

TOWN OF NORTHAMPTON
REGULAR MEETING
January 22, 2014

The regular meeting of the Town of Northampton was held on Wednesday, January 22, 2014. Supervisor Groff called the meeting to order at 7 p.m. in the Municipal Building at 412 South Main St., Northville, NY. Supervisor Groff led the salute to the flag.

PRESENT: Supervisor: James Groff
Councilmen: Darryl Roosa, and William Gritsavage and Art Simmons
Absent: Ivar Anderson

RECORDING SECRETARY: Elaine Mihalik-Town Clerk

Other Town department representatives in attendance were: Melissa Mazzarelli-Assessor; Matthew Ginter-Code Enforcement Officer; Ken Cramer Water/Sewer Maintenance Plant Operator; and Bookkeeper- Nathaniel Matthews

ALSO PRESENT: Brendon Becker, PE - Lamont Engineering PC
Michael Warner; Skip Taylor; Steve Norris; Michael Kratyk; Terry Quackenbush; John Spaeth; Laura Hathaway and NCS Student Brianna Nellis

Speaker: Brendon Becker reviewed his spread sheet with the Town Board saying that in order to analyze the data and because you have so many seasonal billings I separated it out. I did an average for a summer month and a winter month. This way the Town Board could get a good view of what the differences are between a summer month and a winter month. One is an average of an entire year; one is an average for just summer months and one is an average for a combination for winter and summer months.

Does the Board want to stay with the Point System that was set up originally or change the Point structure based on assessed value of the property?

Mr. Becker's calculations were based on the 2013 Budget items and what the current rates are.

I (Becker) have a proposed budget item that includes a "debt service" for both the water and sewer because I am assuming that you were doing a \$5M construction project including a loan with a 50% Grant. That figure is a loan. That is just a proposal because you have not moved forward with that yet.

Councilman Gritsavage: That debt service right now would go into Reserves, correct?

Brendon Becker: Yes. In the spread sheet, each one of those rate codes was analyzed for an average usage, so that I could calculate how much an average household uses per month. I multiplied that out to get an estimate of what the rate should be. I came up with \$7 per 1,000 gallons for the water and \$10 per 1,000 gallons for the sewer.

The average usage for a single family household was 3,000 gallons per month. So I made that the minimum and everybody gets charged for 3,000 gallons per month because you have certain costs with the water system and you are going to have month to month no matter what the usage is. \$7 x 3,000 gallons everyone is looking at a minimum of \$21 per month for water and \$10 x 3,000 gallons would be a minimum of \$30 per month for sewer. Anything beyond the 3,000 gallons would be at a rate of \$10.

The proposed spread sheet has variations with every property owner listed on it with the previous rates calculated. Along with the proposed new rates based on the estimations of what the flow is going to be. The variations are:

1. Summer Month (A) -Usage Based on Average Summer month using Assessed Value Method and Usage Based on Minimum Summer month using Assessed Value Method.
2. Annual Average (A) – Usage Based on Average Summer Month using Assessed Value Method.
3. Annual Summary (A) – Usages Based on Average Summer Month using Assessed Value Method.
4. Summer Month Average (P) – Usages Based on Average Summer Month using Point Tax Method, and
5. Summer Month Minimum (P) – Usage Based on Minimum Summer Month using Point Tax Method.

There was discussion as to some discrepancies to the budget versus the number of properties in the district that are paying for the Water and Sewer Tax (Point System). Brendon would like to check the list against the map to make sure that all the people that are located within the district are being charged.

Melissa Mazzarelli: There is at least one property that is not being charged the Point System with the district. It's up to the Board whether you want to leave her out of the district or leave her in.

It was recommended to have a work session with the Board to review and comment on the proposed spread sheet.

Ken Cramer and Brendon Becker have left the meeting.

MOTION: Councilman Roosa motioned to approve the October 28, 2013 2014 Proposed Budget Work session; the November 14, 2013 – 2014 Preliminary Budget Public Hearing; the December 10, 2013 Phone Conference; the December 30, 2013 Special meeting minutes, to waive the December 18, 2013 Regular meeting minutes and the January 17, 2014 Sign off on the Town Books, and approve the January 2, 2014 Organization meeting minutes with corrections #5 of the first 15 items to include each third Wednesday of the month thereafter **at 7 p.m.** along with page 6 Vote to read Supervisor **Kemper Groff**; as presented by the Town Clerk, seconded by Councilman Gritsavage and passed by, Adopted by a vote of 3-Ayes: Groff, Gritsavage, and Roosa Abstain: Councilman Simmons

Open to the Public 7:21 p.m.

