

**TOWN OF NORTHAMPTON  
REGULAR MEETING AND  
PUBLIC HEARING ON 2016 BUDGET  
November 18, 2015**

The regular meeting of the Town of Northampton and the Public Hearing for the 2016 Budget was held on Wednesday, November 18, 2015. 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-Nathanial Matthews; and Matthew Ginter-Code Enforcement Officer

**Also present:** Warren "Skip" Taylor, Tom Preston and James Lewek

**MOTION:** Councilman Anderson motioned to approve the October 21, 2015 Regular meeting minutes as presented. Seconded by Councilman Gritsavage and

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

**MOTION:** Councilman Anderson motioned to approve the October 6, 2015 (2<sup>nd</sup>) Proposed Budget Work Session meeting minutes as presented. Seconded by Councilman Gritsavage and

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

**MOTION:** Councilman Anderson motioned to approve the November 12, 2015 Special Budget meeting minutes as presented. Seconded by Councilman Gritsavage and

Adopted by a vote of 4-Ayes: Groff, Gritsavage, Anderson, and Roosa

Councilman Simmons abstained because he was not present at the 11/12/2015 meeting

Supervisor Groff opened the Public Hearing on the 2016 Preliminary Budget at 7:01 p.m.

Skip Taylor asked for an explanation of Appropriated Cash Surplus.

Nathanial Matthews responded "Fund Balance" which is your net of your Revenue and Expenses from day one of creation of the Town.

Skip Taylor: Approximately 5 years ago they increased our Water and Sewer tax our water and sewer payments. Our concept was to build up a reserve. I have been curious about the reserve a little, would I be incorrect in saying what we are proposing to do is use at least in the sewer about \$140,000 worth of Sewer Reserve to balance the budget?

That is incorrect stated Mr. Matthews. Fund Balance is not Reserves. It is all one however; Reserves are set aside and is completely separate. Just to fund whatever the Reserve is established for.

So those are appropriations from years past that were funded into the Fund?

Correct stated Mr. Matthews. The Fund Balance is used to fill in the gap between the revenues and expenses. In theory your revenues and expenses would net out about equal every year. You over estimate expenses just on if you might have a rough year; or something unforeseen happens; or expenses go up. You under estimate your Revenues for the same purpose. Where it falls in you utilize to fill the gap in the Fund Balance. The reserve is being built every year.

I am curious what that fund balance is doing currently stated Skip Taylor.

Response: The Sewer Reserve has approximately \$90,000 and the Water Reserve has approximately \$175,000.

Skip Taylor: How much has been put into these Reserves this year?

Mr. Matthews: On page 43 this year the amount proposed for Sewer is \$30,000.00 and the amount proposed for the Water is \$15,000.00.

Do we tap into the Reserve now and then asked Mr. Taylor?

Response: Yes, if we have a repair; or we have a large break; or to replace a main; or something we have to fix for an emergency. We are trying to build the Reserve up. Otherwise we would have to pay interest if we borrowed any money. We are trying to get on the water meters so that everyone is paying fairly stated Supervisor Groff.

Discussion ensued on how the Village had implemented the water meter billed and their trial and errors.

Having no further questions at this time on the 2016 Proposed Budget Supervisor Groff continued with the meeting.

**Speaker James Lewek regarding the Fireman's Bell on the Town of Northampton property in front of Town hall at 412 S. Main Street.**

James Lewek stated that he is here as a member of the Northville Firemen's Association building committee. I spoke with Terry Horton over the weekend regarding the bell that is on display in front of the Town hall is the old original fire bell. Apparently there was an agreement with previous Supervisor Willard Loveless and Terry Horton to have the bell placed in front of the Town hall because they didn't want to see this bell thrown away. If it is okay with the Town Board I am here to ask this Board if the bell can be moved until we build the new addition to the Firehouse. We would like to place the bell eventually in front of the new addition when it is built.

**MOTION:**Councilman Anderson motioned to allow the Northville Firemen's Association to relocate the old original fire bell that is currently located on the Town of Northampton property in front of Town hall at 412 S. Main Street. The bell is to be placed into storage where it will eventually be placed upon the completion in front of the new addition to the Firehouse on South Main Street. Seconded by Councilman Gritsavage, and passed by,

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

0-Nays

Supervisor Groff explained the history of the Firemen's bell and how it got placed in front of the town hall. There was discussion of possibly placing a plaque alongside of the bell when it is placed in front of the newly erected addition to the Firehouse.

