

**Town of Northumberland
Town Board Meeting
September 2, 2010**

The Regular Monthly Meeting was called to order @ 7:30 PM by Supervisor Willard Peck. Following the salute to the flag, roll call was taken. Those attending included Supervisor Willard Peck; Councilman Daniel Gale; Councilman George Hodgson and Councilwoman Patricia Bryant. Also attending were Clerk Denise Murphy, Highway Sup't Neil Petteys, Building and Zoning Administrator Richard Colozza and Town Attorney Douglas Ward. Councilman Paul Bolesh was absent.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There were no comments from the public.

APPROVE MINUTES

Councilwoman Patricia Bryant made a motion to approve minutes of the August 5, 2010 Regular Monthly meeting with the following change: Page 4 under Appointments should read "William Peck's term on the Board of Assessment Review expires 09/30/2010". Councilman George Hodgson seconded the motion with change. All in favor, motion carried.

CORRESPONDENCE

There were no comments

APPOINTMENTS

1. Planning Board: Councilman Daniel Gale made a motion to reappoint Susan Martindale to the Planning Board with an expiration of 09/30/2017. Councilman George Hodgson seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.

2. Board of Assessment Review: Councilman George Hodgson made a motion to reappoint William Peck to the Board of Assessment Review with an expiration of 09/30/2015. Councilwoman Patricia Bryant seconded the motion.

Supervisor Willard Peck – "Abstain"

Councilman Daniel Gale – "Aye"

Councilman George Hodgson – "Aye"

Councilwoman Patricia Bryant – "Aye" Motion adopted

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3. Zoning Board of Appeals: Town Clerk Denise Murphy informed the Board Members that an advertisement was placed in the Saratogian and Post Star soliciting letters of interest from residents wishing to volunteer their time on the Zoning Board of Appeals. The Town Clerk did not receive any letters.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Dog License Update: The Town Clerk provided Board Members with a breakdown of what the surrounding towns are currently charging for both spayed/neutered and unsprayed/unneutered dogs. The Town of Northumberland presently charges \$3.50 for a spayed/neutered dog and \$11.50 for unsprayed/unneutered dog. That is by far the lowest in the surrounding towns. The Town Clerk gave a breakdown of what the surrounding towns charge:

Town of Moreau - \$5.00 spayed/neutered and \$13.00 unsprayed/unneutered
Town of Wilton - \$5.50 spayed/neutered and \$13.00 unsprayed/unneutered
Town of Saratoga - \$5.00 spayed/neutered and \$13.00 unsprayed/unneutered
Town of Greenfield - \$7.00 spayed/neutered and \$15.00 unsprayed/unneutered

Currently the unsprayed/unneutered fee reflects the state mandated \$3.00 "Population Control" fee. Effective January 1, 2011 there will be a mandated \$1.00 fee on spayed/neutered dogs for "Population Control". The fees for "Population Control" will continue to be mailed to the State at this time. All the towns that Town Clerk Denise Murphy contacted are recommending to their town boards is to increase the spayed/neutered fee by \$1.00 to cover the mandated cost. The fee for licensing a dog in the Town of Northumberland has not gone up in over 30 years. Town Clerk Denise Murphy stated that she is recommending that the Town Board increase the licensing fee, when we do our Local Law, to be equal with the Town's of Moreau and Saratoga which will be \$6.00 for spayed/neutered and \$13.00 for unsprayed/unneutered dogs. This will still be lower than the Town's of Wilton and Greenfield. The increase in dog licenses will help cover the cost of the increase in manpower needed to implement the license program at the local level. There are approximately 800 dogs in the Town of Northumberland. Town Clerk Denise Murphy stated she is still daily going on the New York State Agriculture and Markets web page to see if they have posted a model law yet. So far, they have not posted any information regarding the Local Law. Town Clerk Denise Murphy informed the Town Board members that she would like to order the dog tags for next year since there is an 8 – 12 week turnaround time until they are complete. Town Clerk Denise Murphy indicated the total cost will be around \$180.00. It was the consensus of the Town Board to allow the Town Clerk to order dog tags for the January 1, 2011 date.

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NEW BUSINESS

1. Purchase of Development Rights – Foster Sheep Farm Property: Supervisor Willard Peck informed the Town Board that Carole and Tom Foster, landowners, have approached Saratoga County regarding the Saratoga County Farmland and Open Space Preservation Program. In order for the grant application to move forward, the Town Board must adopt a Resolution authorizing the Supervisor to contract with Saratoga County and execute any documents necessary to accept and redistribute Farmland Protection funds if the Foster Grant Application is approved.

Supervisor Willard Peck introduced Resolution #32 of 2010: **Purchase of Development Rights – Foster Sheep Farm Property**

WHEREAS, Carole and Tom Foster landowners in the town of Northumberland, intend to participate in the Saratoga County Farmland and Open Space Preservation Program seeking to permanently preserve 145+/- acres of active farmland along West River Road in the Town of Northumberland; and

WHEREAS, the Town Board views the preservation of agriculture as vital to the quality of life and economy of the town as evidenced by the Town of Northumberland Comprehensive Plan, Saratoga County Farmland Protection Plan, and Saratoga County Green Infrastructure Plan which recommends the use of conservation easements purchase of development rights as a tool to preserve agriculture and recognizes the importance of protection farmland and open spaces; and

WHEREAS, the Town Board finds that the grant application is worthy and will provide funding to permanently preserve the Foster Sheep Farm for agricultural uses only; and

WHEREAS, the Town is an eligible applicant under the grant program and may hold and monitor the conservation easement, now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Town of Northumberland fully supports this application and shall act as the applicant, holding a conservation easement consisting of the development rights of the Foster Sheep Farm, and shall periodically monitor conformance with the terms of the easement, and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Town Supervisor is hereby authorized to contract with Saratoga County and execute any documents necessary to accept and redistribute Farmland Protection funds, should the grant application be successful.

