

**Town of Northumberland
Town Board Meeting
May 13, 2021**

The Regular Monthly Meeting of the Northumberland Town Board was called to order @ 7:54 PM.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Chad and Amanda Baudy, 18 Cardinal Lane, stated that all these people are here tonight regarding the non-stop barking of 10 pit bulls that are being harbored at 4870 Route 50. Mr. Baudy stated that these dogs bark 24/7. This has been going on for almost 2 years. The condition these dogs are living in are horrible. The dogs are chained outside on 3-foot chains. There are 4 – 5 adults and 6 children living at this resident. Mr. Baudy stated that the neighbors have called Mr. Cross, Dog Control Officer, repeatedly. Mr. Cross goes and issues habitual barking dog tickets to the dog owners. This last time he went to Court as a witness to the violation, the Judge asked them all if they have talked to the Town Board. Town Attorney Brennan stated that unfortunately, even if they are found guilty and imposed a fine, they don't pay them and there is no recourse at the Town level. Town Attorney Brennan stated that the Town Justice is extremely frustrated too.

Tori Deyo, 20 Cardinal Lane, stated that she just was released from the hospital today so she could be here tonight. Ms. Deyo stated that she can no longer stand the yelping, fighting and crying of these dogs. Ms. Deyo stated she can't even go outside and sit; it is so bad. Ms. Deyo stated the owner of one of these dogs came to her driveway and tried to intimidate her regarding her dogs. Ms. Deyo stated that she use to love her neighborhood but she is now at her wits end.

John VanHeusen, 5 Robins Run, stated that it is non-stop barking. You are out in your yard doing anything, these dogs start barking. These dogs are not getting any socialization. The kids when they are outside and the dogs start barking, they throw things at them and tell them to shut up. Mr. VanHeusen stated that he tried taking pictures of a man walking with some of these dogs dragging a tire. The dog owner came back and threatened him. Mr. VanHeusen called the police and they didn't want to get involved. Mr. VanHeusen stated all these people are here tonight because something has to be done. Mr. VanHeusen stated that we are all begging for the Town Board to intervein.

Timothy Albright, 10 Cardinal Lane, stated that his property is behind 4870 Route 50. He has lived there now for about 1 year. He now understands why the previous owner sold it, the barking dogs are horrible, it is nonstop. The smell from all these dogs is unbelievable. Mr. Albright stated that the individuals living at this address are living in horrible conditions.

Jean DeRush, stated that she is trying to sell property at 4958 Route 50 but any prospective buyer that stops to see the property walks away due to non-stop barking dogs. Ms. DeRush stated the property is in horrible condition.

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Supervisor Peck stated that he feels for their pain. Supervisor Peck stated that when he receives calls, personally, about these dogs he has driven out and gone through the Development. Supervisor Peck stated that Attorney Brennan along with Dog Control Officer Edward Cross have worked diligently trying to rectify the problem. Supervisor Peck stated that he personally has driven through their neighborhood at all different hours to observe this ongoing problem. Supervisor Peck stated that he wants everyone here tonight to know that the Town Board hears you. Supervisor Peck stated that later in the Meeting they will go into Executive Session to discuss options. The residents thanked the Town Board for listening to them tonight.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Councilwoman Patricia Bryant made a motion to approve the minutes of the April 8, 2021 Regular Monthly Meeting. Councilman John DeLisle seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.

CORRESPONDENCE

1. Dog Control Officer: Ed Cross, Dog Control Officer, submitted his report for April, 2021. Mr. Cross answered 5 Complaints; issued 1 Warning and issued 4 Summons. Mr. Cross noted that it was an ongoing barking problem at 4870 Route 50.

2. The Town of Northumberland received a copy of a letter from Kristine Orr, Superintendent of South Glens Falls School to Saratoga County Board of Elections regarding a request to use optical scan voting machine for the May 18, 2021 for the 2021 – 2022 proposed School District Budget and candidates for the Board of Elections.

3. The Town Board received a letter from Suzann and Peter Bobley at 314 Beaver Street regarding the 45-mph speed limit and blind spots and hills on Beaver Street. The Bobley's stated that cars speed down Beaver Street. Bobley's stated that the population on Beaver Street has increased over the years and there is also an increase in children. The Bobley's are requesting either increase in Sheriff patrolling and/or speed reduction. Supervisor Peck stated that he has driven up and down Beaver Street several times since receiving a copy of this letter and has not passed another vehicle. Supervisor Peck stated it would be hard to obtain a speed reduction. Supervisor Peck stated that he will talk with Sheriff Zurlo about patrolling that area for speeders.

4. David Coffinger, Highway Supt received a Letter of Resignation from Clayton Young effective May 13, 2021. Supervisor Peck stated that he encouraged Highway Supt Coffinger to advertise for a replacement.

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5. Emergency Rental Assistance Program (ERAP): Supervisor Peck provided information regarding ERAP. The Emergency Rental Assistance Program will enable tenants and landlords to apply for rental arrear payments. New York State Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance (OTDA) is administering this program. OTDA will soon open an online application portal which will allow tenants and/or landlords to apply for rental arrear payment assistance. In addition to the outreach and application assistance provided by Saratoga County Department of Social Service, the County has contracted with Shelters of Saratoga, Inc for community outreach and application assistance. Information about the ERAP Program is currently posted on the County Website under the Department of Social Services and interested tenants and landlords can sign up on the website.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Supervisor Peck reported that Highway Supt David Coffinger has been researching prices for a new Plow Truck. Highway Supt Coffinger found the best price with his desired specification on the Onondaga County Contract # 8996. The quotation was put together by Tracey Road Equipment. The quote is for a 2022 Western Star 4700SB - \$135,747.00 with a Viking Equipment package - \$86,766.80. The total cost would be \$222,513.80.

