

The November 18, 2015 Regular meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by Supervisor Tollisen in the A. James Bold Meeting Room at the New Town Hall with the following members present:

Kevin J. Tollisen, Supervisor
Paul L. Hotaling, Councilman
Daphne V. Jordan, Councilwoman
John P. Wasielewski, Councilman
Jeremy W. Connors, Councilman
Lyn A. Murphy, Town Attorney
Cathy L. Drobny, Deputy Town Attorney
Lynda A. Bryan, Town Clerk

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE and MOMENT OF SILENCE

PROCLAMATION: CELEBRATIONS COMMITTEE HONORING: ANNA NICKERSON (ANNIE)

Supervisor Tollisen: Good evening. First thing on our agenda is to honor another one of our volunteers from the Celebrations Association. Each volunteer that we have honored have had their own unique aspects and special talents that they have provided not only to Halfmoon Celebrations but also too many other organizations. We are very proud of them and proud to recognize them at our Board meetings. Tonight we recognize one of my favorite people in the world. Thinking about Annie, she is just the get along person. She gets along & loves everybody. I call her the exhorter because of all her positive energy. She is always willing to lend a hand, help and take the lead or to just be a support person. She is a very special person and we are happy to honor her tonight at the Town Board meeting.

WHEREAS, the Town Board of the Town of Halfmoon recognizes the time and effort put forth by Anna Nickerson (Annie) as a volunteer for Halfmoon Celebrations Association and applaud her willingness to volunteer and utilize her abilities and unique talents to serve our community by volunteering for Halfmoon Celebrations Association; and

WHEREAS, the Board wishes to recognize and express gratitude to Annie Nickerson who demonstrated an extraordinary dedication to the future of our community together with a willingness to put the needs of the community first by not only volunteering for Halfmoon Celebrations Association but also is very active with the Halfmoon Senior Center where she volunteers in whatever capacity is needed and also where she teaches an arthritis class to help our seniors learn about and cope with this disease; and

WHEREAS, Annie Nickerson moved to Halfmoon in November of 2000 with her son Danny, her daughter-in-law Sandy and her granddaughters, Briana and Shawna; and

WHEREAS, the Halfmoon community, and the communities around us benefit greatly from her choice to provide such exemplary service to our community, her love of working with the other wonderful volunteers for the Halfmoon Celebrations Association, and her willingness to volunteer in any capacity to ensure our residents enjoy the creative family fun events; and

WHEREAS, such service, which is truly the lifeblood of the community and the Town, so often goes unrecognized and unrewarded; and

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED AS FOLLOWS:

1. That the Town Board of the Town of Halfmoon hereby recognizes and commends Anna (Annie) Nickerson for her willingness to volunteer for the

- Halfmoon Celebrations Association and other community programs, demonstrating her service and dedication to our community.
2. That a copy of this Resolution be presented to Annie Nickerson as an "Outstanding Citizen" of the Town of Halfmoon.

DATED: November 17, 2015

KEVIN J. TOLLISEN, TOWN SUPERVISOR
TOWN OF HALFMOON

RESOLUTION NO. 362

Offered by Councilman Connors, seconded by Councilman Wasielewski: Approved by the vote of the Board: Ayes: Tollisen, Hotaling, Wasielewski, Jordan & Connors

RESOLVED, that the Town Board honors Anna Nickerson for her years of volunteering on the Halfmoon Celebrations Association and as an "Outstanding Citizen" of the Town of Halfmoon.

David Maxfield, President of the Halfmoon Celebration Association:

Good Evening. My name is David Maxfield and I am also a volunteer for Halfmoon Celebrations. For those of you that don't know what Halfmoon Celebrations is, we are a not-for-profit organization run by town volunteers who have the commitment to deliver free family fun events to our town residents and surrounding communities.

