

**Town of Northumberland
January 8, 2007**

Supervisor Willard Peck called the meeting to order @ 7:30 PM. Following the salute to the flag, roll call was taken. Those attending included Supervisor Willard Peck, Councilman Harold Vance Jr., Councilman George Hodgson and Councilman Daniel Gale. Councilman Paul Bolesh was absent. Also attending were Clerk Denise Murphy, Highway Sup't Neil Petteys and Town Attorney Douglas Ward.

APPROVE MINUTES

1. Councilman George Hodgson made a motion to approve minutes of the December 11, 2006 regular Monthly Meeting with the following change: Page #4 last line should read, "Councilman Hodgson stated he was extremely *excited* and they were moving forward." Page 6 last paragraph replace "Contact" with "*Contract*". Councilman Harold Vance Jr. seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.
2. Councilman Daniel Gale made a motion to approve minutes of the December 20, 2006 Special Town Board Meeting. Councilman Harold Vance Jr. seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.
3. Councilman Daniel Gale made a motion to approve minutes of the December 29, 2006 End of Year Meeting. Councilman George Hodgson seconded the motion.

Supervisor Peck – "Aye"
Councilman Vance – "Abstain"
Councilman Hodgson – "Aye"
Councilman Gale – "Aye" Motion carried

4. Councilman Daniel Gale made a motion to approve minutes of the January 4, 2007 Organizational Meeting. Councilman George Hodgson seconded the motion.

Supervisor Peck – "Aye"
Councilman Vance – "Abstain"
Councilman Hodgson – "Aye"
Councilman Gale – "Aye"

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Thomas Benton, 5 Gates Avenue, stated he has no comments but was here to observe.

DESIGNATION

1. Councilman Daniel Gale made a motion to approve vouchers for payment as presented. Councilman George Hodgson seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.

CORRESPONDENCE

1. The Zoning Board Of Appeals (ZBA) submitted a letter to the Town Board recommending that Mark Boyce be reappointed Chairman and Clinton Barber be reappointed Vice Chairman for 2007. The ZBA also requests the Northumberland Town Board waive the four hour training requirements for ZBA Members each year as mandated by NYS Law. Councilman George Hodgson made a motion to reappoint Mark Boyce Chairman and Clinton Barber Vice Chairman of the ZBA for 2007. Councilman Daniel Gale seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried. Councilman George Hodgson made a motion to notify the ZBA Members that the Northumberland Town Board will not waive the four (4) hour training requirement; or part of it, as outlined in NYS Law. Councilman Harold Vance Jr. seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.

2. The town received a letter from “The Community Foundation for the Capital Region” regarding approval for a \$10,000 to fund a part time position which would enable the delivery of much needed services at the Hudson Crossing Park.

3. The town received a Newsletter “Health Issues” from Saratoga County Public Health. The Town Clerk will post the Newsletter.

4. The town received a letter from National Grid offering valuable information regarding the restoration of utility services following a major storm.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Hudson Crossing Park – Nothing new to report

NEW BUSINESS

1. 2007 Office for the Aging Contracts. Councilman Harold Vance Jr. made a motion authorizing the Supervisor to enter into the following contracts with Office for the Aging:

Transportation Agreement - \$468.00 per year (quarterly payments of \$117.00)

Nutrition Agreement - \$468.00 per year (quarterly payments of \$117.00)

Councilman George Hodgson seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.

2. Councilman Daniel Gale made a motion authorizing the Town Clerk to post a legal notice soliciting bids for pumping of sewers in Sewer District #1 for 2007. Councilman Harold Vance Jr. seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.
3. Councilman Daniel Gale made a motion authorizing the Town Clerk to post a legal notice soliciting bids for unleaded and diesel for 2007. Councilman Harold Vance Jr. seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.
4. Planning/Zoning Clerk – Councilman George Hodgson made a motion authorizing the Town Clerk to post the Planning/Zoning Clerk position. Councilman Daniel Gale seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried. When the Town Clerk receives the applications/resume, she will make copies for the Town Board’s review.
5. Councilman George Hodgson introduced Resolution #20 of 2007

**PETITIONING THE STATE OF NEW YORK TO ADOPT LEGISLATION TO
PROVIDE FOR PROPERTY TAX REFORM**

WHEREAS, in New York State, municipal revenues which support local spending for schools, public safety, and other public services are raised through the property tax levy, state aid, and other sources, and

WHEREAS, despite the increase of over 70% in New York State aid to school districts in the past 10 years, most New York State school district budgets have continued to skyrocket out of control causing local school tax levy increases of between 5% and 15% annually, and

