

**PUBLIC HEARING
Village of East Syracuse
February 3, 2014**

**RE: Local Law No. 1 of 2014
A Local law to Abolish the Village of East Syracuse Police Department**

Mayor Tackman called the Public Hearing regarding proposed local law No. 1 of 2014, a local law to abolish the Village of East Syracuse Police Department resumed from January 6, 2017 to order at 7:02PM.

Local Law No. 1, of 2014 reads as follows:

**Local Law No. 1 of 2014
Village of East Syracuse
To Abolish the East Syracuse Police Department**

The purpose of Local Law No. 1 of the year 2014 is to abolish the Village of East Syracuse Police Department pursuant to Section 8-800 of NYS Village Law and to transfer the function of the East Syracuse Police Department to the Town of DeWitt Police Department and further enter into a proposed contract with the Town of DeWitt for the extension of additional police services within the Village of East Syracuse.

Section 1. Abolishing the Village of East Syracuse Police Department pursuant to Section 8-800 of New York State Village Law.

This Local Law is subject to a permissive referendum and will be put to the qualified voters of the Village of East Syracuse at a special election to be held and conducted on Wednesday, _____, 2014.

This Local Law shall take effect upon the filing with the Secretary of State.

COMMENTS:

Mayor Robert T. Tackman invited comments related to the adoption of a local law to abolish the Village of East Syracuse Police Department, reminding speakers of the rules of conduct for a public hearing.

Nancy Churchill remarked that we have an extraordinary police department. Without them we will have an increase in criminal activity and costs because of destruction. The East Syracuse Police care about us, can't see DeWitt doing that.

Tim Powers states that he understands it's all about saving money but he is confused about the numbers – are they factual?

Mayor Tackman noted that many Town representatives are present tonight and he will be going over the report from the Onondaga County Comptroller.

Tim Powers continued noting that it looks like just shifting taxes from the Village to the Town. Without the local police presence not sure what the Village will look like in 3 years. For a few dollars why eliminate a service that we desperately need?

Diane Szlamczynski states that she owns property in the Village. It's great if taxes go down \$500 but last year they went up 22%. The Village is still going to have to cut back more things. Increases can't keep continuing year after year.

Carl Sterling reviewed his history and experience with the Village – served as Trustee, Mayor and Clerk/Treasurer for 25 years. Understands a bit about the financial situation. Spoke last September when this subject was broached again. Appreciate that residents have the opportunity to approach this subject again and a chance to reduce the budget increase from the past year. It's up to the Board to decide what to do.

Assured the Police Department that this is not personal, it all comes down to economics.

Sure that the Town will do a fine job providing police services, after all the Village is part of the Town.

Saw a \$114 dollar increase on his taxes and if he didn't have a veterans exemption it would have been a real hurt. It must be a real struggle for elderly on a fixed income or young people looking to afford to buy a house.

Understand that labor costs and wages are a big portion of the budget, so this is where you have to make cuts. Understands the task of preparing a budget. First you mark your fixed costs that you have to pay, then you make cuts from there. What you can't decrease or cut down you have to eliminate.

Police is the only department that can be replaced – without the Village department the Town must provide the service. Abolishing the police is the only way to go – you'd have to get rid of 90% of the rest of the budget to equal those costs.

This is not a new concept – 25 years ago the Town of Manlius took over police services for the Villages of Minoa, Fayetteville and Manlius and it worked out great.

Richard Summers remarked that he is relatively new to the area having moved here from Texas. Understands that the language "to abolish" is emotive. The term makes the media perk up and pay attention.

Second point is it is not like there will not be any police protection. It's not like no one will care and lawlessness will run rampant. It will just be different.

Made a point of educating himself and doing the research after the last meeting. Looked at police reports. Doesn't seem to be a matter of hard crime in the Village. The biggest problem is larceny. Less than a handful of assaults – same for DeWitt. Both face the same situation.

Cannot imagine that the Town, if they were to take over, would not take the responsibility seriously. DeWitt Police will come to care as much as the East Syracuse police do now.

Some are concerned about the Officers' jobs. Most likely they will be hired locally. It will be the same officers working in the same area. As the Village is already part of the Town they are not strangers.

Collected a lot of data and information from the Village Office. Looked at the numbers. They are just estimates until the situation changes but a \$3 reduction to the tax rate is significant. Should DeWitt decide it needs to raise the rate, the political remains the same and people can voice their concerns directly to them or at the Polls.

