

**TOWN OF NORTHAMPTON  
REGULAR MEETING**

**September 16, 2020**

The regular meeting was held on Wednesday, September 16, 2020. 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, Molly Zullo and William Gritsavage  
Art Simmons – Absent

**RECORDING SECRETARY:** Elaine Mihalik-Town Clerk

**Other Town department representatives in attendance were:**

Nathanial Matthews-Bookkeeper, Ken Cramer-Highway Superintendent and Water/Sewer Maintenance Operator, and Honorably Michael Albanese

**Also present:** Michael Warner, Colleen Cordone, Howard Aison and Susan Schmidt

**MOTION:** Councilman Roosa motioned to approve the August 19, 2020 Regular Town Board meeting and Public Hearing for LL No. 01 of the year 2020 minutes with correction of delineating Councilwoman Molly Zullo from the Executive Session as she recused herself and was not as present in the Executive Session. Seconded by Councilman Gritsavage and  
Adopted by a vote of 4-Ayes: Groff, Gritsavage, Roosa, and Zullo  
0-Nays  
0-Abstain

**Res. #2020-11: Resolution Authorizing Transfer of Funds**

Councilman Gritsavage offered the following resolution and moved its adoption  
Councilwoman Zullo seconded the motion.

\$1,500

From: DB9950.9 – Highway Interfund Transfer – Machinery Reserve

To: DB5132.2 – Highway – Snow Equipment

\$1,500

From: SS8120.1 – Sewer Collect – Pers. Services

To: SS8110.0 – Sewer Admin – Pers. Services

**ROLL CALL VOTE:**

Supervisor Groff	Aye	Darryl Roosa	Aye
William Gritsavage	Aye	Molly Zullo	Aye
Art Simmons	Absent		

**MOTION ON WARRANTS**

Councilman Gritsavage approved paying the August 2020 warrants as presented, Seconded by Councilwoman Zullo and passed by, A Vote of 4-Ayes: Groff, Gritsavage, Roosa, and Zullo  
0-Nays  
0-Abstain

	<u>September 2020 Warrants</u>
General Fund "A"	\$ 46,254.90
General Fund "B"	7,328.66
Highway	33,277.35
Sacandaga Lighting District	978.48
Sacandaga Sewer District	9,064.84
Sacandaga Water District	<u>11,757.78</u>
Total Warrants	\$108,662.01

**Supervisor opened the floor to public comment**

Howard Aison: Lincoln Avenue is paved. Does the Town have an easement or right-of-way with that paved portion? The southern line of that paved portion is an area no one seems to know. I don't know if it is the southern side or if you claim the additional 2 feet. If it is not paved does it belong to the town?

It is 2 feet that we have to maintain for run off explained Supervisor Groff. 2 feet from the pavement correct Ken?

Ken Cramer responded, yes.

Howard Aison: So, the southern boundary of the Golf Course is the town not claiming ownership or interest in that piece of property?

Supervisor Groff: We don't have any proof that we do.

Howard Aison: The town is not claiming any interest of that property?

Where are you going with this Mr. Aison asked Supervisor Groff?

That property is owned by someone stated Mr. Aison. If the town is not claiming ownership there is somebody who owns that property.

Ken Cramer: It is not a legal right-of-way distance stated and everything I have looked up there is nothing stated. Everybody goes by 3 rods. But that is not guaranteed. If there's a ditch line, we have the right to maintain to the ditch line but there is not ditch line. I can't say we can take 50 feet of the road, 25 feet on either side. I would be right up on people's camp porches.

Susan Schmidt: We've had a lot of conversations and I understand exactly where you are coming from. We just want to confirm what you found, that there is no specific ownership by the town beyond the edge of the road to your knowledge?

Howard Aison: the edge of the road plus 2 additional feet. It is past that 2 additional feet of the golf course that the town is not making any claims to the property?

Ken Cramer: I don't think that anyone has ever done the research to find out who does own that as far as the town knows.

