

**TOWN OF NORTHAMPTON
REGULAR MEETING
August 20, 2014**

The regular meeting of the Town of Northampton was held on Wednesday, August 20, 2014. Supervisor Groff called the meeting to order at 7:00 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, Ivar Anderson, Art Simmons and
William Gritsavage

RECORDING SECRETARY: Elaine Mihalik-Town Clerk

Other Town department representatives in attendance were: Bookkeeper- Nathaniel Matthews
Chris (Kip) Richardson-Highway Superintendent
Matthew Ginter-Code Enforcement Officer

ALSO PRESENT: Frank Bendl, Skip Taylor, Ray Hatch, Crystal and Rick Bruno
Caroline Murray-Recorder Newspaper

MOTION: Councilman Anderson motioned to approve the July 16, 2014 Regular meeting minutes as presented by the Town Clerk, seconded by Councilman Roosa and
Adopted by a vote of 5-Ayes: Groff, Gritsavage, Anderson, Roosa, and Simmons

MOTION ON WARRANTS

Councilman Gritsavage approved paying the warrants as set forth, seconded by Councilman Anderson and
Adopted by a vote of 5-Ayes: Groff, Gritsavage, Roosa, Anderson, and Simmons 0-Nays

August 2014 Warrants

General Fund "A"	\$23,495.21
General Fund "B"	4,935.48
Highway "DB"	38,018.53
Sacandaga Lighting District "SL"	1,251.61
Sacandaga Water District "SW"	31,501.29
Sacandaga Sewer District "SS"	3,070.25
Trust & Agency Fund	905.20
Trust – Cemeteries – Expendable "TE"	<u>00.00</u>
Total Warrants	\$103,177.57

Resolution #2014-11: Resolution Authorizing Transfer of Funds within Accounts to meet Certain Contractual Expenses for Accounts Payable from 2014 Budget Line Items
Councilman Anderson offered the following resolution and moved its adoption.
Councilman Simmons seconded the motion.

WHEREAS, within the budget certain appropriated amounts are insufficient to meet certain accounts payable expenses from Budget line items from 2014 Budget for the August transfers;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT

RESOLVED, That the Town Supervisor be authorized to transfer the below indicated funds from within existing accounts of the 2014 budget to cover anticipated expenses;

August
Transfers

\$15,000.00

From: DB5148.1 – Service Other Gov’ts – Personal Services
To: DB5110.1 – General Repairs - Personal Services
Reason – to cover Payrolls

\$5,000.00

From: SW8310.2 – Administration – Equipment
To: SW8310.1 – Administration – Personal Services
Reason – to cover Payrolls

\$5,000.00

From: SS8130.2 – Trans/Distrib – Equipment
To: SS8420.4 – Attorney
Reason – to cover expenses

AND BE IT FURTHER

RESOLVED, that this resolution be recorded in the Town Clerk’s minutes and be a permanent record of the Town.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

James Groff	Aye	Ivar Anderson	Aye
William Gritsavage	Aye	Art Simmons	Aye
Darryl Roosa	Aye		

Supervisor Groff **opened Public Comment at 7:02p.m.**

There was no comment from the Public at this time and the Supervisor continued on with the meeting.

COMMUNICATIONS

- Monthly Report of Revenues and Expenditures as of July 31, 2014
- Monthly Transfers for Abstract of Audited vouchers
- Thank you letter dated 8/6/2014 from Northville Rotary Club
- Time Warner Cable info

Councilman Simmons: I was unable to get some of mydigital cable programs to work and it state that the programing is unavailable from Time Warner Cable at my house. I had to have a serviceman come and reprogram it. Apparently a letter was supposed to be sent out to people who have Time Warner digital Cable informing them of this change and apparently it was not sent out. There are people who are not aware of what has taken place with the Time Warner Cable digital programming and that the digital program needs to be reprogrammed.

Supervisor Groff: People can check on the Time Warner Cable site on their computer or they can contact Time Warner Cable and talk to them.