**Speaker: Tom Preston, Instructor and Representative for Oak Mountain Ski in Speculator, NY**

Mr. Preston explained that Oak Mountain was owned and operated by the O'Brien family and he has provided the Town Board with a brochure of the Oak Mountains 2015-16 Eight-week Ski and Snowboard School Program; the 2015-16 Winter Rates; along with the Oak Mountain Calendar of Events from 08-08-2015 through 03-19-2016.

Oak Mountain is heavily recruiting the youth to come to Oak Mountain to learn to ski. Currently we have the Town of Arietta and the Town of Lake Pleasant. This year the Town of Wells will be participating. We have different packages that the Towns can utilize. One Town pays for the whole packet.

Lake Pleasant pays for the skis and the lesson \$20 and \$7 for the rentals and it is up to the parent to pay \$5 toward the rental fee.

Lake Pleasant provides a bus for the smaller children. The bigger children come in on Saturday and their parents bring them.

It looks that it would be good for the Town of Northampton to work with the Village and the NCS and come up with a program. We realize that the Towns and the Schools have already passed their budgets for 2016. We don't think that you will be able to do this this year. But we like the skiing family that takes part in this to come up on Saturdays and ski with the Wells children and take lessons with the Wells children. We have a 1. Junior instructor program for children that are 13 and they are pretty good skiers they come and they get taught how to teach. 2. Junior ski patrol program.

We bill Speculator twice, half way through the program and then again at the end of the four week program.

Town of Arietta we will once at the end of the ski season. We keep track of each individual child. You would call ahead of time if a child was not going to participate that day and we would check them off and the municipality will not be charged for that child for that particular lesson. We will provide a spreadsheet of each individual child that has participated and who didn't come and how much we charge. We have an adaptiveski program for the hearing impaired, vision impaired, for mental and for physical impairments.

Do you have a video CD or something that can be put on the Town website asked Councilman Anderson? We do have still photos that we can make available for you stated Mr. Preston.

We are trying to expand our rental shop. We are putting snow making on the right hand side of the chair this year. We are now a three season resort. We had 11 weddings this year and 15 scheduled for next year. We have downhill mountain biking, a 5K and a 10K race, among other events, plus our restaurant. I recommend you meet with our Joint Youth Commission and explain all of this to them. Maybe we can get the children to come up to Oak Mountain and work something with the Town of Wells children stated Councilman Gritsavage.

**RES. #2015-33:** Resolution Authorizing Transfer of Funds within Accounts to meet certain Contractual Expenses for Accounts Payable from 2015 Budget Line Items.”

Councilman Anderson offered the following resolution and moved its adoption.

Councilman Gritsavage seconded the motion.

**WHEREAS**, within the budget certain appropriated amounts are insufficient to meet certain accounts payable expenses from Budget line items from 2015 Budget for the November transfers;

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT**

**RESOLVED**, that the Town Supervisor be authorized to transfer the below indicated funds from within existing accounts of the 2015 budget to cover anticipated expenses;

**November**

\$250.00

From: A1410.2 – Clerk - Equipment

To: A1410.407 – Clerk – Computer support

\$1,000.00

From: DB5142.1 – Snow Removal – Personal Services

To: DB5130.1 – Machinery – Personal Services

\$5,000.00

From: SS1990.4 – Sewer - Contingent

To: SS9060.8 – Sewer – Health/Dental Insurance

Reason – To cover upfront premiums for health and dental

\$3,000.00

From: SW1990.4 – Water - Contingent

To: SW9060.8 – Water – Health/Dental Insurance

Reason – To cover upfront premiums for health and dental

\$10,000.00

From: A1990.4 – Contingent

To: A9060.8 – Health/Dental Insurance

Reason – To cover upfront premiums for health and dental.

**AND BE IT FURTHER**

**RESOLVED**, that this resolution be recorded in the Town Clerk’s minutes and be a permanent record of the Town and a copy be filed with the Supervisors records for auditing purposes.

**ROLL CALL VOTE:**

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

**MOTION ON WARRANTS**

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

**November 2015 Warrants**

General Fund “A”	\$ 38,922.36
General Ambulance Fund Account	0.00
General Fund “B”	13,764.20
Highway “DB”	77,489.22
Sacandaga Lighting District “SL”	1,058.23
Sacandaga Water District “SW”	9,004.37
Sacandaga Sewer District “SS”	12,146.21
Trust & Agency Fund	<u>00.00</u>
Total Warrants	\$152,384.59

**COMMUNICATIONS**

- Monthly Report of Revenues and Expenditures as of 11/17/2015
- Monthly Transfers for Abstract of Audited vouchers
- American Red Cross on Emergency Preparedness Training program for the Town of Northampton

Discussion: I just participated in a program like this at the County for the Towns in Fulton through the Fire Department stated the Supervisor. I suggest the board members go to their website review the site and decide whether you would think we should set something up, bring it back to the next meeting.

