**AGENDA**

**SPECIAL BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING**

**Village of East Syracuse**

**August 13, 2018 6:00PM**

**1.** **Call to Order:** 6:02pm

**Present:**

**Trustees:** Trustee James E. Carr, Jr., Trustee Janet L. Mattox, Trustee Mary Albanese, Deputy Mayor Kimberly A. Liedka, and Mayor Robert T. Tackman.

Village Attorney Robert Germain, 1st Assistant Fire Chief David Brewster, 2nd Assistant Fire Chief Tom Brewster, Lt. Stephen Brewster, Lt. William Browne, Lt. Jeremy Messina, Fire Council Members: Dawn Cramer, Scott McInnis, Donald Russell and Marty Mullane.

**2.**  **Motion** – To Approve changes to Resolution 2018-051, CFA, NYSP Neighborhood Park

Motion by: Trustee Mattox

2nd Motion: Deputy Mayor Liedka

Polling the Board: All in favor, motion passed

**3. Discussion with Fire Council**

Mayor Tackman welcomed 1st Assistant Fire Chief David Brewster to present the fire councils feedback regarding Fire Chief James Brewster’s suspension. David explained to the Village board that the Fire Council has determined they have come to an agreement that the council and most of the membership that they are aware of are in favor of not removing Chief James Brewster from his position. They understand there can/should be trainings or changes, but he should remain as Chief.

A general discussion between the Village Board and the fire department continued regarding the matter. No decisions were made during this discussion. Following the conversation, the Fire Department members left the meeting.

**4. Motion** – To go into executive session to discuss a specific personnel matter at 6:28pm.

Motion by: Trustee Carr

2nd Motion: Deputy Mayor Liedka

Polling the Board: All in favor, motion passed

**5. Motion** - To close executive session at 7:22pm.

Motion by: Trustee Carr

2nd Motion: Trustee Albanese

Polling the Board: All in favor, motion passed

**6. Motion**- To reopen Special Board of Trustees Meeting at 7:22pm.

Motion by: Deputy Mayor Liedka

2nd Motion: Trustee Mattox

Polling the Board: All in favor, motion passed

**7. Motion** – To accept the following resolution:

Motion by: Deputy Mayor Liedka

2nd Motion: Trustee Mattox

Resolution:

Whereas, James Brewster is currently a Fire Chief in the Village of East Syracuse and an employee of the Village Fire Department, as a senior caretaker, and, Whereas, the Village instituted an action pursuant to Section 209-I of the General Municipal Law and Section 75 of the Civil Service Law seeking removal of the Chief and termination of his caretaker position due to an incident of posting a racist comment on Facebook, and, Whereas, the Village duly filed and served a Notice of Charges, and conducted a hearing as required by law, and, Whereas, The Board has reviewed the minutes and transcript of the hearing along with all Exhibits and the recommendation of James Hughes, hearing examiner: It is hereby RESOLVED: The Village of East Syracuse hereby adopts the Findings and Recommendations of Hearing Examiner Hughes subject to the following modifications:

1. Pursuant to Section 209-I of the General Municipal Law, the Village hereby removes Mr. Brewster from the Office of the Village of East Syracuse Fire Chief. This removal does not include removal as a member of the Fire Department, but Mr. Brewster shall not be approved as an officer in any capacity in the future. Mr. Brewster is instructed that any similar offensive repeat behavior could result in his dismissal from the Department altogether.
2. With respect to Mr. Brewster’s position as a senior caretaker, pursuant to Section 75 of the Civil Service Law the Village Board hereby resolves, Mr. Brewster is suspended for a period of thirty (30) days including all days previously served. However, Mr. Brewster shall also relinquish his senior leadership role, title and commensurate pay differential and shall assume the role of base caretaker. Similarly, Mr. Brewster is again instructed that any similar offensive repeat behavior could result in his termination as an employee.

Polling the Board:

**Mayor Tackman:** Recused himself from the motion as he handled the investigation of the matter and testified at the section 75/ section 209 hearing.

**Deputy Mayor Liedka:** Yes

**Trustee Carr:** Yes

**Trustee Mattox:** Yes

**Trustee Albanese:** Yes

4 Yeses, motion carried

**Motion**- To adjourn the Special Board of Trustees Meeting at 7:34pm.

Motion by: Trustee Carr

2nd Motion: Trustee Albanese

Polling the Board: All in favor, motion passed

Meeting adjourned at 7:34pm.