

**TOWN OF NORTHAMPTON
REGULAR MEETING
August 21, 2019**

The regular meeting of the Town of Northampton was held on Wednesday, August 21, 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, Ivar Anderson
and Art Simmons

RECORDING SECRETARY: Elaine Mihalik-Town Clerk

Other Town department representatives in attendance were:

Ken Cramer, Highway Superintendent
Nathanial Matthews-Bookkeeper
Town Attorney-Honorable Michael Albanese

ALSO PRESENT: Assemblyman Robert Smullen, Anthony Fancher, Charles Swatling, Jack Learch,
and Guy Poulin

MOTION: Councilman Anderson motioned to approve the July 17, 2019 Regular Town Board meeting minutes as presented by the Town Clerk. Seconded by Councilman Gritsavage and
Adopted by a vote of 5-Ayes: Groff, Gritsavage, Simmons, Anderson, and Roosa 0-Nays

Res. #2019-08: Resolution Authorizing Transfer of Funds within Accounts to meet certain contractual expenses for Accounts Payable from 2019 Budget Line Items
Councilman Roosa offered the following resolution and moved its adoption.
Councilman Anderson seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote

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

MOTION ON WARRANTS

Councilman Simmons approved paying the warrants, Seconded by Councilman Roosa and passed by, A Vote of 5-Ayes: Groff, Gritsavage, Simmons, Anderson, and Roosa

July 2019 Warrants

General Fund "A"	\$ 54,186.91
General Fund "B"	8,682.99
Highway	5,599.33
Sacandaga Lighting District	989.21
Sacandaga Sewer District	8,513.23
Sacandaga Water District	<u>40,171.97</u>
Total Warrants	\$118,143.64

Supervisor Groff opened for public comment at 7:02 p.m.

Assemblyman Robert J. Smullen introduced himself and noted that he represents the 118th Assembly District including the Town of Northampton. There are 51 Towns, 11 Cities and Villages within this District which goes up the Mohawk Valley and up through the Adirondacks with approximately 130,000 people. Assemblyman Smullen mentioned that he replaced Assemblyman Mark Butler and that he is going out to Town, City and Village Board meetings all across the district for the next several months. He wants to better understand each municipality, to get to know their fiscal problems, if anything can be done at the state level and he is here to pick up any constituent concerns that he can help with. He mentioned that he would remain after this meeting should anyone like to get an update or have any concerns, that they would like to talk over with him.

Chuck Swatling noted that there has been changes on Lisa Drive and he has spoken with the previous CEO regarding his concerns on Lisa Drive. Mr. Swatling is trying to find out if the resident's there need to do something on their own regarding their concerns by getting an attorney or if the Town Board has any suggestions. There has been a lot of clear cut in their area on Lisa Drive. Recently a lot of logs were left along the side of the road and Lisa Drive was blocked for a matter of time and cars were diverted through mud around the logs. It has since been cleared up after a complaint was made. Trees were topped close to my land and that the debris has turned from green to brown. It is still laying there right on my property line and I am concerned with my property insurance and at the same time it is creating a fire hazard. I have seen fox and critters around that are not normally there. I'm concerned for the pets in our neighborhood. It doesn't look like a healthy situation. I have spoken with the owner and it has been two months now and nothing is being done to address these issues. I would like to know where the actual zoning line (the Hamlet vs the Village line is). I am being told that this owner wants to move in single wide trailers which is illegal. I know he can use the foundation but not the building. The owner has also spoke of making three plots and building a lot more houses. I don't know exactly what he wants to do. He even said to the neighbors without asking us that he wanted to change Lisa Drive. He wanted to put another road in on his property for us to use which would be close to my bedroom window and at the same time put a steeper hill in. Lisa Drive is a taxed road. Mr. Swatling stated that he was told that a taxed road cannot be changed. If a new road goes in it would have to meet the Town of Northampton highway specifications. I don't want a steeper hill on Lisa Drive. It is hard enough in the winter we now have to pay somebody to plow because the town can't turn the plow around. Mr. Swatling mentioned that he has plowed Lisa Drive for 17 years and that he would like to know, is it our responsibility or does the town have any jurisdiction?

What does your deed read as far as the road asked Supervisor Groff?

The road is a taxed road responded Mr. Swatling. What he was told by the previous CEO it is a deeded road and it cannot be moved.

Do you have a homeowner association?

Response: No, we do not.

When you say deeded road, is it deeded to the town asked Councilman Gritsavage.

Supervisor Groff stated that he knows that that road is not a town road.

Mr. Leach mentioned that they have a deeded right to use Lisa Drive.

I would assume that you would have to get an attorney to change the road. I don't believe you can lose the right-of-way because it is deeded to you.

Supervisor Groff asked, do you know what his intentions are with the logs that were left there? I don't know what the town can do, but I can try and speak with this owner and ask him what his intentions are.