CODE ENFORCEMENT:

Matthew Ginter collected \$932.50 in fees in July. The total Estimated Project Costs was \$79,475.00. A total of (12) permits were issued in July 2014; #002-14-Major Alterations; #039-14-Fuel burning/HVAC; #040-14 Permit Renewal; #041-14 Fence; #042-14 Deck; #043-14 Fence; #044-14-Deck; #045-13 Roof

Repairs; #046-14 Fuel burning/HVAC; #047-14 Alterations; #050-13R1 Storage building; #051-13 Permit renewal. P07-14 Lot line Adjustment and PO8-14 Lot line Adjustment.

Matthew Ginter: We are well over a million dollars in projects for the year. I have received a lot of calls from people that are potential going to be building.

MOTION:Councilman Roosa motioned to accept the report as presented by Code Enforcement Officer.

Seconded by Councilman Gritsavage and passed by,

5-Ayes: Groff, Gritsavage, Roosa, Simmons, and Anderson

0-Nays

HIGHWAY:

Resolution #2014-12: Fulton County Highway Department 2014-2015 Snow & Ice Control Contracts Acceptance of proposal by Town of Northampton to undertake Snow Removal and Ice Control for the winter of 2014-2015. On County Roads #113 – 1.48 miles; #123- 1.88 miles; #130 – 0.51; #143 – 1.59; #149 – 1.19; #152 – 3.04. Total Miles 9.69; Price Per Miles \$5,000; Total Contract \$48,450.00.

The foregoing Resolution was approved by Councilman Anderson, seconded by Councilman Gritsavage.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

James Groff	Aye	Ivar Anderson	Aye
William Gritsavage	Aye	Art Simmons	Aye
Darryl Roosa	Aye		

JUSTICE: Councilman Simmons motioned to accept the Justice report, there were a total of 52 cases handled and \$6,391.00 was collected in fines for the month, seconded by Councilman Roosa and passed by, 5-Ayes: Groff, Roosa, Gritsavage, Anderson, and Simmons 0-Nays

Supervisor Groff: Matthew Ginter has removed the counter and island at the doorway at the Justice Court building. Allen & Palmer have installed the new hot water heater.

Allen & Palmer are supposed to give me a quote on a new furnace. They are also going to give us the cost of possibly turning over to heating with propane, to see if it would be a savings to the Town on whether to convert the heating to propane or not. We currently use kerosene for heating fuel at the Court house because the tank is outside.

We're waiting for the quotes for the foam for the ceiling in the Court House.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

ASSESSOR: The New York State Department of Taxation and Finance Office of Real Property Tax Services reported that the Town of Northampton 2014 Final State Equalization Rate Status is 70.00.

ANIMAL CONTROL: Deputy Animal Control Officer Heidi Darling handled a dog case while Vern was away.

YOUTH /REC:The Joint Youth Commission held a meeting in August 4, 2014 and another meeting has been scheduled for September 8, 2014 at 7 p.m. The meeting may be rescheduled due to a conflict. The Town Clerk will be setting up the Conference room for the Democratic Primary Election that will be held on September 9th.

Supervisor Groff: There has been some discussion. Mayor Spaeth and I have had a meeting last week. He and I both feel it would be in the best interest of everybody if we setback run the Joint Youth program

this year. Get detailed reports of the attendance on how many children and how many Councilors there were. We need to get better reports than we've received in the past.

Give it a chance until the Village's fiscal year in April, which is when they do their budget. Get all of our information and then sit down and discuss later in the year where we thing we are at.

Councilman Simmons: I feel that, speaking for myself, I just wasted a lot of time. We have had two or three meetings and we are going along in a certain direction. Now all of a sudden I am told. It's his privilege that the Mayor wants to back off and go in a different direction.

Supervisor Groff: That is not it at all. You had a meeting and you did have a majority at the meeting, which were two Village and two Town members. From this point on it is not just the Mayor's wish, it was myself and Patrick Barnett. We feel that you should continue. All of the information that you (Simmons) have put together is just fine.

