

**TOWN OF NORTHAMPTON
REGULAR MEETING
May 15, 2019**

The regular meeting of the Town of Northampton was held on Wednesday, May 15, 2019. 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, and William Gritsavage, and Art Simmons
Excused Councilman: Ivar Anderson

RECORDING SECRETARY: Elaine Mihalik-Town Clerk

Other Town department representatives in attendance were:

Ken Cramer-Highway Superintendent
Nathaniel Matthews-Bookkeeper and Matthew Ginter-CEO
Town Attorney-Honorable Michael Albanese

ALSO PRESENT: Michael Warner and Sheila Anderson

MOTION: Councilman Roosa motioned to approve the April 17, 2019 Public Hearing and Regular Town Board meeting minutes as presented by the Town Clerk. Seconded by Councilman Gritsavage and Adopted by a vote of 3-Ayes: Groff, Gritsavage, and Roosa 0-Nays
Abstained - Councilman Simmons because he was not present at this meeting

MOTION: Councilman Roosa motioned to approve the April 9, 2019 Special Town Board meeting minutes as presented by the Town Clerk. Seconded by Councilman Gritsavage and Adopted by a vote of 4-Ayes: Groff, Gritsavage, Simmons and Roosa 0-Nays

Res. #2019-05: Resolution Authorizing Transfer of Funds within accounts to meet certain contractual expenses for Accounts Payable from 2019 budget line items.

Councilman Simmons offered the following resolution and moved its adoption.

Councilman Gritsavage seconded the motion.

\$40,000.00

To: DB5110.410 – Highway General Repairs – Paving
From: DB5130.2 Highway Machinery – Equipment

\$5,000.00

To: B8160.4 – Refuse & Garbage – Contractual
From: B3120.4 – Public Safety – Contractual

\$10,000.00

To: DB5148.4 – Serv/Other Gov'ts – Contractual -Salt
From: DB9901.9 – Interfund Trans – Road Maint. Reserve

VOTE

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

MOTION ON WARRANTS

Councilman Simmons approved paying the warrants, Seconded by Councilman Gritsavage and passed by, A Vote of 5-Ayes 0-Nays

May 2019 Warrants

General Fund “A”	\$ 29,529.37
General Fund “B”	3,968.78
Highway	5,941.73
Sacandaga Lighting District	1,096.07
Sacandaga Sewer District	5,329.15
Sacandaga Water District	<u>6,312.21</u>
Total Warrants	\$ 52,177.31

COMMUNICATIONS

- Monthly Transfers for Abstract of Audited vouchers
- 2019 Newslines
- Charter Communications – Upcoming changes

Open to Public Comment at 7:03

Sheila Anderson is a member of the Northville Rotary. She noted that President Ken Adamczyk has ask members to write down some of the projects they would like to see have done within the community. Mrs. Anderson spoke of a “Proposed Walk of Honor” that she is in charge of with the Northville Rotary and she would like to get Town Board approval to have this placed in the back of the town hall property by the lake. Mrs. Anderson has shown the Board a picture of the concept of what they would like to do. It would be a 3-foot side walk that would come out with bricks placed in the walkway. The bricks would be made of red clay to last longer. She came here to present the proposal to the Town Board prior to presenting it to the Rotary for approval.

What particular monument are you thinking about placing in the center of this proposed Walk of Honor, ask Councilman Gritsavage?

No religion, no angels, or anything like that.

What is the monument too? Hall of Fame from Northville?

It could be Veterans, Rotarians, or to honor someone who has done something prominent in this community. A family could purchase a brick and the bricks will always be there. We would remove the one brick and replace it while it is being engraved. It would be a paver walkway in the center with flowers around the center. We are bringing up one of our artists to do a birdbath or I have found a concrete ball that has cut outs with a light that would cast off a design there to. It would be 10-foot-long to the center and 3 foot wide. There will be a total of 540 pavers.

Councilman Simmons asked, are there any issues with the HRBRRD? Has anyone contacted them?

Mrs. Anderson stated that it would not have anything to do with the HRBRRD property down to the lake. This is a stand along project. The cost of a brick is approximately \$45 to \$50 a brick. It would be a fund raiser for the Rotary Club. We would also place perennial flowers in there too.

Who is going to maintain it asked Councilman Gritsavage? Mrs. Anderson responded that the Rotary would maintain it.

