

**Town of Northumberland
Public Hearing
November 5, 2015**

The Public Hearing for the 2016 Town Budget was called to order by Supervisor Willard Peck. Following the salute to the flag, roll call was taken. Those attending included Supervisor Willard Peck and Councilwoman Patricia Bryant. Councilman Paul Bolesh; Councilman John DeLisle and Councilman George Hodgson were absent. Town Clerk Denise Murphy was present.

Supervisor Peck gave an overview of the proposed 2016 Town Budget. Supervisor Willard Peck stated that the Tax Cap is 2%, but the rate of Inflation is .73% in preparing the 2016 Budget he had to use the lower of the two. Supervisor Willard Peck stated that the salaries were limited to 1.5% for appointed and full time elected officials. Again this year, Town Board Members; Supervisor and Town Attorney did not receive an increase. Supervisor Peck stated that the Bacon Hill Fire Protection District and the Gansevoort Sewer District's budgets stayed the same as 2015. The Moreau Emergency Squad and the General Schuyler Emergency Squad had an increase of .73%. The Northumberland Fire District is their own taxing district and the Northumberland Town Board has no say in their budget. Supervisor Peck stated as in previous years there is no Town Tax. The Highway Tax in 2015 was 1.386988 and the proposed 2016 Highway Tax is 1.36043 which is a .02 decrease. At this time Supervisor Willard Peck opened the Public Hearing for comments.

James Heber stated that he had some concerns with the Attorney Contractual line (A1420.4) which is in the amount of \$15,000. Supervisor Willard Peck stated that he will look into this since the litigation with the Stonebridge Farm is complete. This may be an area that can be lowered.

Mr. Heber asked who was included in the Personal Services/Planning (A8020.1). Supervisor Peck stated that it is Planning/Zoning/Building Inspector Clerk. Mr. Heber stated those hours should be correctly reflected in each department, not all in Planning.

Mr. Heber asked why is Medical Insurance (A9060.8) disbursement so high? Mr. Heber asked how many employees are covered in this line item. Supervisor Peck stated that presently there are 5 full time employees. Supervisor Peck stated that the town has not received the 2016 health insurance figures yet.

There were no additional comments from the public.

Councilwoman Patricia Bryant made a motion to adjourn the 2016 Budget Public Hearing @ 8:05 PM. Supervisor Willard Peck seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Denise Murphy
Town Clerk