

**TOWN OF NORTHAMPTON**  
**2014 Preliminary Budget**  
**PUBLIC HEARING**  
**November 14, 2013**

The Town of Northampton Public Hearing on the 2014 Preliminary Budget was called to order at 7:03 p.m. on Thursday, November 14, 2013 by Supervisor Kemper in the Municipal Building at 412 South Main St., Northville, NY. Supervisor Kemper led the salute to the flag

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

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

**ALSO PRESENT:** James Groff-Supervisor Elect  
Art Simmons-Councilman Elect

Supervisor Kemper announced the major changes that were made to the 2014 Preliminary Budget as follows:

Ambulance Equipment A4540.2 - \$1,500

Contractual Expenses A4540.4 - \$6,500.

Justice Equipment A1110.2 - \$500.00

Increase Independent Auditing & Accounting A1320.1 to \$30,000.

Decrease A1220.1, the Supervisor's salary, to \$20,000

Decrease A1010.1, the Town Board salary, to \$2,600 each.

Refuse and Garbage A8160.4 was decreased by \$5,000 due to tipping fees having gone down. People are recycling more and are using the containers at the Transfer Station at a cost of \$12.50 a ton versus \$25 a ton for the County to pick it up off the street. All of the tipping fees at the County level are staying the same this year, stated the Supervisor.

Building Reserves we are putting the normal \$10,000

For the Garbage Truck - \$15,000

We increased the Ambulance Fund – to \$33,000

DB- Highway road maintenance increased \$10,000

Machinery – Trucks, etc \$15,000

Sewer, since we paid off the loan we are increasing that to \$30,000.

The Fire District contract amounts have remained the same.

When we turned in the amount for the re-levy for the Water and Sewer we found an additional property. On the front page for the Sacandaga Park Water District, the amount to be raised by taxes will be \$65,575 instead of \$65,350. This will affect the Revenues side of this also. Revenues Total should read \$111,475.00.

Social Security amount was transposed should read \$1,574.00 with Interest and Earnings the Total will be \$111,525.

Supervisor Kemper **Opened Public Comment** Session at 7:10 p.m.

Art Simmons: Is there an increase in the Tax Rate?

Supervisor Kemper: No, the Tax Rate will remain at \$0.96 per thousand. I would caution that this is a very realistic budget and it is very tight. Revenues are targeted at what we feel they really are. The Fund Balance that is going to be used this year on this 2014 Budget probably will be used. Previously you always had an excess of Sales Tax and such. So you really didn't have to utilize the Fund Balance at the end of the year because you have the extra revenues.

Previous Fund Balance \$193,087, if you use \$159,000 of that, despite what it looked like in the audit report. The reserves are figured in there. The reserves are separate in the current figures, stated the Supervisor.

I am going to caution the Board, until you use the Fund Balance, there is not going to be a lot of money left because this is a tight budget stated the Supervisor.

There are couple other areas I would like to switch.

It was approved at the October 8, 2013 meeting to increase Police and Constable Contractual Exp. A3120.4 to \$5,000.

James Groff-Supervisor Elect is requesting the Board cut the Supervisor's salary to \$17,000 for 2014.

The Board agreed decreasing the Supervisor's salary under A1220.1 for 2014 to \$17,000.

Under Town Clerk A1410.1, put the Clerk Salary as \$19,133.00 and have the \$3,000 for a Deputy Clerk be placed separately under A1460.1.

Under A1420 the Title should read "Town Attorney".

Elections: This next year there is supposed to be an extra Primary and the \$14,000 could be more this next year if we have to have another Primary separate from the main Primary Election.

Supervisor Kemper suggested changing A1320.1 to \$25,000. Carol was part-time last year and when Cristen started working we looked at the hours worked and at the payroll. Patti works approximately 10 hours a week at most right now for me.

James Groff-Supervisor Elect: I would like to see that figure kept at \$30,000 for the 2014 Budget. You didn't have a Budget increase with that figure.

That's because we used more Fund Balance, stated Supervisor Kemper.

