

**Town of Northumberland  
Town Board Meeting  
June 15, 2023**

The Regular Monthly Meeting of the Northumberland Town Board was called to order @ 8:00 AM by Supervisor Willard Peck. Following the salute to the flag, roll call was taken. 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, Highway Supt David Coffinger and Town Attorney David Brennan.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

1. Councilman George Hodgson made a motion to approve the minutes of the May 11, 2023 Public Hearing on proposed Local Law #1 of 2023. Councilman Paul Bolesh seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.
  
2. Councilman Paul Bolesh made a motion to approve the minutes of the May 11, 2023 Regular Monthly Meeting. Councilwoman Patricia Bryant seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

1. Dog Control Officers Report: Ed Cross, Dog Control Officer, submitted his report for May, 2023. Mr. Cross answered 3 Complaints; brought 1 dog to the Animal Shelter and issued 2 Warnings.
  
2. Turning Point Parade: The Town of Northumberland Town Board received an invitation to march in the August 6, 2023 Turning Point Parade. It was the consensus of the Town Board to decline marching this year.
  
3. The Town Board received a letter from Councilman Eugene Cook, Town of Huntington, regarding "Voter's identification process". The Town of Huntington passed a Resolution urging the New York State Legislature and Governor Hochul to draft and enact legislation regarding a voter's identification process. It was the consensus of the Town Board Members to hold off supporting their Resolution.
  
4. The Town Board received a letter from Casella Waste. Effective June 1, 2023, they have found it necessary to increase our current rate to offset rising service costs. The current rate of \$156.00 per haul will now be \$175.00 per haul. It was the consensus of the Town Board to rebid for the removal of garbage and recyclables at our Transfer Station in early 2024.
  
5. The Town Board received a copy of a letter from Mike and Suzy Rose, 46A Brampton Lane and Christopher and Brittany Rose, 24 Brampton Lane regarding the outstanding job Highway Supt David Coffinger and his Highway crew do to keep our roads in great condition and safe.

**Town of Northumberland  
Town Board Meeting  
June 15, 2023**

6. The Town Board received a letter from Christina Kilburn, Planning and Zoning Clerk, that the Zoning Board of Appeals wish to appoint Mark Boyce, Chairman and Carl Harrison, Vice-Chairman. Councilwoman Patricia Bryant made a motion to ratify the Zoning Board of Appeals recommendation for Mark Boyce as Chairman and Carl Harris as Vice Chairman. Councilman Paul Bolesh seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.

**NEW BUSINESS**

1. Supervisor Willard Peck stated that he has been contacted by Bill Weatherwax, 847 West River Road, regarding the Historic Markers in the Town of Northumberland. Mr. Weatherwax works at Tye Metal Corp and would like to restore and paint these markers as a community service project. Councilman John DeLisle made a motion authorizing Mr. Weatherwax to restore Historic Markers located within the Town of Northumberland. Councilwoman Patricia Bryant seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.

2. Proposed Local Law #2 of 2023 – A Local Law authorizing Real Property Tax Exemption for Volunteer Firefighters and Volunteer Ambulance Service Workers: Supervisor Willard Peck stated that a draft law has been prepared regarding exemptions for volunteer firefighters and ambulance service workers. This exemption would be up to 10% of the assessed value of such property, exclusive of special assessments. Councilman John DeLisle made a motion to hold a Public Hearing on proposed Local Law #2 of 2023 – A Local Law authorizing Real Property Tax Exemption for Volunteer Firefighters and Volunteer Ambulance Services Works on Thursday, July 13, 2023 @ 8:00 AM. Councilman Paul Bolesh seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.

3. Equalization Rate: The Town of Northumberland received notification that the Final State Equalization Rate for the Town of Northumberland is 63 %. Last year’s Final State Equalization Rate was 72 %. Councilman Paul Bolesh stated that he came and discussed the dropping of our Equalization Rate with our Sole Assessor, Walter Smead. Mr. Smead indicated that he would like to see if the market settles a bit before doing a revaluation.

4. Lawn Care: Town Clerk Denise Murphy asked the Town Board if they would consider putting out to bid for lawn care. Clerk Murphy stated that the grass has not been established at all around the Town Hall and out front. Councilman John DeLisle stated that we probably need sod being brought in and all new grass seed be spread. Once grass has been established, it would require lawn fertilizing and weed killer. Councilman DeLisle stated that fall would be the best time to start. Councilman DeLisle stated that he would help with coming up with some specifications.

5. Resolution Urging the Governor to Veto A.04282B/S.3505B to Move Certain Local Elections to Even-Numbered Years:

**Town of Northumberland  
Town Board Meeting  
June 15, 2023**

Councilman John DeLisle introduced Resolution #42 of 2023

**Resolution Urging the Governor to Veto A.04282B/S.3505B to Move Certain Local Elections to Even-Numbered Years**

**Whereas**, the Town of Northumberland believes that increasing participation in the election process and reducing costs of government operations is good for our republic; and

**Whereas**, Assembly Member Amy Paulin and State Senator James Skoufis reintroduced legislation that would move local elections to even-number years during the 2023 legislative session; and

**Whereas**, versions of this legislation were introduced in previous years and failed to reach the floor for a vote due to lack of support; and

**Whereas**, after the 2022 session concluded, the bill sponsor indicated that hearings would be held on the proposal through the Election Committee process; however, there were no hearings held; and

**Whereas**, the legislation passed in the middle of the night on the last days of the legislative session which is counter to the idea of an open and transparent government; and

