,156.05 will be “made good” for its full tax collection by the County. That's .04% of total \$3,350,228.

**Treasurer's Report** – the annual independent audit of the Village accounts for fiscal year ending May 2013. Overall, 2012/2013 budget as adopted was \$52,553 less than prior year. General fund budget was \$4,752,603. Revenues were at 96.38% or \$156,909 less than anticipated. Expenses were \$5,303,191.

Adjustments were made to reconcile the capital accounts, particularly the sewer project. We will be working with the EFC to convert this to long-term financing. To date we have expended \$2,008,197.50.

I've completed the Annual Financial Report, but am just waiting for the Auditor's review of the Comments before filing. I anticipate that to be before the end of the week.

**Budget Preparation** – I would like the Village Board to begin their budget review and look at operations with employee wages and benefits. There are several policy changes and practices in the Employee Handbook that should be considered.

These changes should be adopted and in place before the start of the new calendar year in January.

Will meet with Dan Goetzmann next week regarding Excellus decision to change the Village's health plan and anticipated changes.

Department Heads should submit their budgets by February.

### **Projects**

SSO Mitigation – the pre-construction meeting for Contract 2 (sewer line installation on Second Street) is scheduled for Friday, November 8<sup>th</sup>. Hopefully, weather will not be too much of an issue in the 60 day project timeline.

### **Grants**

#### Brownfield Opportunities Areas

Saratoga Associates has prepared conceptual streetscaping and lighting plans and will present their recommendations at a meeting on Wednesday, November 13<sup>th</sup>.

#### Local Government Efficiency

Submitted an progress update for the Police Consolidation study and asked for work plan guidelines.

#### EFC funding – Roof Drains and Sump Pumps

Need to submit a Utilization Plan before requisition #1 can be approved.

### **Other Committees and Boards**

Zoning – Did not meet in October. No applications pending

Planning – Met in special session October 21<sup>st</sup> to begin review of plans to re-develop the Syracuse Recovery and Recycling site destroyed by fire in July. Will return November 18<sup>th</sup>.

Work has begun at Key Bank.

Safety – Next meeting is November 19<sup>th</sup>. Will review loss runs and draft Emergency Preparedness Plan.

### **Police Department – Chief of Police Donald Morris**



Reported problems with the new NYS electronic ticket reporting system. The County IT Department is working on it. Should have entered by the end of the week.

October activity:

13 Arrests  
16 Accidents  
470 Incidents

## **BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS**

**Trustee James Carr, Jr.** – asked that keep Judge Benack in thoughts and prayers.

Commended the Chief on the swim he took last week. Even though it happened in Liverpool appreciate the quick action and bravery shown.

Distributed three (3) handouts: 1). Showing Assess values/Budget appropriations and revenues; 2). Retirement payments and rates; and 3). Overview of Police Department operations costs analysis.

These show the trend that revenues are shirking while expenses keep increasing. This formula results in higher taxes. Need to find significant savings or the Village will be faced with another tax increase next year.

The Board is already looking at the budget. Hope the discussions will be fruitful, but do not know where any more cuts can be made. People have to realize the situation this Village is in.

**Deputy Mayor Barbara Falcone Quonce** – thanked Chief of Police and Sgt. Dana Vinch. Sgt. Vinch spoke to the pre-school and after-school children in October on Bullying. Was a wonderful presentation.

Thanked Ron and the DPW crew for trimming trees on Highland Ave. See there are a lot of trees being put in too. And a lot of leaves!

**Trustee Daniel J. Wagner** – also asked that Judge Benack be kept in your thoughts.

Thanked the Board for working enthusiastically on the budget. Have work cut out for themselves. Need to get control of the budget and come to our senses. The impact on taxpayers deserves serious consideration.

## **MAYOR'S REMARKS**

**Mayor Robert T. Tackman** also commended Chief Morris on doing a good job with an unfortunate situation.

Recognized Dana for working with our local schools and Parks Director Tom Richardson received a letter of appreciation from East Syracuse Elementary. Nice to be appreciated. Seems that many times the day-to-day activities go un-noticed.

The Board has started reviewing the budget. Still extremely early in the process. Making operation decisions before looking at the numbers. Will meet with Departments and get the department heads input. Looking at every option.

Prior to this meeting meet with Town of DeWitt in a joint session to hear presentation on formation of an independent Fire District. Mostly a repeat of the October 3<sup>rd</sup>. Will discuss further before making any decisions as to what the next step should be.