**Supervisor Willard H. Peck - “Aye”,
Councilman Paul Bolesh – “Absent”,
Councilwoman Patricia Bryant - “Aye”,
Councilman Daniel Gale – “Aye”,
Councilman George Hodgson – “Aye”**

Resolution #32 of 2010 Adopted

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2. Town Clerk Denise Murphy and Town Historian Georgia Ball would like to recommend William Abram Sherman to be honored as the Town of Northumberland's deceased veteran ceremony in November. Mr. Sherman served in World War II in the United States Navy – Sea Bees. It was the consensus of the Town Board to Honor William Sherman as the Town's choice for a deceased veteran ceremony in November. The Town Clerk will prepare a Resolution for October's Town Board Meeting.

3. The Town Clerk prepared a bid request, for the Town Board's consideration, regarding the waste removal and recycling service at the town's transfer station. The Town Board will review and make changes for possible soliciting of bids for the 2011 fiscal year.

4. Town Clerk Denise Murphy informed the Town Board that she will not be available for October's Town Board Meeting and asked the Board Members if they would consider changing the Meeting date. Councilman George Hodgson stated he will not be able to attend any Meeting for the first three weeks in October. Councilwoman Patricia Bryant made a motion to change October's Town Board Meeting to Monday, October 4, 2010. Councilman Daniel Gale seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.

5. Proposals for renovations to the Court Office: Town Justice James Evans solicited quotes for renovations to the old planning and zoning office which would be used for the court clerk's office. The Town Board asked that Town Justice Evans attend October's Town Board Meeting to explain these quotes and if there is grant money available to pay for these improvements.

6. Councilwoman Patricia Bryant informed the Town Board that Helen Bryant may not seek running again for Tax Collector. Councilwoman Bryant stated with the growth of property owners and the responsibilities of the Tax Collector position are increasing. This job is almost year round with the calls from banks requesting copies of paid tax bills. Councilwoman Patricia Bryant stated the Town of Northumberland is one of the only remaining towns that does not have the Tax Department computerized along with having an office at the Town Hall. One of the suggestions was to incorporate the duties of Tax Collector with the Town Clerk since she presently has office hours five days a week and one night a week. The Town Clerk will talk with some of the other towns that have incorporated the Tax Collector with Town Clerk duties and report back to the Town Board.

DESIGNATIONS

Councilman George Hodgson made a motion to approve the payment of the following vouchers:

General Fund: Voucher 306 – 343 \$61,847.97

Highway Fund: Voucher 196 – 211 \$36,883.15

Sewer Fund: Voucher 11 \$29.77

Trust & Agency: Voucher 11 \$49,584.17 (Schuyler Park)

Councilwoman Patricia Bryant seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.

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DEPARTMENTS

Highway Sup't Neil Petteys stated the shoulder work will begin Tuesday. The Highway Sup't reported that the Town of Wilton's Highway Department will start paving the shoulders on certain town roads starting next week. Highway Sup't Neil Petteys stated that he estimates that 3 miles of town roads have been paved this year. Highway Sup't Neil Petteys stated that he has been working on a plan to increase the site distance coming off Grange Hall onto State Route 32. Presently there has been numerous accidents due to poor visibility. Highway Sup't Neil Petteys stated he will be submitting a plan that the Town of Northumberland will lay back the slope along Route 32 and remove the trees and brush. The biggest expense will be the removal of the huge maple tree. The property owner address, where the actual work is being done, is 494 Grange Hall Road and they have given their blessing. Highway Sup't Neil Petteys stated he has also received New York State Department of Transportation's blessing. Highway Sup't Neil Petteys stated the next step is to submit a "Highway Work Permit Application" to the State of New York Department of Transportation. They have indicated that they will waive the fee. Highway Sup't Neil Petteys stated he received information from Supervisor Willard Peck regarding the Sewer District will have a jet/vacuum unit for sale. The minimum offer that will be accepted by Saratoga County is \$18,000.00 and the written offer has to be submitted no later than September 22, 2010. A lengthy discuss followed regarding whether or not this piece of equipment would be an asset to the Highway Department.

Councilman Daniel Gale made a motion to go into executive session @ 8:35 Pm to discuss litigation and sealed bids. Councilman George Hodgson seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.

Councilman George Hodgson made a motion @ 8:50 PM to reconvene the regular monthly meeting. Councilwoman Patricia Bryant seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried. Councilman Daniel Gale made a motion to authorize Supervisor Willard Peck and Highway Neil Petteys to come up with a formal offer for the jet/vacuum unit which will be submitted prior to the September 22, 2010 deadline. Councilwoman Patricia Bryant seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.

Councilwoman Patricia Bryant made a motion @ 8:55 PM to adjourn the Regular Monthly Meeting. Councilman Daniel Gale seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Denise Murphy
Town Clerk

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