**Whereas**, the Northumberland Town Board has several concerns with this bill; and

**Whereas**, this legislation usurps the Home Rule powers reserved by local governments and protected by the Constitution of the State of New York, raising questions of legality and constitutional authority; and

**Whereas**, local municipalities have had the ability to change their elections to even-number years for decades, and chose not to do so; and

**Whereas**, we believe that establishing the schedule of local elections is the right of the local government, and has been for more than 100 years; and

**Whereas**, The Assembly Bill sponsor indicated that she had not received any messages of support for this proposal from any of the 57 Counties and 933 Towns across New York State impacted by this legislation and

**Whereas**, this legislation excludes more than half of all New Yorkers who vote in cities and villages from the changes to election law, creating an inequity among New York voters; and

**Whereas**, this legislation unfairly excludes the elections to offices in New York City and all other cities and villages in New York State, as well as certain offices within all counties and towns; and

**Whereas**, the proposed legislation circumvented the legislative committee process during this session, limiting public input and understanding of the impacts; and

**Town of Northumberland  
Town Board Meeting  
June 15, 2023**

**Whereas**, there has been no financial analysis or operational analysis of the impacts on local Boards of Elections; and

**Whereas**, there are concerns that the current election and ballot counting technology would not be able to adequately meet the demands of the significantly increased ballot size; and

**Whereas**, this will create confusion amongst voters in towns and counties across New York State; and

**Whereas**, separating the elections affords voters more time and focus to better understand important local issues and provides candidates the appropriate platforms to explain their stance on issues without having to compete against national and state level campaigns; and

**Whereas**, moving local elections to even-numbered years would increase the cost of campaigns for local office, reducing the number of candidates willing to invest funds into their own campaign, because the cost of media will increase to compete with national and state level campaign advertisements, and

**Whereas**, there are significant legal and constitutional questions regarding the legality of this measure that have not been adequately addressed; and

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that this Town Board of Northumberland urges the Governor to oppose this legislation and utilize her veto authority to reject this proposal; and

**Resolved**, that copies of this resolution be distributed by the Town Clerk of Northumberland to Governor Kathy Hochul, Senate Majority Leader Andrea Stewart Cousins, Assembly Speaker Carl Heastie, Senate Minority Leader Robert Ort, Assembly Minority Leader William Barclay, Assembly Bill Sponsor Amy Paulin, Senate Bill Sponsor James Skoufis, Senator James Tedisco, Assemblymember Carrie Woerner,

Councilman George Hodgson seconded the introduction of Resolution #42 of 2023.

Supervisor Willard Peck – “Aye”

Councilman Paul Bolesh – “Aye”

Councilman John DeLisle – “Aye”

Councilman George Hodgson – “Aye”

Councilwoman Patricia Bryant – “Aye”

Resolution # 42 of 2023 Adopted

**OLD BUSINESS**

1. Stonebridge Farm: Town Attorney David Brennan stated that he has been in contact with Mr. Melfi’s Attorney, and they will be coming in at July’s Town Board Meeting.

2. Bids for Pole Barn at the Highway Garage: Supervisor Willard Peck stated that the Town Board solicited bids for a Pole Barn Structure to be built at the Highway Department. Bids were received and opened @ 2:00 PM on Monday, June 12, 2023. The following bids were received:

**Town of Northumberland  
Town Board Meeting  
June 15, 2023**

Home Plus & More, LLC - \$225,000.00  
Vancor Builders, LLC - \$174,389.89  
A.J. Catalfaro Construction Co. - \$167,500.00

Supervisor Willard Peck stated that he has reviewed the bids received with Charlie Baker, Town Engineer. Mr. Baker stated that he did not see any reason to not go with the lowest bidder, A.J. Catalfaro Construction Co, with a bid of \$167,500.

Councilman John Delisle introduced Resolution #43 of 2023 –

**BE IT RESOLVED**, the Town of Northumberland awards the bid for the construction of a Pole Barn to A. J. Catalfaro Construction Co. with a bid of \$167,500., and be it further

**RESOLVED**, that Town Attorney David Brennan will work with Town Engineer Charles Baker to come up with a Contract between A.J. Catalfaro Construction Co and the Town of Northumberland.

Councilman George Hodgson seconded the introduction of Resolution #42 of 2023.

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

Resolution #43 of 2023 Adopted

**APPOINTMENTS**

Board of Assessment Review: Town Clerk Denise Murphy stated that Joan Heber’s term on the Board of Assessment Review expires 09/30/2023. Clerk Murphy stated that she will reach out to Mrs. Heber to see if she wishes to be reappointed.

**DESIGNATIONS**

1. Approval of Vouchers: Councilman Patricia Bryant introduced Resolution # 44 of 2023

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

A (General Fund) Vouchers # 149 - # 180 Total: \$ 33,326.06  
DA (Highway Fund) Vouchers # 157 - # 180 Total: \$ 156,125.83  
SS (Sewer) Voucher # 4 Total: \$ 49.65

**Town of Northumberland  
Town Board Meeting  
June 15, 2023**

Councilman Paul Bolesh seconded the introduction of Resolution #43 of 2023

Supervisor Willard Peck – “Aye”

Councilman Paul Bolesh – “Aye”

Councilman John DeLisle – “Aye”

Councilman George Hodgson – “Aye”

Councilwoman Patricia Bryant – “Aye”

Resolution # 44 of 2023 Adopted

Councilman Paul Bolesh made a motion @ 9:17 AM to adjourn the Regular Monthly Meeting.  
Councilman John DeLisle seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Denise Murphy  
Town Clerk