

SYRACUSE TOWN COUNCIL

REGULAR MEETING

August 16, 2016

Town Council President Larry Siegel called the Regular Meeting of the Syracuse Town Council to order at 7:00 p.m. Council members also present were Paul Stoelting, Bill Musser, Tom Hoover, and Larry Martindale. Town Manager Henry DeJulia, Town Attorney Vern Landis, and Clerk-Treasurer Paula Kehr-Wicker were also present.

Larry Siegel opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Larry Siegel asked for public comment on agenda items; there were no comments.

The minutes of the July 19th, 2016 meeting were presented for approval. Paul moved to approve the minutes; Bill seconded. Five voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried.

Claims #'s 937 through 1059 were presented for payment. Paul moved to approve the claims; Tom seconded. Five voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried.

The first reading of Ordinance 2016-09, Refunding the Waterworks Revenue Bond of 2004, was given. Action will be taken during the September Town Council meeting. Henry explained that if we refinance right now, there would be a one percent redemption penalty. He stated that we want to try to get a 3% at-present value savings. In order to not have to pay the penalty, the bond would need to be paid within a 90-day period before the February 1st, 2017 payment. That means the closing date would have to be between December of this year to February.

Ordinance 2016 -10, Adopting Uniform Internal Control Standards, was presented. The State requires all political subdivisions to adopt internal control standards including training to any employee or personnel that receive, process, deposit, disburse, or otherwise have access to funds that belong to the governmental entity. Paul moved to approve Ordinance 2016-10; Bill seconded. Five voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried.

Ordinance 2016-11, Additional Appropriation – General Fund – Police Department, was presented. This is to allow an additional \$10,025 to be budget so that the Police Department can purchase 9 new Tasers. Paul moved to approve Ordinance 2016-11; Bill seconded. Five voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried.

Robin Merchant, Public Works Superintendent, stated that they went to put in the UV system into operation last week and water started backing up into the clarifiers. After investigation, it was discovered that the piping and structures were 1.1' too high. Robert E Crosby, Inc. will make the necessary repairs to this at no cost to the Town.

Rob also stated that there are some issues with the Oxidation ditches and then introduced Jonathan Moen from Triad Engineers. Jonathan then presented a letter to Robert E Crosby, Inc. regarding the Aeration /Mixer in the Oxidation ditches not meeting the manufacturers, Aeration Industries, stated performance. The letter is requesting that Crosby contact the manufacturer of the Aeration / Mixer and remedy the issue within two weeks. Triad states that the manufacturer will not give a viable solution and that Triad needs the town to pressure Aeration Industries and Crosby with this letter before the contract is up. Bill asked if we would be responsible for the cost of this. Jonathan stated that it would possibly be a legal matter. Russell Jacobs from Crosby states that Crosby provided Triad Engineers with what was requested from them. Paul moved to allow Triad to send the letter to Crosby on the Town's behalf; Bill seconded. Five voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried. More discussion followed regarding the UV system issues. Rob would like to have a 3rd party come and look over the viability of the UV Chamber and possibly get a structural warranty. Russell explained that Crosby will be rebuilding the UV to its original specs and it would not be feasible to provide an extra warranty for something that was originally requested, but will give a detailed

breakdown on how they will complete it. Jonathan does not oppose getting another Engineer's opinion on the structural integrity of the corrected UV issue. Larry Siegel asked if these issues were the only ones left unresolved for the Wastewater Plant. Rob answered that there could be some small change orders as they get closer to the end of the project. Russell requested that the council meet with him outside of the meeting to discuss various issues.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

TOWN MANAGER

Town Manager Henry DeJulia presented information and quotes from two companies to develop the Town's comprehensive plan. The first is for \$25,000 from Rundell Ernstberger Associates, and the second is from American Structurepoint for \$24,500 along with reimbursable expenses up to \$650, totaling \$25,150. Paul moved to approve the quote from American Structurepoint not to exceed \$25,150 and to be completed by the end of the year and to include 25 copies. Tom seconded the motion. Five voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried.

Henry announced that the street paving is completed except for some striping due to rain. He also stated that he will be meeting with Tommy Vance Productions tomorrow to discuss the Town promotional video.