Hear the concerns about assessments. That should be looked into to assure that everyone has an equalized property tax rate. Should also address with the County the issue of no longer distributing sales tax revenues with the local municipalities where that money was spent. Difficult for government to control its expenses when another government took the revenues. If necessary should take that plea to the NYS Legislature.

Understand that this is a transition but it looks like this is the least painful course.

Unidentified Gentleman says he is a renter and on a fixed income. Feels for the business owners and land lords who don't get to vote on this issue. They pay taxes but can't vote.

Mayor Tackman explained that the qualification for voter registration is based on where you live, not on property ownership.

Lucy Forkhammer has lived in the Village over 60 years. Attends meeting here and in the Town of DeWitt. Having the Town cover the Village will be horrific. If they decided they could shut us down. There would be no police coverage then.

Do not understand how if the police is 20% of the budget the tax savings is more. There is no transparency. The police have operated under budget for 3 years. In 2008 the then Mayor said we had a problem but he didn't raise taxes. He left us with a mess.

If you think everything is fixed by eliminating the Police you're fooling yourself. It won't fix anything.

Tammy Piseczny conveyed remarks from Sheriff Walsh having to make cuts to Cicero without police contract. Town of DeWitt will do the same. Understand that taxes are terrible. Rent goes up every year.

Jim O'Donnell grew up in the Village. Had a lot of things going then – had Police and Parks & Recreation programs. Police made sure we made it to school. Knew what we were paying for in the Village. Paid more taxes to live in the Village than in the Town because the Village offered more.

Why not cut out the DPW instead of the Police?

Why pay the Town anything? They're going to tax us. Taxes will just keep going up. We won't save anything. We're still in DeWitt.

Nancy Churchill stated that her highest tax bill is the Town of DeWitt, not the Village.

William Light thanked the Board for the opportunity to speak on this issue. Feels strongly on both sides. Bought his house on Allen Street in 1992 – taxes were \$239. This past year they were \$1964 – that's a 822% increase. That is unacceptable.

Appeal to the Village Board to do something about it. Spending is out of control. For 25 years it was a great place to live, now just can't afford to anymore.

Agree that the Police do an excellent job, but it's a question of fiscal responsibility. Just common sense. Across the County and the State they are calling for municipalities to consolidate services. Sharing services will help alleviate the tax burden for everyone.

Patricia Bacon relayed how her taxes were offset with the STAR exemption. Everyone should make sure they sign up for the basic or enhance STAR exemption.

Tammy Piseczny feels that there is a major issue with Village assessments. Have to do something about that. Not fair that neighbors are not paying the same.

Patricia Bacon reports that her lawyers told her she couldn't raise the rents just because taxes go up.

Tammy Piseczny said her landlord does. When taxes go up so do the rents.

Wayne Cunningham suggested that this is more than about cutting taxes. Last year the Board cut the fireworks out of the budget. East Syracuse Chevy stepped up with

a donation so that the event could continue but he said if taxes go up he can't do it again. Everyone still wants the event but how do you pay for it? The Chamber use to buy flowers for the Main Street before the Village took that over. For 2 years they looked beautiful. But last year that had to be cut too. The Christmas decoration look sad. Do we do away with them too?

It is not just the Police. The Board has had to cut a lot of things. It can't go on.

There are 13 empty storefronts on Manlius Street. Sack's is gone after 90 years in business. Bristol has laid off workers. Carrier and New Venture are gone. That's a lot of good paying jobs gone. That's a hard economic hit. I don't see any other answer.

Kim O'Brien inquired about meetings with the Town of DeWitt and terms of the inter-municipal agreement. The past proposal promised a lot but guaranteed nothing. How are people to make an informed decision without information? Need to know what the Town will do.

Brian Powers stated that it's outrageous what people are saying about the Town of DeWitt Police. They are already here. East Syracuse can't afford it anymore. The East Syracuse Police are awesome but we just can't afford it anymore.

In an emergency does anybody really care who responds.

Lucy Forkhammer remarked on the flowers. Village spent \$10,500 yet no one knows where the flower pots are.

Teri Marcley asked if the decision is to choose the Police over the Pool?

Mayor Tackman reported that the Board is looking at every option.

Trustee Daniel J. Wagner reported on the two Local Government Efficiency studies the Village conducted. There were no savings with the DPW, Court, Parks or Codes. Police is the only significant savings.

