

**TOWN OF NORTHAMPTON**  
**Special Meeting**  
**August 5, 2013**

The Town of Northampton held a Special meeting on Monday, August 5, 2013 in the Municipal Building at 412 South Main St., Northville, NY to discuss the Houseman Street signage. Supervisor Kemper called the Special meeting to order at 1:07 p.m.

**PRESENT:** Supervisor: Linda Kemper  
Councilmen: Bob Ellsworth, Darryl Roosa, and William Gritsavage  
Absent: Ivar Anderson

**RECORDING SECRETARY:** Elaine Mihalik-Town Clerk

**ALSO PRESENT:** Art Simmons, Ray Hatch, Steve Naple, Greg Simonds  
Assessor: Melissa Mazzarelli

Councilman Roosa: The purpose of this meeting is to discuss the “no parking on pavement” signs that were approved to be placed on Houseman Street, in the Town of Northampton, County of Fulton, NY.

The cost for each sign is \$15.58 x 40 and does not include the cost for the posts to do the area starting from the guard rail at the culvert +/- .5 miles N (1/2 mile) to the beginning entrance of the Northampton State Campsite that the Board motioned to approve. I do have some posts that I can clean up. My question is, does the Board want to spend \$623.20 plus shipping on “no parking on pavement” signs when it is already the Law?

Supervisor Kemper: We have no use for the signs at all, if you decide to take them down.

Councilman Ellsworth: I have a little more. I have been chasing the Sheriff, with Art Simmons help. Sheriff Lorey did contact me this morning. I asked him a couple questions and he said he call me right back which he did. Sheriff Lorey gave me a commitment, but he has done this before. To start using his road patrol to start writing tickets for parking on the pavement with or without the “no parking on pavement” signs, he doesn’t care if there are signs there or not. So he is going to start to patrol Houseman Street and start issuing tickets. I did mention that the best time to do this on Saturdays and maybe Sunday mornings and it seems that the rest of the week doesn’t seem to be as big a deal.

Another thing that Sheriff Lorey did mention and I have heard this from the Mayor because he was in law enforcement. We might want to hire a Constable and we could discuss this during the Budget session. The Constable work for us during the summer months and that could write tickets for us because then you could have tickets written for parking or no parking on pavement, what ever the Board decides. The big problem is that no matter what we do with signs, we’ve got to fix the other problem. As Councilman Roosa stated when we were chatting, we only have three weeks left of the season. Why don’t we see if the Sheriff does come up here and does anything in those three weeks? Then we can put it on the agenda to talk about hiring a Constable part-time during our Budget session for next year. I understand about Councilman Roosa’s concerns about spending that kind of money for the signs. If the Sheriff’s road patrol starts writing tickets then that would be just as good as signs.

Supervisor Kemper: Wasn’t the cost approximately \$3,000 including the posts?

Councilman Ellsworth: Councilman Roosa has some new stuff he showed us that he could use that would save us some money. You're going to go through all this and by the time you order the signs, would you have maybe two weeks left of the season?

Councilman Roosa: I doubt I could get them.

Councilman Ellsworth: I know people are going to be mad because we didn't get this done for this summer. But I don't think we could get someone to do them in time for this summer. We look into discussing hiring a Constable during the Budget time and see if the Sheriff follows through. I have to think that if they start issuing tickets over there and word spreads that should open that road quite a bit. We should continue working on trying to get the speed limit dropped over there. If the speed limit were 25 MPH that would make that a whole lot safer for everybody. Can we change the speed limit over there?

Supervisor Kemper: No, we can not. Only the DOT Commissioner, per Highway Law, has the right to do that.

Councilman Ellsworth: Can we declare it an emergency?

Supervisor Kemper: How can we declare it an emergency? There hasn't been a fatal accident there.

Councilman Gritsavage: Declare it an emergency and let them take you to court. You can say, come on you need to get off you duffs.

Supervisor Kemper: The DOT Commissioner has the right to do that and then we keep proposing legislation that would allow Municipalities (Towns) to take over the control of their own roads.

Greg Simonds entered the meeting. Councilman Ellsworth is informing Mr. Simonds of what has transpired among the Board members in this meeting on the signage on Houseman Street.