Councilman Gritsavage noted that he would like to know more and this is your preliminary steps, correct? What is your next step? Is it just the design? I have to present this proposal to the Rotary Board to see if they would accept this as a project for our club to do explained Mrs. Anderson. But I wanted to get the Town Boards permission first. I don't want to commit to the Rotary until we get a little more information stated Councilman Gritsavage. We don't mind talking with the Rotary if they would like to present something to us. Councilman Simmons stated that he would like to know a little bit more and to review this give it more thought and see if there is going to see if there is going to be enough room out there. Would it be possible to stake out the area you are proposing to place this proposal asked Supervisor Groff? Two of our club members have already staked out the area.

CODE ENFORCEMENT: 12 permits were issued during the month of April. #012-18 Permit Renewal; #015-18 Permit renewal; #021-18 Permit renewal; #013-19 Fuel Burning Device; #014-19 Single Family Home; #015-19 2 car garage; #016-19 Demolition; #017-19 Deck; #018-19 Demolition; #019-19 Single Family Home; #020-19 Deck; #21-19 Deck and #P01-19 Lot line adjustment. Project Totals \$579,000.00 and Total Fees Collected \$1,122.50. Permit #21-19 was never received by the Town Clerk and was paid to the Village Clerk in error.

MOTION: Councilman Roosa motioned to accept the Code Enforcement Report as presented by the Code Enforcer. Councilman Gritsavage seconded the motioned and passed by,
A Vote of 4-Ayes 0-Nays

Mr. Ginter updated the town board saying that he finally has gotten the contract and it is complete. He has received their signature and approval from NYSERTA and they put the order in today. They should be installing the lighting fixtures within a month.

Where do we stand with the \$50,000 Grant asked Councilman Simmons? We had to prove that the project can pay for itself over a twenty-year span. We did that with the LED lighting and that project was approximately \$24,000. What we wanted to do was to upgrade our heating system. They gave me \$500 for an energy audit with the company that comes in and they look at everything from insulation, to the windows, to the heating system, to everything because they have to tell NYSERTA that yes, we can save \$25,000 over twenty-five years. That is very difficult to do I found out. Because we pay so little for our fuel oil unless the people who checks out the municipality can prove it.

Can that money be used to converting the street lights over as Ken Cramer? If there is money left over then we should look into that, stated Supervisor Groff.

HIGHWAY: Roads: Borrowed the Town of Edinburg highway tractor and sweeper to sweep town roads. Ordered culverts for 2 miles on Bunker Hill Road and Ordered road signs for 2 miles on Bunker Hill Road to bring up to code.

Repairs/Maintenance: Plows and Wings painted on truck #2, #3, and #4. New carbide and fascia plate on truck #4. Completed oil changes and service on truck #2, #3, and #4.

New Business: Would like to set up a budget session with members of the Town Board and Nate to discuss the status of the Highway Department.

He has submitted the second round of paperwork for the mini-excavator and it is moving forward for a financial review.

Ken Cramer reported that yesterday he received correspondence from a representative on the grant for the mini-excavator and they have completed the internal reviews and have submitted the file for legislative file for approval. That process can take possible getting a response in October 2019.

Discussion on Expenditure of Highway Funds

This is grant money correct asked Councilman Gritsavage?

It is from CHIPS money, Pave New York and our budgeted money responded Ken Cramer.

Expenditure of Highway Funds

Agreement to Spend Town Highway Funds

MOTION: Councilman Gritsavage made a motion to approve Pursuant to the provisions of Section 284 of the Highway Law, we agree that monies levied and collected for the repair and improvement of highways, and received from the State for State Aid for the repair and improvement of highways, shall be expended as follows.

1. General Repairs. the sum of \$130,000 shall be set aside to be expended for primary work and general repairs upon 2 miles of town highway, including sluices, culverts and bridges having a span of less than five feet and boardwalks or the renewals thereof
2. Permanent Improvements. The following sums shall be set aside to be expended for the permanent improvement of town highways:
 - a. On the road commencing at the intersection of County Route 152 and Bunker Hill Road and leading to 500 Bunker Hill Road, a distance of 2 miles, there shall be expended not over the sum of \$130,000 total. Type 6 Asphalt; Width of traveled surface 20 feet; Thickness 1 ½ inches; Subbase Asphalt.