Councilman John DeLisle introduced Resolution #41 of 2021

WHEREAS, the Town of Northumberland has the need for a new dump truck with tandem plow and dump equipment, and

WHEREAS, Highway Supt David Coffinger has reviewed specification of trucks covered under the Onondaga County Contract, therefore be it

RESOLVED, The Town of Northumberland Town Board accepts the quote to purchase under the Onondaga County Contract # 8996 for a 2022 Western Star 4700SB in the amount of \$135,747.00 and A Viking Equipment package in the amount of \$86,766.80 for a total cost of \$222,513.80.

Councilwoman Patricia Bryant seconded the introduction of Resolution #41 of 2021.

Supervisor Willard Peck – “Aye”
Councilman Paul Bolesh – “Aye”
Councilman John DeLisle – “Aye”
Councilwoman Patricia Bryant – “Aye”

2. AT &T: Town Attorney David Brennan stated that AT &T has submitted an Application for Amendment to a Telecommunications Development District (“TDD) and Telecommunications siting Permit for a Wireless Telecommunications Facility to be located at 5 Blue Heron Terrace (Tax parcel 116.-1-2.11). The Applicant was asked at the April 12, 2021 Planning Board Meeting to revise the application to include a 199’ AGL structure and to submit photo-simulations addressing four specific

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views and they want to address the requirements of the Town of Northumberland Zoning Ordinance (Article IX, Special Permit Uses, Commercial Communications/Radio Towers). Town Attorney David Brennan stated there was a discussion regarding at what height of a cell tower a light needs to be installed. The Applicant will contact FAA to get a determination. Town Attorney David Brennan stated that the Town Board will need to hold a Public Hearing since this will be an amendment to the Telecommunications Development District. Councilman John DeLisle made a motion to hold a Public Hearing on an Amendment to Local Law #1 of 2015 – A Local Law Establishing Verizon Wireless Telecommunications Development District on June 10, 2021 @ 7:05 PM at the Town Hall, Gansevoort. Councilwoman Patricia Bryant seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.

3. Proposed Local Law enacting an Eight Month Moratorium on Certain Solar Energy Systems: Supervisor Peck stated that the Town of Northumberland is considering updating the provisions of its existing Zoning Ordinance that regulate Solar Energy Systems. The current Zoning Ordinance provisions regulating Freestanding/Ground-Mounted Solar Collection Systems have resulted in applications to the Town that are inconsistent with the Town's desire to protect its community agricultural character, open space, aesthetics and resources. The Town has received applications that are significantly visible from local roads and properties and that take viable agricultural land out of productions. Supervisor Peck stated that for a period of eight months from the effective date of this Local Law, no board, officer or agency of the Town shall accept or approve any project. Rooftop/Building Mounted Solar Collection Systems and Accessory Solar Energy Systems are not included in this moratorium. Supervisor Peck stated this eight-month Moratorium will not affect a Solar Farm that had its Public Hearing at the Planning Board. Supervisor Peck stated that the Planning Board is seeking more guidance from the Town Board. Councilman Paul Bolesh made a motion to Hold a Public Hearing on a proposed Local Law – A Local Law Enacting an Eight Month Moratorium on Certain Solar Energy Systems under consideration by the Town Board on June 10, 2021 @ 7:15 PM at the Town Hall, Gansevoort. Councilman John DeLisle seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.

4. Shared Service Agreement: Supervisor Peck reported that Highway Supt David Coffinger would like to enter into a Shared Service Agreement with the Town of Stillwater to provide the paving for this year. Highway Supt Coffinger stated that the Town of Stillwater has all the necessary equipment and is considerably cheaper than both the State and County bid. Supervisor Peck has contacted the Town of Stillwater to obtain a Shared Service Agreement. They are updating the Agreement and will send it to us as soon as it is completed for our consideration.

5. Local Economic Development Initiatives: Supervisor Peck stated that in the 2021 Saratoga County budget, \$150,000 was allocated to assist Saratoga County Communities with the funding of economic development projects. Each Town can request up to \$7,100 to support local economic development initiatives. Supervisor Peck asked everyone about it.

6. Transfer Station: Claude Himelrick, Transfer Station Attendant, provided a rough draft for some proposed renovations at the Transfer Station. Mr. Himelrick would like to redesign the area that residents can bring bulk metal. Mr. Himelrick feel, the present site, is not in a good spot and the pitch

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Councilman Paul Bolesh made a motion to go into Executive Session @ 9:30 PM to discuss possible litigation. Councilman John DeLisle seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.

Councilwoman Patricia Bryant made a motion @ 10:00 PM to reconvene the Regular Monthly Meeting. Councilman Paul Bolesh seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.

Supervisor Willard Peck reported that no action was taken.

Councilman Paul Bolesh made a motion @ 10:05 PM to adjourn the Regular Monthly Meeting. Councilwoman Patricia Bryant seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Denise Murphy
Town Clerk