

**Town of Northumberland
Public Hearing
November 6, 2014**

Supervisor Willard Peck opened the Public Hearing on the proposed 2015 Town Budget at 7:00 PM. Following the salute to the flag, roll call was taken. Those attending included Supervisor Willard Peck; Councilman John DeLisle; Councilman George Hodgson and Councilwoman Patricia Bryant. Councilman Paul Bolesh was absent. Also attending was Clerk Denise Murphy and Building and Zoning Administrator Richard Colozza. Also attending was Christina Scanlon, Post Star Reporter; David Gougler and James Heber residents of the Town of Northumberland. Supervisor Willard Peck gave an overview of the proposed 2015 Town Budget. Supervisor Willard Peck stated that he is extremely happy with the proposed 2015 Town Budget. Supervisor Peck stated that when he presented the Preliminary 2015 Town Budget he was not happy. After further investigation, he realized that there was a \$100,000.00 error which was in the interfund transfer account. This amount has been eliminated in the 2015 Town Budget. Supervisor Peck stated that he went back to the Departments within the Town and some cuts were made which totaled about \$38,000 from the 2015 Town Budget. Supervisor Peck also stated as part of the host benefits with Finch Pruyn Landfill the Town of Northumberland can dispose of up to 500 tons of household waste for free which has lowered the Refuse and Garbage Account (A8160.4) considerably. One of the stipulations was local residents cannot just drive into the Finch Pruyn Landfill, so the Town of Northumberland will continue to operate our transfer station. The town will continue to charge residents the per bag sticker fee which will cover the cost of staffing the transfer station, container rental and pay the cost for the removal of recyclable items. Supervisor Peck stated that for the first time the cost and revenue are equal. Supervisor Peck also stated that the Town Board Members did not receive an increase in Salary for 2015. Other elected and appointed staff at the town hall received a 2% cost of living increase. Highway Employees pay is governed by the Teamsters Contract. Supervisor Peck stated that the General Fund Appropriations is down \$84,748 from the 2014 General Fund. Supervisor Peck stated the Highway Fund Appropriation is up roughly \$14,920. The total Town Budget Appropriation is down from \$2,104,174 in 2014 to \$2,034,346 in 2015. The amount to be raised by taxpayers is \$522,303.00. \$50,000 will be pulled from the fund balance to cover highway costs. The Town of Northumberland is under the Tax Cap by \$15,880. Supervisor Peck stated this is a Conservative Budget. Supervisor Peck stated that the General Fund's Revenue is mostly made up from Sales Tax and Mortgage Tax. Supervisor Peck stated the town does receive funds from the different Departments. Supervisor Peck stated the Highway Revenues come from Property Taxes and Sales Tax. Supervisor Peck stated that in 2013 the Comptroller implemented a statewide fiscal stress monitoring system to identify local governments experiencing fiscal stress. The Town of Northumberland received a Fiscal Stress Score of 0%, which is the best. Supervisor Peck stated that this Town Board is Conservative and works extremely hard to be fiscally responsible. Supervisor Peck stated that the Town of Northumberland collects taxes for the Bacon Hill Fire Protection District; Gansevoort Fire District; Moreau Emergency Squad and the General Schuyler Emergency Squad. Supervisor Willard Peck stated that the proposed building project has no tax impact, as it will be paid from fund balance and an income stream from a profit-sharing agreement related to the sale Saratoga County landfill property to Finch Paper. These Special Districts are below the Tax Cap. At this point Supervisor Peck opened the Public Hearing for Comments.

James Heber, Brownville Rd, asked about Personnel Services. Mr. Heber wanted to know why there was such an increase in the Justices Personnel costs in comparison to the rest. Supervisor Peck stated town justices have requested an addition of up to 30 hours per month for an assistant Court Clerk to help with the sealing of some of the old court records. Mr. Heber stated he also was concerned regarding the Town Attorney receiving compensation for the Zoning and Planning Board since he is a member on the Planning Board and they have not had a major subdivision in quite some time. Supervisor Peck stated that has been how the Town Attorney's salary has been reflected in the Town Budget. Supervisor Peck stated that he will look at how salaries are broken down in the Town Budget. Mr. Heber stated that the refuse and garbage has always been his pet peeve and is happy to see it is now paying for itself.

Christina Scanlon, Post Star, asked Supervisor Peck if he knew what the tax rate is going to be for the 2015 Town Budget. Supervisor Willard Peck stated that there is no General Tax and the Highway Tax is projected to be \$1.41 per thousand.

At this time there were no further comments from the public. Councilman George Hodgson made a motion to adjourn the Public Hearing at 8:10 PM. Councilman John DeLisle seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Denise Murphy
Town Clerk