If came over on the weekends and have time to look you would see that it's not made up to what it sounds like. I see that and anybody that knows me knows that I'll be the first to come over to Town hall and let you know that we have an issue. We don't have an issue.

Councilman Ellsworth: From what I've been hearing the speed limit should be slower and you shouldn't be parking with your car in the road.

Greg Simonds: Which is the Law, I guess.

Councilman Ellsworth: What the Board is discussing is to trying to figure out a way to get enforcement; to get the speed limit lowered; and its late to put up signs up this years because he season is going to be over before you know it.

Greg Simonds: I'm under the assumption that the Town painted white lines where I'm assuming the potential "no parking on pavement" signs is to be put. If that's the case then where they are, it's going to be a complete waste of time and money. Due to the fact, that you can't even park a bicycle there.

Councilman Roosa: Highway Superintendent Richardson and I went over there and measured out 30 foot intervals, where I normally place "no parking" signs in the Village. We realized that

there would be too many signs. We then measured the “no parking” signs on Route 30 by the beach when we had that issue where people were parking on Route 30 because the beach was full. There is no rhyme or reason why the State put their signs at a distance of 130 feet, some are 110 feet and some are 80 feet.

We generalized it if we put up signs there on Houseman Street at 100 feet and they would say “no parking”.

Greg Simonds: Even if you put one sign up, I’m going to tell you it’s one too many. I know a lot of guys that work for you, great to give them a paycheck but it’s a waste of my money and a waste of our Town money because you will never find any vehicle in that particular area.

That’s not true because a week ago Saturday when they had the Alapolosa music over there. There were three cars parked right in a row on the lakeside of the guardrail.

Greg Simonds: I’m going to tell you that was just for that one day. I’m speaking for myself and as a taxpayer. That is absolute foolishness. If you put up the signs, the guy who is going to come through with the snowplow, they are going to be knocked down the first time they plow. It doesn’t make any sense.

Councilman Roosa: I agree with you. But what does make sense when they do park the Sheriff’s Department Deputy will come and issue them a ticket.

Greg Simonds: That’s understandable.

Councilman Roosa: It’s if the Sheriff’s Deputies will go there.

Councilman Ellsworth: The Sheriff did mention that we have no control over that part. Then it would have to go to court and see what happens.

Supervisor Kemper: I have frequently gone down on Houseman Street to see where the issues are. Other than a big weekend or may be a Saturday it gets busy and during Saturday of the Alapolosa. Of the two biggest complainers one has brought rocks in to block cars and the one on the other side has parked out there to block traffic. There has been caution tape put up there too. I am optimistic that we will get the speed limit lowered.

**Discussion on the Motion:**

Supervisor Kemper: Going down where the bend is by the guardrails, is there usually an issue with parking along there other than when the Alapolosa was going on because I don’t remember any?

Greg Simonds: Pine Haven has so many people that police that area and if there is a vehicle there they just ask them to move. Nobody parks there. Anyone who has a permit there, they are there and primarily they just walk to their permit. We don’t even have a problem with the permit holders parking there. Where my family has their permit, I can park off the road to get to it.

Councilman Gritsavage: I think that it is an enforcement problem. Maybe at this time, the most practical way to go about this rather than spending the money this late in the year but I don’t think we shouldn’t abandon this whole thing. I think we should look into it and I did mention this in previous meetings that we need to look at some kind of enforcement, such as a Constable.

Councilman Ellsworth: I was told that they have someone in the Town of Johnstown who is on the payroll that does this just for that purpose.

Councilman Gritsavage: It might not be a bad idea of merging a Town Police force with the Village.

Councilman Ellsworth: It was suggested if this is passed that you as Supervisor should write a letter to the Sheriff today documenting that we appreciate your (Sheriff) offer of support and as Supervisor you have been on Houseman St numerous times, and it would be most helpful.

Any of the residents that come complaining tell them to call the Sheriff.

I spoke with the Sheriff and stated that they were the only enforcement that we have and we need them to come up and enforce this. We can pass as many laws that we want but if we don't have anyone to enforce it. It isn't going to fix the issues if no one is up here to take care of it. We just have to follow up with the Sheriff and hopefully he will.

