

NORWOOD VILLAGE BOARD

PROJECT Report

Mayor: Jim McFaddin Trustees: Tim Levison, Dick Boprey, Jim Besaw, Mike Divincenzo

2008-2011

1) Norwood-Norfolk School had serious water problems. Children carrying water from home to drink during school. School asks Norwood Village for help. A "Shared Services Agreement" is negotiated and New York State pays for new water line from village to school. Village receives \$5.00 per thousand gallons from school. Problem solved with benefit to school and village.

2) Above project receives "Environmental Project of Year Award". Mayor travels to Syracuse to receive award on behalf of village board at impressive ceremony.

3) School and village under DEC order to build new fuel facilities at cost to village of over \$300,000. School and village negotiate "Shared Service Agreement" to build one fuel depot to service school and village. Depot is located at school, village closes their facility and large savings was realized. Village pays school \$.05 per gallon to operate and maintain facility.

4) News Block on Mechanic St. was in state of collapse. Village purchases historic building for \$5,000. The Norwood Lake Association pays \$4,000 to stabilize building with plans underway to locate a railroad museum in building and establish a tour train run to Ogdensburg, stopping in Madrid and Lisbon. This is an ambitious 5-10 year project. Received \$50,000 grant to date.

5) Village Sewer Plant, sewer and stormwater lines were in deplorable condition. Village is cited by DEC to upgrade, fines threatened. Village hires engineering firm and goes to bid to correct and improve system. \$2.3 million is borrowed from USDA for project. Completed 2010.

6) Village applies for grant/ loan to re-finance above sewer project. The village receives grant and the sewer project is refinanced at 1%, saving village ratepayers \$1 million 6 thousand dollars.

7) Village applies for \$400,000 CDBG homeowner grant so local residents could improve their homes. Village is successful and \$430,000 is received to aid local homeowners. Complete 2010.

8) Village applies for small grant to write a "Re-vitalization of Norwood Village Grant". New York State awards village \$15,000 to write plan. 148 page document is produced after survey of village residents to prioritize needs, public meetings for resident input were held and notice of concern survey is completed. It was determined making the municipal building a community center again, improving appearance of downtown and residential buildings, address unruly youth, vandalism, improved shopping opportunities

and developing News Block to rail museum were most important. Potsdam Planning Office was employed to assist in developing plan.

9) A fire inspection code officer is hired and several buildings cited, some condemned causing residents to move. Some buildings sold and greatly improved like Cornerstone building on main st. A law is passed by village board to clean up property and bill owner if necessary. Many comments that, "Our village is looking good". A Business Alliance group is formed and they assist in further improvements. Also, they plan very popular "Holiday Festival" at Christmas.

10) The village board announces they will address municipal building needs as it is close to being condemned. Village told no more grants until problems are addressed and repairs made by Feds and state. Determined building is not handicap accessible, there is no heating system, using electric heaters, lighting is not efficient, there is no insulation in building, kitchen closed by consent order, no bathrooms on main floor, dangerous electrical wiring and the list went on.

11) The village applied for National Grid Lighting Grant and was successful. National Grid replaced necessary light fixtures throughout municipal building with new energy efficient fixtures. They purchased, replaced and took old fixtures away. National Grid paid 70% and village 30%.

12) William Stone awarded contract to insulate ceiling, improve wiring, upgrade hall and front entrance area. D. Lustyik hired to paint and other local contractors hired to also make repairs.

Fiacco and Riley awarded main contract for \$432,000 to finish upgrade including new kitchen, bathrooms and park service kitchen downstairs. Foam insulation, handicap lift and entrance plus many, many other improvements. As a community we are all proud of our new community center.

13) We formed a "Neighborhood Watch" committee who will tell you there are fewer incidents involving youth, vandalism, speed and other problems. They meet directly with police and complaints are resolved in a timely manner.

14) We work hard to control taxes by being vigilant to needs. Our employees agreed to no pay raise three years ago. In good budget years we are able to grant 1% raise. We have requested fair assessment for all residents and applaud the Town of Potsdam's effort. Data collection will assist.

We know residents appreciate the dedicated employees that serve us in all departments of village.

15) When Village of Potsdam threatened Dissolution, we formed committee to investigate

forming a "Town of Norwood". The committee meets monthly and a survey showed well over 400 in favor of our effort. A grant for \$50,000 to hire consultant to assist our effort has been submitted.

If study were to show improved services at reduced cost and much lower taxes we will proceed.

Area of study is village and 13668, Norwood NY address in Town of Potsdam. It is expected

Village of Potsdam will re-introduce dissolution in two years. We will be prepared next time.

16) We have an aggressive program to pave and seal our streets. We need to develop a better plan to improve side walks. Our fire department is doing fine and the first responder group is providing a very needed service. Police are doing excellent job in working with residents to keep Norwood safe which allows us to continue to state that Norwood is a nice place to live.

17) We urge all to contact elected officials or village office at 353-2372 for assistance. We welcome your suggestions as well. Please remember election day is March 20, 2012 from noon to nine, voting for mayor and two trustees. Election will be held at municipal building.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jim McFaddin, Dick Boprey, Tim Levison, Jim Besaw, Mike Divincenzo