Howard Aison: We don't want to take any action and claim town property if it's not town property.

Supervisor Groff: I don't believe it is. Per our conversation at our last meeting with you we think that maybe because Willem Monster bought all the railroad property that was left. Somehow he may own that piece of property. We don't know for sure. I haven't been able to catch up with Mr. Monster to talk with him.

We do not want to do anything to interfere with the town stated Mr. Aison if the town has a claim to that property. Also, has any paperwork document been delivered to the town concerning the golf course to date?

Response: Our attorney has concerning the berm. I've had a couple of phone calls stated the Supervisor.

Susan Schmidt: It is my understanding from Mr. Aison's response that you made a ruling to remove the wall back from the 2 foot. What causes him to know that that has to happen and what is the follow up with that, is there a date?

Response: He has contested it.

Can we get a copy asked Susan Schmidt?

Everyone present was in agreement with filing a F.O.I.L. for any documents requested.

## COMMUNICATIONS

- Monthly Transfers for Abstract of Audited vouchers
- Monthly Report of Revenues & Expenditures
- NYMIR Annual 2019 Report

**CODE ENFORCEMENT:** Building permits issued were as follows:

\*August 2020 - 8 permits that were issued during the month of August: Porch Renovation over \$2500 and Deck; #051-19 2-Car detached garage renewal; #051-13 Renewal Single family home; a Drilled Well; a Single Family Home; a Single Family Res. Renewal fee; extend an existing porch and a new well. \$1,102.50 was collected in fees.

**MOTION:** Councilman Roosa motioned to accept the Code Enforcement August 2020 report. Seconded by Councilman Gritsavage and passed by a

Vote of 4-Ayes: Gritsavage, Zullo, Roosa and Groff

0-Nays

0-Abstain

## ANIMAL CONTROL

The Town has received a Dog Control Officer Inspection Report and a Municipal Shelter Inspection Report from New York State Agriculture and Markets.

## HIGHWAY

July 2020 Report

- Completed paving and laying shoulders on Smith Beach Road.
- Cutting roadside brush
- Paving for Edinburg, Hope, Village, and Providence.
- Moving Main Street Cemetery, County Route 113 Cemetery, and the two Cemeteries in Gifford Valley.

- Completed month long rental of roadside mower and completed mowing.

#### Repairs/Maintenance

- Repairs to Truck #2 - 2013 International Dump.
- New brake drum and hub assembly on rear driver side drive axle.
- Two new rear drive tires replaced due to one blow out and a bolt through the second tire.

#### New Business:

- Received quotes for paving Skiff Road, Old Fish House Road, and Ryder Road.
- Ordered plow and sander for new pickup.
- Working on final stage of FEMA reimbursements for 2019 Halloween storm. Ken Cramer reported that the paving is complete on Skiff Road, Old Fish House Road and Ryder Road.

#### August 2020 Report

- Prepared Skiff Road, Ryder Road and Old Fish House Road for re-pavement.
- Cutting roadside brush on Elmer Brown Road.
- Finished second round of roadside mowing on all town and county roads.
- Received the awarded OGS salt contract. Regular road salt-\$62.98 per ton. Same price as 2019. Discussion: This is ridiculous compared to Saratoga County paying approximately \$51 a ton while we are paying \$62.98 per ton. Ken explained to go with Saratoga County it has to go through Mark Yost, County Highway Superintendent. You can piggy back for a truck, equipment for paving or anything but you can't piggy back for road salt? I am not sure he is looking far enough into it. I have to give Mr. Yost my figures in June into July as to how much salt I believe that we are going to use in the Town of Northampton. It's a roll of the dice as what we are going to be using and then you have to use a percentage of that. If I don't use up to that percentage they have then the price jumps up per ton and if you go over it then you are hit again. Response: maybe it's because Saratoga has more roads to cover than we do. Supervisor Groff stated that he would look into it. It was recommended to ask if the County goes out to bid for the salt.
- Completed the annual Highway Inventory and submitted to Fulton County Highway.

