

TOWN OF NORTHAMPTON
REGULAR MEETING & Public Hearing
September 25, 2019

The regular meeting and Public Hearing for Local Law #01 of 2019 of the Town of Northampton scheduled for September 18, 2019 was cancelled. The regular meeting and Public Hearing was rescheduled for Wednesday, September 25, 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 and asked everyone to remain standing in silence in memory due to the death of Councilman Ivar Anderson and his daughter Tracy Anderson.

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

RECORDING SECRETARY: Elaine Mihalik-Town Clerk

Other Town department representatives in attendance were:

Ken Cramer, Highway Superintendent
Nathanial Matthews-Bookkeeper entered 7:06 p.m.
Anthony Fancher-CEO
Town Attorney-Honorable Michael Albanese

ALSO PRESENT: Michael Warner, Guy Poulin, Colleen Cordone, Aaron Frasier, Jennifer Sawyer, Amy Frasier, Melissa Ellsworth
Boy Scouts-Andrew Cordone, T.J. Payne, Landon Frasier, Evan Mutz, and Lorenzo Castellucchio

Supervisor Groff opened Public Hearing at 7:01 p.m. for Local Law #01-2019: A local law authorizing a property tax levy in excess of the limit established General Municipal Law §3-c.

Guy Poulin noted that there was money in the Highway Department when Carol was the Bookkeeper and now all of a sudden there is no money in the Highway Department. There was money in there that was suppose to go for guard rails on Old State Road. What is the money going to be used for if the Town is going to override the Tax Cap?

Supervisor Groff explained that this is a stop gap measure that we have to do in case we have to over ride the 2% Tax Cap. It does not mean that we are going to but if we have to. We have to pass this resolution before we can do it. It has to be passed by this date.

There was no money in the Highway Department when I took over stated Supervisor Groff. Whatever the Board did with the money before I became Supervisor, I don't know what you did with it.

When you took over as Supervisor you (Groff) promised that you would not raise taxes stated Guy Poulin. The first year it was 23.1 and it is going up every year since.

Supervisor Groff responded saying that in 1999 the tax rate was \$1.39 per thousand. Then in 2006 when the Town Board did a re-assessment for the budget and the Board came up with a tax rate of \$0.99 to cover the raise in the assessments. The Board voted down to raise the assessment at that time and the tax rate was left at \$0.99 which spent all the money that was in the Budget. The Board either lowered the Tax Rate or kept them the same. Wages have gone up, insurance has gone up, tell me what hasn't gone

up. We had a budget without enough money in it. We have to have money in order to operate the Town stated Supervisor Groff. We are not even back to the level that the Town was at back in 1999 (\$1.39). Nobody wants to raise taxes but at a \$1.39 for a \$100,000 home, it's \$139.00, that is not a lot of taxes explained Supervisor Groff. The town taxes are not that high, it is what the State puts on your Town bill and your School Taxes that are the high taxes. We have done everything that we can to keep the taxes low as we can. Discussion ensued on the cost of road salt and if the people want them to cut back on services such as salting the roads or plowing.

MOTION: Councilman Gritsavage motioned to approve the August 21, 2019 Regular Town Board meeting minutes as presented by the Town Clerk. Seconded by Councilman Simmons and Adopted by a vote of 4-Ayes: Groff, Gritsavage, Simmons, and Roosa 0-Nays

MOTION ON WARRANTS

Councilman Roosa approved paying the warrants, Seconded by Councilman Gritsavage and passed by, A Vote of 4-Ayes: Groff, Gritsavage, Simmons, and Roosa

<u>August 2019 Warrants</u>	
General Fund "A"	\$ 14,823.49
General Fund "B"	24,130.61
Highway	2,632.39
Sacandaga Lighting District	1,036.84
Sacandaga Sewer District	4,836.85
Sacandaga Water District	<u>4,977.19</u>
Total Warrants	\$ 52,437.37

Supervisor Groff opened the floor for Public Comment at 7:08 p.m. Hearing no one he continued on with the meeting.

