

**TOWN OF NORTHAMPTON
2014 PROPOSED BUDGET
Third WORK SESSION
October 28, 2013**

The Town of Northampton held a 2014 Budget Work Session on Monday, October 28, 2013 at 6:31 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: Jack Farquhar and Steven Collins

Justice

Councilman Ellsworth: What did they spend this year to date?

Supervisor Kemper: Contractual is \$2,188.00. That would be utilities, updated Law books, toners, your classes, etc.

Do you expect any increases?

Jack Farquhar: The dues are pretty much fixed unless they raise them.

We didn't do Pottsdam or the New York training classes. We did a lot of training classes on line this year. We would like to plan on going to the Pottsdam training classes. Pottsdam has the same instructors and better facilitators.

Councilman Gritsavage: That is your mandatory training and you have to do that every year, correct?

Jack Farquhar: Yes.

It was agreed by the Town Board members to keep the Justice A1110.4 at \$6,000.

Councilman Gritsavage: Would you put together the cost of a Court Clerk and what the benefits would be?

Jack Farquhar: The Court Clerk's are only part time and the only benefits would be the training. Right now you have been sending Ruth to the Court Clerk training and that is very beneficial too. She has been going to training every year. That is very necessary because of a lot of changes going on. The other courts in the County have Court Clerks. I checked last year, Northampton brought in 3rd in revenues for the business that they do in Northampton. I believe Johnstown was 1; Mayfield was second and Northampton was 3rd. I haven't checked the stats this year. There is a lot of responsibility and hours spent on Court Clerk's job.

Councilman Ellsworth: Right now, we're looking at losing \$100,000 with the new Walmart. We're all guessing and we don't know so, we're looking at being conservative right now. Next year you'll have hard numbers.

Jack Farquhar: We do need some money in the budget for us for equipment because we've been getting a lot of our equipment from the State.
The Board members agreed to put in A1110.2 - \$500.00 for equipment.

Ambulance

Councilman Ellsworth: We've upped the Ambulance reserve to \$33,000 and you had stated that the Ambulance Service would chip some money toward the new Ambulance. And you would have the trade in for the rig.

Jack Farquhar: We can't plan on the trade in because we don't know how much. We do know that there will be some training.

Steven Collins: We stated publicly that we were planning on contributing at least \$40,000 toward the Ambulance. When I submitted this budget request, we understood that there was \$77,000 in a placement fund. We did not know that that did not include the 2013 \$13,000 that has been set aside.

Supervisor Kemper: Correct.

Steven Collins: We're not sure that the \$275,000 that was a guess at the final cost of an Ambulance in three years.

Under Equipment and Contractual what does that cover? There are things such as repairs to the ambulance, heat, and water? That's been a mystery.

Supervisor Kemper: Most of that is covered under Buildings.

Equipment also includes your oxygen, your phones, cell phone, etc. The ambulance repairs would come out of Contractual. If you want a print out of those particular funds I'll be glad to do it for you.

Jack Farquhar: We just bought \$2,200 worth of pagers out of the donation fund. There is going to be a lot of every day things that you are not going to see because it came out of the

Councilman Gritsavage: We show nothing coming out of the equipment this year.

Jack Farquhar: It may have come out of the Special Fund.

Councilman Roosa: It was suggested to have Mr. Farquhar do his vouchers like Kip Richardson does for the Highway and then he'll understand his budget a little better.

Jack Farquhar: If training is under Contractual, then we'll need more money in the Contractual.

If we put in Equipment \$1,500 and Contractual Expenses at \$6,500 we have almost doubled.

It was agreed by the Board members to have the Ambulance Equipment A4540.2 to be \$1,500 and the Contractual Expenses A4540.4 to be \$6,500.

Jack Farquhar is questioning the \$1,200 that was submitted for reimbursement to the State for training that was taken by the Ambulance Crew. The State is saying that a check was cut to the Town and was cashed. That money can only be used for training. It cannot be used for anything else. We pay for the training out of the Ambulance donation fund.

Supervisor Kemper: You're certain that the State sent the check out because I am not finding any deposits in the Ambulance Account for that amount and I know that I haven't gotten the check.

Councilman Ellsworth: Did the State give you a date and a check number?