I personally have been a volunteer on this committee since 2007 and since that time I have seen volunteers come and go, events change, some get added and some are ended, but one thing that has not changed is Annie Nickerson's commitment to this organization. Annie from the first day that I met her was so warm and welcoming to me. She immediately became one of my good friends. Then in 2012, I became the President of Halfmoon Celebrations and Annie was one of my biggest cheerleaders through this transition. I defiantly couldn't have done the job, without the cheerleaders like Annie, who also has the passion to make our events even bigger and better than the last. Annie is always there to ask, what can I do to help or do you want me to do that? She is always telling me to call her if I need anything at all. One of Annie's things that she loves to do for our committee is our 50/50 at our concert nights and Fall Festival. Annie always pushes herself to try and defeat the prior year's totals from the 50/50, which I must say; she does an outstanding job of this. The 50/50 money helps us keep these events free along with the sponsorships we receive. Annie was also diagnosed with Breast Cancer a couple of years ago, while I was President, even though she was going through an extremely tough time in her life, she still said to me, Dave, as long as I feel good, I will be there for this committee because I love Celebrations. You know what, Annie was there! We are blessed that Annie defeated this malicious disease and we have her today with us. This is just one of the examples of the type of person Annie is. Strong, Kindhearted, contributing, selfless and devoted are just a few words that come to mind when I think of Annie.

Annie attends all of our meetings and always has ideas to share. She is always right there to help pass out informative information about our events and even helps with decorating the Town Complex for all of our holiday themed events. She folds all of our brochures ever year so that we can pass these out at all of our events. She always says I will do that! Annie is simple put contributive.

Ever since I became President for Celebrations I always wanted to thank those currently on the committee, but I was not sure what to do. Then I thought about, what if after 10 years a volunteer could get an award and be recognized for being with us for so long? Let's be honest, a volunteer giving time back to their community for a day is great, but 10 years is

unselfish and should really be recognized. So with conversations with our Town Supervisor Kevin Tollisen, we agreed to have the volunteers of Halfmoon Celebrations get recognized by the Town Board and their Celebrations peers. We thought that this would be a wonderful way to say thank you.

So with all that said Annie, on behalf of Halfmoon Celebrations, I would like to say THANK YOU for being you and always being there to help out. You truly are someone I look up to and I am honored to call you my friend Annie, I am excited to work with you for many more years to come! Please come up and accept this well-deserved award.

Thank you!

Halfmoon Celebrations events would not be possible without the following passionate volunteers and they are:

Shannyn McCarthy, Mara Sweeter, Liz Meier, Anna Nickerson, Emma Lester, Paul Hotaling, Ed Jordan, Kathy Dougherty, Chris Messier, Kristen Woodworth, John Sullivan, Eric Clark, Donna DeVoe, Emily Meier, Melissa LeMay, Traci McCumber, Dennis Recore, Erin Palmer and Mary Wilcox

We would also like to thank the behind the scenes people if you will that provide extra help to us, when needed, they are:

Lisa Perry; Frank Tironi, Harold Robbins, Jim McBride, PJ My L O, Matt Hic kok and Kevin Tollisen.

This association also could not be possible without our local sponsors. This year we were able to obtain 32 local sponsorships to make these free events possible for our town and the surrounding communities. So I ask you to please, support these following sponsors:

1st National Bank of Scotia, Adirondack Basement, Architectural Glass and Mirror, Bast Hatfield, Barton & Loguidice, P.C., Capital Title Services LLC, Capital Region Landfills, Carola, Bagnoli and Tollisen Law Firm, CHA, County Waste, DeCrecente Distributing, First Niagara Bank, Halfmoon Attorney Lyn Murphy, Halfmoon Councilwoman Daphne Jordan, Halfmoon Town Supervisor Kevin Tollisen, Holiday Inn Express, Jack Byrne, McDonalds of Exit 8 Groom Road, New York Life, Price Chopper, Santore's World Famous Fireworks, Stewart's Shops, TEC Protective Coatings, The Maids, The Chamber of Southern Saratoga County, The Town of Halfmoon, Toyota of Clifton Park, Trick Shots, Trustco Bank, Waste Connections (Colonie Landfill), Waterford Clock and Wojtowicz Trucking.

As you can see the busy elves of Halfmoon Celebrations worked tirelessly to decorate the town hall this past Saturday to get ready for our upcoming Holiday Celebration to be held on Saturday, December 5th from 4:00pm until 6:30pm right here in our Town Hall.

