

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES
WORKING SESSION
Village of East Syracuse
March 15, 2010**

Following the Pledge of Allegiance, **Mayor Danny J. Liedka** called the regularly scheduled working session meeting for Monday, March 15, 2010 of the Village of East Syracuse Board of Trustees to order at 6PM.

Present: Trustee James E. Carr, Jr. Trustee Jodi Gehrke-Turner, Trustee Chad Tolhurst, and Mayor Danny J. Liedka.

Also Present: DPW Superintendent Ron Russell, III, Chief of Police Donald Morris, Treasurer Chris Hoch, Village Clerk Patricia J. Derby, and Code Enforcement Officer Frank Stirpe.

Excused: Parks Director Tom Richardson, Fire Chief Michael Cramer, and Deputy Mayor Barbara Falcone Quonce.

Six Village residents attended, including Newsletter Editor Mary Handlin, Zoning Board of Appeals member (and Neighborhood Watch Chairperson) Patricia Bacon, Housing Authority Chairperson Sally M. Seeley, Housing Authority member Gina Palladino, Marty Wojtaszek, and Cathy Crandall.

OTHER BUSINESS

Motion – by Trustee Tolhurst, seconded by Trustee Gehrke-Turner - To accept the following vouchers for payment:

From **Consolidated Fund** Abstract, vouchers numbered 40309 through 40415 and Abstract in the amount of \$174,702.66.

Discussion: Abstract includes payments, including: Fire equipment (\$1078.63 Hurst tool; \$1706.02 reciprocating saw; \$2418 rescue saw; \$3060 hazmat supplies); Police defibrillator (\$2050); NYS payment Court fines (\$6464); DPW miscellaneous equipment parts (\$1686.57); Legal retainers; Northland Communications phones (\$1119.95); cell phones (\$1189.19); Stormwater Assistance program (\$1725); fuel (\$5561.72); National Grid utilities (\$7131.68, plus outdoor lighting \$6192.93) and \$80,000 payment Hanlon Pool serial bonds, plus \$30856.25 interest.

Polling the Board: Trustee Carr- aye, Trustee Gehrke-Turner – aye, Trustee Tolhurst – aye, and Mayor Liedka – aye.

Motion – by Trustee Carr, seconded by Trustee Tolhurst - To authorize the attendance at training for **Sgt. Peter Vasiloff** on June 7th through 9th at Minnowbrook Conference Center Blue Mountain Lake, NY for the 8th Annual Law Enforcement Executive Symposium. Cost is \$479.

Polling the Board: Trustee Carr- aye, Trustee Gehrke-Turner – aye, Trustee Tolhurst – aye, and Mayor Liedka – aye.

Motion – by Trustee Gehrke-Turner, seconded by Trustee Tolhurst - To accept donation from East Syracuse Recreation Committee for \$500 for Village Annual East Egg Hunt.

Discussion: Mayor Liedka added his thanks to the Recreation Committee. This event is looked forward to every year.

Polling the Board: Trustee Carr- aye, Trustee Gehrke-Turner – aye, Trustee Tolhurst – aye, and Mayor Liedka – aye.

DEPARTMENT REVIEW

DPW – Superintendent Ronald A. Russell, III

Drainage – Catch basin cleaning continues, frames and grates for catch basin repair were purchased and the East Ellis Street ditch near CSX has been cleaned of debris. This is a major drainage system for the East end of the Village. Debris was removed and trees cut back where needed.

Sign work – Repair and replacement of signs continues when time allows.

Utility mapping – Utility mapping is nearly complete. The heavy snow slowed this down and as soon as it melts we will continue this program until completed.

Snow operations – Snow operations continue with one heavier than normal snow storm on March 25th. Three plows were put into service while 1 or 2 is the norm. The snow was very heavy and came late in the night. The following shows snow operations comparisons to the previous year.

	2008-2009	2009-2010
Salt Trips	61	58
Plow Trips	41	36
Sidewalk Plow	28	27
Municipal Lots	43	26
Load Snow (# of days)	11	8

Tree Trimming – Low hanging and dead branches on village owned trees were trimmed Village wide. DPW worked off an inventory taken in the fall that addressed various tree related issues.

Truck #5 Repair – Major rust problems in the garbage packer were addressed. The work included replacing structural members, addressing rust issues and repairing flooring in the packer rear section. The entire rear section of the packer is being repainted and the cab will be cleaned and waxed. The work is being done in-house and should be completed by the end of the week.

Street Repair – Pot holes were filled with cold mix in various areas and will be repaired with hot mix when it becomes available. Shoulder work was one on West Second Street to allow easier access to the former Native American Street property. The new owner has ground up all the tree waste and the waste is being removed. The property is already looking better and future plans include grading the property. This will result in a major eyesore removed from the Village in the area of NYS 690.