Councilman Roosa seconded the motion and was passed by a vote of
4-Ayes: Groff, Simmons, Roosa and Gritsavage 0-Nays

Res. #2019-06: 2019 Mowing Contract between the Fulton County Department of Highways and Facilities and the Town of Northampton.

Councilman Simmons motioned authorizing Supervisor James Groff to sign a (2019) Contract between the Fulton County Department of Highways and Facilities and the Town of Northampton for Mowing of Certain County Highway Rights-Of-Way, County Roads 109 (.24 miles), 110 (.95 miles), 113 (1.46 miles), 123 (1.91 miles), 130 (.52 miles), 143 (1.56 miles), 149 (1.16 miles) and 152 (3.02 miles) and to pay the Town at price per mile \$25.00 the sum not to exceed \$4,598.50 on the aforementioned rights-of-way (10.82 total miles). Seconded by Councilman Gritsavage and

Adopted by a Vote of 4-Ayes: James Groff, Art Simmons, William Gritsavage and Darryl Roosa
0-Nays

ANIMAL CONTROL: Supervisor Groff mentioned that he wanted Mr. Duesler to contact the owner of the dog that had recently bitten Matthew Ginter's wife's hand and his dog who had to get stitches, while walking along the road. Because of this incident Supervisor Groff wants to make sure that the dog is tied up before the upcoming ½ Marathon race which will be held on May 19, 2019. This is because people in the Marathon will be on the road where the dog is harbored.

JUSTICE

MOTION: Councilman Gritsavage motioned to accept the Justice Report. There was a total of 35 cases handled and \$5,666.00 was collected in fines for the month. Seconded by Councilman Roosa and passed by, A Vote of 4-Ayes 0-Nays

ASSESSOR: Grievance Day is scheduled for Tuesday, May 28, 2019

ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS

The Zoning Board of Appeals meeting that is scheduled for May 22, 2019 is canceled due to no new business coming before the board.

PLANNING BOARD: The May 14, 2019 Planning Board meeting was cancelled, due to no new business coming before the board. The next scheduled meeting is June 11, 2019 at 7 p.m.

HISTORIAN: Historian Gail Cramer has provided the board members with the April 2019 Issue of the Northville Northampton Historical Society News Letter titled "Greengable Grill 1942-1951".

CEMETERIES: Cemeteries are now open.

Supervisor Groff mentioned again stated that he has spoken with Darby regarding getting the new cemetery vault and a start date of August 2019 was given to start the project. Matthew Ginter has the dimensions and location of the new vault and Ken Cramer will pour the foundation.

Councilman Simmons mentioned that Stu VanNostrand asked him to pass on to the Town Board members that he (Stu) can use some help up at the cemeteries and the truck is not work right again.

YOUTH & RECREATION: Councilman Gritsavage mentioned that the students at the High School worked up some designs to put on the youth commission trailer. It is really nice and they put a lot of time into it. I went over and so did Sue Sedon and we talked with the students and they will be putting it on the trailer. It will be good advertisement for the Village and the Town. There is a small cost to it and I don't recall the amount. Just for the materials, cutting the design and all the labor into the designing is done.

AMBULANCE: Councilman Simmons reported that they had a good meeting last night. There were a lot of good ideas tossed around.

Councilman Gritsavage mentioned that it was a little contentious and there are apparently a few factions within the ambulance corps. We discussed with them basically what we had said at one point that is not for the Town Board. What the Town Board is trying to do is to make sure that the ambulance continues as a viable entity.

Councilman Simmons mentioned that that there was a group of people he thinks that are ready to go with some part-time medics. There is another group of people that seems to be the majority that feel they should do more recruiting which they already have started to do and go with the part-time medics. After that meeting Councilman Gritsavage stated that he put together a list of questions that he feels should be submitted to the ambulance people. Who are the officers of the Northampton Ambulance Service, Inc. (NAS) and how are they selected? Who is in charge if Jack is not available? In the event Jack is not available, are there members of the NAS trained to handle the administrative tasks? (Drug inventories, training, radios, vehicle maintenance, schedules, record keeping, etc.) What provision have been made for the replacement of Jack in the event that he leaves and what is the procedure to put that in place? How much cash flow, whether by donation, the Town of Northampton budget, fund raiser, or otherwise, is needed to keep the NAS running? How much has the NAS taken in and paid out in 2016, 2017, and 2018? How many calls were received and how many of those calls did the ambulance answer in 2016, 2017, and 2018? What seems to be the problem in getting people to show up on calls? What

times during the day have the most responses from the BLS and ALS personnel and what times the least? What can be done to increase the responses? What can be done enhance recruiting? What are the downsides, if any, of going to a billing system?