#### Repairs/Maintenance

- Received re-placement snow plow and sander for the 2020 F350 pickup truck.

#### New Business

- Hiring new employee – notice was posted in both The Leader Herald and The Daily Gazette newspaper.
- Begin 2021 Budget

#### **Hiring a new Highway employee for vacant position**

Ken Cramer mentioned that the ad ran in both The Leader Herald and in The Daily Gazette like he wanted. He has received a couple more applicants other than what he originally had. Ken stated that he is ready to call the applicants and start holding interviews.

Supervisor Groff explained that Ken was asked previously to hold off filling in the vacant Highway employee position until September 2020 and he has done so.

After discussion a motion was made as follows:

**MOTION:** Councilwoman Zullo motioned to approve Ken Cramer Town of Northampton Highway Superintendent to fill in the vacant seat of the highway employee position. Seconded by Councilman Gritsavage and passed by a  
Vote of 4-Ayes: Gritsavage, Zullo, Roosa and Groff  
0-Nays  
0-Abstain

### **2-Hollon 2 Hour Fire Proof Safes**

Supervisor Groff has noted that the Town has sold one of the Hollon 2 Hour Fire Proof Safes to the Town of Mayfield and the Northville Fire District has shown some interest in possibly purchasing the other safe. The Northville Fire District has not made any decision as of yet.

### **JUSTICE**

**MOTION:** Councilman Gritsavage motioned to accept the Justices August Report.  
There was a total of 6 cases handled and \$758.00 was collected in fines for the month of August 2020.  
Councilman Roosa seconded the motion and passed by,  
A Vote of 4-Ayes: Groff, Gritsavage, Roosa, and Zullo  
0-Nays  
0-Abstain

**ELECTION:** The Fulton County Election Board has informed the Town Clerk that the polling site in Fish House will be open for the 2020 General Presidential Election.

### **PLANNING BOARD**

The Planning Board informed the Supervisor that the project regarding Woodward Lake LLC subdivision Public Hearing that was held on September 2, 2020 went very well.  
The next Planning Board meeting will be held on Wednesday, October 7, 2020 at 5 p.m.

**PUBLIC SAFETY:** Supervisor Groff reported that as far as the COVID-19 in Fulton County it is pretty steady right now. I don't there has been any new cases at all.

**CEMETERIES:** Stu is home from the hospital.

Supervisor Groff mentioned that he went over to Fish House today and spoke with Deputy Historian JoAnne Blaauboer about the cemetery that dates back to 1800's next to the red church on Co Hwy 109. She is trying to get a historical marker for that. Mrs. Blaauboer has cleaned that cemetery out all by herself. Nobody has been taking care of that cemetery in quite a while. We have to try and find out who the ownership is of that cemetery. If there is no Association for that cemetery anymore then it becomes the property of the Town of Northampton. We can't find the owner or the Association. The gentleman that created the Association took on that cemetery and the one by the point. He cared for the one on the point but did not take care of this cemetery on Co Hwy 109. The gentleman has since sold his house and has moved. Apparently it is in the deed that the person who lives in that house has to take care of the cemetery.

Ken Cramer stated that he was told that someone is being paid to mow the cemetery.

**HISTORIC:** The Board members received the Northville Northampton Historical Society August 2020 issue titled "Isabella and Sam and the flooding of the Sacandaga Valley".

### **AMBULANCE**

Northampton Ambulance meeting was held on September 8, 2020 with 7 members in attendance. August call responses as follows: 8 in the Town of Northampton and 4 in the Village of Northville. 1 patient was flown via Life-Net.

Supervisor Groff mentioned that he had spoken with someone at the DEC regarding putting in a walkway to the helicopter launch for patients that are being transported via Life-Net. He's happy to announce that a walkway has now been installed.