POLICE

Police Chief Jim Layne asked for any questions from the council regarding his monthly report. Bill asked how much damage was done to the Police cars during the slow moving chase last week, as well as if any vehicles were out of service. Jim answered that the total damage was approximately \$12,000 to \$13,000 and there only one vehicle was out of service at a given time. Larry Siegel asked if the other party had insurance. Jim explained that our insurance company will find out and if so, will get with the suspects insurance and work it out. Jim reported that the roofing at the Police Range is half completed and waiting on the weather to cooperate for completion. More damage was done to the range building during storms and caused a delay on repairs.

There were no A.D.A. complaints.

PARK

Park Superintendent Chad Jonsson reported that the Volunteer Breakfast Expo will be this Saturday at 8am. The Fly Fishing class will also be this Saturday. This will be a 3-hour class. The Kindergarten through 5th Grade Kids Olympics will be on the 27th.

PUBLIC WORKS

Public Works Superintendent Rob Merchant had nothing else to report.

FIRE TERRITORY

Brian Richcreek reported that in the month of July, there were 31 fire calls and 97 EMS calls. There was a total property loss of an estimated \$5,765 due to a vehicle fire and 2 storage shed fires. Brian reported that the storm siren's back-up batteries have been replaced and while doing so, discovered there were 2 defective battery chargers that have also been replaced. The total amount for the replacement batteries and chargers was \$3,832. Brian also reported that the department has received keys to access the repeater system at the water tower. A meeting with a representative from the EMS billing company discovered that a survey among 13 ambulance services in our region was done in 2013 and shows that our rates are in line with other clients in the State. The current average revenue is \$363.06 per run, taking into account adjustments and write-offs. The billing company representative claims that this is above average compared to other EMS clients, and is largely due to correct documentation and proper submission of paperwork. Brian informed that their SCBA bottles were hydrostatic tested this July in order to meet NFPA requirements. This must be done every 5 years. All 21 bottles passed the testing and are back in service. The department also had their annual portable fire extinguisher inspection and testing this past month. It was discovered that 4 of them were outdated and could no longer be tested and were taken out of service. Research is being done on pricing for replacements. Brian announced that this Saturday would be their annual firefighter MDA Fill-the-Boot drive at the intersection of Pickwick Drive and South Huntington Street from 10 am to 2 pm.

CLERK

Clerk-Treasurer, Paula Kehr-Wicker, asked the Council if they had any more questions or suggestions regarding the 2017 Budgets. There were none.

TOWN ATTORNEY

Town Attorney, Vern Landis, had nothing to report at this time.

DISCUSSION FROM THE FLOOR

Sharon Fowler commented that violations need to be addressed. Henry informed her that there are repeat offenders. Chief Layne explained that there is a 3 step process; 1st being a warning, 2nd a letter, and 3rd is a citation. Sharon stated that there is help available to residents from the Housing Authority in Milford. She also exclaimed that large truck parking is an issue.

OLD BUSINESS

Larry Siegel reported that the Fire Territory Board has scheduled a special meeting for next week. There were several questions in regards to the Fire Territory Budget that have not been answered and need direction from the Town Council on how they should vote. He stated that the biggest concern was the Equipment Replacement budget at \$198,000. He would like to see more of a breakdown of what that amount entails. Brian Richcreek informed the council on what items certain amounts of the budget are to be used, including a storage area at Station 2 for donated exercise equipment and finishing updates to Station 1 that was started years ago. Lengthy discussion followed concerning the relevance and importance of the amounts proposed in the budget. Attorney Andrew Grossnickle also participated in the discussion.

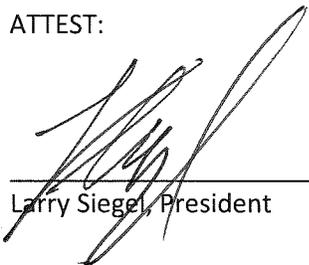
NEW BUSINESS

Bill stated that there is a need to fill a spot for the Turkey Creek Public Library board. Heidi Heinisch has resigned. He announced that if anyone knows anyone who is interested, to let the council know.

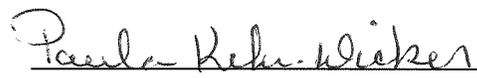
Paul moved to adjourn; Larry seconded. Five voted for the motion; none against.

The Syracuse Town Council adjourned at 8:18 pm.

ATTEST:



Larry Siegel, President



Paula Kehr-Wicker, Clerk-Treasurer