We will have several family fun activities such as professional pictures with Santa that will be printed and placed in an ornament right here on the spot, Halfmoon Historical Society will be present. We will have Face Painting, a Balloon Artist and a Photo booth. We will also have Horse drawn wagon rides outside on the courtyard. Our holiday music will be courtesy of B95.5 and New York Life will be doing Child ID cards. Furthermore, Jodie Fitz from Price Chopper will be here making a fresh snack for all to enjoy.

The Home Bureau will be selling refreshments to help raise money for their organization and so much more!

I sure hope that all of you can join us for this FREE, family, friendly, fun event.

Lastly, after the Holiday Celebration, please join us for the 13th annual Holiday Memories program where we light the town tree and memorial trees simultaneously in memory of our loved ones that we lost, but are never forgotten. This ceremony is such a touching ceremony that not only does it bring family and friends together, but it brings our neighbors together

as well as one strong loving community. As a community it seems that we support each other during the holiday season, for what can be a sorrowing time for many of us because we have lost loved ones that are so near and dear to us. Once you attend this ceremony you will see why it has been going strong for the past 13 years.

So on behalf of Halfmoon Celebrations, We would like to wish you all a very Happy, Healthy and Safe Holiday Season!

Thank you so much for your time!

COMMUNITY EVENTS:

Hillcrest Fire Hall, 145 Pruyn Hill Road will be hosting a Fellowship Event, "THE DASH" a poem by Linda Ellis Thursday November 19th at 7:00 PM

Mini Used Book Sale on Friday, Nov. 20th from 10am – 4pm at the Clifton Park-Halfmoon Library

St. Luke's of the Hill Church, 40 McBride Road will be hosting TEEN OPEN MIC on Saturday, November 21 at 7:00 PM

Halfmoon Historical Society – Veteran Presentation - 100 years of American Conflicts – November 24th at 7:00 PM at the Halfmoon Town Hall Foyer

Toys for Tots Commercial Vehicle Convoy to hit Route 146 & 9 on November 29. This is a joint effort with the Saratoga County Sheriff's Department and the Clifton Park-Halfmoon Emergency Corps

Transfer Station Workshop, Thursday December 3rd at 7:00 PM in the A. James Bold Meeting Room

Annual Holiday Memories Tree Memorial & Holiday Ceremony on Saturday December 5th at 6:30 pm at the Abele Memorial Park

Halfmoon Jingle Bell Run/Walk for Arthritis on December 5th at Raymour & Flannigan at 8:30 am

TOWN MEETINGS:

Town Board Meetings: 1st & 3rd Wednesday of month at 7:00 pm except May 7th at 2:00pm

Zoning Board of Appeals: 1st Monday of month at 7:00 pm.

Planning Board Meeting: 2nd & 4th Monday of month at 7:00 pm.

Board of Assessment Review: 4th Tuesday in May

Senior Center Business Meeting: 1st Wednesday of month at 1:00 pm

Halfmoon Historical Society: Last Tuesday of month at 7:00 pm

Zoning Review Committee: 3rd Thursday of month

Open Space & Trails Committee: February 9th, April 20th, May 18th, July 20th, September 21, & November 16th.

Resident Relations Committee: Wednesday December 9th at 6:30 PM

Business & Economic Development Committee:

REPORTS OF BOARD MEMBERS AND TOWN ATTORNEY

Kevin J. Tollisen (Town Supervisor) There is a Toys for Tots box in the foyer. We are collecting toys in conjunction with the Clifton Park – Halfmoon Emergency Corps and a number of different towns. Halfmoon will be joining that convoy on November 29th as the toys get delivered.

One item that is not on the agenda but should be listed just for informational purposes and is on our website is the second Public Workshop for the Transfer Station; we had a workshop about a week ago with respect to where we are with the Transfer Station. I will let everyone know that the Transfer Station will remain open throughout 20016. We discuss various aspects of fees. There is quite a lot of public input that the Board is taking under consideration. The next Public Workshop will be Thursday December 3rd at 7:00 PM in the A. James Bold Meeting Room.