Rather than just jump to conclusions do something right away immediately they want to just keep an eye on the program, get a better report, get the statistics for the whole year and then proceed from there.

Councilman Simmons: I want it to be known that I feel differently. You (Supervisor) and I had a conversation and I thought you, Pat and I were on the same after past discussions.

Supervisor Groff: To a certain extent. That is not my decision. That is strictly up to the Board and if you want to do something different than that is fine.

Councilman Gritsavage: I didn't agree with Pat's position. But I have not had the opportunity to have this discussion with Councilman Simmons on this. I have spoken with the Mayor. I don't think that we have enough information now to make any decision

Election: There will be a Democratic Primary Election that will be held on Tuesday, September 9, 2014 from 12 noon to 9 p.m. Candidates will be running for the Office of: Governor; Lt. Governor and NYS Senate 49th District.

PUBLIC SAFETY:

Supervisor Groff: On Saturday there was a Rock Fest held at the Marina and the Supervisor was informed that there were 12 parking tickets issued by the police.

Councilman Simmons: I spoke with Mrs. Logan and she has been to our previous meetings regarding the overall issues on Houseman Street. Mrs. Logan thought the Supervisor has done a good job and has stated that situation has gotten a lot better.

CEMETERIES:

Kip: I'm looking at making caps to put over the ends of the spikes on the fencing at the Northville Cemetery fence there are 250 spikes. Instead of cutting each end off of the spikes I can cover them and color the caps black like the fence. The cost is going to be approximately \$200 for materials for this project. I can paint each cap to match the fence.

MOTION: Councilman Gritsavage motioned to approve Chris (Kip) Richardson's proposal of purchasing the materials and painting for making the 250 caps to be placed over the spikes on the fencing at the Northville Cemetery fence.

Seconded by Councilman Anderson, and passed by,

5-Ayes: Groff, Roosa, Gritsavage, Anderson, and Simmons

0-Nays

DISASTER SHELTER:

Discussion ensued among the Board as to whether the Town is currently enrolled on the Surplus Property Program on line. Supervisor Groff will check on this.

ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS:The July 30, 2014 meeting was cancelled due to no new business coming before the board

The next scheduled ZBA meeting is August 27, 2014 in the Town hall at 7 p.m.

PLANNING BOARD:The Planning Board held a Special meeting for property owner Willem Monster to hear a request for a Lot Line Adjustment. The request was approved.

Refuse and Garbage:

- Monday, September 1, 2014 Labor Day – the Transfer State will be closed
- September 5, 2014 will be the last Friday of Station hours until next year
- As of Thursday, August 7, 2014 The Town of Northampton now has a new textile drop-off container. DSW drop-off boxes will accept all clothing (regardless of condition), along with a majority of textiles, including blankets, draperies, sheets, towels, sheets and linens. Also, belts, hats paired shoes and sneakers, and stuffed animals.

There was discussion on possibly bring in a dumpster just for construction debris at the transfer station instead of placing the debris in the current garbage bin. It was suggested the possibility of charging per load for dumping construction.

There was discussion on Dump truck insert.

Supervisor Groff: I had two people approach me about being able to dump with pickup trucks that have a dump truck insert in them. The County rules say that you cannot use a dump truck at the Transfer Station.

According to Jeff Bouchard if the Town wanted to change that to allow pickup trucks with an insert dump boxes in them, he would go along with it. But if we are going to get a separate CD container that might be the time to do it because you would have more stuff in the dump body. I will have to ask Mr. Bouchard about that.

Discussion ensued on private hauling versus the County CD container.

HARDFILL:For the month of July 2014 there were a total of 61 vehicles that had come to the Hardfillsite and a total of \$25.50 was collected.

