

**TOWN OF NORTHAMPTON
2014 PROPOSED BUDGET
WORK SESSION
October 8, 2013**

The Town of Northampton held a 2014 Budget Work Session on Tuesday, October 8, 2013 at 6:25 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
No one from the public was present.

The Town Board reviewed the 2014 Proposed Budget line by line. Supervisor informed the board that some of the figures had come in yet.

The Highway is a little bit lower than what was anticipated.

Supervisor Kemper: The front page is what we use from Sales Tax and other revenues. The Mortgage Tax was down. These are realistic estimated revenues that are offset on things that have to do with the general, general B outside the Village, DB. This proposed Budget has the tax rate staying at \$.96 a thousand. When looking at the Fund Balance what they actually are I'm concerned about the Highway because it is a little lower than I had anticipated.

"A" FUND TOWN WIDE

Justice- A1110.1- Judge's are requesting a salary for Ruth Farquhar. Mr. Farquhar wrote that every other Town has a Court Clerk. Last year they request \$10 per hour.

Discussion:

Not all Towns have a Court Clerk. All of the conferences that the other town justices go to, the towns do not pay for their court clerk either and we do pay for Ruth Farquhar to go to the training classes.

Councilman Gritsavage: How can they function without a clerk, even if they show up one night a week?

Councilman Ellsworth: The Justices would have to be told that the Town would post a notice for the Court Clerk position and interview the applicants. The Board would be the ones to hire a person. Does the board want to budget for this?

Councilman Gritsavage: We should go another year with it "as it is".

It was agreed by all members present to not pay a salary to Ruth Farquhar as Court Clerk. A lot of these people do training on line, stated the Supervisor.

Constable: A3120.1 to include \$5,000 for a part-time Constable.

Bookkeeper A1320.1 is budgeted for \$15,000. Not sure what is going to happen in the future stated the Supervisor. Carol worked 20 hours a week and she made \$15,000. When Carol was training Cristen she was putting in more than her 20 hours and Cristen was putting in more than 20 hours as well. Because of Carol and Cristen working, it went over the \$15,000. Patti is doing very limited compared to what Carol and Cristen did and I am picking up a lot of the work they did before. I do the payroll and all of the cemetery paperwork. Patti is putting in a lot less time and she has a different system of putting in entries once a month as opposed to once a day, which is fine.

But, if you get someone else in here, you'll be lucky to get someone to do the work for \$15,000. The figures going from 2012 into 2013 are different because of the change over. You are not going to have a Supervisor that is doing what I'm doing, stated

Supervisor Kemper.

Carol switched to contractual to pay herself because she stated she was paying too much money on her taxes.

Someone new it is going to take time to get familiar with the day to day duties and the system.

Councilman Gritsavage: I think we need to look at the fundamental structure we have in the office itself. It was suggested to have Nathaniel Matthews do the bookkeeping work part-time and use the rest of that money for an office assistant.

Salary No salary increases were calculated into the Budget.

The Highway union has rejected our offer stated the Supervisor. It was noted that the Highway Crew gets paid a bonus of \$300 for working in the Sewer District.

The Highway agreed to hold the line in 2011-12 in order for them to keep the insurance coverage.

Assessor – A1355.2 – has been raised \$1,000 and A1355.4 to \$1,000 as requested by the Assessor.

Clerk-A1410.1-has asked for \$3,000 for a Deputy Clerk.

A1420.1; A1420.2; and A1420.4 all legal and should have a heading of "Attorney".

Phone billings were always put by Carol under A1620.2 for equipment. A1620.4 is all of your utilities; postage; fire extinguishers; repairs; air conditioner, the furnace; etc.

Ambulance: Mr. Farquhar is requesting an increase of A9961.9 to be \$52,000. The board agreed to keep it at \$33,000 to be saved for a new Ambulance for the next three years.

Councilman Gritsavage: we need to put that in because in three or four years we're going to be scrambling to find the \$150,000.

Supervisor Kemper: What will you are doing about the highway equipment then? We're only putting in \$10,000 to \$15,000 in to that fund.

Councilman Ellsworth: Are you saying that we tell Jack he can't have a new ambulance in ten years which is three years away? Mr. (Jack) Farquhar has offered to come up with

some of the money but we have to be able to come up with the money. A new ambulance is going to cost around \$230,000. We haven't saved enough money in there in the last seven years. It was originally twelve years and even in twelve years that wouldn't have been enough.

It was always just a little money each years and it was never calculated to how much exactly we needed to set aside each year. So, we're behind.

Interfund Transfer

Building Reserve – A9901.9 - \$10,000.

Ambulance Reserve – A9961.9 - \$33,000 each year for next 3 years to cover 10 years

Supervisor Kemper: Fund balance, in "A" which you are talking about taking out of, is \$203,000. You're not talking about the Sewer or the Water.

Councilman Anderson: If we're going to have to run an ambulance we're going to have to pay for one.

We could start billing for the Ambulance service to those people who have insurance to pay for it.

Councilman Gritsavage: We have been looking into that and we haven't come up with a conclusion for that. I did think that way at one point but I'm not sure that is what we should be doing. I checked into Indian Lake Ambulance and they are 52 miles from the nearest hospital and they are charging \$15 a mile.