On the agenda tonight is the adoption of the 2016 Budget. I will just note for everyone and the Board is aware of that there is one small change from the Tentative Budget to the final budget and that is with respect to the water portion of the budget. When we discussed the imposition of the Highway tax, we looked at every single line item in the budget and we were able to realize some savings in the water debt obligations. That went from \$199 per EDU to \$156 per EDU. We put that in our budget and when we spoke with the Assessor on the number of new EDU's, there was a small change in the amount that the Town would be receiving in the amount of \$11,862.00. So, on page 38 on the Water District Budget, you will see that the \$11,862.00 actually exceeds the budgeted need for expenses, so that will be transferred into the Capital Reserve for water. That is really the only change that we made to the budget is taking that additional \$11,862.00 to be put into Capital Reserve portion of the water budget.

As I said, also that there has been no change with anything else with respect to the budget, Highway tax, which we did actually put into the Navigator so that everyone is aware of it and we have had all of those public workshops and put into the Navigator that we are going to be phased in over a 2 year period. The 2016 budget has it at \$630,000 and it remains under the tax cap, so that the third year of the Property Tax Rebate Program from the State, which if you are eligible, and next year would be the highest rebate check that you would be able to receive. So the town was able to stay under that cap so that residents would be able to see those rebate checks. While we do not have the exact number but some of the numbers that have been suggested would be about \$350 to those who qualify for it. With respect to the Town of Halfmoon, we believe that we have done our part to try and maximize what our residents get for a return while still recognizing that no one wants a Highway tax; we certainly don't, but recognize the reality that we need to improve our infrastructure. We need to make sure that our roads stay in good condition and do not fall in disrepair and that we have the equipment that is necessary to take care of those items. We would not be doing our job responsibly if we didn't bring this forward and I think that the town has made every effort to make sure that residents are informed, included and know exactly what is happening in their town government. We will continue to do that as we go forward such as the public workshop regarding the Transfer Station. That is all that I have fore tonight.

Paul Hotaling (Deputy Supervisor): (1) Chair of Parks & Recreation, Infrastructure (Water, Highway, Building & Maintenance), (2) Co-Chair of Character Counts, (3) Chair on Committee on Baseball/Athletic Organizations, (4) Chair of Personnel Committee, (5) Co-Chair of Zoning Review Committee

Councilman Hotaling: This Saturday will be our Holiday Food Drive. We will be starting here to load the baskets at 9:30. Our Recreation Program is now working on the Ski Program and we have a record of 63 people signed up. The Highway crew is finishing up some paving and culvert projects and they will be going on normal hours on Monday.

John Wasielewski (Town Board Member): (1) Chair of Ethics Committee, (2) Chair of Committee on Emergency Services and Public Safety (Emergency Corps, Fire

Department, Police);(3) Chair of Committee on Resident Relations, (4)Co- Liaison to Planning Board

Councilman Wasielewski: Two things this evening, Mr. Supervisor. **Resident Relations** is tentatively scheduled to meet on Wednesday December 9th at 6:30 PM to discuss our agenda for next year. We have a new list of 132 of new residents in addition to the residents that we haven't finished this year. That is a good amount of doors that we have to work on.

Also, As far as the Planning Board goes, we have one member whose term is expiring at the end of the year and we also have one alternate position on the Planning Board. We will be scheduling interviews for both of those positions very shortly, dates and time to be determined and we will post that on the website. That is all that I have, thank you.

Daphne Jordan (Town Board Member): (1) Chair of Business and Economic Development (2) Chair of Insurance (Liability and Medical) (3) Liaison to Open Space and Trails Committee, (4) Co- Liaison to Zoning Board

Supervisor Tollisen: You said Planning Board and what?

Councilman Wasielewski: We have one Planning Board member and one alternate member on the Planning Board. It is actually two positions that we will be needing candidates for.

Supervisor Tollisen: I will note that I have received a letter from Mr. Higgins who is here and has expressed an interest in being renewed and I believe that the entire Board has been provided that from my office.

Councilman Wasielewski: I have not received that. We had just spoken with Mr. Higgins before this meeting. We know of his interest and

Supervisor Tollisen: He did send an e-mail and I thought that we had forwarded that to everybody, if not we will make sure that it goes out immediately.