- Time Warner
- Fulton Montgomery Regional Chamber of Commerce Newline
- Sacandaga Valley Arts Network request for \$500 to help SVAN with the 2016 Summer Concert Series Season

**MOTION:** Councilman Anderson motioned to approve paying the Sacandaga Valley Arts Network the sum of \$500 to help with the 2016 Summer Concert Series Season. Seconded by Councilman Simmons and passed by,

4 Ayes: Groff, Simmons, Anderson and Roosa

Councilman Gritsavage Abstained-he is a member on the SVAN Board

**HIGHWAY**

Bids received for the Tarco Highlander Jr. Model HL-GECCEL-JR-8-VI-SS material sander as follows:

Fort Miller FAB3 Corp., 678 Wilbur Ave., Greenwich, NY 12834 - quote in the amount of \$5,060.00

Keil Equipment Company, Inc. 2358 Route 9, Hudson, NY 12534 - quote in the amount of \$5,680.00

**MOTION:** Councilman Gritsavage motioned to accept the bid for the Tarco Highlander Jr. Model HL-GECCEL-JR-8-VI-SS material sander from Fort Miller FAB3 Corp., 678 Wilbur Ave., Greenwich, NY 12834 quote in the amount of \$5,060.00. Seconded by Councilman Simmons and passed by,

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

**1974 Fiat Allis Grater**

An agreement has been drawn up for the sale of the Town of Northampton Highway grader to the Town of Hope stated the Supervisor. They will maintain the grader “as is” and use it for \$1.00 with the understanding that if the Town of Northampton needs it we can borrow it.

**MOTION:**Councilman Gritsavage motioned to agree selling the Town of Northampton 1974 Fiat Allis Grader to the Town of Hope, which is sold “As Is” for the cost of one dollar (\$1.00), with the understanding the Town of Northampton has full rights of use at no cost to the Town of Northampton. Seconded by Councilman Anderson and passed by,

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

**JUSTICE:** Councilman Gritsavage motioned to accept the Justice report, there were a total of 25 cases handled and \$3,311.00 was collected in fines for the month, seconded by Councilman Roosa and passed by, 5-Ayes: Groff, Roosa, Gritsavage, Anderson, and Simmons                    0-Nays

**JOINT INTERMUNICIPAL**

Councilman Anderson: I’ve spoken with Mayor Spaeth and he is looking setting up a meeting the first week of December. We had a number of things we can talk about such as the water.

Supervisor Groff: I think that we need to discuss having a joint highway maintenance facility.

**ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS** The next scheduled ZBA meeting is set for November 25, 2015 at 7 p.m.

**PLANNING BOARD:**

The Planning Board’s next scheduled meeting is for Tuesday, December 8, 2015 at 7 p.m.

**JOINT YOUTH:** We are looking at setting up a meeting in December.

**HISTORIAN:** Gail Cramer has sent around an e-mail of a gentleman who is making up historic signs (plaques) on sports around the County. He is looking into a historic sign in the Sacandaga Park. There was discussion on a sign regarding the ice skating races on the little lake, there were people that had barnstormed in the different parks among other events in and around the lake.

**AMBULANCE:**The Town of Northampton Ambulance Service has completed the renewal application for EMS Operating Authority and has received the NYS Department of Health Ambulance Service Certificate for the Primary Territory: Towns of Northampton, Hope and Benson. The certificate will expire November 30, 2017.

**Motion on the Town of Hope – Town of Northampton 2016 Ambulance Agreement**

Councilman Anderson motioned to approve Supervisor Groff signing the 2016 Town of Hope – Town of Northampton Ambulance Agreement which the Town of Hope agrees to the terms of the agreement and to pay the Town of Northampton the sum of Four Hundred Dollars (\$400.00) per call if the ambulance transports to a medical facility and Two Hundred Dollars (\$200.00) per call if the ambulance does not transport. This agreement shall be effective the date this Agreement is signed and shall continue to and including December 31, 2016. Seconded by Councilman Gritsavage, and Adopted by a vote of 5-Ayes: Groff, Gritsavage, Roosa, Gritsavage, and Simmons 0-Nays

**REFUSE AND GARBAGE:**

**2016 Fulton County Sanitary Landfill Use Renewal Application**

**MOTION:** Councilman Gritsavage motioned to approve the Town of Northampton to continue with the use of the Fulton County Sanitary Landfill and/or Recycling Facility in 2016 and to instruct the Supervisor to sign the 2016 Fulton Landfill Use Renewal application. Seconded by Councilman Roosa and passed by,

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

**HARDFILL:** For the month of October 2015 there were a total of 50 vehicles that had come to the Hardfillsite and \$15.00 was collected in fees.

