

**TOWN OF NORTHAMPTON  
2014 PROPOSED BUDGET  
Second WORK SESSION  
October 21, 2013**

The Town of Northampton held a 2014 Budget Work Session on Monday, October 21, 2013 at 6:32 PM in the Municipal Building, 412 South Main St., Northville, NY.

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

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

**ALSO PRESENT:**

Matthew Ginter-Code Enforcement Officer; Greg Ellsworth-Property Maintenance Officer; Christopher (Kip) Richardson-Highway Superintendent; Ken Cramer-Water/Sewer Maintenance Operator and Art Simmons

**ZONING**

Matthew Ginter: The State is looking at the International Code Books and it was stated that they may not be printing them any more, which means that we would have to purchase them at a cost of \$600.00. Village also gets a set of these same books.

Councilman Ellsworth: Can we share the cost with the Village?

Matthew Ginter: Maybe, if this happens.

Melissa Mazzarelli and I have been working on a project of placing all of the past and present building permits in to a legal folder and categorizing them by S/B/L. Therefore, they may need to purchase 2 more legal size filing cabinets. It was suggested to check with the Justices to see what they did with their old ones when they got new filing cabinets. I have two four draw cabinets to work with right now.

The board needs to decide how you want to pursue or how serious you want to take the Property Maintenance Law. Do you want to enact it? Keep it the way it is where someone drives around town and in Fish house. Who does patrols and looks for issues, handles complaints, etc....If you keep someone busy doing all of that, if want to back it down a little bit and just do it based on written complaints. Then probably I (Ginter) can do that. Most people don't want to put it in writing and make it that serious.

Supervisor Kemper: How many actual complaints have you gotten this summer?

Matthew Ginter: A lot, but only one in writing. It's usually neighbor bickering about their neighbor. I tell them either come into the Clerk's office or my office and fill out a complaint form.

There are repeat people that you do still have to stay after.

It keeps you busy especially when you get into the paperwork. If you go to court you have to supply the attorney with the paperwork and the court wants certain paperwork

done. You have to have the people served. You have to keep track of all this and it keeps you very busy. To-date I don't have the exact amount of what we spent over the years. What we spent in attorney's fees, but I can tell you we collected zero in fees and fines.

Greg Ellsworth: Until you get different Justice's, all you are going to get is COD's.

Matthew Ginter: It's up to the board. I don't want to send an impression to the taxpayer's in Northampton that we're not going to do much with Law any more.

If there is one message that we would send is "our window of opportunity to voluntarily comply is going to shorten drastically. You're going to get a week or two or you're going to go to court, period". There's not going to be, I'll be back.

I don't have the patience or the time to deal with these people perhaps as long as we have in the past. It's going to short and sweet or we're going to court, period. I think driving around wastes too much time.

Supervisor Kemper: I hate to make people have to put their complaint in writing because we have come so far with the Property Maintenance Law. It made so much head way. I know a lot of people who won't file a complaint but there are some habitual cases where it was legitimate. I hate to have them put everything in writing. I think that we should have someone driving around looking for things.

Councilman Gritsavage: How do you feel about this Greg?

Greg Ellsworth: It wouldn't hurt my feelings if you want to go with the way Matthew Ginter is talking about and go with his complaints. But I don't mind continuing to do the job. I spoke with Supervisor Kemper back in July and explained that with my regular job and the overtime and the mandates is over whelming. I didn't have the time to commit to this job and I was going to resign back in July. Supervisor Kemper suggested that I come back when things slowed down. I felt bad a few weeks ago when I saw that Slaybaugh was right back where we started again. I saw that there where three vehicles back on the property. I stopped back in the office to see if you still wanted me stop back with this, to step back into that job again. I was told that there was going to be a meeting here on 10/21/13.

Matthew Ginter: It's nice having someone say that here's a situation, come deal with it. We are paying Greg Ellsworth by the hour and it's up to the board on whatever you want to do.

From a money stand point, it doesn't make any sense to me to push this.

Greg Ellsworth: You're only getting COD's.