Councilwoman Jordan: **The Open Space and Trails Committee** met the other night and looked at our schedule for next year and discussed what we wanted to focus on. We have been mainly focusing on trails these past few years and we are going to put an emphasis on a program for acquiring open space. The first thing that we are looking into is a grant opportunity that the Governor announced on October 27th, and that is for \$20 million dollars that is set aside for agricultural farmland protection. We are looking into that and also going to be looking into other ways that we can offer residents with large land tracts a way that they can keep their land and not feel that they have to sell it off because they can't afford to pay the taxes on it. We will be studying that next year.

Business and Economic Development Committee will be meeting one more time this year and we are still trying to determine what that date will be.

Too bad that Annie left the room because I did want to say a few notes about Annie Nickerson and that she the truly is a goodwill ambassador for our town. She introduced herself to me a year and a half ago and introduced me to many people and I also see her introducing people to other people. She is everywhere helping. I see her at the Legion, at the fire department pancake breakfast. She is everywhere and she is a contributing member to this town. So, thank you Ann.

Jeremy Connors (Town Board Member): (1)Zoning Board Liaison 2) Co-Liaison Planning Board; (3) Co-Chair of Zoning Review Committee (4)Chair of Animal

Control Committee (5) Chair of Committee on Not for Profit Organizations; (6) Co-Chair of Character Counts

Councilman Connors: Thank you, Mr. Supervisor. I have a few things and one; I was contacted by numerous residents on Churchill Road and Halfmoon Drive area in regards to speed of vehicles and causing potential accidents and collisions. I did forward that on and spoke to Sheriff Zurlo who assured me that he would put law enforcement on it. The residents can be assured that the safety of Churchill Road and Halfmoon Drive area will be addressed by the local law enforcement

Supervisor Tollisen: I also received a few calls from residents so I spoke with Sargent DuPris who actually sent a car and they sit in peoples driveways. Two tickets were issued in a two hour period. The Sheriff's Department is working on that and the one time that they did go down there, they issued two tickets.

Councilman Connors: Thank you for that and I will pass that along to individuals who have stopped at my residence.

Also, the Zoning Board has a seat open. We will be putting out correspondence for filing for interest, to be determined so look for that on the website and in papers. I would like to wish everybody and my collogues a safe and Happy Thanksgiving.

Lynda Bryan (Town Clerk): (1) Chair of Senior Programs, (2) Chair of Committee on Historical Archives

Senior Center had their Holiday Bazaar last Saturday and had a wonderful turnout. They made about \$5,700 and want to thank everyone for coming.

Historical Society monthly meeting will be held next Tuesday Nov 24th here in the Town Hall Foyer for the Veteran's presentation. All welcome to attend.

PUBLIC COMMENT (for discussion of agenda topics)

Larry Koniowka, 15 New Castle Road: I just want to make sure that I understand, Mr. Higgins, were you looking to stay on? Is that what I was hearing, that his term was expiring? I wanted to say thank you and say you do a great job. You are a champion for the people. I have missed a lot of meetings lately both here and the Planning Board, but I have attended many in the last five years. I just want to take this opportunity to thank you. I know that you voted no on a few things. You have a great memory on what the developers propose and counter propose. You have a great knowledge of what was proposed years ago. I just want to commend you for the great job that you have been doing. I have never really met you but I want to take this time to say thank you and go as far as you can and still be a champion for the people because we need a voice in there and someone to say no when a no vote should be cast. Thank you.

John Higgins: Thank you.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS – month of October

1. **Town Clerk** **Total Fees Submitted to the Supervisor \$6,726.43**

CORRESPONDENCE

1. **Received** from the Town Planning Board Resolutions approving the following: Sign Applications for Elevate Cycles, 215 Guideboard Road (Country Dollar Plaza), for Fastenal, 217 Guideboard Road (Country Dollar Plaza), and for Hoff Jewelers, 1546 Route 9, Approval for a Change of Use/Tenant Application for Lown's Extreme Auto Detailing, 211 Fellows Road, Regarding Addition to Site Plan Approval for Lot 4-Falcon Trace of Halfmoon PDD, 175 & 177 Route 236, for Approval of a Site Plan for

Entersolar LLC, Cary Road, Approval of a Minor Subdivision (Lot Line Adjustment) for the Lands of Robin Bailey, 42 Church Hill Road, and Regarding a Positive Recommendation for the Proposed Paar Estates of Halfmoon PDD, 33 Farm to Market Road

Received & Filed

2. **Received** from Deborah Washington, a letter in gratitude to the Senior Express with a \$500.00 donation for all of the rides home from dialysis in memory of her Mother Edna Washington. Edna enjoyed the rides and talking with the driver and staff.

