

**Town of Northumberland  
Town Board Meeting  
October 3, 2011**

The Regular Monthly Meeting of the Northumberland Town Board 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. Councilman Paul Bolesh was absent. Also attending were Town Clerk Denise Murphy; Building and Zoning Administrator Richard Colozza and Town Attorney Douglas Ward.

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

James Heber, 286 Brownville Road, came before the Town Board regarding the recent fire at his home. Mr. Heber stated his son, who tried to put the fire out at his home, was told to get his blood pressure checked by one of the paramedics who was at the scene. Mr. Heber's son received a bill for \$750.00 from the emergency squad. Councilman Daniel Gale stated that he was told about the charge of \$750 that Mr. Heber's son, Jacob, received from Moreau Emergency Squad and agreed it was extremely high and called and talked to one of the paramedics who stated that was an error and Councilman Daniel Gale was told a revised bill of \$100.00 was being sent to Jacob Heber. Mr. Heber stated that he thought the Special District Tax for Moreau Emergency Squad covered these types of costs. Councilwoman Patricia Bryant stated that unfortunately it is hard to get volunteer paramedics and Moreau Emergency Squad, along with General Schuyler Emergency Squad, now has some paid paramedics. Both Emergency Squads will ask for Health Insurance information for billing, but if the patient does not have Health Insurance or it is not covered, they will not go after the individual.

Mr. Heber also expressed concern with the inability of Gansevoort Fire Department to obtain volunteers during the weekday. Mr. Heber stated when the fire whistle went off for the fire at his home it took quite a while to get a truck to his home. Councilman Daniel Gale, who is also a volunteer fireman, agreed that it is hard to get volunteers during the day. Councilman Gale stated this is a serious problem that all volunteer fire departments are facing. Councilman Gale stated one of the biggest problems getting people to volunteer is the number of hours an individual would need to commit to become certified. Councilman Gale stated it is not like the old days. Mr. Heber stated that maybe the town should include that Highway Employees must be volunteer fireman. Councilman Gale stated you cannot mandate that town employees be members of any fire department. Mr. Heber stated that he understands, but maybe the town could pay the highway employee if they respond to a fire during a business days. Mr. Heber stated that he is going to go and talk to some of the local businesses to see if they would do the same. Mr. Heber stated he never realized how important it was to have fireman available during the day until his house caught on fire and there was not enough members available. Mr. Heber went on to say that when the fireman did respond, they did an excellent job.

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**MINUTES**

1. The Town Board tabled approve minutes of the September 1, 2011 Public Hearing; September 1, 2011 Regular Monthly Meeting and September 14, 2011 Special Town Board Meeting.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

1. Dog Control Officers Report: Ed Cross, DCO reported that in September he answered 15 complaints; brought 4 dogs to the shelter; issued 7 warnings and 2 summons. Dog Control Officer Ed Cross stated that it was a busy month.

2. Town Attorney Douglas Ward sent a memo regarding Harry Sears Eagle Scout Project making repairs on the basket ball court at the Bertha E Smith Park. Attorney Douglas Ward stated at the Town Board meeting held on September 1, 2011 the Board heard a presentation from Harry Sears regarding a public works project that he had undertaken in the Town in order to qualify for Eagle Scout status. This Project, which was to refurbish a Town basketball court, had been authorized by the Town Board. Mr. Sears reported that the Project had been completed, but a paving contractor had been unable to timely deliver asphalt for repaving the basketball court surface. The paving company had offered to donate the pavement and installation costs to the Project. In order to complete the Project, Mr. Sears purchased asphalt and had it installed at his own expense. At the Board's September meeting, Mr. Sears requested that the Board share in the expense of this public works project by reimbursing him for a portion of his out of pocket payments, which were expended to pay for the unanticipated asphalt and installation costs. After discussing the benefits and details of the Project and hearing from Town Highway Superintendent Neil Petteys, the Board voted to authorize a payment, not to exceed \$ 2,186.00 (which amount could be reduced through donations of other parties), subject to review by the Town Attorney. Town Attorney Douglas stated he understands that Mr. Sears has obtained additional donations so that the reimbursement amount he is now requesting is \$1,416.83. Also, Mr. Sears requested that any reimbursement be made to his mother, Carol Sears, who actually advanced the funds. Town Highway Superintendent Neil Petteys is supportive of this Project and this payment. Mr. Petteys reports that if the Town undertook this Project on its own, the estimated cost would be approximately \$2,900.00. Town Attorney Douglas Ward stated that moreover, the Board's authorization to make this payment is consistent with the Town's Procurement Policy. The payment of \$ 1,416.83 is a reasonable amount based on Mr. Petteys estimate of the full cost of the Project \$ 2,900.00. Furthermore, pursuant to the Town's Procurement Policy (Guidelines #3, sixth bullet) since the basketball court project is a public works project for under \$3,000, this payment can be made at the discretion of the Board, without competitive bidding. There is a voucher presented tonight in the amount of \$1,416.83 to be authorized payment to Carol Sears out of the Trust & Agency Park Account.