Reminded everyone that tomorrow is Election Day. Get out and vote.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Court Cancelled:** November 5<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup>, and 26<sup>th</sup>;  
December 24<sup>th</sup>, and 31<sup>st</sup>

### **Senior Trips**

Thursday, November 7 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Seneca Niagara Casino</b>
Tuesday, December 5 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Lights on the Lake</b>
Wednesday, December 11 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Texas Tenors at Turning Stone Casino</b>
Thursday, December 19 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Senior Christmas Party</b>

### **Youth trips and activities:**

Friday, November 15 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Family BINGO Night</b> at ESE – 6 to 7:30PM
Wednesday, November 27 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Bowling Tournament</b> at Bowl Mor Lanes

Saturday, December 14<sup>th</sup>     **Breakfast with Santa** at American Legion

## **COMMUNITY COMMENTS**

**Lucy Forkhammer** asked what the fund balance was.  
Approximately \$500,000.

Also, what can be done about Section 8 in the Village.

The Village relinquished all administration to Syracuse Housing over 10 years. But any disturbances or nuisance complaints should call the Police.

Meeting adjourned at 7:25PM.

*Minutes were distributed **unapproved** to the Board of Trustees and Department Heads on Wednesday, November 06, 2013.*

### **Review of Correspondence**

10/3/13	Onondaga County WEP; RE: Save the Rain grant not funded;
10/3/13	NYS EFC; RE: short term financing;
10/8/13	Village Clerk to NYS DEC; RE: Third Modified Consent Order;
10/8/13	Village Clerk to NYS Court Administration; RE: Justice Annual Audit;
10/9/13	Village Clerk to O'Brien & Gere; RE: budget approvals for engineering services;
10/9/13	Village Clerk to Germain & Germain; RE: Basile v Village of East Syracuse Answer;
10/9/13	Village Clerk to Fire Secretary; RE: new member;
10/9/13	C&S Engineering; RE: pool cover warranty;
10/9/13	SMTC; RE: Unified Planning Work Program;
10/11/13	Mayor to NYS Civil Service Commission; §211 waiver for Randy Capriotti;
10/11/13	Web Inquiry; RE: traffic ticket;
10/11/13	Village Clerk to Fire Service Advisory Board; RE: account summary;
10/15/13	OBG; RE: manhole risers
10/15/13	Computel Consultants; RE: GRT Audit update;
10/15/13	NYS DEC; RE: Third Modification Consent Order;
10/16/13	Village Clerk to NYS Civil Service Commission; RE: 211 waiver Randy Capriotti;
10/16/13	Web Inquiry; RE: weddings;

10/16/13 C&S; RE: pool cover;

10/16/13 Village Clerk to NYS Civil Service Commission; RE: 211 waiver Randy Capriotti;

10/16/13 NYS Governor's Traffic Safety Committee; RE: grant award for Child Passenger Safety program;

10/17/13 Village Clerk to NYS EFC; RE: payment request #14;

10/17/13 Town of DeWitt; RE: Eastern meetings concerning I81;

10/18/13 Parks Director to C&S; RE: pool cover;

10/18/13 Mayor to ESE; RE: field trip to Park;

10/18/13 Woodcock & Armani; RE: NYSERDA program;

10/18/13 Mayor to Computel Consultants; RE: GRT audit;

10/18/13 Mayor to Town of DeWitt; RE: annual fire service protection agreement;

10/18/13 Adjustments Solutions; RE: FOIL request for 302 North Center Street;

10/21/13 Web Inquiry; RE: driveway 109 West Heman Street;

10/21/13 CNYRPDB; RE: CNY Storm water Coalition meeting;

10/21/13 EFC; RE: requisition no. 14;

10/21/13 OSG; RE: notice of delinquent financial report;

10/22/13 Village Clerk to Department of State; RE: project status update LGE grant for Police Study;

10/22/13 Web Inquiry; RE: storing trailers;

10/22/13 Mayor; RE: damage at Station II;

10/23/13 Time Warner Cable; RE; cable franchise;

10/23/13 NYS DOT; RE: CHIPS reimbursement schedule;

10/23/13 Non-Disclosure agreement with National Grid;

10/23/13 Village Clerk to Onondaga County Finance; RE: Village Infrastructure Improvement program annual report;

10/24/13 OBG; RE: agreement to include MWBE language;

10/24/13 Village Clerk to Safety Committee; RE: November 19<sup>th</sup> meeting;

10/24/13 Trustee Wagner; RE: consolidation study;

10/26/13 Goetzmann & Associates; RE: notification that Excellus discontinued current plan and proposed new plan;

10/27/13 Mayor Donovan, Minoa; RE: proposition #3 on November ballot;

10/28/13 Village Clerk; RE: Management's Discussion and Analysis for 2012 year;

10/29/13 Village Clerk; RE: FOIL;

10/29/13 Web Inquiry; RE: zoning questions;