Councilman Anderson: I'm inclined to keep the figure for A1320.1 at \$30,000, as long as we are not raising any taxes. If we don't spend it, it will go back in Fund Balance for the next year.

James Groff-Supervisor Elect: You're using Fund Balance and as long as you don't spend it all you're going to have money left over.

Supervisor Kemper: Remember, you are using more Fund Balance. Carol Roberts was making \$32,000 when she was working full time.

Council members were in agreement to keep A1320.1 at \$30,000.

Supervisor Kemper **closed the Public Hearing at 7:25 p.m.** for public comment

#### Cemeteries

Councilman Roosa questioned whether \$25,000 is going to be enough. Is there going to be an extra person working with the two now in the spring?

Supervisor Kemper: Yes, because Stu VanNostrand and Craig Warner is working in the cemeteries. Craig is putting in extra hours right now. They are down one worker at this time. Hopefully, there will be another worker hired in the spring.

#### Update on Roof

Councilman Ellsworth: I received a phone call from John Rizzo, Engineer. He explained that the fascia on the building had a dimple in it. It prevents from having puckering on the building. The roofer stated that he had to cut it, pound it down flat and put nails in it. The roofer wants the Town to do a work change order, which adds to the original price. Mr. Rizzo asked me (Ellsworth) what I thought. I asked if the roofer looked at the building. In my opinion, he should have thought of that.

Supervisor Kemper: S&L Roofing bid on the roof job.

Councilman Ellsworth: I left it with Mr. Rizzo that I would discuss this with the Town Board and the roofer wasn't getting paid a nickel without the Board approval.

Councilman Anderson: I will send an e-mail tomorrow to them regarding this issue. I spoke with one of the owners this morning and asked why they were trying to nickel and dime this job. I asked, what are you going to get out of it? This owner I spoke with apparently didn't know what was going on. We have the bond from S&L Roofing on this job.

Supervisor Kemper: Are you anticipating any problems?

Councilman Ellsworth: We should let Mr. Rizzo know that we are going to be very attentive to the roof job that S&L Roofing is doing and if he isn't doing it right, he isn't going to get paid.

Supervisor Kemper: I received a letter from the Fulton County Ambulance. The letter states that when Northampton Ambulance is not available the Fulton County Ambulance responded. They went through the normal process as they would for anybody else. Fulton County Ambulance then bills the insurance company. The insurance company pays Fulton County Ambulance. There's a balance due of \$35 for this particular case. This person is giving the Fulton County Ambulance a very hard time and is refusing to pay the \$35. This individual is saying to send that bill to the Town of Northampton

Supervisor because Taxpayers money pays for an ambulance and they are not going to pay the \$35 out of pocket.

Councilman Ellsworth: This has come up before and we can't pay it. There is nothing we can do about it. We do not have a full time Ambulance Squad and we do the best that we can.

Councilman Anderson: I would recommend making a copy of this letter and give it to Jack Farquhar, Ambulance Coordinator and let him deal with it.

Councilman Gritsavage: Fulton County Ambulance answered the call for whatever reason and the individual has to pay the co-pay.

Board members were asked if any of them would volunteer to deliver the requested paperwork that the Town Clerk has copied for the Town Attorney in Glens Falls. It is too voluminous to fax and would be costly to have it sent via next day courier. The Attorney needs this material tomorrow to review prior to court.

Councilman Anderson has volunteered to bring the requested paperwork to the Town Attorney in Glens Falls.

Councilman Gritsavage: I was at an Ambulance meeting and they wondered about the \$1,600 reimbursement check for training.

Supervisor Kemper: We have searched and searched though a six month period. We need to find out more from the State as to who had written the check because I am not finding any deposits in "A" or any other account in the amount of \$1,600 for training. I would like to know exactly where the check was mailed to and the amount.

Councilman Ellsworth: We need a copy of the canceled check.

**ADJOURN:** Not having any more business here before the board, Councilman Anderson motioned **to adjourn the meeting at 7:50 p.m.**, seconded by Councilman Roosa, and passed by,

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

Respectfully submitted,

Elaine Mihalik, RMC  
Town Clerk