3. Town Clerk Denise Murphy received an email from April Strong, Stormy Lane, regarding the possible use of the town hall gym for an exercise class. Mrs. Strong also asked if her request was granted, what

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type of fees would be charged. It was the consensus of the Town Board that allowing a private business to use the Town Hall was exercise classes would not be allowed at this time. Councilman Daniel Gale stated that the Town Board would need to adopt a policy regarding what would be required to rent the town hall gym to a private business. Attorney Douglas Ward stated that the insurance coverage alone would be \$1,000,000.00 which would probably make it unfeasible. The Town Clerk will contact Mrs. Strong.

4. Boswell Engineering: The Town Board received a letter from Boswell Engineering regarding road dedication for "Preserve at King Road" (Barbera Homes) and a reduction in the Letter of Credit. The Town Board tabled since the Town Board has not received a recommendation from the Planning Board.

5. The Town Board received a copy of the proposed 2012 Northumberland Fire District #1 Budget.

6. The Town Board received a copy of the Building and Zoning Administrator's Permit Monthly Report and Complaint Form for September 2011.

7. Supervisor Willard Peck received a letter from Stephen Dorsey, Saratoga County Attorney regarding 2009 Tax Delinquent Parcels for the Town of Northumberland. The County is requesting that the Town of Northumberland review the properties on the list with our employees to see if anyone is aware of any problems that might dissuade the County from acquiring the properties in the foreclosure proceedings. Supervisor Peck gave the list to the Building and Zoning Administrator and Town Clerk for their review.

8. Supervisor Willard Peck received a letter from United States Senator Kirsten Gillibrand informing the Town that President Obama has approved an emergency disaster declaration with Saratoga County eligible for disaster assistance.

9. Supervisor Willard Peck received a letter from Regina Rasera, Fundraiser Liaison, regarding the need for a new awning for the front entrance to the Maplewood Manor. Ms. Rasera is seeking contributions from the public for the "Awning Project" Fund. The Town Clerk will post on the town bulletin board.

10. Supervisor Willard Peck received information regarding some Public Health issues/concerns which may arise from the recent flooding and extended rainfall.

**APPOINTMENTS**

1. Board of Assessment Review: The Town Clerk informed the Town Board Members that Lisa Clark wishes to be reappointed to the Board of Assessment Review. Councilman Daniel Gale made a motion to reappoint Lisa Clark to the Board of Assessment Review with her new term expiring 09/2016. Councilwoman Patricia Bryant seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.

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2. Planning Board Member: The Town Clerk informed the Town Board Members that Wayne Durr wishes to be reappointed to the Planning Board. Councilman George Hodgson made a motion to reappoint Wayne Durr to the Planning Board with his new term expiring 09/2018. Councilwoman Patricia Bryant seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.

**OLD BUSINESS**

1. Schuyler Park: Councilman Daniel Gale stated that anyone that has not driven to Schuyler Park really should. The Schuyler Park Committee continues to receive praise from both residents and non-residents.

2. Hudson Crossing Park: Councilman George Hodgson stated that it doesn't appear that construction of the Hudson River Canalway Trail and kayak launch is going to happen this year. Councilman Hodgson stated that New York State Department of Transportation has just finished reviewing the specifications and they have now been forwarded to New York State Canal Corp. Councilman Hodgson stated that at this point Canal Corp is extremely busy with the aftermath of Hurricane Irene. Councilman George Hodgson stated that he is looking at the Capital Region Economic Development Council for some of the possible monies that could become available. Supervisor Willard Peck stated that the Capital Region Council, one of ten created by Gov Andrew Cuomo is holding a public forum tonight where it will outline economic issues and opportunities facing the regions, one of which is Saratoga County. Councilman George Hodgson stated he will look at attending one of the public forums.