Assist Police – DPW cleaned 2 areas that allowed people to congregate for whatever reasons at the request of the Police Department. Trees and brush were removed from the northside of Rt. 290 CSX Bridge. This area was underneath the Bridge and appeared to be some kind of camping area. Trees and brush also were removed along CSX behind the GEI Enterprises building between Ball Street and Center Street. This work will allow the Police Department to better observe these areas.

Sweeper – Village Street have been swept once since the last snowstorm and we will maintain the every 2 week sweeping cycle required by MS4 guidelines. Sand removal along Manlius Street and the Bridges will begin when snow season winds down.

Veterans Park – The Veterans Park was raked and re-seeded where needed. Areas around the Municipal Building including the lot across from the Fire House were cleaned up.

CPR The Fire Department extended an invitation to the DPW to take part in CPR training. Three employees were trained in CPR and use of the automotive defibrillator (AED).

Work for the next month will include snow related work, if needed, street repair including plow damage to turf, trash cleanup in the Village and also at the Park. Work will start on the spray park if weather allows. All other duties performed by DPW will continue to be addressed.

DPW is still operating one man short due to the severe injury to Mark Forsyth this past September.

Discussion: Mayor Liedka commented on DPW report, noting that this year's snow melt has been aided by the light rain and winds. Helped to keep problems down. Wind also helped with tree trimming, too.

Mayor Liedka reported on the work done by Randy Hughson and Bob Chamberlain on the old Packer truck. The restoration will help to keep this truck in-service for a number of years. Randy Hughson is a great asset to the Department.

Police Department – Chief of Police Donald Morris

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

- 26 Arrests
- 05 DWI arrests
- 130 Traffic stops
- 91 Traffic tickets issued
- 55 Parking tickets issued
- 19 Motor vehicle crashes investigated
- 593 Incidents investigated

Court – Justice Donald M. Benack, Jr.

We have received notification that we will receive check by mid-April for our grant moneys. Judge Benack will meet with sound people on the new sound system for the courtroom. Also, jury's area will be completed.

Court has been busy as usual.

Bridget is on vacation this week - Judge Benack is handling calls this week and clerks from Town of Dewitt will be handling any arraignments for our court. Have had this system in past and works very well. Hopefully, it will be a quiet week.

Winter ban parking is almost over. Ends the first of April.

Our best to Barb - hope she is feeling better.

Discussion: Mayor Liedka offered to assist in preparing the specifications for the sound system. New sound system will be voice activated and more efficient for use during Court and at Board of Trustees meetings.

Very helpful that grants are available through Court Administration for local Court operations.

Fire Department – Chief Michael Cramer

- New Engine 1 is all set. The Village officially owns the Engine and it was turned over to the Village lawyer
- We have all the new radios in and are training on them
- Having knee surgery tomorrow so will be out of service for the next few days

Discussion: Mayor Liedka noted that Police radios are also installed and in operation.

Parks Department – Director Tom Richardson

Seniors

The St. Patty's Card Party held on March 12th in Senior room at Village office was attended by 22 seniors. A good time was had by all. Will schedule party for next month

Senior met with students from ESE on Monday March 10th and Wednesday, March 12th. Students sang songs and gave seniors St. Patty's Day Pins

48 Seniors will be attending the Irish Fest at the Turning Stone on Wednesday, March 17th

Youth

Instructional Basketball final week is March 27th. There will be a pizza party and trophy presentation. Program will run 8:00 am – 1:00 pm

Easter Egg Hunt will be held on Saturday, April 3rd at Ellis Field Park. 10:00 am sharp. Thank you to the Recreation Committee, Inc for their donation towards the event

Discussion: Mayor Liedka remarked that the program with the seniors and ESE students is a great on-going program.

Code Enforcement – Director of Operations Frank Stirpe

- I. Rental Inspections
 - A. Initial inspection – 55 units
 - B. Re-inspections – 6 units
 - C. Total potential rentals – 869; Currently rentals – 773
 - D. Registered 2010 -258 structures

- II. Fire Inspections
 - A. Place of Assembly – 1
 - B. Commercial – 11
 - C. Multi-families – 6 structures; 20 units

- III. Housing Court
 - A. Court Order to Inspect - 0
 - B. Rental Inspections - 1
 - C. Ordered to apply to ZBA for use variance – 0
 - D. Ordered to register –0
 - E. Outdoor Storage – 1
 - F. Nuisance Vehicles – 2
 - G. Parking Violation - 0
 - H. Property Maintenance - 2
 - I. Illegal Signs -0
 - J. Zoning -0

- IV. Notices/Violations Cited
 - A. Outdoor Storage – 2
 - B. Nuisance Vehicles – 4
 - C. Grass – 0, ordered cut - 0
 - D. Property Maintenance – 4
 - E. Signs – 0
 - F. Pools – 0
 - G. Rental Reg. – delinquent notices - 5
 - H. Communication Towers – 0
 - I. Sprinkler Inspections – 2
 - J. Stop Work Orders – 0
 - K. Order to Vacate – 0 now in compliance - 0
 - L. Disruptive Conduct Notices Mailed – 0 Eviction Proceedings -0

- V. Uniform Code Complaints – 1 Corrected/Unfounded – 1 Pending - 0

- VI. Proposals –

- VII. Planning Board – No meeting

- VIII. Zoning Board of Appeals – No meeting

Village Office – Village Clerk Patricia J. Derby

Main focus has been on Annual Village Elections (Tuesday, March 16th) and getting the registration rolls and the voting roll prepared. Elections Inspectors met on March 6th (Registration Day). Polls are open 10AM to 9PM. Two (2) Trustee positions, each for a single five (5) year term are on the ballot.