COMMUNICATIONS

- Monthly Transfers for Abstract of Audited vouchers
- Monthly Report of Revenues & Expenditures
- Charter Communication – Upcoming changes
- Newline 2019 issue
- Joey Spano re: Potential Transitions Internship
- NY Rural Water Association Upcoming Events
- Local Government Innovation Conference at the Empire State Plaza in Albany – October 17th – 18th
- 2020 Agreement between the Town of Northampton and the Adirondack Park Local Government Review Board

MOTION: Councilman Gritsavage motioned to approve the Supervisor signing the 2020 Agreement between the Town of Northampton and the Adirondack Park Local Government Review Board. Councilman Roosa seconded the motion and passed by A Vote of 4-Ayes: Gritsavage, Roosa, Groff, and Simmons 0-Nays

- ADKAction – re: recognizing the Town of Northampton with a certificate at the upcoming Adirondack Champlain Regional Salt Summit at the Golden Arrow Lakeside Resort in Lake Placid on Thursday – 10/03/2019
- Supervisor Sign – MOU Pledge to Reduce Road Salt and letter addressed to NYS DOT Commissioner Marie Dominquez. After discussion, the Town Board has decided to table this until the next regular Town Board

Art Simmons
Vacancy

Aye

Darryl Roosa

Aye

HIGHWAY: Mr. Cramer gave an update on the Osborne Road project: The drilling is complete and they pulled the pipes. Everything is in the ground other than the laterals to the houses. Everything is going well and on schedule. Hopefully within a couple of weeks they will wrap it up in time for him to get the road paved.

Mr. Cramer inquired about the old Ford Ambulance and the two trailers one at the ambulance building parking lot and the trailer here in the Town hall parking lot asking if he can move them over to the Town/Village (old Delia) Property on State Highway 30 to be stored. He just does not want to be blocked when plowing the driveways. The Board approved Mr. Cramer moving the two trailers and the old ambulance they are waiting hear back on conformation from Auction International of it being sold.

Highway Report

Roads

- Completed final roadside mowing.
- Continuing cutting roadside brush and bucket truck limbing.
- Mow cemeteries and park.
- Prepared pad at the Prospect Hill Cemetery for new vault.

Repairs/Maintenance

- Serviced 2015 Ford F350 pickup oil and filter.
- New idler pully and serpentine belt installed on cemetery truck.
- Replaced blown radiator hose on 2005 packer.

New Business: Still need to address the highway budget shortfall

Update on the garbage truck. They are still waiting on that and the last he had heard that the box is in transit and is supposed to be here sometime in October. We're hoping to have it together and ready and on the road by November.

JUSTICE

MOTION: Councilman Gritsavage motioned to accept the Justice Report. There was a total of 43 cases handled and \$4,762.00 was collected in fines for the month. Seconded by Councilman Roosa and passed by,

A Vote of 4-Ayes Groff, Gritsavage, Roosa, and Simmons

0-Nays

ANIMAL CONTROL: Supervisor received any animal control report and everything is satisfactory.

CEMETERIES: Supervisor reported Darby is supposedly coming next month (September) to start the work on the cemetery vault. Ken Cramer has put in the footings and prepared the pad for the new vault. Supervisor Groff has reported that there was a problem with parking at the soccer field up in the Prospect Hill Cemetery. Mr. Cramer had Darby look at what he had prepared for the new vault and Darby was satisfied with what he had done and that was the last that he had heard from Darby.

Supervisor Groff noted that there was a problem with the parking at the first Soccer Game. He had spoken with the NCS and told them that they needed to rectify the parking.

ASSESSOR: Councilman Roosa motioned to re-appoint Norman Richardson as member on the Town of Northampton Board of Assessment Review (BAR) term October 1, 2019 to September 30, 2024.

Seconded by Councilman Gritsavage and passed by,

A Vote of 4-Ayes: Groff, Roosa, Gritsavage, and Simmons 0-Nays

ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS

The Zoning Board of Appeals Public Hearing is scheduled for October 23, 2019 at 7 p.m.

PLANNING BOARD

The next scheduled Planning Board meeting is Tuesday, October 8, 2019 at 7 p.m.

HISTORIAN: Historian Gail Cramer has provided the board members with the August 2019 Issue of the Northville Northampton Historical Society News Letter titled “MURDER”.