**NEW BUSINESS**

1. Resolution regarding the Town's share of the 2012 Sales Tax Revenue:

Councilman George Hodgson introduced Resolution # 52 of 2011

**WHEREAS**, the Town of Northumberland receives a portion of Saratoga County 2012 Sales Tax Revenue, therefore be it

**RESOLVED**, the Town of Northumberland is request that the Town of Northumberland's share of the 2012 Sales Tax Revenue be distributed as cash.

Councilman Daniel Gale seconded the introduction of Resolution #52 of 2012.

Supervisor Willard Peck – "Aye"

Councilman Daniel Gale – "Aye"

Councilman George Hodgson – "Aye"

Councilwoman Patricia Bryant – "Aye"      Resolution #52 of 2012 Adopted

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2. Request for a Town Hall sign out front: Town Clerk Denise Murphy stated that a funeral home from the Albany area had difficulty finding the town hall. Ms. Murphy stated that there is no sign out front that indicates this is the town hall. The only sign that is in front indicates this building holds both Saratoga County Sheriff substation and Northumberland Town Court. Building and Zoning Administrator Richard Colozza stated that he will go to Saratoga Flag and see if they make signs.

3. Tax Collection Software Program – Town Clerk Denise Murphy stated that she would like the Town Board to authorize the purchase of the Tax Collection Software Program from Williamson Law Book now so it will be up and running by January 1, 2012. The cost of the Software is \$2,530.00. The Town of Northumberland will receive support tech. Councilman Daniel Gale made a motion to purchase the Tax Collection Software Program from William Law Book in the amount of \$2,530.00. Councilwoman Patricia Bryant seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.

4. Supervisor Willard Peck presented his proposed 2012 Town Budget. Supervisor Peck stated that elected and town employees were given a 2% increase in their pay. Supervisor Peck explained the “Property Tax Cap” guidelines. Supervisor Peck stated the 2012 Town Budget is conservative. Supervisor Willard Peck went through the entire 2012 Town Budget and gave the Town Board Members an overview of how he came up with figures in each of the line items. Councilman Daniel Gale made a motion to hold a Public Hearing on the 2012 Town Budget on Thursday, November 3, 2011 @ 7:00 PM. Councilman George Hodgson seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.

**DESIGNATIONS**

1. Transfers:

Councilman Daniel introduced Resolution #53 of 2011:

**WHEREAS**, the following accounts are over:

A7110.4 (Parks Contractual)   \$ 80.00  
A7310.1 (Youth Program/Personal Services)   \$1,302.00  
DA9089.8 (uniforms)   \$83.00

**BE IT RESOLVED**, the Town authorizes the transfer the monies from the following accounts to cover these expenses:

A1990.4 (Contingent Account)   \$1,382.00  
DA5110.1 (General Repairs/Personal Services)   \$ 83.00

Councilwoman Patricia Bryant seconded the introduction of Resolution #53 of 2011.

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Supervisor Willard Peck – “Aye”  
Councilman Daniel Gale – “Aye”  
Councilman George Hodgson – “Aye”  
Councilwoman Patricia Bryant – “Aye” Resolution #53 of 2011 Adopted

2. Approval of Vouchers for payment: Councilwoman Patricia Bryant introduced Resolution # 54 of 2011:

**BE IT RESOLVED**, the following Vouchers to be paid as presented:

A (General Fund) Vouchers # 331 - # 359 Total: \$ 24,816.42  
DA (Highway Fund) Vouchers # 197 - #221 Total: \$ 274,096.22  
SS (Sewer District #1) Voucher # 12 Total: \$ 42.82  
T & A (Trust & Agency Account) Voucher #1 Total: \$ 1,416.83

Councilman George Hodgson seconded the introduction of Resolution # 54 of 2011.

Supervisor Willard Peck – “Aye”  
Councilman Daniel Gale – “Aye”  
Councilman George Hodgson – “Aye”  
Councilwoman Patricia Bryant – “Aye” Resolution # 54 of 2011 – Adopted

Councilman Daniel Gale made a motion to go into Executive Session @ 9:00 PM to discuss possible litigation. Councilman George Hodgson seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried. Councilwoman Patricia Bryant made a motion @ 9:20 PM to reconvene the Regular Monthly Meeting. Councilman Daniel Gale seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried. Supervisor Willard Peck stated no action was taken during Executive Session. Councilwoman Patricia Bryant made a motion @ 9:22 PM to adjourn the Regular Monthly Meeting. Councilman Daniel Gale seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Denise Murphy  
Town Clerk