Safety Committee is working on re-writing the Drug & Alcohol Policy, now called the Substance Free Workplace Policy and Substance Testing Policy. Will meet again with HR 1 following a more thorough reading of the draft.

No other Committees or Boards met (Planning, Zoning, Housing, or Revitalization).

Discussion: Mayor Liedka reminded everyone to vote tomorrow. This year's election is for two Trustee positions, with a single time 5 year term.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Trustee Chad Tolhurst also reminded people to get out and vote, as well as extending Happy St. Patrick Day wishes. Trustee Tolhurst offered best wishes to Barb. Been under the weather a bit himself lately. Needs to catch up.

Trustee Jodi Gehrke-Turner also offered best wishes to Barb. Congratulated the Court on getting grant funding for the new sound system.

Trustee James E. Carr, Jr. noted that the Clock looks fantastic. With the Clock and the lights work on the corner park helps kick-off the drive and improvements for Manlius Street addressed during the Vision Planning process.

MAYOR'S REMARKS

Mayor Danny J. Liedka noted that he has rebutted some of the facts made in the Channel 9 story regarding the Clock. The Clock itself was fully funded through grants.

Attended earlier today a session with Onondaga County regarding new sales tax distribution plan. This session addressed the concerns of Villages. Very impressive showing. Presentations demonstrated the many services provided by local governments. Very telling what County does not know about how Village's operate. Village's do not have deficits, and are actually a more efficient form of government. Villages are also more accountable to the people.

Mayor Liedka also offered his best to Barb, and wished all the candidates in tomorrow's election good luck.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Winter Parking Ban – in effect November 1st to April 1st No parking on Village Streets or Municipal parking lots from 2AM to 6AM

Turning Stone Casino Trips

Friday, April 9th

Senior Trips

Turning Stone Irish Fest featuring Barrage – Wednesday, March 17th

Diva and the Italian Guy – Thursday, April 29th

Fingerlakes Racetrack – Tuesday, May 18th

Youth Activities

Annual Easter Egg Hunt – Saturday, April 3rd 10AM sharp!

East Syracuse Youth Day Picnic – Backpack giveaway – Saturday, August 28th

Spring Break Activities -

Monday, April 19th – Chuck E. Cheese.

Tuesday, April 20th – Youth BINGO & Ice Cream Party

Wednesday, April 21st – Roller Skating Party

Thursday, April 22nd – Youth Bowling

Friday April 23rd – Movie & Laser Tag at Shoppingtown Mall

Summer Tuesday Night Basketball League – at St. Matthew’s gymnasium begins April 27th and runs for 17 weeks ‘til August 17th. Team registration fee is \$250.

Village Election Day – Tuesday, March 16th. Polls open from 10AM to 9PM in the Municipal Building Court Room, 204 North Center Street.

East Syracuse Justice Court CANCELLED for **March 16, 2010** (Village Election Day). Court also cancelled March 30th and April 20th.

COMMUNITY COMMENTS

Sally M. Seeley inquired if the Mayor forgot the Treasurer’s report. Chris Hoch had no report, continuing to work on the upcoming budget.

Pat Bacon thanked the Chief of Police for introducing new reporting procedures with e-policing. Residents can just sign-up their e-mail addresses and receive news via the web-site.

Mayor Liedka noted the use of his blog on the web-site for keeping news current. Offered other Departments their own blogs.

Pat Bacon asked if there was a problem the other night. When came down Upton there were no lights on.

Mayor Liedka noted that there was some power outages due to the winds the other night.

Sally Seeley asked if the Police had any more information regarding the abandon car at the bowling alley.

Chief Morris reported that an arrest was made, within minutes. Officer Conrad was able to follow trail left in the snow. Had another good arrest last week (burglary on Kinne Street).

Cathy Crandall noted the phenomenal job done by the DPW all winter. Pleasure to have sidewalks plowed. Also, appreciated that the power outage was of short duration – feared for the food in the freezers at the Food Pantry.

Mayor Danny J. Liedka reported on proposal to limit Board meetings to one night a month. Feel may be more productive to do more at one longer meeting than to schedule to relatively quick meetings each month. Board members will still be available to meet throughout the month to accomplish Village business. Will consider at Annual Organizational Meeting on April 5th.

Meeting adjourned at 6:24PM.

Respectfully submitted by,

Patricia J. Derby
Village Clerk

*Minutes were provided **unapproved** to Board of Trustees and Department Heads on Tuesday, March 16, 2010.*