Matthew Ginter: You're spending how much in attorney fees just to come over here from Glens Falls.

Supervisor Kemper: I find it very interesting the five year trend that the State Comptroller sent to me. Do you know what had drastically decreased was the Justice's fines from the previous 5 years.

Councilman Gritsavage: I can't believe you can't get 100% compliance.

Greg Ellsworth: There were a few I really had to work with to get them to comply.

Councilman Ellsworth: I don't have a problem with people having to put their complaint in writing.

Matthew Ginter: Putting it in writing, I do have to show the complaint to anyone who request it. I can blank out the name. Our Property Maintenance Law doesn't say it has to be done in writing but it does say that in our Zoning Law.

Councilman Gritsavage: We can make it a policy to put the complaint in writing.

Matthew Ginter: I written letter and I quote the New York State Property Law.

Supervisor Kemper: If you want Matthew Ginter to completely take the position over. I think that the issue in the past was that David refused to do it.

It was stated that what we do need is someone to be hit with a fine and just let that word spread.

Supervisor Kemper: If Mr. Ginter has a real issue can he still call on you?

Greg Ellsworth: Yes, if he chooses too.

Councilman Gritsavage: That's the best of both worlds.

Greg Ellsworth: Once you get them all cleaned up then you just have to ride around for maintenance wise. A lot of the times I put in my reports that there was no new activity this month.

Matthew Ginter: I use the written complaint as a guide.

Supervisor Kemper: If Matthew Ginter is over whelmed or needs your assistance then he can call you (Greg Ellsworth)?

Greg Ellsworth: Yes, he can.

Supervisor Kemper: There is money in the budget for it anyway.

B8010.2 – Board agreed to increase from \$500 to \$1,500

B8010.4 – Board agreed to decrease from \$6,000 to \$5,000

Matthew Ginter and Greg Ellsworth left the meeting at 6:55 p.m.

### **SACANDAGA SEWER DISTRICT**

Supervisor Kemper: We added the Purification SW8330.2 \$11,000. Rob Streeter has stated that we need to do something with that.

Ken Cramer: My inspection of the Sewer Plant was a week ago. I explained to Mr. Streeter the issue I have with RBC unit and I informed him of the cost to repair it.

Up to this point we have not done anything proactive. Mr. Streeter then said he would have to put something in writing.

The manufacture of the equipment purchased by Seaman's and they contract out for parts and it won't be long before we won't be able to get any parts.

Supervisor Kemper: What are the options? We do have upgrades for that unit in the overall project. But it's huge.

Ken Cramer: Mr. Streeter understands that. But, we can't put it in the neighbors yard.

Supervisor Kemper: We don't have the foot print to put something there unless we had additional property.

Councilman Gritsavage: What does Mr. Streeter want us to do? Build a new sewer plant?

Ken Cramer: We have the engineering plans. I spoke with Chad from CT Male and I was astounded by the cost of \$80,000 to replacing the media and the shaft in the unit. The next time Chad is in the area he is going to come with me to the sewer plant to suggest what type of upgrading that can be done.

Supervisor Kemper: Is this something that can be fixed or is it going to have to be replaced?

Ken Cramer: I can keep fixing the unit until they quit making parts for it. Then I'm not sure what I'm going to do.

There are 4 sessions of media. I have them building one complete wheel for the one we have now. The company that Chad found would only agree to build it if we replaced everything plus the shaft. The replacement media that I ordered costs \$10,000. I can't see paying \$80,000 into replacing the media.

Councilman Anderson: I just saw a complete unit for \$750,000 which is shipped out of Texas. It is filters. The unit is approximately \$400,000. Rest is for piping, commission, and process for the contractor. That is something to think about.

Ken Cramer: If it were that simple but unfortunately it is not. We had enough money for the replacement equipment because we haven't done any repairs. So money is in the equipment fund.

Supervisor Kemper: We've been holding on to the money because we didn't know if we had to do anything different.

Councilman Ellsworth: Will Rob Streeter be happy when you do the repair?

Ken Cramer: Yes. It would cost \$10,000 so that it won't become worse than what it is right now.