The Village already pays too much for Police. Close to \$6/1000. Other municipalities are half that at \$3. The Village is only 1.6 sq. miles and less than 3000 people. North Syracuse Police costs them \$2.20/1000.

Our only alternative is the Police. We should allow the Town to take it on.

Diane Szlamczynski asked if the Board is looking long term? Or will the situation be the same each year. Now it's the Police, then the DPW, then Fire – when will we be stable again?

Mayor Tackman stated the goal is to get us to a better position. There are no guarantees but if we don't do something it will only get worse.

Tammy Piseczny said we need to know what it is this year, and five years from now. Need real numbers. Need to know what the real costs are.

Gail O'Donnell commented on the suit against the Town of DeWitt for the Shoppingtown Mall because they were over taxed. If we turn over the Police will that suit increase our taxes? Everything needs to be considered when making this decision.

Patricia Bacon looked at the numbers – if keeping the Police is \$249 that's only \$20 a month. We should keep the Police for less than a carton of cigarettes or a few drinks.

Richard Summers conveyed that he has had a completely different experience. He went to the Village Office. He asked questions, a lot of questions. He got the information. He understands the situation.

Have to consider that the Village is land-locked. There is no place to expand the tax base. Property values will go down, taxes will go up. Without other revenues it's all raised through taxes.

Town of DeWitt Supervisor Ed Michalenko has several comments. Would the Board like him to address them now? Understand that the Public Hearing is for a specific piece of legislation.

Mayor Tackman suggested that he wait until the discussion of the Comptrollers report.

Brian Powers commented on the amount of savings – whatever that amount is he'd rather have it in his pocket. Sees the Village taxes going down and the Town going up, but there will still be a net savings.

Jim O'Donnell asked if the Board was prepared to vote on this tonight? Feels like they are forcing it down the resident's throats.

Mayor Tackman explained the process. The Board must first take action before a referendum can be scheduled which would allow residents to vote on the issue.

Diane Szlamczynski asked that the Village send information to the residents. The numbers are easily misunderstood.

Patricia Slanzinski noted that she is a Town of DeWitt resident. She is here because she is concerned that if the Village Police Department is abolished and the Town takes over covering the Village then her Town taxes will go up.

Heard the comments about no serious crime – feels that is because the Police are here.

Saw in the budget that a crossing guard was added – the Police use to do this.

Police are not the cause that taxes keep going up.

Bernie Ment noted that East Syracuse pays the highest tax rate in Onondaga County, yet has the lowest income levels for the 15 Villages in Onondaga County. Something has to be done. Knows that 350 people want the chance to address this issue again.

Tim Powers says he still wants to see the numbers. Show him where the money is?

Gail O'Donnell questioned how the tax rate could stay the same from 2008 until now then jump up to 16.41. What is going on.

Mayor Tackman explained that there is no longer available fund balance to supplement revenues. Will explain more of the Village's position when review the Comptroller's report.

Hearing no further comments, Mayor Tackman closed the Public Hearing at 8:03PM.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES
Village of East Syracuse
February 3, 2014

Following the Pledge of Allegiance **Mayor Robert T. Tackman** called the regularly scheduled meeting of the Village of East Syracuse Board of Trustees for Monday, February 3, 2014 to order at 8:03PM

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: Parks Director Tom Richardson, Chief of Police Donald Morris, Sgt. Dana Vinch, Police Officers: Pete Hooser, Sal Stassi, Patrick Tousley, and Dale Barhite, Village Clerk Patricia J. Derby, 1st Assistant Fire Chief DJ Brewster, 2nd Assistant Fire Chief John Lang, Firehouse Caretakers: Jim Brewster and Nate Baker, and Code Enforcement Officer Randy Capriotti.

Excused: DPW Superintendent Ronald A. Russell, III

Approximately 36 Village residents and guests attended as well as representatives the East Syracuse Volunteer Fire Department, and Town of DeWitt Board: Supervisor Ed Michalenko, Councilors: Kerry Mannion, Ken Andrews, Joe Chiarenza, and Karen Rigny. Representatives from the media attended including: *Syracuse Newspapers*, *Eagle News*, *YNN* (Channel 10), *Local Syracuse News* (Channel 9), and *CNY Central* (Channel 3).

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.