Has there been any more discussion on a fly car at the County asked Councilman Gritsavage? Supervisor Groff responded that everyone one on the western end of the county is not happy because they have less coverage. The board discussed the problem of getting it all situated without spending \$2M-\$3M right now. COVID-19 has put this on the back burner for now.

**Refuse and Garbage**

Monday, October 12, 2020, the transfer station will be closed for the Columbus Day Holiday.

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

County Transfer	36.27 Ton @ \$53	\$1,922.31
Municipal Direct Haul	83.36 Ton @ \$33	\$2,750.98
Curbside Recycling	13.04 Ton @ \$30	\$ 391.20
Transfer Station Recycling	6.14 Ton @ \$20	\$ 122.80
Metal Hauling Fee	6.10 Ton @ \$20	\$ 122.00
Transfer Station Electronics	1.55 Ton @ \$0	<u>\$ 0.00</u>
Total		\$5,309.19

**NORTHVILLE FIRE DEPARTMENT**

**August 2020 Fire Report**

There was a total of 12 responses during the month of July and a Total Man Hours 16. Village of Northville had 2 responses. 1-EMS Assist and 1-Stand by Station. Town of Northampton had 6 responses. 2-Hazardous Conditions; 1-Structure Fire; 1 Drowning; 1-Vehicle Fire and 1-EMS Assist. Town of Edinburg had 2 responses. 1-Alarm Activation and 1-MVA. Town of Hope had 2 responses. 1-1-Stand By and 1-Alarm Activation. 4-Mutual Aid were Given and 3-Mutual Aid was Received. Department Notes: 1. Still Practicing Social Distancing and taking precautions. Starting to do some in house training. 2. Still working on changing reports to I AM Responding, it is a process. 3. Due to COVID-19, the State hasn't announced when State Training will be available (State Certified Courses). Some are starting to be scheduled with limited seats available. 4. Went to Sutphen in PA for final on the Fire Truck.

**Res. #2020-12: Resolution to Conduct a Public Hearing to Consider the Alteration of the Boundaries of Fire Protection District FD021 Pursuant to Town Law §172-c**

Motion to approve the Resolution made by Councilman Darryl Roosa.

Seconded by Councilman William Gritsavage

**ROLL CALL VOTE:**

Supervisor James K Groff	Aye
Councilman Art Simmons	Absent
Councilwoman Molly Zullo	Aye
Councilman William Gritsavage	Aye

**SACANDAGA PARK WATER & SEWER**

**July 2020**

**Water**

- July 2019 usage – 1,756,000 gallons pumped
- July 2020 usage – 2,096,000 gallons pumped

**Meters**

- Working towards completing the water meter reading issues.
- To be completed by the self-imposed deadline of September 1<sup>st</sup>.

**Repairs/Maintenance**

- Pressure tank installed at the Sacandaga Animal Hospital to help alleviate the lack of water pressure and loss of water.
- Installed two new water service connections for two building lots located on Circle Drive.

**Wastewater**

- July 2019 – daily average flow 15,100 gallons
- July 2020 – daily average flow 4,900 gallons

**Repairs/Maintenance**

- Emergency repair estimates for the control panel failure and wet well pumping issues have been obtained.

**August 2020**

**Water**

- August 2019 usage – 1,541,000 gallons pumped
- August 2020 usage – 1,917,000 gallons pumped

**Meters**

- Working towards completing the water meter reading issues

**Repairs/Maintenance**

- No new repairs

**Wastewater**

- August 2019 – daily average flow 12,900 gallons
- August 2020 – daily average flow 9,900 gallons

**Repairs/Maintenance**

- Emergency repair items all ordered and to be installed upon arrival.
- Pumped 18-20,000 Gallons (5 loads) sludge from Imhoff tank.
- Emergency sewer jetting performed by Adirondack Septic to resolve sewer main blockage located on McKinley Ave.

The equipment has been ordered for the sewer plant. I have not had the time to check on the status of the order. I was assured that it would be before winter the work should be completed.