Councilman Anderson: We have \$20,000 in the Budget from last year, correct?

Supervisor Kemper: We kept everything the same because of the problems we have over there.

Councilman Ellsworth: What was the net effect on the Sewer Tax? Has it changed when you've upped the amount in the Sewer District?

Supervisor Kemper: No. It's coming from fund balance. But because we are no longer making the sewer payment, it was paid off. We are just making a water payment for another 9 years. SS9901.9 we increased to \$30,000 in reserve.

Ken Cramer: Right now I can't anticipate what kind of figures that I can give you.

Supervisor Kemper: For the Tax Cap itself the rate hasn't changed. It's the usage fee that changed. We'll be basing this on a whole other plan once we get the meter reading rates working. I anticipate that will all be in place next year.

Ken Cramer: Elaine is working on an Excel spread sheet with the past years accurate meter readings plus other information needed for the engineers. My goal is hopefully they'll have it in place by the end of this year.

Elaine Mihalik: Currently, I'm waiting for Ti-Sales to come in to my office and install the meter program into my new computer.

Supervisor Kemper: We put money in for attorney under SS8420.4 for bond counsel and four (4) easements along McKinley Ave. that need to be obtained. We're pretty much done with the engineering.

### **SACANDAGA WATER DISTRICT**

Supervisor Kemper: Are there any additional users on the Water line?

Ken Cramer: Cristiano's new house on State Highway 30 and there is a meter in it. There will be a new house going in on County Highway 123 (Mt. Rd.). We'll have to check with the Code Enforcer on the new home on Co Hwy 123.

Ken Cramer: We're going to have to start addressing the Water line issues along Osborne Road. The new person who bought the Fordyce home calls and needs to have the line flushed. The line is galvanized and the water is not always used. We used to flush that line regularly.

Kip Richardson: That line has issues because it narrows.

Councilman Gritsavage: How would you repair it, put in a new pipe?

Ken Cramer: I would like to see a bigger line put in at least a 4" line. We'd like to see what the engineer would come up with. The next place is quite a ways up from this home. The NYS DOH does not like dead end lines. I don't see how a line can be put in and be a continuous flow through the line.

Councilman Gritsavage: Is there any reason why we couldn't do all the roads and do one line at a time?

Ken Cramer: I believe it would be a 6' line if you're going with fire protection.

Supervisor Kemper: One of the issues is if you're looking at replacing say the line on McKinley it would be a large cost to do just the water and not do the sewer the same time.

We are listed under the intended use plan. When we did all the reports for funding we phased all those projects. So if and when funding was available we had it in phases. The

first phase of priority was McKinley and Pine Ave. We wanted to be conservative with the money.

Ken Cramer: When people start getting billed off of their usage. I can't anticipate how they are going to comply with that. If they start to use a third of our water then our revenue is gone. That is something that the engineer is going to have to take into consideration.

Supervisor Kemper: Remember that this 2014 Budget is tighter. There is no room for buffers in there.

Councilman Roosa: In the Village, we're dealing with houses for sale, foreclosures, etc. Every month the water is down 1M to 1½M gallons.

Supervisor Kemper: Now the houses that have been sold, they are just using them for vacation homes. They're not year round like they used to be.

Supervisor Kemper: The money just isn't there with funding. We have battled to let them know we need the money for infrastructure.

Supervisor Kemper: We still have money in the budget because we haven't anything that isn't absolutely necessary. Rob Streeter does know that I have been watching for any type of opportunity for Funding.

Ken Cramer left the meeting at 7:40 p.m.

## **HIGHWAY**

A5132.1 is the \$600 what Doug Ellsworth gets paid as Highway Deputy

Supervisor Kemper: CHIPS and paving were placed in all different categories in the past.

DB5110.4: Is for paving, culverts, salt, sand, gravel, paving, sand and wash-out.

DB5112.2 is CHIPS.

DB5130.4 is machinery repair

DB5142.2 is Ice Contract with the County

DB5148.4 is mowing and the county plowing

Kip Richardson: I asked for a little more money for paving. I want to put sealing on some of the roads so I can protect them and I don't have to pave them. Some roads are maintained every 10 years and some don't make it that long. With the sealant they may last longer than the 10 years.