ESM Wall of Distinction

Congratulate and recognize **Parks Director Tom Richardson** (Class of '81) for the honor bestowed by the East Syracuse Minoa Education Foundation as a recipient to the inaugural ESM Wall of Distinction.

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

From **Consolidated Fund** Abstract, vouchers numbered 49479 through 49575 and Abstract in the amount of \$80,064.71.

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

Local Law No. 1, of 2014

Before taking action on Local Law No. 1 of 2014, A Local Law Abolishing the Village of East Syracuse Police Department **Mayor Tackman** reviewed the Report of the Onondaga County Comptroller evaluating the tax effects of the potential abolishment of the Village Police Department.

Mayor Robert T. Tackman acknowledges that this is not an easy issue. For the past 6 or 7 months it has been a point of contention, but it comes down to the Board taking fiscal responsibility. The Board has met to look at options and consider all options. It is the Board's intention to provide residents with enough information so that they can make up their own minds on an issue of this magnitude.

To that point, the Board has waited for the findings of the Onondaga County Comptroller to discuss the impact that Police abolishment will have on the Village tax rate and the offsetting changes to resident's Town tax bills.

If the Village does nothing, we are already looking at a 55 cent tax rate increase because of lower assessed values. The Board has looked at the Budget. It is already bare bones. Nothing left to cut – as people said flowers and fireworks have already been taken out of the budget. The past tax rate of 13.50 was already too high. Another increase now at 16.41 is not acceptable.

The Comptroller based his findings on no enhanced service agreement with the Town. This would result in a tax rate for the Village at 10.92 (per 1000). That is \$5.49 less.

The Village would abolish the Police Department and turn to the Town for police protection.

The issue is confused further because of the different schedules and fiscal years for the two municipalities. The Village year starts in June where the Town runs on the

calendar year beginning in January. The Town is just starting their year and has already sent out tax bills for their year.

Village resident's already pay 80 cents (per assessed 1000) to the Town for part-town services. Adding the Police to Town-wide services would increase that amount by \$2.30.

The net decrease would be \$319.

Mayor Tackman reported that the Town Board met last week and could not finalize an agreement. There are two ways the Village can go: flat out abolishment or continue to work with the Town in hopes to reach an agreement.

An agreement with the Town would hope to assure positions for the Village's full time Officers. Without an agreement they would be given preferred status for any future hiring by the Town.

Town of DeWitt Supervisor Ed Michalenko responded to some concerns expressed about service from the Town. The Village is part of the Town. If decide to abolish its Police Department will have Police services the same as the rest of the Town.

Regarding the property voting issue – everyone has the same standing. It's an American principal that not only property owners can vote.

Also, it is a myth that the Village is not already supporting the Town. Currently 80 cents (per 1000) is paid in tax to the Town. Small percentage compared to 35% to County and 15% to Village. If the Village of East Syracuse does abolish their Police the cost of Police services from the Town will go up. Generally, to \$3.10 or \$2.30 increase (up from 80¢).

This is a different scenario than 2 years ago. Town and Village met to work out an intermunicipal agreement. The first concern was the cost of police services not to dilute the cost across the whole Town of increase costs for the rest of the Town outside of the Village.

This schedule is moving much quicker. Feels not enough time to communicate with the residents and explain the impacts on everyone. Appreciates the report by the County Comptroller but at best it can only be an estimate based on assumptions. Town will have to increase staff if take on the extra area of coverage. Two years ago looked at taking all six officers from the Village. Without an agreement East Syracuse Officers will be on a priority list to be first hired. Expect the Town will need between 0 to 6 more officers.

Would like time to work out an agreement with the Village. Feel the previous agreement is a good one. Would provide for taking the 5 current Village full time officers and cost the Village approximately \$375,000 a year for 5 years.

Give the Town time to absorb the increased staffing and increased level of service, similar to how the Town planned for the loss of shared sales tax from the County. Planning allowed the Town not to feel the hit as hard and create reserves.

Advocate for intermunicipal services agreement and time to work out any obstacles, then bring the information to the people before any kind of a vote.

Two years ago the costs were less. DeWitt officers just received a raise. Town needs to factor in increased costs for pensions, health benefits uniforms as well as salaries for additional officers. The Town's cost will increase above what will receive from expanded tax base. Only with an agreement can the Town provide the same level of service.

Spent considerable time hammering out the agreement two years ago. Feels it is a good starting point. Do want to add provisions concerning 207c for Officers' disability.

