The Regular Monthly Meeting of the Northumberland Town Board was called to order @ 8:14 AM by Supervisor Willard Peck . Those attending included Supervisor Willard Peck; Councilman Paul Bolesh; Councilman John DeLisle; Councilman George Hodgson and Councilwoman Patricia Bryant. Also attending were Clerk Denise Murphy, Town Attorney David Brennan and Building/Zoning Administrator Michael Terry.

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

There were no comments from the public.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

1. Councilman John DeLisle made a motion to approve the minutes of the June 15, 2023 Regular Monthly Meeting. Councilman Paul Bolesh seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

1. Dog Control Officer’s Report: Ed Cross, Dog Control Officer submitted his report for June. Mr. Cross answered four (4) Complaints, brought two (2) dogs to the Shelter and issued two (2) Warnings.

2. The Town Clerk received an email from Jennifer Thomas with the Bacon Hill Cemetery Association regarding a self-guided walking tour of the cemetery on September 16th @ 2:00 PM. Mrs. Thomas would like permission to offer 2-3 handicapped parking locations in the grass on the shoulder between Stonebridge Road and the cemetery for the event if needed. Highway Supt Coffinger has approved Mrs. Thomas’s request.

3. Supervisor Peck stated that Saratoga County Historic Society finished their film “Bacon Hill: A Forgotten Crossroad”. Supervisor Peck stated that he thinks the Town should purchase the DVD from the Historic Society and possibly placing the link to “YouTube” Bacon Hill: A Forgotten Crossroad on our Web Page.

**NEW BUSINESS**

The Town Consider the adoption of Local Law #2 of 2023 – A Local Law Authorizing Real Property Tax Exemption for Volunteer Firefighters and Volunteer Ambulance Service Workers: Supervisor Peck stated that the Town Board held a Public Hearing on Local Law #2 of 2023 earlier and there were no comments from the public.

Supervisor Willard Peck introduced Resolution #45 of 2023 – A Resolution adopting a Local Law to provide for Real Property Tax Exemptions for enrolled members of incorporated volunteer fire companies, fire departments, and incorporated ambulance services.

**BE IT RESOLVED**, the Northumberland Town Board adopts Local Law #2 of 2023 as follows:

**TOWN OF NORTHUMBERLAND**

**ADOPTION OF LOCAL LAW AUTHORIZING**

**REAL PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTION FOR VOLUNTEER**

**FIREFIGHTERS AND VOLUNTEER AMBULANCE SERVICE WORKERS**

**BE IT ENACTED** by the Town Board of the Town of Northumberland (“Town”), in the County of Saratoga, State of New York, as follows:

**Section 1. Purpose**

The state Real Property Tax Law was amended by Chapter 670 of the Laws of 2022 by the addition of a new §466-providing for a ten percent partial tax exempt of the assessed value of the primary residence owned by a qualified enrolled member of an incorporated volunteer fire company, fire department or incorporated volunteer ambulance service that serves the Town. The intent of this Local Law is to permit the partial real property tax exemption for such qualified enrolled members of said emergency services organizations for real property taxes imposed by the Town.

**Section 2. Authority**

Pursuant to Chapter 670 of the Laws of 2022 effective December 9, 2022, the state Real Property Tax Law was amended by adding a new §466-a authorizing local governments including towns to enact by local law, ordinance or resolution such partial tax exemption for Town real property taxes to qualified enrolled members of said emergency services organizations, following a public hearing.

**Section 3. Grant of exemption**

The primary residential real property located in the Town that is owned by an enrolled member of an incorporated volunteer fire company, volunteer fire department or incorporated voluntary ambulance service that provides services within the Town shall be exempt from taxation and assessments levied by the Town to the extent of ten percent (10%) of the assessed value of such property, exclusive of special assessments, subject to the requirements set forth in this herein.