WHEREAS, many residents of the Town of Northumberland located in Saratoga County and other municipalities across New York State are unable to pay these excessive school tax rates which are forcing many families into debt and causing some to sell their property and relocate their families outside of their communities and, in some instances, outside the State of New York, and

WHEREAS, over half of all US states have passed some form of property tax limitation statute which attempts to reasonably manage excessive property taxation, now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, the Town of Northumberland requests its New York State legislators to review and conduct a comprehensive study and evaluation of all existing state property tax limitation statutes in effect, and be it further

RESOLVED, that New York State legislators and the New York State Governor based upon the above study and evaluation enact appropriate legislation which will provide necessary property tax reform for the benefit and relief of all New York State residents, and be it further

RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Honorable Eliot Spitzer, Governor of New York State, all NYS legislators representing the County of Saratoga, the Chair of the NYS Assembly Ways and Means Committee, the Chair of the NYS Senate Finance Committee, the Chairs of the Assembly and Senate Education Committees, all municipalities within the County of Saratoga, the Saratoga County Board of Supervisors, the NYS Association of Towns, and the NYS Association of Counties.

Councilman Harold Vance Jr. seconded the introduction of Resolution #20 of 2007 –

Supervisor Peck – “Aye”

Councilman Vance – “Aye”

Councilman Hodgson – “Aye”

Councilman Gale – “Aye” Resolution #20 of 2007 Adopted

6. Councilman George Hodgson introduced Resolution #21 of 2007

**RECOMMENDING NYS CONDUCT RESPONSIBLE & COST-EFFECTIVE
FISH MONITORING FOR THE DISEASE VHS IN PRIVATE NYS FISH
HATCHERIES**

WHEREAS, a fish disease known as Viral Hemorrhagic Septicemia (VHS) has been identified in New York State and poses a significant threat to both the wild and cultured fisheries resources of the State, and

WHEREAS, the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation is proposing emergency changes to Part 10 of Title 6 of the Codes, Rules and Regulations of the State of New York (NYCRR) to require all hatchery fish in NYS to be tested for VHS and an additional eight (8) other fish diseases, and

WHEREAS, the cost of the proposed fish testing regimen, which would be required of all private fish hatcheries under the aforementioned emergency rule change, is extremely expensive and could amount to several thousands of dollars annually for each privately owned fish hatchery, and

WHEREAS, it is believed this new fish testing requirement will force many NYS private fish hatcheries out of business, causing a reduction in sport fishing throughout Saratoga County and the State of New York, and

WHEREAS, the stocking of private hatchery fish throughout Saratoga County for public sport fishing is responsible for generating many millions of dollars annually to Saratoga County’s local economy, and

WHEREAS, the State of New York will be testing its own hatchery fish under the aforementioned proposed emergency rule and is currently paying for private hatchery fish testing for Whirling Disease, one of the nine required fish tests under the aforementioned proposed rulemaking, now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, the Saratoga County Board of Supervisors requests New York State in its aforementioned proposed emergency rulemaking for fish testing give serious consideration to the financial implications this action will have on New York State's private fish hatcheries and to New York State's sport fishing industry, and be it further

RESOLVED, that New York State, to assure the long-term protection and viability of the State's sport fishing industry, assume all costs for the testing of fish raised at privately owned fish hatcheries within New York State which will be required pursuant to the proposed changes to Part 10 of Title 6 of the Codes, Rules and Regulations of the State of New York (NYCRR) to control the fish disease VHS.

RESOLVED, this resolution be transmitted to the Honorable Eliot Spitzer, Governor of New York State; all Saratoga County NYS legislative representatives, the Chairs of the NYS Senate and Assembly Environmental Conservation Committees, and to the Commissioner of the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation.

Supervisor Willard Peck seconded the introduction of Resolution #21 of 2007

Supervisor Peck – “Aye”

Councilman Vance – “Aye”

Councilman Hodgson – “Aye”

Councilman Gale – “Aye” Resolution #21 of 2007 Adopted

7. Supervisor Peck informed the Board Members that he has been approached by residents regarding changing the date of either the Planning Board Agenda Meeting or the Northumberland Town Board Meeting since they both fall on the seconded Monday of the Month. It was the consensus of the Town Board to eliminate the Town Board Agenda Meeting and to designate the first Thursday of the month as the Town Board date.

Councilman Harold Vance Jr. made a motion @ 8:15 PM to adjourn the regular Monthly Meeting. Councilman Daniel Gale seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.

Respectfully submitted

Denise Murphy
Town Clerk