

Mayor Tim Rogers
Village of New Paltz
November 25, 2019

Hi I'm Mayor Tim Rogers from New Paltz. I have a great job. I get to be mayor in an amazing village. Sometimes my job makes me nuts but most of the time I love trying to figure out this tricky puzzle where we must fund essential services like our busy fire department and municipal water and sewer.

Our neighbors have entrusted us to figure out this challenging puzzle and they rightfully expect us to be smart and careful with their taxes. We take this responsibility seriously and have not raised taxes or water and sewer rates in over 3 years.

We work hard. Our credit rating is excellent, we proactively replace expensive aged-out trucks and infrastructure, we do not receive one single penny from sales tax, and we rely primarily on property taxes to fund services.

But what may be more noteworthy today is that we are expected to be this prudent with skyrocketing health insurance costs. Premiums are up over 33% during the last four years. A family plan for one of our staff now costs our taxpayers more than \$30,000 each year. After salaries, health insurance costs are our single largest expense.

New Paltz property taxpayers cannot be expected to keep funding these unsustainable increases to prop up the broken for-profit healthcare system. A single payer system will significantly reduce costs for local governments and school districts; thereby taking that burden off our property taxpayers.

New Paltz strongly supports the New York Health Act and our boards have memorialized our support by resolution that you're receiving copies of today.

JOINT RESOLUTION

RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN & VILLAGE BOARDS OF NEW PALTZ URGING THE STATE LEGISLATURE TO ADOPT SINGLE-PAYER HEALTH LEGISLATION IN NEW YORK

At a meeting of the Town and Village Boards of the Town and Village of New Paltz, Ulster County, New York, held at the Community Center, in New Paltz, New York, in said Town on the 1st day of August, 2019, at 7 o'clock P.M., prevailing time.

The meeting was called to order by Supervisor Bettez, and upon roll being called, the following roll was taken:

	<u>Present</u>	<u>Absent</u>
Supervisor Neil Bettez	<u> ✓ </u>	<u> </u>
Deputy Supervisor Daniel Torres	<u> </u>	<u> ✓ </u>
Council Member David Brownstein	<u> ✓ </u>	<u> </u>
Council Member Marty Irwin	<u> ✓ </u>	<u> </u>
Council Member Julie Seyfert-Lillis	<u> ✓ </u>	<u> </u>
Mayor Tim Rogers	<u> ✓ </u>	<u> </u>
Deputy Mayor KT Tobin	<u> ✓ </u>	<u> </u>
Trustee William Murray	<u> ✓ </u>	<u> </u>
Trustee Alexandra Wojcik	<u> ✓ </u>	<u> </u>
Trustee Michelle Zipp	<u> ✓ </u>	<u> </u>

WHEREAS, every person in New York State and the United States deserves access to affordable, quality healthcare; and

WHEREAS, the current system that depends upon private insurance companies, HMO's and pharmaceutical companies results in many New Yorkers being uninsured or underinsured, and unable to afford adequate healthcare and medicines; and

WHEREAS, in Ulster County alone, over 16,200 residents (9% of the population) are without health insurance, according to data collected by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Program; and

WHEREAS, under the current system, both the insured and uninsured can incur financially crippling medical charges, coupled with sometimes life-threatening delays in obtaining ongoing, essential healthcare; and

WHEREAS, statistics show that the greatest barrier to good health is poverty, and that denied access to adequate healthcare diminishes people's ability to work, prosper and promote their overall well-being; and

WHEREAS, New York is ranked the sixth highest in the nation in per capital healthcare costs, according to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, making health insurance unaffordable for many, and creating an unsupportable financial burden for our residents, small businesses and local governments; and

WHEREAS, over the past decade, the cost of employer-sponsored family health insurance premiums in New York rose by an average of 92%; and

WHEREAS, rising premiums put downward pressure on wages and lead to a reduction in benefits and more restrictive healthcare eligibility; and

WHEREAS, in the same decade, employee's required premium contributions as a percentage of their income roughly doubled; and

WHEREAS, total healthcare expenditures are expected to increase by over \$100 billion between 2013 and 2020, or by 53%, and that such rising costs are unsustainable for our residents and small businesses; and

WHEREAS, a single-payer healthcare system would significantly reduce the cost of public health programs like Medicaid and government-paid health plans for New York State employees, by eliminating the costs generated by high administrative overhead, excessive executive compensation, and profit-driven practices in the private health insurance industry; and

WHEREAS, a single-payer system would generate savings by replacing the complicated and costly claims procedures currently employed by thousands of public and private insurance providers, with a simple, one-stop single-payer system for all claims; and

WHEREAS, a single-payer system could generate additional savings by leveraging the buying power of 20 million New Yorkers to negotiate reductions in drug prices, which are currently estimated at 60% higher in the United States than in Europe and Canada; and

WHEREAS, a single-payer system would eliminate deductibles and co-pays and provide affordable, comprehensive healthcare for all New Yorkers, with access to medical services and providers of their choice, without regard to age, income, health or employment status.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Village of New Paltz Board of Trustees and the Town Board urge the New York State Legislature to adopt A.4738/S.4840 in the 2019 session, enabling universal healthcare in New York State; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Boards direct the Town Clerk to send copies of this resolution to the offices of Governor Andrew Cuomo, Senate Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins, Senator Jen Metzger, Assembly Speaker Carl Heastie, and Assembly Member Kevin A. Cahill.

<u>Vote:</u>	<u>Aye</u>	<u>Nay</u>	<u>Absent</u>
Supervisor Neil Bettez	—✓—	—	—
Deputy Supervisor Daniel Torres	—	—	—✓—
Council Member David Brownstein	—✓—	—	—
Council Member Marty Irwin	—✓—	—	—
Council Member Julie Seyfert-Lillis	—✓—	—	—
Mayor Tim Rogers	—	—	—✓—
Deputy Mayor KT Tobin	—✓—	—	—
Trustee William Murray	—✓—	—	—
Trustee Alexandra Wojcik	—✓—	—	—
Trustee Michelle Zipp	—✓—	—	—

ADOPTED by the Town and Village Boards of the Town and Village of New Paltz, this 1st day of August, 2019.



 Neil Bettez, Town Supervisor



 Tim Rogers, Village Mayor

Attest: 

 Rosanna Rosenkranse, Town Clerk