

**TOWN OF NORTHAMPTON/VILLAGE OF NORTHVILLE
JOINT YOUTH COMMISSION MEETING
December 10, 2015**

Chair Gritsavage opened the Northampton/Northville Joint Youth Commission meeting on Wednesday, December 10, 2015 at 7:01 p.m. at 412 South Main Street, Northville, New York.

PRESENT: Town Board members: Chairman-William Gritsavage and Darryl Roosa
Village Trustees: Deb Ellsworth
Recreational Director: Molly Whittaker
Village Treasurer: Nathaniel Matthews
Mayor John Spaeth
NCS Board Trustee: John Sira
Excused: Trustee-Patrick Barnett; Supervisor James Groff; and NCS Board Trustee-Michael Feldman

RECORDING SECRETARY: Elaine Mihalik – Town Clerk

ALSO PRESENT: Annette Fordyce and Tom Preston

It was unanimously agreed to submit the minutes of the May 13, 2015 Joint Youth Commission meeting as presented and to not take action due to the recent change in personnel on the Joint Youth Commission during that time and Trustee Patrick Barnett is not present tonight as the third member present at that meeting, therefore, not having a full quorum tonight that was at that meeting to vote on those minutes.

Speaker Tom Preston-Oak Mountain Instructor gave a presentation on behalf of Oak Mountain ski program. We currently have contracts with: the Town of Arietta who pays for their youth the season pass-ski rental and lessons. The Town of Lake Pleasant their youth get a pass for the day of lessons and the parents pay \$5.00 of the \$12.00 rental fee.

A fund raising program was organized in Wells for their youth to attend Oak Mountain to ski and they will be attending the ski program this year.

The fee for a student in an organized program is \$10 for a ticket, \$10 for a lesson and \$12 for a rental, the cost is \$32.00. As opposed to an individual coming in off the street their cost would be \$82.00 a day.

Juniors are 12 years of age or under. Anyone over 12 years of age is considered an adult. Any child coming in from a school as a group everyone is considered as a junior. If your contract that you designed for your children come to the Mountain Ski area. We keep track of each person that comes on non-lesson days. They can get a junior season pass for \$209. If they come enough to reach that price on their own and with their lesson days the rest of the season is free. It would be \$309 if we used the adult price over 12 years of age.

We currently offer lessons on Friday afternoon to the preschoolers' in Lake Pleasant, 4 years old up thru 6th grade. Saturday morning we have 25 children come that are from 6th grade and above and the Wells group will be coming on Sunday. We recognize that Budgets are in and are set and not much can be done this year but possibly another year. We would like to see Northville, Mayfield, and Indian Lake all take part in our program. We have a lot of options to accommodate them including staying open in the evening.

The Oak Mountain has a race program where high school teams can learn to race. This program takes place on Saturday and Sunday.

A junior 4 hour ticket is \$22.00.

Will you be doing this presentation at the NCS as well asked John Sira?

Response: Yes.

Discussion ensued on the different schools and their particular programs they have worked out with Oak Mountain.

Mayor John Spaeth: This is an 8 week package program where each week is billed from week to week where they can take advantage of 4 or maybe 5 of those weeks.

Tom Preston: We keep record of each student and we can tell you what they have done from the year before. We have report cards of their ability of what they have done and we can tell from year to year.

Billing: On Friday we get an e-mail from Lake Pleasant School and it tells us who is not coming for lessons stated Tom Preston. So we do not charge for that child. We keep a running total of each student and how many times they have been there; whether they rent skis or not. This is so we can tell you who we billed for and when. We can bill half way through the season or at the end of the season.

Chaperones: The definition for us is someone who is going to take part in a lesson. For every three children we need an adult to ride up in the chair. The Chaperones get computed in and they receive a 4 hour pass to be used at another time. The down side is that we only need as many Chaperones that are needed for how many children that are present at that time. This would not be for beginners but for those who can make wedge turns but are not parallel skiers.

If there were 9 students, what we could do if there are more Chaperones than needed is to group them and give them credit for three Chaperone tickets and have them share the cost. The Chaperones are considered part of the group and they would be charged a \$28 day as opposed to a \$38 day cost.

Annette Fordyce: The students would let me know if they were interested in attending skiing and I would put together a list and email it to Laura and the child would then get the cost of the lesson when they got there.

We then had the list and would check them off at the ski area as they got there. Sometimes they would not all be able to get there at the same time stated Mr. Preston.

Molly Whittaker: We did take a bus four times last year. We had approximately 15 children on the average on the bus. There were also a good number of children that came up with their parents too. The children were getting the discount but I had an issue with it because there should have been a student rate and your rate for a junior is for 12 years and under. Then everyone else fell into the adult category. I felt the children in high school were paying a higher amount than they should have. Generally there was a student rate and an adult rate. That was my one concern. Our discounted rate in your situation was \$18 per person and we counted everyone as a child stated Mr. Preston.