HAULING FEES: The month of Junefees are as follows:

County Transfer	128.410 Ton @ \$53	\$6,805.73
Curbside Recycling	12.270Ton @ \$25	\$ 306.75
Transfer Station Recycling	5.020 Ton @ \$12.50	<u>\$ 62.76</u>
Total		\$7,175.24

NORTHVILLE FIRE DEPT:

May 2014 Fire Report

There were a total of 18 Responses and a total of 251 Man hours reported in the month of May 2014 The Village of Northville had 2-MVA/EMS and 1-Alarm Activation.

The Town of Northampton had 3-Brush/Grass Fires; 2-Hazardous Conditions; 2-MVA/EMS; and 1-Alarm Activation.

The Town of Benson had 3-Hazardous Conditions and there were 5-Mutual Aid Given-1-Mayfield; 1-Edinburg and 3-Hope.

June 2014 Fire Report

There were a total of 10 Responses and a total of 108 Man hours reported in the month of June 2014.

The Village of Northville had 2-Hazardous Conditions.

The Town of Northampton had 3-Hazardous Conditions; 1-Good Intent Call; 1-MVA/EMS; and 1-Alarm Activation. Mutual Aid Given was 2- Town of Edinburg.

July 2014 Fire Report

There were a total of 16 Responses and total of 275 Man hours reported in the month of July 2014.

The Village of Northville had 1-Hazardous Conditions.

The Town of Northampton had 1-Structure Fires and 6-Hazardous Conditions.

The Town of Benson had 4-Hazardous Conditions. Mutual Aid Given: 2- Town of Edinburg and 2-Town of Hope. Mutual Aid Received 1-Town of Hope.

Department notes: Members responded to a reported structure fire on County Highway 123 (Mountain Rd) on July 30th. Upon arrival firefighters found smoke showing from an upstairs window of the residence and all family members had evacuated. Firefighters stretched a hand line into the residence and into the upstairs bedroom and extinguished the fire. Damage was limited to the bedroom with some water damage to the first floor. The family of four was assisted by the Red Cross, the home is repairable. Hope Fire Department assisted at the scene and Edinburg was on stand-by at our station.

SACANDAGA PARK WATER & SEWER:

July2014

Water:

-July 2013 usage 2,228,000-gallons pumped

-July 2014 usage-1,696,000-gallons pumped

Meters:

-No new problems to report

Repairs/Maintenance:

-No new problems to report

Wastewater:

-July-2013- daily average flow60,600 gallons

-July2014-daily average flow 42,800 gallons

Repair/Maintenance:

Discussion Tree removal contract and Bids received

Bids quotes were received for removal of four (4) very large pine trees that are potential hazards at the Sacandaga Park Sewer Plant from Denny's Tree Service in Mayfield, NY at \$3,600, Terry (TSB) – at \$7,000 and Buddy's Tree Service at \$11,500.

MOTION: Councilman Gritsavage motioned to accept the bid of \$3,600 received from Denny's Tree Service for the removal of (4) four trees at the Sacandaga Park Sewer Plant pending receiving certificate of insurance and worker compensation paperwork, Seconded by Councilman Simmons and Adopted by a vote of 5-Ayes: Groff, Roosa, Gritsavage, Anderson and Simmons 0-Nays

~Discussion building repairs needed at treatment plant

TOWN CLERK:

MOTION: Councilman Gritsavage motioned to approve the Town Clerk's July 2014 monthly report as presented. Seconded by Councilman Roosa and Adopted by a vote of 5-Ayes: Groff, Roosa, Gritsavage, Anderson and Simmons 0-Nays

08/01/2014

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**Town Clerk Monthly Report
July 01, 2014 - July 31, 2014**