Supervisor Kemper: I can't see wasting any money on any signs that aren't going to be used for any other purpose.

These signs would have to be made up special because "no parking on pavement" signs are not a standard sign that is already done up.

**MOTION:** Councilman Ellsworth motioned to rescind the Town Boards previous decision, which was made at the July 17, 2013 meeting to post "no parking on pavement" signs on Houseman Street on both sides of the road starting from the guardrail at the culvert pipe +/- .5 miles N (1/2 mile) to the beginning entrance of the Northampton State Campsite on Houseman Street in the Town of Northampton, Fulton County, NY, due to the cost. It is late in the season. Even if we were to get the signs it would be beyond the season. That we continue to press the Sheriff for enforcement; we continue to press to get the speed limit lowered; we continue to monitor the situation and we can think about it more over the winter, seconded by Supervisor Kemper, and passed by,

4-Ayes: Kemper, Ellsworth, Gritsavage and Roosa

Assessor, Melissa Mazzarelli: Questioning whether the website could reflect the established e-mails and not the assigned ones for the website.

Councilman Gritsavage: The reason for that is that the established e-mails is our own personal e-mail address.

Melissa Mazzarelli: Our e-mails are Town e-mails and they are on our business cards.

Councilman Gritsavage: Those of us on the board didn't have a Town established e-mail. That's why we went through that agony.

Melissa Mazzarelli: I sent an e-mail to the web master and she suggested checking with the board members on this.

Supervisor Kemper: We all here at the Town hall have Town e-mails and even the Code Enforcer stated that he would like to keep his Town e-mail the same although he does try to remember to check his other website generated e-mail address.

Councilman Ellsworth: The reason they were switched over was because they would all be consistent on the website and they wouldn't confuse people by coming into frontiernet.net.

Supervisor Kemper: We don't have the time to change all of that. All of our State, County, Local and all officials and any of our contacts comes to our original Town e-mail address. I also can't get into my website e-mail because my computer needs upgrading. The web master stated we needed to address with the Committee.

The people that are in the Town hall would prefer to keep the Town issued e-mail that they have been using all these years rather than the new one. For Council members it fine because you have your personal e-mail.

The Board unanimously agreed the Town e-mail addresses that were already established for the Supervisor, Town Clerk, Assessor and Code Enforce Officer to remain their original e-mail and not that of the one created recently for the website.

Melissa Mazzarelli: A discussion ensued on a question Councilman Gritsavage had e-mailed to the Assessor and she acknowledged it and responded back to him. Cases do come up like this where it is a time sensitive matter and it is already been budgeted for. To try and get an approval in between board meetings might be difficult.

Councilman Gritsavage: If it is something like that and is already in the budget then you should go right ahead and do it because otherwise government would slow right down. You need to get it done and don't get stuck in bureaucracy.

Supervisor Kemper: I wish that the County would take over like they talked about before, that they would fighting these small claims issues because they are losing so much of the tax bases.

Would anyone have any objections to place the used Town phones and equipment that goes with them on an auction site?

Ray Hatch: The recycling center will take them

Melissa Mazzarelli: We checked into that but they will not pay you for them.

The Board was unanimously in favor of placing the old used phone system and equipment on an auction site.

It was asked of the Town Board if they have come up with a decision on the Assessor's position that was posted.

The Board members were in favor of placing this on the agenda to review applications received for the Assessor's position and discuss if they want to hold an interview.

Discussion on the Ambulance Agreement between the Town of Northampton and the Town of Benson

Councilman Ellsworth: Mr. Farquhar has an agreement pretty well written. I have spoken with the Deputy Supervisor of Benson and he doesn't feel it's going to be a problem so Councilman Gritsavage and I are going to go to their meeting and get it done.

Supervisor Kemper: I have called the Benson Clerk and have already asked to be placed on their agenda for their August meeting to discuss this matter. I would prefer to get that agreement signed there.

Councilman Ellsworth: I've already spoken with someone from the ambulance to make sure we have the agreement the way that they need it.

Councilman Ellsworth motioned to adjourn the meeting at 1:30 p.m., seconded by Councilman Gritsavage, and passed by,  
4-Ayes: Kemper, Ellsworth, Gritsavage and Roosa