You did change that because that wasn't like that last year stated Molly Whittaker.

Tom Preston: One program is a school program 18 and under and there is a program for a group rate for anybody. If they are coming from an organized group from your school and they are in school we will give them the \$18 rate. If they are out of high school then they pay \$28.

We have a new snow making machine and two groomers. The group rate also includes tubers, children that are not skiers or snowboarders.

Councilman William Gritsavage: How much did we spend out of our budget last year for the skiing program?

I know it did not exceed the line item stated Mr. Matthews. I believe we did budget the same amount this year as last year, possibly a little more.

I (Spaeth) believe what we budgeted for was for the transportation costs, correct and the children paid for their skiing?

We budgeted for the bus plus we have a line item just for skiing stated Mr. Matthews.

It would be helpful to you to do a presentation on the ski program in Edinburg so that they do know what it going on stated Molly Whittaker.

Mayor John Spaeth: Edinburg does pay into the Joint Youth Program at a rate that covers the cost of the Summer Program and if they are going to have children participate in the ski program we are just not going to have that money in our budget. We are going to need some help from them. So a conversation with Edinburg and to try to get them to potential kick in toward something like this would be helpful. Benson participates in the Joint Youth Program also.

I will contact the Town Boards of Edinburg and Benson and the Edinburg School Board and make arrangements to visit with them stated Tom Preston.

Nathaniel Matthews: We have \$500 budgeted just for the ski program not including transportation. You did increase the line item for special programs which if you chose to use some of that money for the ski program.

Mayor John Spaeth: I think that the logistics for that program I feel would be hard to turn around right now. But potentially encourage children to participate in that program and we do have some already. Possibly we can look at a way to discount tickets for the two or three trips that we do take with the children.

Councilman William Gritsavage: That wouldn't be a bad idea. To try and get the children up there skiing and try to subsidize it a little bit.

Last year the word started getting out and more children started getting interested in skiing stated Mayor John Spaeth.

If we have money in the budget are we interested in offering a small discount this year, maybe \$5.00 a student from the daily ticket asked Trustee Deb Ellsworth?

Mayor John Spaeth: Did all of the students have their own skis or did some or all of them rent skis?

There were approximately 1/3 of the students rented skis, a 1/3 that tubed, and 1/3 that had their own stated Molly Whittaker.

If we offered \$5.00 discount that we would pay, maybe that would generate some interest suggested Councilman William Gritsavage.

Molly Whittaker: There were approximately 15 students who rode the bus and there were other students approximately 30 that came with their parents also. But they did go up there as part of the group.

If the student went up there with their parents and they would be part of the group maybe we could give them a voucher suggested Councilman William Gritsavage.

Mr. Preston had stated that he would keep track of the students and he would bill us. If we tell him what the Joint Youth Commission wants to cover they would keep track and send us a bill stated Mr. Matthews.

Discussion ensued.

MOTION: Councilman William Gritsavage motioned to subsidize a sum of \$5 per student as a group that participates in the Oak Mountain Ski program, whether they ride the bus we provide or not, for up to four (4) Northville Days. Seconded by Mayor John Spaeth and passed by, 5 Ayes: William Gritsavage, John Spaeth, John Sira, Debra Ellsworth and Darryl Roosa 0-Nays

Molly Whittaker stated that attendance was off a little bit. We ran Monday through Thursday. Thursdays were trip days.

Did the new format of a four day program work out better asked William Gritsavage?

I did have positive feedback regarding that stated Molly Whittaker.

We did have Special Addition Youth Activities after the camp and not having them as a part of the camp. They were a Boater Safety Course which 10 students attended, a Kayak Camp where we had seven students, a Dance Camp which we had group of smaller children and approximately 12 students in the older group attended, and the Swim Lessons was well attended. We didn't have any major issues this summer.

Nathanial Matthews explained the information he provided of the different years from 2012 to the current attendance in the Joint Youth Summer Program for comparison reasons, stating that the percent did not change as it used to. It has progressively been getting better this year. The second information sheet is on expenses and how we derive the cost of the contract rates with the other municipalities which the contracts have already been sent out and signed because the Town Boards needed the fee for budget purposes. I have included the total number of children and which Town they were from who have participated in the program. The Towns of Benson, Day and Edinburg have signed a contract for this coming 2016 year's program.

The Town of Hope Board needs to understand that the children in their district are missing out on the program stated Mayor John Spaeth. If someone only has property in the Town of Northampton and they live in the Town of Hope, there is no money coming in from the Town of Hope to offset this. Having to have students who are registering and get ready for the program it's hectic. Trying to go back after the fact and get the money for the student(s) from the family isn't always as successful. I am proposing that this year we say that if they are not paying taxes in the participating municipality they don't attend. We have always discussed this because they do pay school taxes but the bottom line is that the bulk of the actual dollars and cents toward this program are coming out of the Township and the Village. The school provides both the facilities and the bus. It is a fair division of cost but up and beyond that the Town has the expense of the program. Three students came this past year and we never recovered the money for them stated Mayor John Spaeth.