Account#	Account Description	Fee Description	Qty	Local Share
A1255	Conservation	Conservation	63	88.67
	Marriage Certificate	Marriage Certificate	1	10.00
	Town Clerk Fees	Marriage License	3	37.50
	Sub-Total:			\$136.17
A2130	Hardfill Site	Hardfill Site	1	21.50
	Transfer Station	Transfer Station	48	480.00
Sub-Total:			\$501.50	
A2544	Dog Licensing	Female, Spayed	8	56.00
		Female, Unspayed	4	52.00
		Male, Neutered	11	77.00
		Replacement Tags	3	9.00
Sub-Total:			\$194.00	
A2770	Minor Sales	Fax	6	6.00
	Photo Copy	Photo Copy	11	2.75
Sub-Total:			\$8.75	
B2110	Building Permits	Building Permits	12	852.50
	Planning Application	Planning Application	2	80.00
Sub-Total:			\$932.50	
Total Local Shares Remitted:				\$1,772.92
Amount paid to:	New York State DOH for Marriage Licenses			67.50
Amount paid to:	NYS Ag. & Markets for spay/neuter program			31.00
Amount paid to:	NYS Environmental Conservation			1,520.33
Total State, County & Local Revenues:	\$3,391.75	Total Non-Local Revenues:	\$1,618.83	

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

OLD BUSINESS:

The following Public Notice and Press Release has been posted in the board approved newspaper of general circulation, the Leader Herald, the Edinburg Newsletter, the Sacandaga Express and the Gazette and at various locations in the neighborhood.

Public Notice and Press Release

The Town of Northampton hereby notifies all residents of: The compilation of Codes, Rules and Regulations of the State of New York.

TITLE 19. Department of State. Chapter XVI. Wild Animals. Part 820. Required annual reporting of the presence of wild animals.

This set of regulations provides a form for individuals keeping wild animals to report with the Town Clerk where and by whom the animal is owned, possessed or harbored, on or before April 1st of each Year.

A list of the common names of the wild animals to be reported annually is available from the Northampton Town Clerk along with the report form to be filled out.

The information gathered is essential to emergency services personnel so that they may protect themselves and your neighbors, provide for the safety of your animals, ensure the maximum protection and preservation of your property and provided you with emergency services without unnecessary delay.

SUPERVISOR:

~ Thomas Groff has been selected as the new City of Gloversville Fire Chief. Thomas Groff will take over this new position as of September 1, 2014 and he has stepped down as the Fire Chief of the Northville Fire Department. Doug Ellsworth has been appointed the new Northville Fire Department Chief; Dennis Miller 1st Assistant; and Stephen West 2nd Assistant, effective as of September 1, 2014.

~ Supervisor Groff and Councilman Gritsavage attended the Great Sacandaga Lake Association Annual meeting in Edinburg on August 8th. The Great Sacandaga Lake Association invited a local law enforcement representative to talk to members regarding the state police marine detail and its protocol while out patrolling the waters. There were concerns over whether troopers are able to gauge the speed and noise levels of boaters, and if it was feasible to have more enforcement of the lake.

Councilman Simmons: I'm curious how many tickets were issues in our district for speeding boats and reckless boats.

Supervisor Groff: It takes approximately 2 to 6 hours to process intoxication infraction and an Officer with that type of training has to process this enforcement. This is a big lake with little enforcement and there are already Laws in effect.

~We are still waiting for 3 or 4 more easements from homeowners in the area of McKinley Ave extension before starting the sewer project.

~Town Board members attended the Fish House Historical meeting. It was disappointing that only 4 residents were present. There was a nice discussion among us and the Board members left business cards. There will be a Breakfast held Labor Day at the Fish House Community Center.

MOTION: Councilman Gritsavage motioned to approve that Supervisor James Groff as Budget Officer be replaced with the Bookkeeper Nathaniel Matthews as Budget Officer as budgeted to be authorized to

make payment of salaries, state charges, Social Security, retirement and certain other fixed and assumed obligations and charges without prior audit of the Town Board, date effective 09/01/2014. Seconded by Councilman Anderson, and

Adopted by a vote of 5 Ayes: Groff, Gritsavage, Roosa, Anderson, and Simmons 0-Nays

MOTION: Councilman Gritsavage approved that the Town Clerk is the Records Management Officer as budgeted and authorized to execute all functions associated with the position, effective 01/01/2014.