**HAULING FEES:** The month of October fees are as follows:

County Transfer	93.860 Ton @ \$53	\$4,974.58
Curbside Recycling	13.540 Ton @ \$20	\$ 270.80
Transfer Station Recycling	2.490 Ton @ \$10	\$ 24.90
Metal Hauling Fee	3.660 Ton @ \$20	\$ 73.20
Electronics	1.310 Ton @ \$0.00	\$ 0.00
Total		\$5,343.48

**Northville Fire Department:** During October 2015 there were a total of 6 responses and a total of 37 man hours made by the Northville Fire Department. The Village of Northville there was- 1-Smoke Detector Activation; and 1- Medical Assist. In the Town of Northampton there was 1- Smoking Washing Machine; 1-Fallen Tree Across Roadway. Town of Hope there was 1-Motor Vehicle Accident with Entrapment. Town of Benson there was 1-Motor Vehicle Accident. 1-Mutual Aid given.

The Northville Fire Department participated in the following training:

1. October 12 – Members practiced hydrant operations and pumping water from truck to truck. 11 members present.



	Photo Copy	Photo Copy	5	1.25
			<b>Sub-Total:</b>	<b>\$4.25</b>
B2555	Building Permits	Building Permits	8	272.50
			<b>Sub-Total:</b>	<b>\$272.50</b>
			<b>Total Local Shares Remitted:</b>	<b>\$521.80</b>
	Amount paid to: NYS Ag. & Markets for spay/neuter program			2.00
	Amount paid to: NYS Environmental Conservation			1,825.45
	<b>Total State, County &amp; Local Revenues:</b>	<b>\$2,349.25</b>	<b>Total Non-Local Revenues:</b>	<b>\$1,827.45</b>

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

DEC has designated that on Veteran's Day every year as the annual Free Fishing Day in New York State.

Councilman Simmons: Several years ago the DEC Office in Northville was closed to the public. I noticed in the last couple of weeks that it appears to open. I understand that there is a secretary that is working in there. I don't know what hours they are open a week.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**Update on the 2015 Franchise Agreement to provide Cable Television Services between Town of Northampton and Time Warner Cable Northeast LLC c/b/a/ Time Warner Cable.**

I called Time Warner and I didn't get anybody the first time so I left a message stated the Supervisor.

I never received a call back.

I'm concerned about the TV station we would like at the NCS that was at the Library stated Councilman Simmons.

We had revised the 2015 Agreement and sent it to Time Warner and we have never heard back from them stated Councilman Gritsavage.

Councilman Simmons: Time Warner is required by the FCC to provide the TV Station. It is a Federal Law.

It was suggested to call the Public Service Commission (PSC).

Councilman Simmons: I called the PSC once before and we then heard back from Representative Muha from Time Warner and he was going to contact the NCS and we never heard back from him again. That was at least six months ago.

The Board has asked Councilman Simmons as a board member to contact the Public Service Commission and discuss this issue with them.

Councilman Anderson: A few months ago we passed resolutions to have the speed limit lowered on several streets in the Town of Northampton.

I sent a letter to Mr. Yost regarding the stop signs on Gould Hill and asked him why the speed limit reductions had not been received by the State. They were up fixing the stop signs today. I will call the State and check to see if they received the resolutions on the speed limit reductions we requested.

**2016 Agreement with the Town of Northampton and the Adirondack Park Local Government Review Board**

Councilman Gritsavage motioned to approve Supervisor Groff signing the 2016 Agreement with the Town of Northampton and the Adirondack Park Local Government Review Board and to pay the sum of Three Hundred (\$300.00) for the services of the Review Board in representing the Town in matters relating to the Adirondack Park. Seconded by Councilman Anderson, and  
Adopted by a vote of 5-Ayes: Groff, Gritsavage, Roosa, Gritsavage, and Simmons 0-Nays

**NEW BUSINESS:** Notice has been posted that the Town of Northampton will receive bids for the 2016 Fuel. Specifications may be obtained from the Town Clerk's Office during regular business hours and the bid will be opened at the December 18, 2015 regular Town Board meeting.