Received & Filed

3. **Received** from NYS Department of Environmental Conservation, a Notice of Adjudicatory Hearing for Momentive Performance Materials, 260 Hudson River Road, Waterford for their Hazardous Waste Management Facility Renewal Permit Application, to held on December 14, 2015 at 9:00 am at the Waterford Town Hall, 65 Broad Street Waterford.

Received & Filed

4. **Received** from Lindsay Zepko, her letter of resignation from her position as Storm water Management Officer with the Town effective December 31, 2015.

Received & Filed

5. **Received** from Lansing Engineering, their updates and revisions for the Paar Estates of Halfmoon PDD.

Received & Filed

6. **Received** from Halfmoon Fire District #1 (Hillcrest) their 2016 Budget Summary.

Received & Filed

7. **Received** from Clifton Park - Halfmoon Fire District #1, Notice of their Annual Election on December 8, 2015 between 6:00 pm and 9:00 pm at the fire house located at 38 Old Route 146 for the purpose of electing one (1) Commissioner for a 5 year term, commencing on January 1, 2016 and ending on December 31, 2020.

Received & Filed

NEW BUSINESS

RESOLUTION NO. 363

Offered by Councilman Connors, seconded by Councilman Hotaling: Approved by the vote of the Board: Ayes: Tollisen, Hotaling, Wasielewski, Jordan & Connors

RESOLVED, that the Town Board approves and orders paid Vouchers numbered 2377-2494 as detailed.

===== FUND TOTALS =====

10 GENERAL FUND	\$77,421.31
20 HIGHWAY FUND	\$71,824.35
25 SPECIAL REVENUE	\$1,026.50
30 CONSOLIDATED WATER	\$54,903.87
35 MISC. CAPITAL FUNDS	\$177,523.42
65 LIGHTING DISTRICT	\$464.73

ABSTRACT TOTAL:

\$383,164.18

RESOLUTION NO. 364

Offered by Councilwoman Jordan, seconded by Councilwoman Connors: Approved by the vote of the Board: Ayes: Tollisen, Hotaling, Wasielewski, Jordan & Connors

RESOLVED, that the Town Board approves the minutes of Town Board meeting of, November 04, 2015, as presented.

RESOLUTION NO. 365

Offered by Councilman Hotaling, seconded by Councilwoman Jordan: Approved by the vote of the Board: Ayes: Tollisen, Hotaling, Wasielewski, Jordan & Connors

RESOLVED, that the Town Board accepts the Town Clerk's Certificate of No Filing for General Fund Capital Reserve expenditures

RESOLUTION NO. 366

Offered by Councilman Hotaling, seconded by Councilman Connors: Approved by the vote of the Board: Ayes: Tollisen, Hotaling, Wasielewski, Jordan & Connors

RESOLVED, that the Preliminary Budget as amended be and is hereby adopted as the 2016 Budget for the Town of Halfmoon, and further;

RESOLVED, that the 2016 Budget be copied in its entirety in the 2015 Minutes Book of the Town of Halfmoon.

Councilwoman Jordan: I'd like to explain my vote.

I am voting favorably to pass our Town Budget because I know it is a fiscally conservative budget painstakingly designed specifically for the welfare of the Town of Halfmoon and its residents. The hurdle for me to overcome in this budget was the highway tax it imposes. After 31 years of no highway tax, it will be here again. Its imposition seemed to be scrutinized more by me and this Board and our Supervisor than by the residents. We held 7 public workshops which brought very little in attendance and of those that were there, all but one supported the highway tax. Throughout the process, I kept asking, "Where is everybody?" My conclusion is that residents do not see the tax as a negative, but as something that is needed, or they would have let their voices be heard....just like the many voices we heard at the public workshop regarding the possibility of closing the transfer station. This is a Board that invites everyone to speak, that listens, that examines and evaluates.

