

Town of Northumberland
November 5, 2008
Public Hearing

Supervisor Willard Peck called the Public Hearing to order @ 7:00 PM. Following the salute to the flag, roll call was taken. Those attending included Supervisor Willard Peck, Councilman Paul Bolesh, Councilman Daniel Gale and Councilman George Hodgson. Councilwoman Patricia Bryant was absent for the Public Hearing. Also attending was Highway Sup't Neil Petteys, Town Clerk Denise Murphy, Building/Zoning Administrator Richard Colozza and Town Bookkeeper Judy Taylor. The purpose of the Public Hearing was to receive the public's comments on the proposed 2009 Town Budget.

Supervisor Willard Peck gave a breakdown of the elected official's salaries:

Supervisor - \$13,320.00
Town Clerk - \$34,600.00
Councilman (4) - \$4,300.00
Justices (2) - \$6,650.00
Highway Supt - \$48,000.00
Tax Collector - \$4,020.00

Supervisor Willard Peck stated since he became Supervisor five (5) years ago, he has always prepared a conservative budget and has tried to keep taxes low. Supervisor Peck gave an overview of the 2009 Budget Summary. Supervisor Peck stated a large bulk of the revenue for the Town Budget is from Sales Tax and Mortgage Tax. Supervisor Peck stated he has been conservative on estimating Mortgage and Sales Tax in case the economy took a down swing, which it has. Supervisor Peck stated elected officials received a 3% pay increase except for the Highway Sup't who received a much higher percentage. The Highway Sup't is paid a yearly salary higher than the highest paid highway employee with overtime.

James Heber, Brownville Road, asked why there was such a huge increase in Justices Personnel Services. Supervisor Peck stated presently there are two part time Court Clerks. The Town Justices would like to make one of the Court Clerk's full time. The one Court Clerk has a background as a paralegal and works part time in the Town of Moreau. The other Court Clerk is close to retirement age and will continue as Senior Clerk part time. Supervisor Peck stated he is looking at upgrading how the town conducts business. There is money appropriated for new software for the Bookkeeper, Highway Sup't and the Town Clerk. Money is also allocated to purchase a new computer for the Bookkeeper. Presently she is using her personal computer and that needs to be separated. Supervisor Peck stated there is an increase in the Assessor's Contractual due to another reval. Supervisor Peck stated most of the engineering expenses are reimbursed

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by the Developers before the Planning Board. Supervisor Peck stated he has moved the money from Dog Control Officer Personnel line item to Contractual. Supervisor Peck estimated 80 dog calls @ \$50.00. Supervisor Peck stated that the transfer station is a money pit. A dumpster has been removed, due to a decrease in garbage. The bad side is the town is receiving more calls regarding backyard burning and garbage being dumped along town roads. Sticker prices have not been increased since 2002.

Supervisor Peck gave an overview of the Highway Budget. Supervisor Peck has budgeted \$30,000 for a down payment on a new tandem dump truck to replace the old 1986 truck. The Town would need to Bond the balance of the new truck. The Town finished paying off one of the vehicles in 2008 that was bonded; another truck will be paid off in 2009. Supervisor Peck stated that all highway employees hired after 2003 contribute towards their Health Insurance. Supervisor Peck gave an overview of the projected revenues for the Highway Budget. Supervisor Peck stated that residents, when they see their Property Tax Bill in January, need to realize County, Ambulance, and Fire are also on their Tax Bill. Supervisor Peck stated that Hudson Crossing Park is at Lock 5 and 2/3 of the Island is in the Town of Northumberland and 1/3 is in the Town of Saratoga. Hudson Crossing is a not for profit corp. The Town of Northumberland holds the Occupancy Permit. Hudson Crossing applied for Grants. The Town of Northumberland manages these Grants which are from Federal DOT and New York State Canal Corp. Supervisor Peck stated that no money is budgeted in the 2009 Town Budget for Hudson Crossing. Schuyler Park, on Route 29 is a joint park with the Town of Saratoga. Land was donated by a developer. The Town receives three \$90,000 payments from Finch and Pruyn and that money has been earmarked for Schuyler Park. Again, no money has been budgeted in the 2009 Town Budget for Schuyler Park. Councilman Daniel Gale stated he wondered why the need for both a full time Court Clerk and a part time Court Clerk. Councilman Gale asked if the Town of Northumberland was that busy. We are showing a projected increase in revenue from fines roughly \$2,200, yet an increase in personnel services of \$20,000. Councilman Gale stated this does not make sense. Supervisor Peck stated that both Justices have requested that one of the Court Clerk's be made full time.

Councilman Daniel Gale made a motion @ 8:00 PM to adjourn the Public Hearing. Councilman Paul Bolesh seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Denise Murphy
Town Clerk