I don't think that we are in any position at this time to hire anyone stated the Supervisor. I think that we will need answers to these questions and possibly other questions stated Councilman Gritsavage. The discussion ensued on recruiting.

MOTION: Councilman Roosa motioned to accept Lynn Jacquard as a new member on the Northampton Ambulance Service. Councilman Simmons seconded the motioned and passed by
A Vote of 4-Ayes 0-Nays

MOTION: Councilman Gritsavage motioned to accept Kimberly Sakadolsky as Secretary to the Northampton Ambulance Service. Councilman Roosa seconded the motioned and passed by
A Vote of 4-Ayes 0-Nays

REFUSE & GARBAGE: As of June 1st, the Northampton Transfer Station will begin its summer hours of operation. The hours for the station will be Monday, Tuesday and Friday – 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Saturday 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. until the Friday after Labor Day, September 6th.

Monday, May 27, 2019 is an official holiday, Memorial Day. The transfer station will be closed.

Hardfill Site: The hardfill site opened in April 2019 and has collected \$23.00 in fees for tires and there was a total of 47 vehicles come into to the site.

HAULING FEES: The month of May 2019 fees were as follows:

County Transfer	94.26 Ton @ \$53	\$4,995.78
Curbside Recycling	8.03 Ton @ \$20	\$ 160.60
Transfer Station Recycling	3.03 Ton @ \$10	\$ 30.30
Metal Hauling Fee	5.11 Ton @\$20	\$ 102.20
Electronics	0.82 Ton @ \$00	\$ 00.00
Total		\$5,288.88

SACANDAGA PARK WATER & SEWER

April 2019

Water:

-April-2018 usage – 730,000 gallons pumped

-April 2019 usage – 909,00 gallons pumped

Meters – were read

Repairs/Maintenance: Engineer completed GPS surveying of Osborne Road.

Wastewater:

-April-2018 - daily average flow 61,600 gallons

-April-2019- daily average flow 106,200 gallons

Repairs/Maintenance

- None to report

TOWN CLERK:

MOTION: Councilman Roosa motioned to approve the Town Clerk’s April 2019 monthly report as presented by the Town Clerk. Seconded by Councilman Gritsavage and passed by,

A Vote of 4-Ayes 0-Nays

05/01/2019

**Town Clerk Monthly Report
April 01, 2019 - April 30, 2019**

:

Account#	Account Description	Fee Description	Qty	Local Share
A1255	Conservation	Conservation	12	16.37
	Death Certificate	Death Certificate	20	200.00
	Marriage Certificate	Marriage Certificate	1	10.00
	Sub-Total:			\$226.37
A2130	Transfer Station	Transfer Station	102	1,020.00
			Sub-Total:	
A2544	Dog Licensing	Female, Spayed	1	7.00
		Female, Unspayed	1	13.00
		Male, Neutered	2	14.00
		Male, Unneutered	2	26.00
		Sub-Total:		
A2770	Minor Sales	Fax	10	10.00
		Photo Copy	41	10.25
		Sub-Total:		
B2115	Planning Application	Planning Application	1	40.00
			Sub-Total:	
B2555	Building Permits	Building Permits	10	1,047.50
			Sub-Total:	
Total Local Shares Remitted:				\$2,414.12
Amount paid to: NYS Ag. & Markets for spay/neuter program				12.00
Amount paid to: NYS Environmental Conservation				648.63
Total State, County & Local Revenues:		\$3,074.75	Total Non-Local Revenues:	
				\$660.63

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

SUPERVISOR: I am sure you read the newspaper on the eminent domain at the county meeting. There were six of us that voted no. I was against it since the first day that they talked about it. There was discussion on whether it would pass in court.

Discussions ensued on the development with Fulton County and Montgomery County that they did not want to continue with.

