

**Town of Northumberland
Town Board Meeting
July 14, 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 Councilman Paul Bolesh; Councilman Daniel Gale; Councilman George Hodgson; Councilwoman Patricia Bryant and Supervisor Willard Peck. Also attending was Clerk Denise Murphy.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Harry Sears, 120 Stormy Lane, gave an update on his Eagle Scout Project. Mr. Sears is upgrading and doing much needed repairs to the basketball court at the "Bertha E Smith" Park. Mr. Sears stated that Highway Sup't Neil Petteys has been a great help. Mr. Sears met with two pavers from Peckham Materials regarding blacktopping the basketball court. Mr. Sears has raised \$1,500 from three (3) fundraisers. Mr. Sears hopes to have the paving of the basketball court completed by the end of July.

APPROVE MINUTES

1. Councilman Paul Bolesh made a motion to approve the minutes of the June 2, 2011 Regular Monthly Meeting. Councilwoman Patricia Bryant seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.

CORRESPONDENCE

1. Ed Cross submitted his Dog Control for June 2011. Mr. Cross answered 12 complaints; took 2 dogs to the shelter; traveled 321 miles answered 4 warnings and issued 2 summons.

2. Moreau Emergency Squad issued their call volume report for June. Moreau Emergency Squad answered 12 calls in the Town of Northumberland in June 2011.

3. Supervisor Willard Peck stated that he received the "Notice of Tentative State Equalization Rate for the 2011 Assessment Roll" from the State Office of Real Property Tax Service. The Town of Northumberland's tentative equalization rate is 100.00%. Supervisor Willard Peck stated this is extremely good for the Town of Northumberland.

4. The Town Board received a letter from the Federal Communications Commission regarding "Compliance with the January 1, 2013 Narrow banding Deadline". The Town Clerk will provide the Highway Sup't and Town Attorney a copy of this letter.

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OLD BUSINESS

1. Councilman Daniel Gale gave an update on Schuyler Park. The “Friends of Schuyler Park” raised \$1,600 at the Sundae on the Farm Tour at Clear Echo Farm. The playground is being built on August 29th, 30th and 31st. Grant Bolis is coordinating the building of the playground as part of his Eagle Scout Project. The pavilion will be going up next to the playground and the basketball court is being built. Councilman Gale stated it has been an extremely productive summer at Schuyler Park and they are receiving positive feedback. Soccer Camp will be starting up next week. The parking lot is in good shape and decorative rocks have been donated that will act as a natural barrier.

2. Councilman George Hodgson reported that the well has been connected. The electric at the pavilion is ready to be inspected. Councilman George Hodgson reported that they will start soon on the parking lot. Councilman Hodgson stated that he hopes to expend the remaining funds for both the Canal Corp and Department of Transportation Grants soon. August 13th is the Cardboard Boat Race which is always a nice turn out. The Triathlon was a great success.

3. Sundae on the Farm: Supervisor Willard Peck informed the Town Board that roughly 4,000 people attended Sundae on the Farm on June 19th at the Clear Echo Farm. It was a huge success.

4. Councilman Paul Bolesh stated he sent a request for prisoners to paint the Town Hall in early June. He has not received any confirmation at this point. The Town will need to hire a Union Painter to oversee the project if it is approved.

5. Tobacco Free Zone: The Town Board adopted a Resolution at June’s Town Board Meeting to make all town property a tobacco free zone. Janine Stuchin, Project Manager with the Southern Adirondack Tobacco-Free Coalition, presented proofs for signs making the public aware that Town of Northumberland property is tobacco free. There were two (2) proofs presented for the Town Board’s approval. One of the signs will be placed in all town parks, and the other signs will be placed at the town hall and highway garage property. Councilman Daniel Gale made a motion to approve two (2) model signs as presented by Janine Stuchin with the Southern Adirondack Tobacco-Free Coalition to be placed on all town property. Councilman Paul Bolesh seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.

6. Councilman Daniel Gale stated he will be contacting residents that indicated that they wish to volunteer their time to serve on a Town Hall Committee. Councilman Gale stated he would like to hold the first meeting in September.

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New Business

1. Supervisor Willard Peck informed the Town Board Members that the Town of Northumberland received NYSHIP (*New York State Health Insurance Program*) Participating Agency Self-Audit from New York State Department of Civil Service regarding the town's health insurance. New York State Civil Service Law mandates that an active employee work a regularly scheduled workweek of 20 hours or more, or be paid at least \$2,000 on an annual salary basis, to be eligible for New York State Health Insurance Program Coverage. The Town of Northumberland does not have a formal policy. The Town of Northumberland also only has a policy regarding retirees for the Highway Employees; there is no provision for retirees for the other Departments. Attorney Douglas Ward drafted a Policy for the Town Board's consideration. At this point, the Town Board took a few minutes to review the proposed Policy. The Town Board made some clarification on the language in the proposed Health Insurance Policy. Councilman George Hodgson made a motion to adopt the "Town of Northumberland Policy Regarding Health Insurance for Active and Retired Employees and Elected Officials" with the correction which are incorporated into the presented Policy prepared by Town Attorney Douglas Ward. Councilwoman Patricia Bryant seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried

TOWN OF NORTHUMBERLAND POLICY REGARDING HEALTH INSURANCE FOR ACTIVE AND RETIRED EMPLOYEES AND ELECTED OFFICIALS.