AMBULANCE: The Northampton Ambulance held their regularly scheduled meeting on September 10, 2019. Calls responded to in August are as follows: Town of Northampton 9, Village of Northville 5, and 4 in the Town of Hope.

Councilman Gritsavage updated the Board that Ron Graner Public Safety Consultant for Consulting Services for a Comprehensive Review of Emergency Medical Services and Capabilities of the Northampton Ambulance Service for the Town of Northampton, NY has completed and has submitted to him the draft study report on the Town of Northampton Ambulance Service. Copies were given to the Supervisor, the Ambulance Chief, and the Ambulance Deputy Chief. Mr. Graner is giving us two weeks to determine whether or not we had any objects or if we suggest any changes. I see none but I will wait until I hear from everybody else stated Councilman Gritsavage. Councilman Simmons would also like a copy of the draft report, he is on the Ambulance Committee.

Supervisor Groff explained the reason for the board to move ahead with a study is because of what has happened at the County level and not being sure of even having an ambulance service. The Town has hired Mr. Graner who has done this type studies in the past. To evaluate our ambulance service to see where we need to be. I do not know where the County is going yet. They still have not applied for a Certificate of Need for the County. Some of us feel that they should. GAVAC is still handling the majority of the calls. GAVAC and Fulton County are contracting with Empire who does not have ALS. They do BLS. I'm hoping that the County comes up with some type of supplement plan, they are still talking about it.

2006 AMBULANCE

MOTION: Councilman Gritsavage motioned to accept the Auction International counter offer in the amount of \$6,400.00 for the Town of Northampton 2006 Ford Ambulance. Seconded by Councilman Simmons and passed by,

A Vote of 4-Ayes Groff, Gritsavage, Roosa, and Simmons 0-Nays

REFUSE & GARBAGE:

- Monday, October 14, 2019 is an official holiday, Columbus Day. The transfer station will be closed.

HARDFILL SITE: It was advertised in the Leader-Herald the official newspaper of general circulation in the Town of Northampton for applications for a Hardfill Site Attendant. The Town only received one letter of interest for the vacancy for the Hardfill Site Attendant which was from John C. Luckey.

MOTION: Councilman Gritsavage motioned to accept John C. Luckey to fill the position as the Town of Northampton Hardfill Site Attendant. Seconded by Councilman Roosa and passed by,
 A Vote of 4-Ayes: Gritsavage, Groff, Roosa and Simmons 0-Nays

YOUTH/REC: The Summer Program is over.

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

County Transfer	97.91 Ton @ \$53	\$5,189.23
Curbside Recycling	9.10 Ton @ \$20	\$ 182.00
Transfer Station Recycling	6.79 Ton @ \$10	\$ 67.90
Metal Hauling Fee	3.52 Ton @ \$20	\$ 70.40
Electronics	1.10 Ton @ \$00	<u>\$ 00.00</u>
Total		\$5,509.53

SACANDAGA PARK WATER & SEWER:

Water

-August 2018 usage 1,237,000 gallons pumped

-August 2019 usage 1,541,000 gallons pumped

Meters

-No report.

Repairs/Maintenance

-Met with BEB Drilling to discuss water line project on Osborne Road.

Wastewater

-August 2018 daily average flow 12,000 gallons

-August 2019 daily average flow 12,900 gallons

Repairs/Maintenance

-Had emergency sewer line jetting and camera work on Roosevelt Terrace.

-Replaced airline bubbler on flow meter at sewer plant.

TOWN CLERK:

