

**TOWN OF NORTHAMPTON
2016 PROPOSED BUDGET
SECOND WORK SESSION
October 6, 2015**

The Town of Northampton held a 2016 Second Budget Work Session on Tuesday, October 6, 2015 at 6:36 PM in the Municipal Building, 412 South Main St., Northville, NY.

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

RECORDING SECRETARY: Elaine Mihalik, Town Clerk

Other Town department representative in attendance was:
Bookkeeper/Budget Director- Nathaniel Matthews

No one from the Public is present

Nathaniel Matthews: The Highway Superintendent, Kip Richardson was looking at selling a couple of trucks and buying the new F-350 dump truck and he was basically looking at netting out even. Mr. Richardson was talking to the dealer and was getting ready to place the order because we just got the one truck back and have placed it on Auction International. The dealership has found a truck that is already built; meets all of the specs of what he needs and wants. This would not have to be ordered and then putting into January 2016 before a delivery date. Mr. Richardson would like to proceed with that, as soon as possible, before someone else does. It is the price of \$37,259.00. Mr. Richardson would like Board authorization for a letter of intent so he can lock the truck in for the Town.

Discussion ensued on the current 550 truck owned by the Town versus the new 350 Pickup Truck regarding the current size, increased suspension and whether it is aluminum.

Bookkeeper Matthews read the notice of the meeting.

It is an advertised meeting and it is open to the public stated Supervisor Groff. The public has 30 days with the Permissive Referendum to vote it down stated Councilman Anderson.

Resolution #29 of 2015: Permissive Referendum re Use of Reserve Funds for Pickup Truck.

Councilman Anderson made a motion to accept the following resolution and moved for its adoption.

Councilman Gritsavage seconded the motion and moved its adoption.

WHEREAS it is the intention of the Governing Body of the Town of Northampton to utilize funds that have been accumulated in a reserve fund the purpose of supporting the

purchase of a pickup truck, which fund is designated DB0231.1 Capital Reserve for Highway Machinery, under General Municipal Law 6-c, and **WHEREAS** the amount that will be utilized from the reserve fund should not exceed \$9,000, and **WHEREAS** the Town Law of the State of New York requires a permissive referendum in the event of taking such action, **NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Clerk of the Town of Northampton be directed to take appropriate steps with respect to holding a permissive referendum on the issue of whether to purchase the pickup truck, and utilize funds not to exceed \$9,000 from the reserve fund; toward that purpose; and **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that in the event that a sufficient number of valid petitions by registered voters is not received within 30 days of passage of this resolution, the resolution will take full force and effect and **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the copies of this Resolution be retained by the Supervisor as part of the records of the Town and be made a part of the minutes of this meeting.

Roll Call Vote

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

Nathanial Matthew, Budget Officer has provided a new copy of the proposed 2016 Budget. Today I received in the mail two letters one from CDPHP and one from MVP. CDPHP once our renewal is up (March 31, 2016) they are no longer offering the particular plan that we are in. So, we have to choose something else. They have other plans available. I put a phone call into Bouchey and Clarke insurance benefits to look at what kind of premium increases we're looking at; what other plans are out there; what are the options. We are kind of bound by the Union Contract. We cannot offer lesser coverage than what we are currently offering. The other portion of this is the MVP stating that they are no longer going to be carriers for the Town. MVP is for the retiree's and that is whom we have for the retiree's. They are no longer going to cover the town because we have dropped below their minimum number of enrolled retiree's. Their minimum number is three retirees and we have two. So, as of December 31, 2015 MVP is dropping us.

In my phone call to Bouchey and Clarke knowing that there aren't any plans out there for a group coverage of two retiree's, they are non-existent. I called Bouchey and Clarke to confirm this and to ask them what our options were.

MVP confirmed that once they are let go of MVP, the retirees are pretty much on their own. They will have to seek their own insurance because there isn't any group plans coverage out there for two people. They stated that they might be able to find something somewhere but they really were not confident.

CDPHP to provide comparable coverage to what we have currently they are looking at, at least, a 20% increase in the premium. That does not include where the premium is going to go next year. Then in March 2016 they will do the rate adjustment and we will probably see a double digit increase on top of that.

The other option is to go to a self-insured health insurance coverage (NYSHIP) New York State Health Insurance program. Basically all State employees are enrolled in it. It is a widely utilized insurance. It functions as self-insurance. However, it is one large group. There are no minimums of enrolled members. So our retirees will be fine. They will have full coverage.

When I factored in the 20%, not even including what the rates are going to be next year. We are almost identical to NYSHIP's premiums.

Councilman Gritsavage: How does it fit within the contract?

Nathaniel Matthews: It will be fine. It will be better a better coverage. It is an Empire plan. The dental and vision we would have to look at converting that as well. NYSHIP holds their premiums really well and they don't increase very much. Over time, I have not seen an increase of over 8%. My biggest concern is the retirees not having coverage. I have not received the cost but I have calculated the premiums that I know for similar groups (The Towns) I used that premium to build in the increase and that translates into the budget. You will see that the budget did not increase much because it is spread out throughout the budget where the guys will be spending their time. The overall increase is not going to affect the tax levy at all. We are staying under our tax cap. The 2016 budget does include 2% raised across the board, including the 4% contractual and the other ones. The only thing it may take away is the amount of fund balance we have at the end of the year. We are potential going to utilize more fund balance than what we were initially projecting. I am hoping we will not have to delve into the fund balance. Instead of increasing the revenues we are taking from the fund balance.