Supervisor Groff felt that they should be putting money into tourism and developing some of the properties along the lake. Get infrastructure where the building is going on stated Councilman Gritsavage. Discussion ensued on them building a water line from the city to the college. \$4M and over the life of the project it cost them \$10M. Nobody could hook on to it but the airport, BOCE, and the college. Nobody hooked on to it and there is no development out there approximately 20 years ago. Discussion ensued on the Adirondack Community College and how it's improved the area. Now we have a solar farm and looks awful and there is no development in the area. There was discussion on possibly putting water and sewer lines going north on State Highway 30 and how it would benefit the area growth. There is a lot going on up here.

NEW BUSINESS:

SWAP

MOTION: Councilman Gritsavage motioned to approve Supervisor James Groff writing a letter to NYS Legislators showing the Town of Northampton Town Boards Support for Bill S554/A424 to help pass the Safe Water Infrastructure Action Program (SWAP). Seconded by Councilman Roosa and passed by

A Vote of 4-Ayes 0-Nays

HARASSMENT PREVENTION POLICIES & PROCEDURES HANDBOOK

MOTION: Councilman Roosa motioned to adopt the Harassment Prevention Policies & Procedures Handbook as presented to the Town Board. Councilman Simmons seconded the motion and passed by,

A Vote of 4-Ayes 0-Nays

TOWN OF NORTHAMPTON 2019 INVESTMENT POLICY

MOTION: Councilman Simmons motioned to adopt the Town of Northampton 2019 Investment Policy as presented. Councilman Roosa seconded the motion and passed by,

A Vote of 4-Ayes 0-Nays

Councilman Simmons mentioned that he and the Supervisor had talked a few months ago about a looking into putting a sign to put out front of the town hall. They had met with a company from Amsterdam and the cost was \$23,000 and he (Simmons) was asked to look into this further. The sign at the Food and Fuel in Mayfield come from a company in Texas. I spoke with the owner of this company (Sure Fire Signs) and I asked him to send me information. To date I have not received anything and that was a month ago I spoke with him. I contacted two companies in Saratoga-Adirondack Neon Signs and Saratoga Sign Pros. Saratoga Sign Pros has sent information to him and whenever the Board is ready, they have a demo unit that fits on a trailer and they would come over show us. They have 30 different types of signs. Supervisor Groff mentioned that he personally would like to see something like what they have at the NCS. We don't need something big and bright and flashy.

The Town Clerk read a letter concerning the water/sewer billing that the Town Board has decided and expressed to me that, I would be happy with them hiring someone else to do the work, which I've been doing since I came on as Town Clerk of the Town of Northampton. I have been keeping two separate

programs updated – one with the current rate calculations for water/sewer billing and the other water/sewer program was supposed to be for billing with meter readings and usage fees which has needed a base rate per category (residential, seasonal, gas station, Business, etc.).

In the past an Engineering firm was hired by the Town Board to create calculations for water/sewer billing with a usage fee and the individual who was working for that firm on this project was unable to come up with a base rate and usage fee for the Town to move forward with a live billing.

The Town Board then was told several years ago that the Village Bookkeeper, Nate Matthews would work the numbers and figure out a rate as he had done with the Village water billing and go over them with the Supervisor. I have been waiting for these figures for years so we could test them in the water sewer meter reading program.

Hiring someone else to do the water/sewer billing was never discussed with me one on one in my office prior to being told and I was blindsided in an Executive Session of your intentions of replacing my duties as water/sewer billing clerk and then taking the action of replacing me. It came as a total surprise. You told me, that you assumed that I would be happy to turn the billing over to someone else so it would free up my time as a clerk.

Yvonne my Deputy and I have been training in the new program for the water/sewer billing because the old program is obsolete and they are no longer supporting that program and a new company has since taken over. The new program has been set up to do both types of billing (the current rate billing and the meter reading billing). Now, Yvonne and I have been told we didn't need to continue with the water/sewer billing because of your intention and that you were going to hire someone else to do the job. You told me you had two candidates at that time and then it changed to three candidates for this position. Did you advertise for this position? Did you interview anyone?

Telling Board members that I no longer wanted to do billing, was dishonest and completely unprofessional in blindsiding me without even discussing it with me first.

I never told the board you did not want to do this stated Supervisor Groff. Secondly, we didn't hire anybody that wasn't already an employee.

The next Town Board meeting will be held on Wednesday, June 19, 2019 at 7 p.m.

Adjourn: All Town Board members present were in favor of adjourning the meeting at 7:52 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Elaine Mihalik, Town Clerk