Skip Taylor: I would like to know what the Board's goal is. There was mention of a \$5M project. It sounds like you will be putting in some upgrade to the sewer system.

Supervisor Groff: \$5M is the total cost of the project is for upgrade to the water collection system and the plan for the whole project. There was \$113,709 left over from the \$200,000 Grant. Hopefully, we would like to go out to bid this summer with fixing McKinley Extension.

We had some discussion with the engineer trying to move ahead because there's a low interest loan available now at 2.5%. We can Bond for the \$5M but we don't have to spend any of it. It will give us three years to look for other sources to put with it and do something. We did discuss possibly rebuilding the plant rather than about doing the collection. If we rebuild the plant it will sustain the flows and I/I problems we're having as far as with the collection. So when we do fix the lines, as far as, the ground water that is running in the lines. We will actually have a plant that is capable of handling more waste water for future development.

If we fix the collection system and the plant breaks then we'll have to fix everything and that is going to be extremely expensive.

Skip Taylor: Can the public attend the work session?

Supervisor Groff: Yes. The work session will be posted and the discussion will be on the study of the water and sewer rates.

Terry Quackenbush: Is this just with the Town?

Supervisor Groff: This just within the Sacandaga Park Water and Sewer District.
Discussion ensued.

Steven Norris: I wasn't here at the December meeting and I feel that we were remiss on thanking Bob Ellsworth for his dedication of two terms as Councilman. I'm sorry he's not here tonight because I would like to personally thank him. He's put in a tremendous amount of work and his business suffered for it and we should thank him.

2014 Fuel Oil Bid

One 2014 Fuel Oil Bid was received from Shepard Oil Company, Inc., PO Box 298, Johnstown, NY 12095.

| | |
|-------------------|--|
| #2 Fuel Oil Price | Albany rack +.18 cents = \$3.4563 a gallon |
| Kerosene Price | Albany rack +.18 cents = \$3.9366 a gallon |
| Diesel Fuel Price | Albany rack +.18 cents = \$3.655 a gallon |

MOTION 2014 Fuel Oil Bid: Councilman Gritsavage motioned to award the 2014 Fuel Oil bid to Shepard Oil Company, Inc., PO Box 298, Johnstown, NY 12095 #2 Fuel Oil Price Albany rack +.18 cents = \$3.4563 a gallon; Kerosene Price Albany rack +.18 cents = \$3.9366 a gallon; and Diesel Fuel Price Albany rack +.18 cents = \$3.655 a gallon; seconded Councilman Roosa, and passed by,
4-Ayes: Groff, Gritsavage, Roosa, and Simmons 0-Nays

COMMUNICATIONS

- Monthly Report of Revenues and Expenditures as of January 2014
- Monthly Transfers for Abstract of Audited vouchers
- Sacandaga Valley Arts Network request for donation

Mr. Spaeth explained that SVAN held four concerts last year that were a great success. They are planning six concerts for the summer of 2014. In addition to the summer concerts SVAN will provide one concert a month from January until June.

The concerts planned SVAN is seeking adequate funding to pay the musicians. They are seeking funding through the State Council on the Arts Decentralization Grant. If they receive the maximum amount it will cover approximately 50% of the cost.

They were granted \$750 by the Village Board at their meeting last night and they are making a request of \$750 from the Town Board.

Supervisor Groff motioned to table making a decision on this until the next month's meeting, seconded by Councilman Simmons, and passed by, 3-Ayes: Groff, Simmons and Roosa
 Councilman Gritsavage Abstained. He is a SVAN Board of Director.

Executed Agreement between the Town of Northampton and the County of Fulton for Planning Services for 2014.