The agreement allows the process to move forward in a cooperative manner. Town can absorb the increased costs, the Village will have the same level of service and the Officers will be taken care of. Everybody wins.

Tammy Piseczny expressed concern over doing this all over again and what comes next – DPW or Fire?

Supervisor Michalenko declared that each is a separate issue. Offered that this is not an effort for the Town to take over the Village, but that should the Village decide it no longer can provide a service the Town must and will provide it.

Lucy Forkhammer said she attended Town meetings and the Town doesn't want East Syracuse Police.

Supervisor Michalenko noted that it is not the Town's decision. They have no vote on this. The Village makes the decision and the Town will abide.

The Village needs to decide what the next step is. One of the problems is the two different fiscal years. The Town's year just started in January and runs as the calendar year. The Village's begins in June. They are just starting to prepare budget for the upcoming year. This is the worse time for the Town but understand the need for the Village to act with an accelerated schedule.

Trustee Daniel J. Wagner stressed the importance of knowing how the Village will proceed for the next budget. Police services account for 35% of tax burden. A consolidation agreement will also add to the Village's budget. Savings could be greatly reduced.

Supervisor Michalenko commented on the questions raised about un-equal assessments. The Town re-evaluates assessments every six years. In general any disparities are minimal. The Town receives a 100% rating from the State that all properties are assessed accurately and fairly.

Jim O'Donnell complained about having to pay twice for police – in an agreement with the Village and with the Town now taxing. But feel will be forced to do it.

Wayne Cunningham asked if the Village will be able to take on more things again without the Police. Will they be able to have fireworks again?

Mayor Tackman repeated goal for the Village to do more to spur economic development. Must address pressing housing issues in the Village. If do not eliminate cannot afford to do the things we would like to do.

Brian Powers noted that if someone calls 911 Police will still respond. Mayor Tackman and Supervisor Michalenko assured that the Village will have police protection.

Trustee James E. Carr, Jr. thanked everyone for how they conducted themselves tonight. Reviewed additional information provided, showing retirement trend, health & dental benefits trend and the last several years budgets and assessment values. Costs go up but revenues gone down.

The Village is only 1.6 sq. miles. Firm believer that the Village should not have to pay more for police protection than residents in Franklin Park or Park Hill areas. A service agreement for 5 years is too long. Shouldn't take five years to figure out how to cover the Village.

Supervisor Michalenko offered that an agreement affords everyone the opportunity to get what they need. The Town can accommodate increased staffing costs and the Village will have the same services that it is used to. No matter what the Village will realize true savings. Advocate for a service agreement.

Mayor Tackman said that he was not prepared to act on this tonight. Wants to meet again with the Town to see if we can get a workable agreement. Hope that this can be down in the next two weeks. The Village needs to know before we adopt the next budget.

Lucy Forkhammer objected to everyone thinking that if we abolish everything will be hunky dory. Still spending money on things that we shouldn't. Heard the Code Enforcement Officer got a huge raise.

Trustee Carr presented information to dispel this rumor. The Code Enforcement Officer did not get a raise. When the former Code Enforcement Officer retired he was making \$49,000, plus the Village paid \$10,000 toward his retirement and

another \$15,000 for health benefits. When Randy was hired he was retired from the Town of Manlius Police and needed a waiver to receive above his current rate. Once the waiver was granted his salary was adjusted to \$10,000 less than what Frank was making. No one got a raise. Actually he's doing the job for \$35,000 less.

Lucy Forkhammer repeated that there is no transparency. Everything is already decided before the Board gets to the meeting.

Mayor Tackman returned to the discussion regarding Police. He is in favor of a contract with the Town. But the time to work this out is limited. Want to know by March.

Supervisor Michalenko thinks that it is doable to work out the agreement between the Village and the Town and will help present information to the residents. Wants this proposal to succeed. Wants the Town, Village and PBA to all stand together in support of merger

Trustee Carr appreciate the dedication from the Supervisor but concerned that he is only one vote on a 7 person Board.

Town of DeWitt Councilor Ken Andrews spoke as the Chairman of the Town's Police Committee. If the Village were to abolish without an agreement the Town will cover them. Has the utmost respect for the Police and knows they will never to anything to compromise public safety.

Would it take away from other areas to cover East Syracuse? Yes, but they can expand to accommodate the increased demands.