**Section 4. Authority Having Jurisdiction**

For purposes of this Local Law the “Authority Having Jurisdiction” shall mean:

A. In case of a fire district, the Board of Fire Commissioners of the fire district;

B. In case of a contract fire department in a fire protection district, the Town Board;

C. In case of a village fire department the Village Board;

D. In case of a city fire department, the city council;

E. In case of an incorporated voluntary ambulance service, the Town Board.

**Section 5. Eligibility.**

Such exemption shall not be granted unless:

1. The applicant resided in the Town, which is served by such incorporated volunteer fire company, volunteer fire department or incorporated voluntary ambulance service of which the applicant is a qualified enrolled member;
2. the property is the primary residence of the applicant;
3. the property is used exclusively for residential purposes; provided, however, that if any portion of such property is not used exclusively for the applicant’s residence but is used for other purposes, such portion shall be subject to taxation and the remaining portion only shall be entitled to the exemption provided by this Local Law; and
4. the applicant has been certified by the authority having jurisdiction for the incorporated volunteer fire company, fire department, or voluntary ambulance service as an enrolled member who has served such incorporated volunteer fire company, fire department, or voluntary ambulance service for at least two (2) years; and
5. the applicant must submit said certification from the authority having jurisdiction together with the tax exemption application.

**Section 6. Grant of Lifetime Exemption.**

Any enrolled member of an incorporated volunteer fire company, fire department or incorporated voluntary ambulance service who accrues more than twenty years of active service, and is so certified by the authority having jurisdiction for the incorporated volunteer fire company, fire department or incorporated voluntary ambulance service, shall be granted the ten percent (10%) exemption authorized by this Local Law for the remainder of his or her life as long as his or her primary residence is located within the county.

**Section 7. Surviving, Un-Remarried Spousal Exemption for Volunteer Firefighters or Volunteer Ambulance workers Killed in the Line of Duty.**

The property tax exemption authorized by this Local Law and granted to an enrolled member of an incorporated volunteer fire company, fire department, or incorporated voluntary ambulance service shall, upon application, be continued to such deceased enrolled member’s un-remarried spouse if such member is killed in the line of duty, provided that:

1. Such un-remarried spouse is certified by the authority having jurisdiction for the incorporated volunteer fire company, fire department, or incorporated voluntary ambulance service as an un-remarried spouse of enrolled member who was killed in the line of duty;
2. Such deceased volunteer had been an enrolled member for at least five (5) years; and
3. Such deceased volunteer had been receiving the exemption prior to his or her death.

**Section 8. Surviving, Un-remarried Spousal Exemption for Deceased Volunteer Firefighters or Volunteer Ambulance Workers with Twenty Years of Enrolled Member Service.**

The property tax exemption authorized by this Local Law and granted to an enrolled member of an incorporated volunteer fire company, fire department, or incorporated voluntary ambulance service shall, upon application, be continued to such deceased enrolled member’s un-remarried spouse, provided that:

1. Such un-remarried spouse is certified by the authority having jurisdiction for the incorporated volunteer fire company, fire department, or incorporated voluntary ambulance service as an un-remarried spouse of such enrolled member;
2. Such deceased volunteer has been an enrolled member for at least twenty (20) years; and
3. Such deceased volunteer and un-remarried spouse had been receiving the exemption for such property prior to the death of such volunteer.

**Section 9. Application**

An application form for such exemption and certification provided by the appropriate authority having jurisdiction shall be filed with the Assessor for the Town on or before the taxable status date of each year or as otherwise required as prescribed by New York State.

**Section 10. No Diminution of Benefits.**

No applicant who is a volunteer firefighter or volunteer ambulance worker who by reason of such status is receiving any benefit under the provisions of Article 4 of the state Real Property Tax Law on the effective date of this Local Law shall suffer any diminution of such benefit because of the provisions of this Local Law.

**Section 11. Effective Date**

This Local Law shall take effect immediately upon filing with the Secretary of State.

**Section 12. Financial Implications to Town**

None. This Local Law will not result in a diminution of taxable receipts or otherwise alter the Town’s ability to levy taxes.

**AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, this is a Type II Action that does not have a significant impact on the environment which precludes it from environmental review under SEQR.

Councilman John DeLisle seconded the introduction of Resolution #45 of 2023.