MOTION ON WARRANTS

Councilman Gritsavage approved paying the warrants, Seconded by Councilman Simmons, and passed by, 4-Ayes: Groff, Roosa, Gritsavage, and Simmons 0-Nays

| | <u>December 2013 Warrants</u> |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|
| General Fund "A" | \$87,855.06 |
| General Fund "B" | 587.54 |
| Highway | 20,217.16 |
| Sacandaga Lighting District | 1,539.90 |
| Sacandaga Water District | 11,514.19 |
| Sacandaga Sewer District | <u>490.97</u> |
| Total Warrants | \$122,204.82 |

Res. #2014-01: Resolution Authorizing Transfer of Funds within Accounts to meet certain Contractual Expenses for Accounts Payable from 2013 Budget Line Items and From 2014 Budget Line Items. Supervisor Groff offered the following resolution and moved its adoption.

Councilman Roosa seconded the motion. **WHEREAS**, within the budget certain appropriated amounts are insufficient to meet certain accounts payable expenses from 2013 budget and for the Budget line items from 2014 Budget for the January transfers; **NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, That the Town Supervisor be authorized to transfer the below indicated funds from within existing accounts of the 2013 budget and 2014 budget to cover anticipated expenses;

Transfers

Effective December 31, 2013

To: A1110.1- Justices/Pers.Service
 From: A1990.4- Contingent
 Amt: \$80.00

To: A1620.2- Buildings Equipment
 From: A1990.4- Contingent
 Amt: \$22,950.00

To: A1620.4- Buildings Contract. exp
 From: A1990.4- Contingent
 Amt: \$1,425.00

To: A8160.1- Garbage/Pers.Service
 From: A8160.2- Garbage Equipment
 Amt: \$180.00

To: A9060.8- Health Ins
 From: A1990.4- Contingent
 Amt: \$2,365.00

To: A9050.8- Unemployment Ins
 From: A9030.8- Social Security
 Amt: \$695.00

To: DB9060.8- Health Ins

From: DB5130.2- Machinery Equipment
Amt: \$6,350.00

To: DB5130.4- Machinery Contractual
From: DB5130.2- Machinery Equipment
Amt: \$5,800.00

To: DB5142.4- Snow removal Contractual
From: DB5142.1- Snow removal Pers. Services
Amt: \$1,800.00

Transfers

January

To: A1220.2- Supervisor Equipment
From: A1220.4- Supervisor Contractual
Amt: \$700.00

To: A1320.2- Accounting Equipment
From: A1320.1- Accounting Personal Services
Amt: \$1,000.00

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution be recorded in the Town Clerk's minutes and be a permanent record of the Town.

Adopted by a 4 vote of Aye: Groff, Gritsavage, Roosa, Simmons 0-Nays

CODE ENFORCEMENT: Matthew Ginter collected \$305.00 in fees. The total Estimated Project Costs was \$39,100.00. A total of (3) permits were issued in December 2013; #87-13 AT&T upgrade; #88-13 Septic repair permit; #89-13 Septic permit, a Municipal Search and a Subdivision application.

I started doing inspections of all the bars, restaurants and businesses in the Town.

Scott Henze from the Fulton County Planning is going to set me up with Pictometry.

I know we've talked about merging Planning Boards and Zoning Boards and I don't want to give up on that.

Scott Henze and I have been talking about things that need to be addressed in our Town of Northampton adopted new zoning and subdivision laws. I have come across several areas that either need clarification, additional wording or removal altogether of certain phrases.

I am requesting the Town Board form a committee to revisit the zoning laws and resolve these issues. I would recommend 2-3 members from both Planning and Zoning Boards including Scott Henze and myself. If you talk with "River Street" who originally helped us with the Law, they would probably return and assist us. We might have to go out to Referendum and do bids for that. I'm not sure but I thought we do in house first.

We might want to consider alternates for the Planning Board for when some of the members go south for the winter.

Theo Horesco has resigned from the Town Planning Board.

This might be a good time to start talking about merging those two Boards and coming up with possibly a 7 member board with a couple alternates.

Councilman Roosa: Is that legal to do?

Matthew Ginter: We had gotten an opinion from another town, that there was an agreement between two municipalities. We had consulted with legal but they have not gotten back with us about it because they are still looking into it.

ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS: Nothing to report at this time.

PLANNING BOARD: The Board discussed adopting a set of by-laws and creating a joint Town and Village Planning Board. Scott Henze provided information about the legality of a joint Board and the idea will be discussed at the January meeting
The Board received a subdivision application and will be meeting on January 17th at 7 p.m.