Seconded by Councilman Roosa and

Adopted by a vote of 5 Ayes: Groff, Gritsavage, Roosa, Anderson, and Simmons 0-Nays

Public Comment

Ray Hatch: You talked for the last couple of months about the noise and the speed on the Great Sacandaga Lake. I would encourage the Board to encourage the Law Enforcement to put more into the noise on the lake. The NYS Boating Laws are already on the books.

Supervisor Groff: The State Police do have a decimal meter. No one is certified to use it and it has not been calibrated.

Ray Hatch: You don't need a decimal meter. The law states that any boat with modified exhaust is illegal.

Supervisor Groff: My experience when I worked on the lake and worked in the Sheriff's department. If I didn't have a decimal meter, most of the judges threw it out.

Ray Hatch: We're they ticketed as a fine?

Supervisor Groff: Yes

Discussion ensued.

Ray Hatch: Discussion on the fence at the Northville Cemetery, who got hurt?

Response: We've had deer get hung up on the fence a couple years ago and why wait until someone does fall on it. It is dangerous.

Ray Hatch: Isn't there something better to spend our tax dollars on? When was the cemetery constructed?

Supervisor Groff: I'd hate to see anyone or an animal get hurt on the spikes. Any place that I have been and any place that I have seen where there are fences that are similar to that fence they have done something to keep them from being shape.

Councilman Gritsavage: I think that that can be a liability.

Ray Hatch: Nobody has been hurt in over 200 years and I don't think it's a wise decision.

Councilman Roosa: We've had three deer over the years impale itself on the spikes on the fence.

Discussion ensued.

Crystal Bruno: Several months ago she had heard the Town might be interested in purchasing a portion of her land that she and her husband own along County 152 that leads up to the Sacandaga Park Sewer Plant.

Supervisor Groff: I have been very busy with the easements in the Sacandaga Park that I haven't had the opportunity to discuss this with the engineer. I will talk with the engineer tomorrow and see if that is the way we would like to go. I'll get back with you by Friday.

That land could possibly be used for future development because the Sewer Plant is in rough shape.

Councilman Simmons: I think that the Town Board should do a letter or resolution thanking Tom Groff for this years of outstanding service.

Supervisor Groff: The Village Mayor has approached me saying that the Village is willing to pay for half of the fee to put the door at the end of the hallway. So both the Town and the Village can utilize the upstairs. I will try and get some quotes for the work that needs to be done.

Skip Taylor: Has anything been done as far as the engineering report for the setting of water rates based on usage.

Nathaniel Matthews: We haven't had current discussion. We are in the process of getting meter readings, merging all of the readings into the actual system. When we have an adequate amount of data in that system to create sample bills we will then approach the Engineer again. He can give us the rates and then we can place them in the system.

I'm not sure if we will be able to bill by the first of the year. We need to have an accurate bill. The engineer requires more than one month of readings. He needs actual usage for an entire year instead of just a couple of months. When we met with the engineer he was going calculating on pure estimates as of a few months ago.

Supervisor Groff: We might need at least 9 months of actual meter reading which could approximately into next March. He needs data to have some idea of usage for over the course of the year. We need to get the winter months readings also.

Rick Morrison has donated to both the Town of Northampton and Village of Northville a Sharp Flat Screen TV to be used for presentations and such.

The Town Board will be meeting with the Town of Northampton Planning Board at their (Planning Board) next scheduled meeting on Tuesday, September 9, 2014 at 7 p.m. to review and discuss the proposed changes to the Town of Northampton Zoning and Subdivision Law. The Clerk was excused from this meeting because Scott Henze will be present to take minutes for the Planning Board.

Due to a conflict the next Town Board meeting scheduled for Wednesday, September 17, 2014 has been rescheduled for **Wednesday, September 24, 2014 at 7 p.m.**

Councilman Anderson motioned to adjourn the meeting at 8:04 p.m. Councilman Roos seconded the motion. All board members present were in favor of the motion.

Respectfully submitted,

Elaine Mihalik
Town Clerk