Would a service contract be more beneficial? Yes. Savings will be less, but the Village is still part of the Town and the Town is obligated to provide the service.

If the East Syracuse police are abolished the residents will still have service.

Looks to the Town of Manlius and how they have protected the Villages in that Town for 25 years. It works there and it will work here.

Town of DeWitt Councilor Kerry Mannion was involved in negotiating the agreement 2 years ago. Recognizes that police services are expensive. They do a great job and they get paid for that.

Thinks an enhanced service agreement is the way to go. When know what those costs are can clean up the numbers so everyone will know what to expect. Having a plan is the way to go.

Town of DeWitt Councilor Karen Rigney is concerned about the impact on the rest of the Town. An enhanced service agreement is in the best interest of everyone, as is making an informed decision.

Town of DeWitt Councilor Joe Chiarenza has great respect for the Police. Feels that we can all work together to make sure everyone is protected.

Mayor Tackman announced that the Board will table this matter until the next meeting March 3rd. In the meantime he will work with the Town and the PBA to work out an agreement that is beneficial to all involved.

East Syracuse Police Officer Peter Hooser said that the PBA is here to serve the people. Will work to help the community.

Mayor Tackman scheduled the discussion to continue at a Public Hearing on March 3rd at 6PM. Will work to meet with people and discuss the true impacts of the proposal for abolishment.

Schedule Public Hearing – Community Development Block Grant

Motion – Deputy Mayor Quonce, seconded by Trustee Wagner - To conduct a **public hearing** on March 3, 2014 at 6:00PM in the Municipal Building Court Room to receive comment and suggestion for application to Onondaga County Community Development for HUD block **grant project funding**.

Discussion: Grant application deadline is March 21, 2014. 2013 projects were not funded. Suggested that we re-apply this year.

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

Assessment

In October 2011, the Village Board adopted a local law terminating the Village's assessing status and accepting the Town's roll.

The Town of DeWitt assessment roll (their year 2013) has total assessed for the Village (1312 total parcels) at **\$212,766,583** (last year \$219,373,141), with total taxable value of **\$181,913,949** (last year \$188,067,201) with **\$31,305,940** in exemptions (last year \$31,305,940 exempt).

This is \$6,606,558 less than assessed value last year and \$6,153,252 lower taxable value.

This is the roll that is used for Town & County tax bills that went out in January. This same roll will be used for Village taxes. Should be no surprise for Village residents. Should Village residents' wish to challenge their assessment, they should go to the Town of DeWitt Grievance Day in May.

Elections Update

March 18th (Tuesday) is the day for Annual Village Elections. The Village of East Syracuse has **no positions** open this year. Our next Elections will be March 2015 for two Trustee positions.

Fire Service Awards program

Motion – Deputy Mayor Quonce, seconded by Trustee Para - To accept the certification of 39 qualifying fire fighters for 2013 Village Fire Service Awards program.

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

Motion – by Trustee Para, seconded by Deputy Mayor Quonce - To authorize the Mayor to execute renewal agreement with Blue Rock Energy for commercial natural gas supplier.

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

Training

Motion – by Deputy Mayor Quonce, seconded by Trustee Para - To approve attendance at training for **Village Clerk Patricia J. Derby** on Thursday, February 6 from 10AM to Noon at NYSSMFO *The Essentials of Municipal Finance*. There is no cost for members to attend.

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

Motion – by Trustee Para, seconded by Trustee Wagner - To approve the attendance at training for **Code Enforcement Officer Randy Capriotti** at NYSBOC Central Chapter 9th Annual Education Conference April 1st thru 9th at Holiday Inn,

Electronics Parkway, Liverpool. Cost for conference is \$350. Will take a Village vehicle. Meals are included. No need for lodging.

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

Motion – by Trustee Para, seconded by Trustee Wagner - To approve the attendance at NYCOM's Winter Legislative Meeting for **Mayor Robert T. Tackman** Sunday, February 9th and 10th in Albany, NY. Cost for registration is \$269, Hotel \$223. Will take gas credit card in lieu of mileage.

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

Motion – by Trustee Para, seconded by Trustee Wagner - To enter into Executive Session to discuss a personnel matter.

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

At 10:02PM the Board of Trustees entered into Executive Session to discuss a personnel matter. They exited Executive Session at 11:00PM and resumed the regular meeting.

DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS

Parks Department – Director Tom Richardson

Registration is underway for February break youth activities. Forms are available at Village office. Activities include gymnastics, bowling, bingo & Movie, Karate and Intramurals.

42 Seniors attended monthly trip to Turning Stone on January 23rd. Next trip to Turning Stone is February 25th.

The inter-generational program between East Syracuse Elementary Children and the Keener Seniors was postponed due to inclement weather in January. 2nd and 3rd graders will return to Heman Street in February. Children will be playing bingo with the Seniors.

38 residents of Bennett Manor attended luncheon on Tuesday, January 21st Next Bennett Manor Luncheon will be on Tuesday, February 11th.

Orders for the food sense program are due by Friday, February 7th. Call Tom Richardson at 952-0038 for more information. Order forms can be picked up at Village office.

East Syracuse Justice Court – Justice Donald M. Benack, Jr.

Reminder of Winter Ban Parking is still in effect until April 1st. Be sure not to park on the streets between 2 AM and 6 AM

JCAP has been granted for the Court. Just waiting for letter of confirmation and check. Moneys to be used for new desk for Bridget and new robes for the judges.

Judge Benack is taking the bench when able to. Thank you to Judge Jokl and Judge Gideon for filling in at this time. Judge Benack will be on bench tomorrow night.

Unified Court System did come in and upgrade both Bridget's and Judge Benack's Computers. Do this at no cost to Village. Will be installing new laptop on bench as soon as person available to do this.

DPW – Superintendent Ronald A. Russell, III

SNOW OPERATIONS – DPW snow operations included street plowing/salt application, sidewalks plowing, snow removal and plowing public lots and street ends.

	January	Total to Date:	Total 2013
Salt Runs	11	35	27
Street Plow	16	29	12
Sidewalk Plow	8	20	10
Parking Lots	8	20	10
Load Snow	2	2	3

DPW cleaned the NYS 290 & Burnet Ave Bridges over CSX with the Bobcat snow blower as well as areas on Manlius Street several times. Parking lots include the Municipal Building lots, ES Library, Fire Station 2, DPW lots, street plow turn around areas and street ends with no outlets. DPW also uses the pick-up trucks equipped with plows to touch up after the street plows have completed their routes where plows went around parked cars that have moved, slushy areas, etc.

SIGN WORK – Numerous street signs and posts were repaired/replaced, Christmas decorations were taken down and warning posts & missing plow hazard warning stakes were replaced.

TREE WORK – Trees are being trimmed when weather allows, Christmas trees were taken to OCRRA to be recycled. DPW also applied for a DEC permit to transport Ash trees affected by the Emerald Ash Borer. The permits were approved and DPW has all the regulations required for transport to an approved disposal site.

DRAINAGE – The drainage pump on First Street was inspected. Catch basins were cleared of debris and ice several times and drainage culverts throughout the village were checked and cleared of debris if blocked. 15,272 feet of storm sewer mains were cleaned by DPW in 2013.

SANITARY SEWERS – Maps were updated and numerous vents and cleanouts were repaired. 29,388 feet of sanitary sewer mains were cleaned by DPW in 2013.

DPW picked up trash, recyclables, tree branches and other debris on January 7th, 8th, 13th and 23rd blown around by high winds. Painting, repairs and energy conservation measures were done at the DPW shops. Repairs to a malfunctioning heater were performed by DPW personnel cutting down on repair costs usually contracted out. DPW assisted other village departments as needed and all other daily operations were taken care of. February work will address weather related duties, tree work, sign work, building and equipment maintenance and storm sewer out fall inspection required by MS4 guideline. Catch basin cleaning, sanitary sewer cleaning and storm sewer cleaning will be done if weather/temperatures allow.

Village Office - Village Clerk Patricia J. Derby

Treasurer's Report

Budget preparation forms were distributed to all Departments for the proposed 2014/2015 budget. A lot of unanticipated expenses from previous years have been reconciled including OCWA construction and un-reimbursable sewer charges related to the DEC mandated remediation efforts.

There is some relief in debt this year, with the fire equipment lease \$129,614 final payment made in February.

With changes to assessment values \$6 million lower this year, were all thing to remain the same (current general fund budget amount \$3,086,980 to be raised from taxes) the tax rate would increase \$.55 to \$16.96/1000. (Currently \$16.41)

Elections

The Village has no general annual elections this year. The next Election will be next year, 2015 for two (2) Trustee position.