Supervisor Kemper: This money for paving would be under DB5110.4. We know that CHIPS is going to be \$58.112 for 2014 but we're not sure if CHIPS will continue after this year.

Supervisor Kemper: The garbage truck was purchased back in 2005 for \$92,420.00. We just got a notice that our insurance renewal doesn't come until March 2014. I budgeted 10%.

Kip Richardson left 8:00 p.m.

You got to cut this budget some place because we using way too much of Fund Balance, stated the Supervisor.

Councilman Ellsworth: When you estimated revenue under sales tax, it seems that most of the places I noticed we're budgeting more than last year. Is that because you are under budgeting by so much for that?

Supervisor Kemper: Yes, everybody under budgets.

Councilman Ellsworth: DB1120? We were told that we were losing money.

Supervisor Kemper: I took the exact figures that we had and subtracted \$100,000 and the figures that are scattered between the districts by county DB to A. It's more in line of what we actually receive. My first quarter was down from 2012. The second quarter was down about \$3,000 and I haven't gotten the third quarter yet. They have been down consistently.

Councilman Ellsworth: Shouldn't we be subtracting the \$120,000 a number smaller than \$204,000?

Supervisor Kemper: That full amount is in there. It is not under estimated. It was way down in 2011 and in 2012. Walmart is going to hit us on the third quarter.

Councilman Ellsworth: If it is down, shouldn't we be subtracting from the down number and not from the year before?

Supervisor Kemper: It is including the fourth quarter.

Councilman Ellsworth: You know that it is going to be down this year so you should be using the lower number. Am I missing it?

Supervisor Kemper: I anticipated that and I did knock off \$100,000 off of that. We actually received over \$700,000. In 2012 we actually received \$738,000. To-date we have received \$521,852.

Councilman Ellsworth: How does that compare to the first two quarters in 2012?

Supervisor Kemper: The first quarter we were down \$20,000.

Councilman Ellsworth: I was thinking instead of using \$738,000 and subtracting \$100,000. We probably should be using a smaller number.

Supervisor Kemper: I am using \$700,000 minus \$100,000 at an amount of \$600,000. If you go to "A" \$94,400; "B" \$103,290; "DB" \$308,000; "Fire" \$85,250 we pay that off first and "Kennyetto" \$900,000. You always under estimate revenues, stated the Supervisor.

Cemeteries: A8810.1 they are down one worker. The Board agreed to go from \$34,000 to \$25,000 on this line item. A8810.2 was raised this year to \$450 because they need an extra heavy duty blower.

The Ambulance Service wanted \$6,000 and we budgeted \$4,000 on A4540.2.

Councilman Ellsworth: We feel that based on the fact that we are putting \$33,000 in there for a new ambulance and we do know that they have money. We know that one of the

reasons that they don't want to go to billing is because they like having money. So, I think that they should use some of their money.

Supervisor Kemper: In A4540.4 they wanted \$7,000 but I left it at \$5,000 because that is up to the Board if you want it changed. Personal Services they asked for a raise.

Can you (Roosa) ask Kip if there is anything more that needs to be done on his radios?

Councilman Roosa: We just had a rep from Crystal Clear and he low banded all of the radios.

Councilman Ellsworth: Do we have to have 2 Judges? Can you borrow a judge from the next town? Could we possibly drop one judge in two years when the term is up?

Councilman Gritsavage: Is it fair to have just one judge?

We need to ask Jack Farquhar and/or Steven Collins to attend the next budget work session.

**Next Budget work session is scheduled for Monday, October 28, 2013 at 6:30 pm.**

Having no further business come before the board, Councilman Gritsavage motioned to adjourn the meeting at 8:47 PM, seconded by Councilman Ellsworth, and passed by,

5-Ayes: Kemper, Anderson, Ellsworth, Gritsavage, and Roosa      0-Nays

Respectfully submitted,

Elaine Mihalik, RMC

Town Clerk