Councilman Gritsavage motioned to approve Bookkeeper, Nathaniel Matthews to pursue getting quotes and looking into the Town of Northampton getting enrolled into the NYSHIP. Seconded by Councilman Anderson and passed by,

5-Aye: Groff, Gritsavage, Roosa, Simmons, and Anderson 0-Nays

Councilman Simmons: I mentioned the amount of money for Law Enforcement. The money is there just in case but apparently there is no definite plan. I was concerned about the percent of increase the 2016 Northville Fire budget.

Councilman Anderson: I spoke with the assistant Chief of Edinburg Fire Department and we discussed whether Edinburg Fire Department might be interested. He stated that he will bring it up at his next meeting.

Supervisor Groff has provided the 2016 Broadalbin Kennyetto Fire Department Budget to the board.

Page 32: Fire

The Village of Northville is not looking at raising their Fire District Contract rates at all for anybody at this moment because the Fireman's Association is nowhere near obtaining the loan at this point stated Mr. Matthews.

Councilman Simmons: At one point in time I was told that the new fire house which we need, that they were doing all of that themselves and it wouldn't effect what we give them. I believe at the last meeting you stated that the increase was because of the new fire house.

The increase was from a conversation I had with the Supervisor stated Mr. Matthews. I spoke with the Mayor and not knowing how much more the loan was potentially going to cost. At this point because there are so many unknowns. We are not at any point of knowing whether we will even need one. I know when any fire contract come out from the Village there are not going to be any increases.

The board members unanimously agreed to reduce the Northville Fire District Contract back to \$85,250.00 because nothing has changed with their 2016 contract.

There was discussion the pros and cons on the possibility of having the residents of Fish House having their own Fire District.

The 2016 Broadalbin Kenneyto Fire District Budget has increased the cost to the Town of Northampton Fish House District to \$11,000.00.

I am going to adjust the 2016 line item per the most recent Kenneyto Fire contract and the revenue will reflect that also, stated Bookkeeper Matthews.

Page 22 Publicity:

Councilman Simmons questions the \$5,000.00 for the Publicity. I have mentioned for several years to both the Town Board and the Village Board that I thought the time had come for the Town and the Village. I don't always agree on the Town and Village doing things together. In this particular case I do. I suggested they hire a Tourism Director a local person who would work locally, part-time position. I was impressed that part of the old firehouse, when the new section is built, will be dedicated to a Tourism person. There is not going to be an office in there, it is just going to be a lobby similar to the building out on Route 30 stated the Supervisor.

Councilman Simmons: My intent was to hire someone local part-time, Village and Town share to this person. Now I understand as the Supervisor explained was they want to contract with the Chamber of Commerce. I spoke with Mark Kilmer from the Chamber of Commerce this week and apparently this started a couple of years ago with a problem in Fort Plain and they ended up going with the Fulton/Montgomery Chamber of Commerce. Mr. Kilmer indicated that the \$5,000.00 from both the Town and the Village is for a pilot program where they are going to hire somebody from down there who for the first year would devote their time only to us. Then after that they would be working for every municipality in the Chamber. I don't have a problem spending the \$5,000.00 and I don't have a problem doing this with the Village of Northville. My problem is I think it should be kept here locally. A person locally that knows the community; is physically right here; can do a lot better job than what the Chamber can do for us. In Indian Lake, Long Lake, Speculator, Inlet, Old Forge, they all have a local Chamber. In Long Lake every two months the Tourism Director puts out a newspaper. She sells the ads. The ads more than pay for the newspaper and they have had this newspaper for ten years. It is a non-political paper; does not cover meetings; it is about the events and what is going on in the community. It goes to Indian Lake, Long Lake, Blue Mountain Lake, and Racket Lake.

Supervisor Groff: Who delivers the newspaper? So they are paying her to deliver the paper too? You can't tell me that they are doing this all for \$10,000.00.

I don't know the budget for this. I am talking about the concept stated Councilman Simmons.

Supervisor Groff: I agree with the concept but I would believe that the budget has to be more than \$10,000.00. We are trying to use the whole Chamber with their ability to reach out to a lot more people and this is something that we would like to try for a year. I believe one of the questions on the survey for the revised Village of Northville's Master Plan was about hiring our own part-time Tourism Director.

Councilman Gritsavage: My initial question is: First of all we do not have anybody lined up and we do not have the procedure set. How would it hurt if they say that we are a pilot program, let them do it for a year and see what happens.

Councilman Simmons: Why not try the other way and hire somebody locally? Indian Lake, Long Lake, Blue Mountain Lake, and Racket Lake they may belong to the Chamber of Commerce but they do it right there in house locally and they are very successful.

I don't believe that the Hamilton County Chamber has the active chamber that is in Fulton County stated the Supervisor. Our Chamber I feel that we will get better coverage already has a Tourism section set up every month on the website and they have their center in Vails Mills. There is no signed contract at this time with the Chamber for this.

Discussion ensued.

The board members unanimously agreed to keep the \$5,000.00 in the 2016 Budget for the Publicity.

It was agreed to vote on the 2016 Tentative Budget at the next Town Board meeting.

Having no further business come before the board, Councilman Anderson motioned to adjourn the meeting at 7:40 PM, seconded by Councilman Gritsavage, and passed by, 5-Ayes: Groff, Gritsavage, Anderson, Roosa, and Simmons 0-Nays

Respectfully submitted,

Elaine Mihalik, Town Clerk