Mr. Swatling wanted to address to the Town Board about approximately 100 feet from his house there were three bee hives set up. I was told that at one time he was planning to sell the honey. You can not run a business there stated Mr. Swatling, it is in the law. You can have an office for personal use but not a business office with people coming in and out on the road. We tried setting out on our deck and we were getting stung. I would like to bring to the Town Board attention to maybe review any of your laws on how owners in a populated area and see if there is a need for an ordinance on whether someone can or cannot start a bee hive and how close. Since then some of the bees have died but he has left the one bee hive there and I don't know if he plans on doing anything with that. We don't want hives that are near people's houses because there are people that are allergic to bees.

The Planning Board is currently doing a re-evaluation of the comprehensive plan stated Supervisor Groff and I do not know if there are any regulations on bee hives. Discussion ensued.

Mr. Swatling mentioned that he is trying to recruit anyone that would be interested in becoming an Instructor for NYS DEC Sportsman Education Program. Both he and Mr. Herdman will soon be retiring and if you know of anybody or have any suggestion please let him know. Instructors are needed to continue on with the program to teach Hunter Ed; Bowhunter Ed; Trapper Ed and Waterfowl Hunter Ed. It is a service to the community and if we let it die it will not start up again. Qualification – Be at least 18 years of age; be of good moral character; have good communication skills; hunting experience preferred, but not required. Requirements – Completion of instructor training and apprenticeship; teach at least one course per year and attend a refresher course every two years.

Mr. Leach stated that he has let it be known with the local building inspector. He is a retired architectural hardware consultant by trade. I have been learning the specifications for architects for buildings the past 56 years and I have knowledge of the construction and building industry, I have offered my services to the CEO if he runs across a problem and need clarification I am willing to assist him.

COMMUNICATIONS

- Monthly Transfers for Abstract of Audited vouchers
- Monthly Report of Revenues & Expenditures
- Charter Communication – Upcoming changes
- Newslines August 2019 issue
- Battery Energy Storage System – Workshop Thursday, August 22, 2019 Clifton Park-Halfmoon Public Library 5:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.
- NYMIR Discrimination & Harassment Complaint/Investigation Process Train-The-Trainer Seminar September 11, 2019

CODE ENFORCEMENT:

MOTION: Councilman Roosa motioned to accept the Code Enforcement Report as presented. Seconded by Councilman Gritsavage and passed by,

A Vote of 5-Ayes Groff, Gritsavage, Anderson, Roosa and Simmons

0-Nays

Councilman Gritsavage mentioned the Supervisor had chosen him as representative of the Town Board to meet with Mayor Spaeth as representative of the Village Board. Both he (Gritsavage) and the Mayor met and reviewed all of the CEO resumes for the Village along with the Town. They conducted three interviews and decided that Anthony was our best choice.

HIGHWAY: The Osborne Road bids were opened previously, reviewed, references were checked and then making sure everyone is bonded. Attorney Michael Albanese and Travis Mitchell both reviewed all bids received and recommended the bid in the amount of \$122,514.93 submitted by BEB Drilling, LLC-7235 Mutton Rd, Auburn, NY 13021.

MOTION: Councilman Simmons motioned to accept the bid received in the amount of \$122,514.93 submitted by BEB Drilling, LLC-7235 Mutton Rd, Auburn, NY 13021. Councilman Anderson seconded the motion and passed by,

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

Highway Report

Roads

- Completed paving on 2.0 miles (approximately ½ way point) on Bunker Hill Road.
- Next week he will be getting the shoulder machine from Mayfield and hopefully get the shoulders down.

Completed first full round of mowing on all county and town roads

Repairs/Maintenance

- New tires installed on Cat 938G
- Service completed on Ford 3930 Tractor
- New water pump installed on Case 580M Backhoe.

New Business: Still need to address the highway budget shortfall

JUSTICE

MOTION: Councilman Anderson motioned to accept the Justice Report. There was a total of 33 cases handled and \$4,150.00 was collected in fines for the month. Seconded by Councilman Gritsavage and passed by,

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

ANIMAL CONTROL: The Town received a Municipal Shelter Inspection Report completed on 8/5/2019 and a Dog Control Officer Inspection Report completed on 8/5/2019 from NYS Department of Agriculture and Markets.

ELECTION: Changes for the previous deadline for submitting proposals, propositions or referendums to appear on the General Election Ballot. The deadline is now 3 months before the General Election.

CEMETERIES: Supervisor reported that he has spoken with Darby and he's coming next month (September) to start the work on the cemetery vault. Ken Cramer and the Supervisor have gone to the Prospect Cemetery to mark where the proposed new cemetery vault is to be built.

Councilman Gritsavage motioned to accept the Ambulance report. Seconded by Councilman Simmons and passed by

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

OLD AMBULANCE

Discussion: The last bid the Town Board declined in the amount of \$7,100.00 for the bid received for the 2006 Ford Ambulance thru Auction International on the old ambulance.

If the Town Board declines the current bid for \$5,900.00 the client has the option to make a counter offer stated Supervisor Groff. Councilman Simmons felt we should take the \$5,900.00.