I also want to express this evening that the lack of monies for our roads and infrastructure is not just a Halfmoon problem, it is a Statewide, countywide and a local problem.

How has this problem arisen? Rising costs that Towns have to pay...for items like healthcare / insurance (which is soaring because of the Affordable Healthcare Act) and road salt and costs from unfunded mandates passed down from the State, leave little funds to put toward infrastructure. Also, there is the real property tax cap. Though the tax cap set by the State is good in that it eliminates wasteful spending for those Towns that haven't been fiscally prudent, it does however create a juggling act in setting a Town Budget. The balls that land firmly in the juggler's hand are those day to day immediate expenses that have to be paid....those that are still in the air or dropped are the ones that *can* or *might* have to be paid in the future...that being infrastructure and road expenses. These are where the cuts are across the State...not just local, but at the State level. In fact, the September 29th report from the NY Council of American Society of Civil Engineers gave NYS an overall C Minus on its infrastructure. I guess this was a generous grade because

the National Civil Engineers give NYS roads a D MINUS! Fortunately, Halfmoon's roads are not like that *yet*. Our Highway Superintendent has done a wonderful job with the little bit budgeted to him.

It *was* my hope that we would not have to impose a highway tax. My plan was to #1..institute a dedicated highway fund and #2 increase revenue for the Town by increasing our sales tax receipts. This has been done; it is on-going. We have a dedicated fund where new developments in the form of PDDs must allocate money from each building permit for the Highway Dept. as a part of their public benefit. New and existing PDDs without a defined public benefit are asked to dedicate certain funds for highway purposes as per Town Board recommendation. This is a good start, but it will take time to build this fund up.

As far as the growth of Sales tax revenue, the Business and Economic Development Committee, which I chair, has suggested rezoning in areas of Town that make sense, all in an effort to grow our businesses, thus growing our sales tax revenue. The BEDC has also paved the way for the Town to be more business friendly to new businesses coming in. New businesses have been attracted to Halfmoon! We have also seen Halfmoon businesses grow and thrive in our Town and move to larger premises while staying in Halfmoon, rather than moving to the town next door.

Sales Tax revenue is up! From 2013 to 2014, there was a 4% increase in sales tax receipts. Compared to this time period in 2013, sales tax revenue is up 7%. Comparing 2015 to 2014 at this time of the year, sales tax revenue to Halfmoon is up 4%. All indications are that the year will continue to finish up strong with continued increase of sales tax revenue to Halfmoon. Be assured that we are working on this revenue for our highway funding.

The Supervisor and Town Board have cut spending in numerous ways ..which have been discussed at the Public Workshops. We have also found new sources of revenue and savings for the Town, whether it's from installation of solar panels, grants, bond refinancing, shared services with neighboring towns or in many other ways which were discussed at our public workshops.

So, we've cut spending, found new revenue and savings sources, have an increase in sales tax revenue and have a highway fund, but as this is the beginning of all of this, the funds needed for a 20 year plan aren't there yet. In the meantime, "time is money." We are at a point where costs of highway improvements will increase exponentially as roads and infrastructure needing repair, sit unattended and their condition further deteriorates.

We are all very fortunate that John Pingelski, our Highway Superintendent is conscientious, studious and aware .in that he pays attention to not just our Town roads, but what is happening Statewide as far as solutions. He is methodical and fiscally conservative in all that he does and took the initiative to develop a 20 Year Plan. We are all more than fortunate that we have a Town Supervisor who has the gumption to call a spade a spade and bring this issue to the forefront for a solution.

The Town is fortunate that the Supervisor, Town Board and finance staff have worked diligently to iron out the plan. It is through many questions, concerns and answers among the Town Board and from the public that we have been able to come up with the best plan for this time period...meaning this year. It was very important to me that residents did not lose their STAR rebate check next year because that is what would have happened if we instituted the full 88 cents / thousand real property assessed value that was originally proposed. Our rebate checks would have been non-existent because the Town would have exceeded the cap. In many cases, the loss of this rebate would have been a greater amount than the highway tax itself...a double whammy that was not acceptable. So, the Plan has been modified to stay under the cap and initially the Town will only get half of what was called for.