PICTOMETRY USER AGREEMENT

Councilman Gritsavage motioned to authorized Supervisor Groff to sign the Fulton County Pictometry Authorized User Agreement Renewal, seconded by Councilman Simmons, and
Adopted by a 4 vote of Aye: Groff, Gritsavage, Roosa, and Simmons 0-Nays

HIGHWAY: Kip Richardson stated that he had nothing to report this month.

JUSTICE:

Councilman Gritsavage motioned to accept the Justice report, of a total of 24 cases were handled and \$2,545.00 was collected in fines for the month, seconded by Councilman Roosa and passed by,
4-Ayes: Groff, Gritsavage, Roosa and Simmons 0-Nays

AMBULANCE: During December 2013 members responded to 4 calls in the Town of Northampton and 5 calls in the Village of Northville. They volunteered 81 man hours and traveled 289 miles thru the month.

MOTION: Councilman Gritsavage approved Laurie Merrow as new member to the Northampton Ambulance Service, seconded by Councilman Roosa, and passed by,
4-Ayes: Groff, Roosa, Gritsavage, and Simmons 0-Nays

Councilman Simmons: Councilman Gritsavage and I attended their meeting this month. 1. A check was received from the State and was deposited but we can't seem to find a record of it. The check was ear marked for training for the Ambulance Corps. Jack has asked us to look into that.
2. The Ambulance Corps is unsure of what our arrangement is with the Towns of Hope and Benson. The discussion was due to the fact that we currently do not have a contract with the Town of Benson. They are part of the Territory and we used to have a contract with them. The Ambulance Corps would like to know if the Town Board would like to re-approach the Town of Benson to see if they would like to reenter into a contract with the Town of Northampton. The Ambulance Committee will attend the next Benson meeting to address this.

Refuse and Garbage: The transfer station will be closed on Monday 2/17/2014, Presidents' Day.

HAULING FEES: The month of December 2013 fees are as follows:

| | | |
|----------------------------|---------------------|------------|
| County Transfer | 71.390 Ton @ \$53 | \$3,783.67 |
| Curbside Recycling | 9.550 Ton @ \$25 | \$ 238.75 |
| Transfer Station Recycling | 4.160 Ton @ \$12.50 | \$ 52.00 |

| | | |
|-----------------------|------------------|------------|
| Metal | 0.000 Ton @ \$20 | \$ 00.00 |
| Municipal Direct Haul | 2.570 Ton @ \$25 | \$ 64.25 |
| Total | | \$4,138.67 |

SACANDAGA PARK WATER & SEWER:

December 2013

Water:

- December 2012 usage 1,355,000-gallons pumped
- December 2013 usage-1,293,000-gallons pumped

Meters:

- Replaced one frozen and broken meter base.

Repairs/Maintenance:

- No new problems to report

Wastewater:

- December-2013- daily average flow 30,100 gallons
- December-2012-daily average flow 42,600

Repair/Maintenance:

- No new problems to report

MOTION: Councilman Roosa motioned approval of waiving January 2014 1st Quarterly billing account #01-239 on parcel #31.4-4-18 homeowner John Mesnick at 108 Co. Hwy. 152, in the Sacandaga Park Water and Sewer District, seconded by Councilman Gritsavage and passed by,
 4-Ayes: Groff, Roosa, Gritsavage, and Simmons 0-Nays

Northville Fire Department: For the month of December 2013 there were a total of 2 responses and a total of 33 man hours made by the Northville Fire Department. The Village of Northville there was 1-Service Call. The Town of Northampton there was 1-Structure Fire. There was Mutual Aid was in the Town of Mayfield, 1-Edinburg and 1-Hope.

Department Note:

NFD responded to a structure fire at the Payne residence on Co Hwy 113. Upon arrival members found a storage building fully involved, the building had been burning a while before someone discovered the fire. The building was a total loss.

The NFD has submitted their Annual Report 2013.