#### Closing the Public Hearing

Supervisor Groff asked if there was anyone from the public that had any further discussion on the 2016 Preliminary Budget and there was none.

**MOTION:** Councilman Anderson motioned to close the Public Hearing on the 2016 Preliminary Budget at 7:52 p.m. Seconded by Councilman Roosa and passed by,  
A vote of 5-Ayes: Groff, Roosa, Gritsavage, Simmons, and Anderson 0-Nays

#### **MOTION to Adopt the 2016 Budget of the Town of Northampton**

Councilman Anderson motioned to adopt the Preliminary Budget of the Town of Northampton for the fiscal year 2016 and the 2016 Fire Contracts with the Village of Northville and with the Broadalbin Kenneyto Fire Co., Inc. Seconded by Councilman Simmons and  
Adopted by a vote of 5 Ayes: Groff, Roosa, Gritsavage, Anderson and Simmons  
0-Nays

#### **MOTION signing the 2016 Fire Protection Contract between the Town of Northampton and Broadalbin Kenneyto Fire Co., Inc.**

Councilman Gritsavage motioned to approve Supervisor signing the 2016 Fire Protection Contract between Town of Northampton and Broadalbin Kenneyto Fire Co., Inc. the sum of \$9,638.00. Seconded by Councilman Roosa and  
Adopted by a vote of 5-Ayes: Groff, Gritsavage, Anderson, Simmons and Roosa

#### **MOTION signing the 2016 Fire Protection Contract between the Town of Northampton and the Village of Northville**

Councilman Simmons motioned to approve Supervisor signing the 2016 Fire Protection Contract between Town of Northampton and the Village of Northville the sum of \$85,250.00. Seconded by Councilman Gritsavage and  
Adopted by a vote of 5-Ayes: Groff, Gritsavage, Simmons, Anderson, and Roosa

#### **Motion to Adopt the Town of Northampton Work Place Violence Prevention Policy Statement**

Councilman Gritsavage motioned to approve the adoption of the Town of Northampton Work Place Violence Prevention Policy. Persons to contact for the Work Place Violence would be the Budget/Bookkeeper and the Deputy Supervisor. Seconded by Councilman Anderson and  
Adopted by a vote of 5-Ayes: Groff, Gritsavage, Simmons, Roosa and Anderson 0-Nays

#### Discussion on the motion

The town needs to pass a Work Place Violence Prevention Policy Statement and there will be annual Safety meetings for all employees of the Town stated the Supervisor.

The next Town Board meeting will be held on Wednesday, December 16, 2015 at 7 p.m.

**CODE ENFORCEMENT:**

Matthew Ginter collected \$272.50 in fees in. The total Estimated Project Costs was \$38,600.00. A total of (8) permits were issued in October 2015; #071-14R1 permit renewal; #073-14R1 permit renewal #073 Water well; #074-15 Swimming pool; #075-15 Fence; #076-15 Deck; #078-14R2 permit renewal; and #084-14R2 permit.

A copy of the proposed changes to the “ZONING AND SUBDIVISION LAW OF THE TOWN OF NORTHAMPTON, COUNTY OF FULTON” has been distributed to the Town Board members. The Clerk has a copy in her office of the draft Zoning and Subdivision Law with proposed changes for review.

Matthew Ginter has provided and requested the Town Board to review and consider amending the Town of Northampton Zoning/Building Permit Fee Schedule. Discussion ensued.

Councilman Gritsavage motioned to table this so a resolution could be presented to the Town Board at the next scheduled meeting. All board members unanimously agreed.

**Executive Session**

Councilman Anderson motioned to enter into Executive Session at 8:00 p.m. to discuss Litigation.

Seconded by Councilman Gritsavage and passed by

A vote of 5-Ayes: Groff, Roosa, Gritsavage, Simmons, and Anderson 0-Nays

Councilman Anderson motioned to exit out of Executive Session at 8:27 p.m. with no action taken.

Seconded by Councilman Roosa and passed by

A vote of 5-Ayes: Groff, Roosa, Gritsavage, Simmons, and Anderson 0-Nays

**Adjourn**

Councilman Anderson motioned to adjourn the meeting at 8:28 p.m. Councilman Gritsavage seconded the motion. All board members present were in favor of the motion.

Respectfully submitted,

Elaine Mihalik  
Town Clerk