The Town of Northumberland will make available medical insurance coverage under the New York State Health Insurance Program (NYSHIP) to active employees and elected officials, and retired employees and officials in accordance with this policy.

Full-Time Employees and Full-time Elected Officials- The Town shall make available medical insurance under the NYSHIP, to full-time employees and full-time elected officials. For the purposes of this policy "full-time employee" includes any employee who receives a salary for employment with the Town for 35 hours or more each week, but does not include elected officials. Full-time Elected Officials means the Town Clerk and the Town Highway Superintendent." The Town will pay the full premium for individual or family medical coverage as the case may be, for each eligible full-time employee or full-time elected official.

Part-time Employees and Part-time Elected Officials-The Town shall make available medical insurance under the NYSHIP, to part-time employees and part-time elected officials. For the purposes of this Policy "part-time employees" or "part-time elected official" includes any employee or elected official who receives a salary of more than \$2000.00 per year for employment with the Town for less than 35 hours per week. The Town will not make any contributions for premium payments for medical coverage for part-time employees or part-time elected officials.

Retired Full-time Employees and Full-time Elected Officials- The Town will make available medical insurance under the NYSHIP, upon retirement for only full-time elected officials and their spouse, that meet the following requirements: The employee or elected official must have at least twenty (20) years

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of service, meet all the requirements of the New York State Pension System and be receiving a pension. In the event the employee or elected official becomes deceased his/her surviving spouse will have coverage paid by the Town, under the same provisions that applied to the deceased spouse. This coverage will be for the surviving individual only! (no one else, even if he/she remarries). Employees hired, or elected officials elected, prior to January 1, 2004 will be obligated to pay 15% of the cost of their Health Insurance for Single Person Coverage, 20% of the cost for Two Person Coverage. A retiree who selects Family Coverage will be obligated to pay 20% the cost of Two Person Coverage, along with the entire difference between the cost of Two Person and Family Coverage. Employees hired, or elected officials first elected, after January 1, 2004 will be obligated to pay 25% of the cost for Single and Two Person Coverage upon retirement. A retiree that selects Family Coverage will be obligated to pay 25% of the cost of Two Person Coverage, along with the entire difference between the cost of Two Person and Family Coverage. Employees or elected officials must meet all the requirements listed above regardless of their hire or election date. This insurance will cover retirees until they are eligible for Medicare Supplemental Insurance as the employee or elected official had prior to age 65 for the employee or elected official and their dependents.

2. Councilman George Hodgson indicated that he has talked with Highway Sup't Neil Petteys regarding the need for a Highway Employee to fill the vacancy created when Kerry Garnsey retired. Councilman George Hodgson indicated that Highway Sup't Neil Petteys has four applications and he would like to interview these individuals. Councilman Daniel Gale stated that he is the Chairman of the Highway Sup't and he would like to be included in the interview process. Councilman Gale stated that it is very important that whoever is hired knows they are accountable to both the Town Board and the Highway Sup't. The Town Clerk stated she will inform the Highway Supt'd, when he returns from vacation, that the Highway Committee and Town Supervisor wish to be included in the interview process.

3. Supervisor Willard Peck informed the Town Board that he was contacted by a representative from Glens Falls National Bank and Trust, the Town's designated bank. The Town historically kept their money in 90 day CD's. Supervisor Willard Peck stated he was advised that the Town would receive a higher interest rate if the money was kept in the checking account vs. a Certificate of Deposit. Supervisor Peck stated that when the current CD matures he will place the funds in the town's checking account.

DESIGNATIONS

1. Approval of Vouchers for payment as present: Councilman Paul Bolesh introduced Resolution #44 of 2011:

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

A (General Fund) Vouchers # 220 - # 274 Total: \$ 41,783.06`
DA (Highway Fund) Vouchers # 131- #161 Total: \$ 34,204.37
SS (Sewer District #1) Voucher # 8 - #9 Total: \$ 1,732.13

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Councilman George Hodgson seconded the introduction of Resolution # 44 of 2011.

Supervisor Willard Peck – “Aye”

Councilman Paul Bolesh – “Aye”

Councilman Daniel Gale – “Aye”

Councilwoman Patricia Bryant – “Aye” Resolution # 44 of 2011 – Adopted

2. Supervisor Willard Peck submitted his April 2011 Supervisor’s Report

Councilman George Hodgson made a motion to go into Executive Session to discuss a personnel issue @ 8:35 PM. Councilman Daniel Gale seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.

Councilman Paul Bolesh made a motion @ 8:55 PM to reconvene the Regular Monthly Meeting. Councilman Daniel Gale seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.

Supervisor Willard Peck reported that no action was taken.

Councilman Paul Bolesh made a motion @ 8:58 PM to adjourn the Regular Monthly Meeting. Councilwoman Patricia Bryant seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Denise Murphy
Town Clerk