Councilman Ellsworth: What did you decide for an income drop from Walmart sales tax?

Supervisor Kemper: Realistically, I figured \$600,000 from Sales Tax. This budget is more tight than what it used to be. You don't have it grossly over estimated.

Prior it was calculated at Sales tax at \$350,000 to \$400,000.

I am basing this on the projection of what I think the third quarter would be and I am not going to get the fourth quarter. The cushion is no more in there. I based it on \$700,000 which is very realistic, minus I'm calculating \$100,000 because of Walmart. Before it was budgeted at \$450,000, which is way under because we were actually get +\$700,000. We just have to estimate from year to date. It's all that we can do.

Sales Tax is used in A Fund; B Fund-Town outside Village, Highway and Fire District.

Joint Youth – A7310.4- was kept the same at \$19,000.

The State has decreased reimbursements, yet again, for the Joint Youth. It looks like the County will not be having that revenue anymore stated the Supervisor.

Planning: A8020.4: There is going to be more coming up with the Planning Board.

Supervisor Kemper noted that she has signed the contract with the Fulton County Planning Department.

State Retirement – A9010.8 – I've calculated an increase of approximately 10%, everybody else has stated it could be possibly 14% to 15%, stated the Supervisor.

Approximate rate per thousand of assessed value

<u>2013</u>	<u>2014</u>
.96	.96

SACANDAGA FIRE DISTRICT

* Contract with the Village – Tom Groff informed the Supervisor that they are keeping it the same as 2013.

* Contract with Kenneytto – Keeping the same.

Home & Community Service Zoning: Matthew Ginter is more efficient as Code Enforcement Officer and he is doing more of what he is supposed to be doing then having Greg doing things.

Councilman Ellsworth left the meeting at 8:12 p.m.

Page 24 is carry over from the front page, Less Estimated Revenues.

DB5110.4 - paving, road washout, salt, colverts, stones, gravel and sand.

DB5112.2 - CHIPS

DB5142.4 - Contract with the County.

DB5148.4 - \$48,450.00 County Plowing and \$4,000 is for mowing. This was scattered in other areas in previous Budgets.

State Retirement – General is 48%; B Fund is 16%; Highway Fund is 29%; Water District is 3% and Sewer District is 4%. Everyone of the Highway Crew is going to have to be responsible to keep their own record including the Highway Superintendent.

The money is allocated in this budget, so that, come January 21, 2014 this is a system that you must record your time and it would simply just involve transfers, that's all. Highway is DB; working on buildings is the B Fund or A Fund if it is General. It is in all those areas that are split up. Right now their payroll is split up between Buildings, Cemetery, Garbage, General Repairs - 5110.1, Snow Removal, Mowing, and two weeks on Water and six weeks on Sewer. This is the Highway Salaries in this years Budget. It's a major computer changes in categories. The money is here so that it can be transferred within accounts.

Employee Benefits- 10% was added

Lighting District: Utilities went way up with National Grid.

Councilman Roosa: The Village just did a light inventory. The Electric Company gave us a sheet that they had and not all the poles have lights on them as they have listed. Some are still running with vapor lights. There was a program where they were going to change the lights out but they stated that the funding was cut.

Attorney – SW8420.4 is for possible Bond Counsel and Easements.

Supervisor Kemper: DB I believe I am going to have to apply more sales tax. Right now, DB is at \$193,000. That's not a lot of money if you have a big issue with a disaster or anything to do with the highway that has to do with overtime.

Councilman Gritsavage: What's confusing me is the way that the salaries are set up and personal services. Getting to understand what the figures are.

Water Fund Balance is \$60,518. Serial Bond payment is \$30,000. I believe there are 3 or 4 years on that stated the Supervisor.

Sewer Fund Balance is \$223,059. Sewer reserves is at \$2,000

A Fire Budget is supposed to be given to the Town by law. We get a detailed one from Broadalbin-Kennetucket Fire Department. We have asked the Northville Fire Department for the past several years and we have never gotten one. Some Towns will not fund the Fire Department if they do not receive a budget from them with their projections and what their actual figures are. That is part of our Public Hearing.

Kenny gets paid from Sewer -SS8130.1 \$7,315 and SS8120.1 \$7,315 a total of \$14,630. Kenny gets paid from Water - SW8330.1 \$6,712.00 and SW8340.1 \$3,334.00 a total of \$10,046. The balance of \$6,095 from the SW8340.1 \$9,429 is paid to the Highway Crew. Plus they get paid per year a \$300 bonus per their contract for working in the Water and Sewer District even though they are working on Highway time.

For the Water District Kip gets paid \$2,500.

Councilman Gritsavage: I will work on getting a break down on this.

Next Budget work session scheduled for Monday, October 21, 2013 at 6:30 pm.

The board is requesting the following to be present at a work session: Kip from the Highway Crew, and Kenny on water/sewer equipment and Matthew Ginter regarding Greg Ellsworth's position.

Having no further business come before the board, Councilman Gritsavage motioned to adjourn the meeting at 9:07 p.m., seconded by Councilman Roosa, and passed by, 4-Ayes: Kemper, Anderson, Gritsavage, and Roosa 0-Nays

Respectfully submitted,

Elaine Mihalik, RMC
Town Clerk