Is it fair that they get to come from a non-participating municipality and the other municipalities absorb the cost of that?

The term immediate family shall mean – parents, siblings and grandparents
Discussion ensued.

MOTION: Mayor John Spaeth motioned that if a child whose parents pay no RP taxes to the participating entity is not allowed to attend the Northville Summer Program. Seconded by Councilman Darryl Roosa and passed by
5 Ayes: William Gritsavage, John Spaeth, John Sira, Debra Ellsworth and Darryl Roosa
0-Nays

It was suggested to send letters to the three families and the out of towners.

Administrative issues

Mayor John Spaeth: We would like to discuss a few administrative things that came up this year,
1. One of the times a trip got cancelled and the bus drivers were not notified in timely manner. It was placed on their time sheet to be paid for that trip.

Molly Whittaker: I usually tell them the morning of the trip because I won't know unless there is bad weather.

I guess instead of calling the councils first the drivers need to be the first call, stated Nathanial Matthews.

Do you contact the transportation supervisor?

Molly Whittaker: That's an issue because there is not always someone on as a bus driver. Sometimes there is no one at the garage to get a hold of and I don't know who the bus drivers are for the day.

Nathaniel Matthews: I do have a list of all the drivers and maybe we can send a mass text to all of them.

Discussion ensued.

We need a consistent process for the Director to contact if a trip has to be cancelled.

2. There was some inaccuracy of the bus drivers' time recording. We didn't quite understand it. They start at 8:30 a.m. and work until 10:30 a.m. where they get paid for three hours when they only worked 2 hours. Another driver had instructed them to round up on their time.

Nathaniel Matthews: While this was brought to my attention I started to cross reference this with everyone else's time sheets at was then found this discrepancy. They do a time in and a time out and the total hours on their time sheet.

Do you know of any reason that would be, asked Mayor John Spaeth? Is there some additional time that they were doing with the bus?

I'm not sure if it is from when they are actually driving or when they are actually showing up stated Molly Whittaker.

Discussion ensued.

We need to find out from the school if the bus driver is obligated to work a number of certain hours stated Trustee Deb Ellsworth.

3. We had a little situation with one of the lifeguards had gone to Boy Scout camp for a week which left the program a little short. We ended up paying over time for lifeguards which we did not anticipate. We did have enough money but because we were short I feel we need to make sure that we get commitment from our lifeguards that they are going to be there for the full duration of the program. This individual was hired last minute and he was already committed to going to the Boy Scout camp which we did not know at the time we hired him.

I guess we just assumed that stated Councilman William Gritsavage.

We need to work harder on that so that the workers understand that this is a five week commitment, you will be there for the program stated Mayor John Spaeth.

NEW BUSINESS:

All Joint Youth Commission members present signed the annual 2016 Agreements between the Town of Northampton/Village of Northville Joint Youth with both the Town of Day and the Town of Edinburg.

Director Molly Whittaker has submitted her letter of resignation to take effect December 31, 2015, to the Town of Northampton/Village of Northville Joint Youth Commission.

Molly Whittaker explained that her children are getting older and summers are valuable and she would like to spend more time with them. She would like to do some family trips and the summer is the only time in which she and her family can do that. I loved serving our community and serving our kids stated Molly Whittaker. I will help in any way that I can so that we can work this out together. I will continue to help with the ski program.

We thank you for all of your efforts and hard work stated Trustee Deb Ellsworth.

We are certainly going to miss you and I enjoyed working with you. I think you have been a good director. We appreciate everything that you have done.

MOTION:

Chairman William Gritsavage motioned that with much regret he accepts the letter of resignation from Youth Director Molly Whittaker, effective December 31, 2015. Seconded by Mayor John Spaeth, and passed by,

5 Ayes: Mayor John Spaeth, Deb Ellsworth, John Sira, Darryl Roosa and William Gritsavage
0-Nays

Mayor Spaeth suggested holding Joint Youth Commission meetings every other month and it was agreed that the Joint Youth Commission will be holding a meeting on Thursday, February 11, 2016 at 7 p.m.

It was agreed to appoint a committee of two Councilman Gritsavage and Mayor John Spaeth to work together on the process of replacing the Director's position. The notice for position will be advertised through the Village.

ADJOURN: With no further business coming before the Joint Youth Commission Board, John Sira motioned to adjourn at 8:40 p.m. Seconded by Mayor John Spaeth and passed by,
5 Ayes: William Gritsavage, Deb Ellsworth, Darryl Roosa, John Sira, and Mayor John Spaeth
0-Nays

Respectfully submitted,

Elaine Mihalik
Town Clerk