Jack Farquhar: I'll have to call the State to get the information.

Steve Collins: Does the Town want us to move some money from the Special Ambulance Fund to the Reserve Fund every year?

Councilman Ellsworth: I personally don't care because I know that you'll have the money put aside when we are ready to purchase the new rig.

Supervisor Kemper: The money is in a whole separate account that is getting interest in either account and it doesn't really make any difference.

Steve Collins: In 2016, we are looking at committing anywhere from \$40,000 to \$85,000 from that account for a new ambulance purchase. We need to be conscious of that on paper so that we don't over spend that money.

Jack Farquhar: You're not going to get into trouble with the Audit for letting the money just set there?

Supervisor Kemper: No, because it is specified for the use of Ambulance purposes. I don't see where they would criticize us. We were told the money had to be in a separate account and that is where it is.

Jack Farquhar: What about the Workman's Comp. under the Ambulance?

Supervisor Kemper: Regarding the Workman's Compensation. We get charged an extra \$400 which is separate from the Workman's Comp based on the history where before it was redistributed through the tax bill. Now, it has been shifted. With the Tax Cap issue, the State Audit has requested that the Municipalities show it in their Tax Cap calculation and take it off of the County. It has benefited the County but it hurt the Municipalities. The Workman's Comp. goes under the General Account. It did not get charged against the Ambulance Account. The Ambulance portion is \$400.00.

The Ambulance insurance is not under the Ambulance Account either. It's General Fund for equipment under Liability insurance. It's a bulk liability insurance policy we have.

Steve Collins: Our 501C3 did come through for the Ambulance. We still have to deal with State Charities but under their rules we are going to be exempt but we have to apply for that exemption.

The Board has asked Jack Farquhar and Steve Collins for the paperwork that they have so it can be on file with the Town.

Supervisor Kemper asked the board if they were considering an accountant for the Bookkeeper's position and suggested increasing the line item. You can break down the .4's into 20 categories. When it gets too detailed it makes it very difficult with a budget and it is a lot of extra bookkeeping work. The electric and Highway could be possibly be broke down. I wasn't going to do all the breakdowns with all the election turmoil going on. The more detailed you do it, the more work it is going to take, and you're going to have to pay someone more money to do it.

Councilman Roosa suggested \$30,000.

Councilman Ellsworth: That would give them the ability to work 30 hours a week at \$15.00 an hour.

The Board agreed to increase Independent Auditing & Accounting A1320.1 to \$30,000.

Supervisor Kemper: You don't want to get into a situation where you have to pay somebody health insurance and every thing else because that is a huge cost.

Councilman Ellsworth: Are we talking about taking off the workload of the Supervisor?

Councilman Gritsavage: We're talking about how the Supervisor wants to use this particular item.

Councilman Ellsworth: I feel we should discuss cutting the Supervisor's salary. I always felt it should be cut. It doesn't have to be a huge cut. Currently it's \$24,357.

You can make it \$20,000 and if they chose to be the Budget Officer it would be back up to \$24,000. If they chose not to be Budget Officer then it gives them money to hire a person that is competent to do the job of a Budget Officer.

The Board agreed to decrease A1220.1, the Supervisor's salary, to \$20,000 and decrease A1010.1, the Town Board salary, to \$2,600 each.

MOTION on 2014 Preliminary Budget

Councilman Roosa motioned to approve moving the 2014 Tentative to the 2014 Town of Northampton Preliminary Budget. Changes are to be made to the Ambulance Equipment A4540.2 to be \$1,500 and the Contractual Expenses A4540.4 to be \$6,500. A1110.2 - \$500.00 for equipment; increase Independent Auditing & Accounting A1320.1 to \$30,000. Decrease A1220.1, the Supervisor's salary, to \$20,000 and decrease A1010.1, the Town Board salary, to \$2,600 each and to post a Public Hearing on the 2014 Preliminary Budget for Thursday, November 14, 2013 at 7 p.m. seconded by Councilman Gritsavage and passed by,

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

Having no further business come before the board, Councilman Ellsworth motioned to adjourn the meeting at 8:19 p.m. by Councilman Gritsavage, and passed by,

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

Respectfully submitted,

Elaine Mihalik, RMC
Town Clerk