MOTION: Councilman Anderson motioned to decline the current bid received in the amount \$5,900.00 for the 2006 Ford Ambulance that was placed on Auction International. Councilman Gritsavage seconded the motion and passed by,

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

MOTION: Councilman Anderson motioned to authorize that the Town of Northampton Board will authorize to accept for 2006 Ford Ambulance the amount \$7,100.00 on Auction International Councilman Gritsavage seconded the motion and passed by,

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

Discussion: If the client does not accept the offer of \$7,100.00 what do we want to do asked Supervisor Groff. I would check with one or two of these other companies. Councilman Simmons mentioned that in the previous minutes it was mentioned that Gloversville was interested in it. Supervisor Groff stated that they never had gotten back with him. The Supervisor mentioned that there were two entities that were interested in the ambulance and they were hoping that the Town would sell it to them for a dollar. There was talk that they would use it as a Hazardous vehicle. The board decided to wait another month if the counter bid did not work out.

REFUSE & GARBAGE:

- September 6th will be the last Friday of the summer schedule. Winter hours for the station will take effect September 7th and run through May 31st, 2020.
Monday & Tuesday 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. Saturday 8:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
- Monday, September 2, 2019, Labor Day, is an official holiday; the transfer station will be **closed**.

HIGHWAY:

Roads

- Completed laying shoulders on newly paved 2 miles of Bunker Hill Road
- Replaced all old road signs with new signs that meet NYS regulations on the mile stretch of newly paved Bunker Hill Road
- Completed 2nd round of roadside mowing on all town and county roads.
- Continuing to cut roadside brush.

Repairs/Maintenance

- New tires installed on 2015 F350
- Repairs made to Cat Loader (3 new universals/brackets and foot throttle assembly)

- Repairs to 2005 garbage packer (new hub assembly/2 new wheels)

New Business

- Still need to address the highway budget shortfall.

Hardfill Site: The hardfill site has collected \$ 22.50 in fees for tires and there was a total of 78 vehicles come into to the site.

Due to the death of our Hardfill site attendant Ed (Sonny) Morgan, we will have to advertise for the vacancy for that position.

YOUTH/REC: The Summer Program is over. The beach was inspected by the State and passed with flying colors. We received a very good report from the Saratoga County Youth Bureau because they monitor us because they send some of their people over here. Great overall facility-excellent.

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

County Transfer	144.62 Ton @ \$53	\$7,664.86
Curbside Recycling	11.25 Ton @ \$20	\$ 225.00
Transfer Station Recycling	6.22 Ton @ \$10	\$ 62.20
Metal Hauling Fee	3.36 Ton @ \$20	\$ 67.20
Electronics	2.04 Ton @ \$00	<u>\$ 00.00</u>
Total		\$8,019.26

SACANDAGA PARK WATER & SEWER:

Water

-July 2018 usage 1,626,000 gallons pumped

-July 2019 usage 1,756,000 gallons pumped

Meters

-Have completed meter readings.

Repairs/Maintenance

-Osborne Road water line project awarded to BEB Drilling.

-Awaiting on contract approvals.

Wastewater

-July 2018 daily average flow 11,400 gallons

-July 2019 daily average flow 15,100 gallons

Repairs/Maintenance

-Removed 6 loads sludge from Imhoff tank.

-Adirondack septic performed power jetting and camera service on sewer main on McKinley extension.

Res. #2019-10: Resolution #10 of 2019 – Permissive Referendum re Use of Reserve Funds for Water Line Upgrade/Replacement.

Councilman Anderson offered the following resolution and moved its adoption.

Councilman Simmons seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote

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

NYMIR is probably one of the best things that the Town has gotten stated Supervisor Groff. They have an excellence insurance program.

MOTION: Councilman Anderson motioned to accept the Insurance Proposal as presented from NBT Insurance Agency LLC - Effective: 9/01/2019-9/01/2020. Councilman Roosa seconded the motion and passed by,

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

OLD BUSINESS:

You talked earlier about the Northampton Ambulance Service went on a couple of calls to Gloversville asked Councilman Simmons.

It is the same situation it was mutual aid call responded Supervisor Groff.

I (Simmons) understand going to a lot of their meetings and doing research, I understand Hope and Wells.

But going to Gloversville surprises me.

Mutual Aid in Fulton County has been covering us stated Councilman Gritsavage. They needed help.

My concern is while we are down in Gloversville, we do not have someone here explained Councilman Simmons.

Discuss ensued.

The next Town Board meeting will be held on Wednesday, September 21, 2019 at 7 p.m.

Executive Session

MOTION: Councilman Anderson motioned to enter into Executive Session to discuss personnel at 7:57 p.m. Seconded by Councilman Gritsavage and passed by

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

MOTION: Councilman Gritsavage motioned to exit the Executive Session with no action taken at 8:10 p.m. Seconded by Councilman Roosa and passed by,

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

CODE ENFORCEMENT OFFICER

MOTION: Councilman Gritsavage motioned to appoint Anthony Fancher pending his qualifying for the required training for the position as Town of Northampton Code Enforcement Officer. Seconded by Councilman Roosa and passed by,

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

Adjourn: With no further business coming before the board, Councilman Roosa motioned to adjourn the meeting at 8:11 p.m. Councilman Gritsavage seconded the motion and passed by,

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

Respectfully submitted,

Elaine Mihalik, Town Clerk