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

A Vote of 4-Ayes: Groff, Roosa, Simmons, and Gritsavage 0-Nays

09/01/2019

**Town Clerk Monthly Report
 August 01, 2019 - August 31, 2019**

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Account#	Account Description	Fee Description	Qty	Local Share
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A1255	Conservation	Conservation	63	98.31
	Death Certificate	Death Certificate	22	220.00
	Marriage Certificate	Marriage Certificate	2	20.00
	Town Clerk Fees	Marriage License	2	25.00
		Sub-Total:		\$363.31
A2130	Hardfill Site	Hardfill Site	1	22.50
	Transfer Station	Transfer Station	39	390.00
		Sub-Total:		\$412.50
A2544	Dog Licensing	Female, Spayed	4	28.00
		Male, Neutered	3	21.00
		Sub-Total:		\$49.00
A2770	Minor Sales	Fax	1	1.00
	Photo Copy	Photo Copy	34	8.50
		Sub-Total:		\$9.50
B2555	Building Permits	Building Permits	5	285.00
		Sub-Total:		\$285.00
		Total Local Shares Remitted:		\$1,119.31
Amount paid to:	New York State DOH for Marriage Licenses			45.00
Amount paid to:	NYS Ag. & Markets for spay/neuter program			7.00
Amount paid to:	NYS Environmental Conservation			1,684.69
Total State, County & Local Revenues:	\$2,856.00	Total Non-Local Revenues:		\$1,736.69

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: Supervisor Groff noted that they are still working on the Capital Project to do the study on running the sewer line up here. It still has to go thru one more level at the county level with entire board. We're hoping it will pass.

Local Law #01 of 2019: A local law authorizing a property tax levy in excess of the limit established in General Municipal Law §3-c.

Having no further comment on Local Law #01-2019, a motion was made as follows:

MOTION Closing Public Hearing: Councilman Gritsavage motioned to close the Public Hearing Comment Session on Local Law #01 of 2019: A local law authorizing a property tax levy in excess of the limit established in General Municipal Law §3-c. at 7:28 p.m. Councilman Simmons seconded the motioned and passed by,

A Vote of 4-Gritsavage, Simmons, Groff and Roosa 0-Nays

Res. #2019-11: Resolution Adopting Local Law No. 1 of the Year 2019 entitled “Town of Northampton, County of Fulton – A Local Law authorizing a property tax levy in excess of the limit established in General Municipal Law §3-c”.

MOTION: Councilman Gritsavage offered the following Resolution and voted its adoption.

WHEREAS, effective in 2014, local governments are subject to a tax levy limitation as a result of the New York State Property Tax Cap Legislation set forth in General Municipal Law Article 2, §3-c; and WHEREAS, there is a provision within the legislation that requires the Town to pass a local law that states that it wishes to override said tax cap limit if the tax levy limit established by this preliminary budget will exceed the tax cap limit; and

WHEREAS, ¶5 of Law §3-c of Article 2 of the General Municipal Law reads in full:

“A local government may adopt a budget that requires a tax levy that is greater than the tax levy limit for the coming fiscal year, not including any levy necessary to support the expenditures pursuant to subparagraphs (i) through (iv) of paragraph g of subdivision two of this section only if the governing body of such local government first enacts, by a vote of sixty percent of the total voting power of such body, a local law to override such limit for such coming fiscal year only, or in the case of a district or fire district, a resolution, approved by a vote of sixty percent of the total voting power of such body, to override such limit for such coming fiscal year only.”, and

WHEREAS, The Town Board of the Town of Northampton hereby held a public hearing on the 25th day of September, 2019 at 7:00 p.m. at the Town of Northampton Municipal Building, 412 S. Main Street, Northville, NY to adopt a local law overriding said tax cap limit, at which time all persons desiring to be heard were heard; and

WHEREAS, in excess of sixty percent of the total voting power of the Town Board has approved adoption of a budget that requires a tax levy that is greater than the tax levy limit for the Tax year 2020;
NOW THEREFORE BE IT

RESOLVED, the Town Board does hereby enact Local Law No. 1 of 2019; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that the Town Clerk has properly published notice of said hearing in the Leader Herald and other copies of such notice in the manner provided by law; and be it further

RESOLVED, attached hereto and made a part hereof, shall take effect immediately upon filing in the office of the Secretary of State and that a copy of this resolution become a permanent record of the minutes of the Town Clerk.

Seconded by Roosa and adopted by the following Roll Call Vote:

A Roll Call Vote

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

A 2020 Tentative Budget Work Session will be held on Wednesday, October 2, 2019 at 6:30 p.m.

The next Town Board meeting will be held on Wednesday, October 16, 2019 at 7 p.m.

Colleen Cordone asked when she should expect to received a water bill based on a meter reading. We are shooting for January responded Supervisor Groff.