There was discussion on the water tank that was put behind Dr. Longs and it has been working well and Ken said he would bring in the information he had on the repair he did on Co Hwy 152 by Cristiano's property. Supervisor Groff was hoping something can be done and come up with a plan next summer.

We're hoping to have water billing off the meters in the Sacandaga Park in January 2021 stated Supervisor Groff.

**RES. #2020-13: Emergency Repair – Use of Reserve Funds for Sewer System Repair.**

Councilman Roosa offered the following resolution and moved its adoption.

Councilman Gritsavage seconded the motion.

**ROLL CALL VOTE:**

Supervisor Groff	Aye	Darryl Roosa	Aye
William Gritsavage	Aye	Molly Zullo	Aye
Art Simmons	Absent		
0-Nays			
0-Abstain			

**TOWN CLERK**

**MOTION:** Councilwoman Zullo motioned to approve the Town Clerk’s monthly report from August 2020 as presented by the Town Clerk. Seconded by Councilman Roosa and passed by,

A Vote of 4-Ayes: Groff, Gritsavage, Roosa, and Zullo

0-Nays

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**Town Clerk Monthly Report  
August 01, 2020 - August 31, 2020**

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Account#	Account Description	Fee Description	Qty
Local Share			
A1255	Conservation	Conservation	46
78.57			
	Death Certificate	Death Certificate	10
	100.00		
	Marriage Certificate	Marriage Certificate	1
	10.00		
	Town Clerk Fees	Marriage License	3
	37.50		
			<b>Sub-Total:</b>
			<b>\$226.07</b>
A2130	Transfer Station	Transfer Station	50
490.00			
			<b>Sub-Total:</b>
			<b>\$490.00</b>
A2544	Dog Licensing	Female, Spayed	3
21.00			
		Female, Unspayed	2
		26.00	
		Male, Neutered	5
		35.00	

		Male, Unneutered 26.00	2
			<b>Sub-Total: \$108.00</b>
A2770 2.00	Minor Sales	Fax	2
	Photo Copy 5.25	Photo Copy	21
			<b>Sub-Total: \$7.25</b>
B2555 1,102.50	Building Permits	Building Permits	8
			<b>Sub-Total: \$1,102.50</b>
		<b>Total Local Shares Remitted: \$1,933.82</b>	
Amount paid to:	New York State DOH for Marriage Licenses		67.50
Amount paid to:	NYS Ag. & Markets for spay/neuter program		20.00
Amount paid to:	NYS Environmental Conservation		1,398.43
<b>Total State, County &amp; Local Revenues:</b>	<b>\$3,419.75</b>	<b>Total Non-Local Revenues:</b>	
<b>\$1,485.93</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
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The Town Clerk has received a letter from the State of New York Department of State notifying her that the Town of Northampton, Local Law 1 of 2020, has been filed in their office on September 1, 2020.

### **SUPERVISOR**

2021 Agreement between the Town of Northampton and the Adirondack Park Local Government Review Board.

After review and discussion of the aforementioned Agreement a motion was made as follows:

**MOTION:** Councilman Gritsavage motioned to approve Supervisor James K. Groff to sign the 2021 Agreement between the Town of Northampton and the Adirondack Park Local Government Review Board and the town agrees to pay the Review Board the sum of Three Hundred Dollars (\$300.00) for the services of the Review Board in representing the Town in matters relating to the Adirondack Park.

Councilwoman Zullo seconded the motioned and passed by

A Vote of 4-Gritsavage, Roosa, Groff, and Zullo

0-Nays

0-Abstain

A budget work session has been scheduled for Wednesday, September 23, 2020 at 6:30 p.m.  
The next Town Board meeting will be held on Wednesday, October 21, 2020 at 7 p.m.

**Adjourn:** Councilman Roosa motioned to adjourn at 7:47 p.m. Councilman Gritsavage seconded the motion. All board members were in favor of the motion.

Respectfully submitted,

Elaine Mihalik, Town Clerk