To eligible to vote in all Village elections residents **must** be registered with the Onondaga County Board of Elections. The Village no longer maintains a separate registration roll and does not conduct a voter's registration day.

Grants

Brownfield Opportunities Areas

The final draft Economic and Market Analysis; Housing Condition Evaluation and Downtown Design Regulations will be presented shortly. Following Steering Committee modification a final public workshop will be held in the Spring. The Steering Committee will meet February 20th.

EFC funding – Roof Drains and Sump Pumps

OBG is preparing work plan and design estimates. Total project costs are \$334,600 with \$279,000 GIGP award.

Onondaga County WEP Suburban Green Improvement – DPW Garage

OBG is preparing work plan and design estimates. Contract award is \$115,000.

Other Committees and Boards

Zoning – no meeting in February.

Planning – Met in January – approved Clearwood storage building site plan.

Safety – Did not meet in January. Next meeting is April 8th

Police Department - Chief Morris

The ESPD had the following statistics for the month of January:

22 Arrests

75 Traffic stops

32 Traffic tickets issued

49 Parking tickets issued

31 Motor vehicle crashes investigated

553 Incidents

Reminder that parking is prohibited from November 1st until April 1st.

Residents are also reminded to lock their vehicles and never leave valuables in plain sight within a vehicle.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Senior Trips

Tuesday, February 25th

Saturday, February 8th

Turning Stone Casino

ESM Musical *West Side Story* .

February Break 2014:

Tuesday, February 18th

Wednesday, February 19th

Thursday, February 20th

Thursday, February 20th

Friday, February 21st

Gymnastic Party

CNY Karate

Bowling Tournament

Intermurals & Pizza Party

Youth BINGO & Movie

Court Cancelled:

February 18th

March 11th

Meeting adjourned at 11:03PM

Respectfully submitted by,

Patricia J. Derby

Village Clerk

*Minutes were distributed **unapproved** to Board of Trustees and Department Heads on Monday, February 10, 2014.*

Review of Correspondence

12/30/13 Onondaga County Board of Elections; RE: Polling place;

12/30/13 Onondaga County Community Development; RE: CD Block grant projects not funded;

1/2/14 Onondaga County WEP; RE: renewal of MS4 Intermunicipal agreement;

1/7/14 Computel Consultants; RE: Gross Receipts tax audits;

1/7/14 O'Brien & Gere; RE: wetlands sampling;

1/9/14	Mayor; RE: CWSRF financing opportunities;
1/13/14	US Dept. of Justice; RE; funding opportunity;
1/13/14	Web Inquiry; RE: court appearance;
1/14/14	DPW Superintendent; RE; street lights
1/15/14	Web Inquiry; RE: East Syracuse Free Library;
1/15/14	Village Clerk to Board of Elections; RE: residential addresses;
1/16/14	Village Clerk to Solvay Bank; RE: debt schedule;
1/16/14	Web Inquiry; RE: Speakers for Kiwanis Club;
1/16/14	Onondaga County Planning to Code Enforcement; RE: Carr Street;
1/16/14	NYCOM; RE: Governor Cuomo's proposal to freeze property taxes;
1/19/14	Web Inquiry; RE: rentals;
1/21/14	Village Engineers; RE: Community Development projects;
1/21/14	Village Clerk to NYClass; RE: amended agreement;
1/21/14	Village Clerk to Onondaga County WEP; RE: MS4 agreement;
1/22/14	Web Inquiry; RE: pot hole on Manlius Street;
1/23/14	Village Clerk to Department Heads; RE: tentative budgets;
1/23/14	NYCOM; RE: Executive budget;
1/24/14	NYCOM; RE: local shared services;
1/24/14	Summitt; RE: Claim
1/26/14	FOCUS; RE: importance of local sports events;
1/27/14	Village Clerk to Onondaga County Planning; RE: Final action report Clearwood;
1/27/14	USBank; RE: copier return instructions;
1/27/14	Village Clerk to NYS DOT; RE: CHIPS capital payment;

1/28/14 Village Clerk to US HUD; RE: certificate of project completion;
1/28/14 NYS Civil Service Commission; RE: granting waiver Chief of Police;
1/28/14 Eagle News; RE; questions regarding employee wages;
1/30/14 Village Clerk to Planning Board: site plan Interlock Management;
1/30/14 Saratoga Associates; RE: BOA update;