The Plan calls for the difference to be made up next year. I would caution my colleagues however, that again we must be mindful of the cap and the rebate checks that will be due to our residents from the State at that time.

I am satisfied that the Supervisor and this Town Board has used due diligence in cutting spending to the point where there is nothing left to cut, created additional revenue for the Town and has exhausted every avenue imaginable before imposing a highway tax. Though

it is not what we would like to do, there are no more alternatives but to levy a highway tax if we are to keep our roads in good repair for the public safety of all.

Councilman Wasielewski: While I do not have a prepared statement, I would like to add my thoughts on my vote for this budget for 2016. I became involved with public service for a large reason because I am as fiscally prudent as anybody out there I think. Government money is the people's money. It is not the Town of Halfmoon's money, everyone works hard. It is one of the reasons why one million people have left New York State in the past ten years because of excessive taxes. I know that we have held seven public workshops and not as much public input as we would have like to have seen, but the input that we did receive was very constructive. There is no doubt in my mind that we need to implement this tax at this time. Supervisor, you've stretched that rubber band as tight as it can be in every department and every line of this budget. My thanks to you and Miss Hatter in the Finance Department to make that happen, but the increase in the number of miles of roads in the Town of Halfmoon, the work that hasn't been done on a preventative basis to the roads over the past few years, are now taking their toll and are very evident. John Pingelski has done an outstanding job in pointing out and showing us what needs to be done. We have seen with the flooding that has happened in Larry's neighborhood and some of the other waste water issues and road issues that we have throughout town say that these improvements need to be made and need to be made now. With all of those things said, I am in strong support of this budget and I thank you Mr. Supervisor.

Councilman Connors: Mr. Supervisor, thank you for allowing me to put my input in. My sentiments from both of my colleagues, I echo your statements and furthermore I just want to state that I too do fully support the town budget. I know that you Supervisor and my colleagues on the Town Board and the Finance Department have put numerous hours in in trying to look at alternatives in order to stay away from a highway tax. However, with the decay in our roadways, the Superintendent John Pingelski has done an outstanding job reporting back to us from the field what exactly is going on out there and what's needed. The aging infrastructure and aging equipment that is not meeting the safety standards for personnel, that is an issue. At no time do we want our residents or any of our employees to be subject to unsafe conditions. Daphne hit a multitude of different points and all of them were absolutely correct. I can tell you that my interest was to be conservative on this Board to look at options and also give back the service and needs of our community. Mr. Supervisor, my colleagues on the Town Board and at the Finance Department as well, I thank you for putting forth your due diligence and providing the best lean budget possible.

Councilman Hotaling: This is definitely one of the hardest things that the town has faced in years. Even with the 20 year plan, it doesn't show any growth in employees and salaries. Any of the plans that we have looked at is for equipment and road repair. It is not fluffed and not for anything that we do not need. It doesn't include if we have to do a culvert pipe repair or anything of that magnitude. I have sat with the Supervisor, Miss Hatter and Mr. Pingelski and we have looked at every possible avenue. Moving forward, I have to commend the Supervisor and Miss Hatter for the way we started the highway tax. I think there is a good balance and something that we really need to do. I thank everybody for the hard work on it and I totally support moving forward on it.

POLL BOARD:

Councilman Connors	Aye
Councilwoman Jordan	Aye
Councilman Wasielewski	Aye
Councilman Hotaling	Aye
Supervisor Tollisen	Aye

RESOLUTION NO. 367

The following creation of appropriations is needed in the General Fund based on money received for newsletter advertising to date. This creation is for the quarterly distribution of the Halfmoon Navigator.

DEBIT: Estimated Revenues 10-510 \$1,050
 Subsidiary: Other, Misc-Newsletter
 10-4-2770.10 - \$1,050

CREDIT: Appropriations 10-960 \$1,050
 Subsidiary: Public Information & Serv
 10-5-1480.40 - \$1,050

PUBLIC COMMENT (for discussion of non-agenda items) No one came forward

There being no further business to discuss or resolve, on a motion by Councilman Hotaling and seconded by Councilwoman Jordan, the meeting was adjourned at 7:50 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lynda A. Bryan, Town Clerk