Supervisor Willard Peck – “Aye”

Councilman Paul Bolesh – “Aye”

Councilman John DeLisle – “Aye”

Councilman George Hodgson – “Aye”

Councilwoman Patricia Bryant – “Aye” Resolution #45 of 2023 Adopted

2. 2023 Comprehensive Land Use Plan Update: Supervisor Willard Peck asked everyone to take home a copy of the draft 2023 Comprehensive Land Use Plan and review it. Supervisor Peck asked everyone to bring their comments to next month’s Town Board Meeting.

**OLD BUSINESS**

1. The Town received a “Road Use and Crossing Agreement for the Champlain Hudson Power Express Electric Transmission Cable System Crossing” from CHPE LLC and CHPE. Town Attorney David Brennan stated that he has reviewed the Agreement and has some changes. Town Attorney Brennan stated that the Town Board can authorize Supervisor Peck to sign the Agreement pending Town Attorney’s approval with the final “Agreement”. Councilman John DeLisle made a motion to authorize Supervisor Peck to sign the “Road Use and Crossing Agreement for the Champlain Hudson Power Express Electric Transmission Cable System Crossing” pending Town Attorney’s approval of the final agreement. Councilman Paul Bolesh seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.

2. Update on Stonebridge Farm PUD: Town Attorney Brennan stated that he would like Supervisor Peck and himself to have a conference call with the Attorney for Stonebridge Farm to go over their intentions with this property. Supervisor Peck stated that he would like to have the applicant to come to the September 14th Town Board Meeting and present their project and the Town Board could then hold a Public Hearing in October or November to allow the residents to review the project.

3. Pole Barn: Supervisor Peck stated that he, along with Councilman DeLisle, met with a representative of AJ Catalfamo Construction and Town Engineer Charlie Baker at the site of the new pole barn. They reviewed some of the specifications the Town is hoping for. AJ Catalfamo Construction will now put together a design for the Town Board’s approval.

4. Transfer Station: Councilman George Hodgson stated that he has some concerns at the Transfer Station. The road going into the transfer station is in need of repairs. With all this rain, it has huge ruts and standing water. Councilman Hodgson also stated that a cement pad needs to be installed under the roll offs. Councilman Hodgson also stated that the drainage needs to be improved near the roll offs. Standing water is just sitting there. Councilman John DeLisle stated that he thought that we authorized our Town Engineer to have drones fly over our Transfer Station to shoot elevations. Councilman DeLisle stated without knowing exact elevations at that site, it will be next to impossible to address standing water. Supervisor Willard Peck stated that he will talk with our Town Engineer, Charlie Baker, to get his recommendations.

**APPOINTMENTS**

1. Board of Assessment Review: Town Clerk Denise Murphy reported that Joan Heber’s term on the Board of Assessment Review expires 09/30/2023. Mrs. Heber wishes to be reappointed. Clerk Murphy stated this would be a five (5) year term. Councilman Paul Bolesh made a motion to reappoint Joan Heber to the Board of Assessment Review (effective 10/01/2023 – 09/30/2028). Councilman John DeLisle seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.

**DESIGNATIONS**

1. Approval of Vouchers: Councilman Patricia Bryant introduced Resolution # 46 of 2023

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

A (General Fund) Vouchers # 181 - # 216 Total: $ 35,422.12

DA (Highway Fund) Vouchers # 181 - # 207 Total: $ 35,351.45

SS (Sewer) Voucher # 5 Total: $ 29.42

T & A (Trust & Agency) Vouchers #3 - #4 Total $5,182.86

Councilman Paul Bolesh seconded the introduction of Resolution #46 of 2023.

Supervisor Willard Peck – “Aye”

Councilman Paul Bolesh – “Aye”

Councilman John DeLisle – “Aye”

Councilman George Hodgson – “Aye”

Councilwoman Patricia Bryant – “Aye” Resolution #46 of 2023 Adopted

Councilman Paul Bolesh made a motion @ 8:45 AM to adjourn the Regular Monthly Meeting. Councilman George Hodgson seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Denise Murphy, Town Clerk

Town of Northumberland