TOWN CLERK:

MOTION: Councilman Gritsavage motioned to approve the Town Clerk’s December 2013 monthly report as presented and seconded by Councilman Roosa and passed by,
 4-Ayes: Groff, Gritsavage, Roosa and Simmons 0-Nays

| Account# | Account Description | Fee Description | Qty | Local Share |
|--|---|----------------------|----------------------------------|----------------|
| A1255 | Conservation | Conservation | 5 | 4.20 |
| | Marriage Certificate | Marriage Certificate | 1 | 10.00 |
| | Sub-Total: | | | \$14.20 |
| A2130 | Hardfill Site | Hardfill Site | 2 | 25.50 |
| | Transfer Station | Transfer Station | 4 | 40.00 |
| | Sub-Total: | | | \$65.50 |
| A2544 | Dog Licensing | Male, Neutered | 1 | 7.00 |
| Sub-Total: | | | \$7.00 | |
| A2770 | Audio Tapes | Audio Tapes | 0 | 0.00 |
| | Minor Sales | Fax | 6 | 6.00 |
| | Photo Copy | Photo Copy | 60 | 15.00 |
| Sub-Total: | | | \$21.00 | |
| B2110 | Building Permits | Building Permits | 3 | 220.00 |
| | Municipal Searches | Municipal Searches | 1 | 25.00 |
| | Planning Application | Planning Application | 1 | 60.00 |
| Sub-Total: | | | \$305.00 | |
| Total Local Shares Remitted: | | | \$412.70 | |
| Amount paid to: | NYS Ag. & Markets for spay/neuter program | | | 1.00 |
| Amount paid to: | NYS Environmental Conservation | | | 71.80 |
| Total State, County & Local Revenues: | | \$485.50 | Total Non-Local Revenues: | \$72.80 |

To the Supervisor:

Pursuant to Section 27, Sub 1, of the Town Law, I hereby certify that the foregoing is a full and true statement of all fees and monies received by me, Elaine Mihalik, Town Clerk, Town of Northampton during the period stated above, in connection with my office, excepting only such fees and monies, the application of which are otherwise provided for by law.

Supervisor

Date

Town Clerk

Date

MOTION ON Intermunicipal Agreement regarding Bookkeeper/Treasurer position:

Councilman Gritsavage motioned to enter into the Intermunicipal Agreement between the Village of Northville and Town of Northampton regarding Bookkeeper Nathaniel Matthews, seconded by Councilman Simmons, and Adopted by a 4 vote of Aye: Groff, Gritsavage, Roosa, and Simmons 0-Nays Adopted by a vote of 4-Ayes: Groff, Roosa, Gritsavage and Simmons 0-Nays

A copy of the Intermunicipal Agreement is attached with the minutes of this meeting.

Nathaniel Matthews: This agreement will save the Town and the Village an estimated \$55,000 between the two municipalities.

OLD BUSINESS:

Councilman Simmons: I suggested at the Organizational meeting posting Legal notices and other notices that are required by law that have to go into the paper be posted at various locations in the community. The Association of Towns indicated to the towns that posting notices on the Bulletin Board in Town hall

and whatever other community bulletin board have been designated for public notice. If the clerk is busy, I'll be happy to help post the notices.

MOTION: Councilman Simmons motioned to post public notices, this does not mean Legal Notices, in various locations in the community which includes the Town Offices, NBT, Stewarts, TOPS, Allen & Palmer, the laundry mat, Klippel's Kozy Korner, and Coloney Centre, to the best of our ability, seconded by Councilman Gritsavage, passed by,

4-Ayes: Groff, Gritsavage, Roosa, and Simmons 0-Nays

NEW BUSINESS

The new roof is finished

Town hall Furnace

Supervisor Groff: We've had some heating and furnace issues in the Town hall. I have received an engineer's study report quote for \$3,680 to have a comparison report and energy modeling for \$1,800.

MOTION: Councilman Roosa motion to authorize Bookkeeper Nathaniel Matthews and Supervisor Groff to look into costs and solutions to the heating issues within the Town hall, seconded by Councilman Gritsavage, and passed by,

4-Ayes: Groff, Roosa, Gritsavage and Simmons 0-Nays

Councilman Simmons: I had indicated that if elected as Town Councilman that I would not serve as Fulton County Coroner at the same time. There is a law that you cannot hold two elected positions at the same time. On November 14, 2013 I sent a letter to Jon Stead, clerk to the Fulton County Board of Supervisors upon my certification as my election as a Town Board member I would seize to be a coroner as of December 31, 2013. The Leader Herald made note that I might be retiring this year. I am noting that I am no longer a Fulton County coroner.

The next Town Board meeting will be held on Wednesday, February 19, 2014 at 7 p.m.

Councilman Gritsavage motioned to adjourn at 8:08 p.m. Councilman Simmons seconded the motion. All board members were in favor of the motion.

Respectfully submitted,

Elaine Mihalik, RMC
Town Clerk