
Northampton mayor David Narkewicz to submit resolution on Payment in Lieu of Taxes program



Mayor David J. Narkewicz (*John Suchocki*)



[\[http://connect.masslive.com/staff/fcontrada/index.html\]](http://connect.masslive.com/staff/fcontrada/index.html) By **Fred Contrada** | fcontrada@repub.com

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NORTHAMPTON [\[http://topics.masslive.com/tag/northampton/\]](http://topics.masslive.com/tag/northampton/) — Mayor David J. Narkewicz plans to submit a resolution to the City Council on Thursday outlining changes to his **Payment in Lieu of Taxes program**

[\[http://www.northamptonma.gov/1595/Northampton-PILOT-Program\]](http://www.northamptonma.gov/1595/Northampton-PILOT-Program) that would urge non-profit organizations to pony up money for government services.

Narkewicz first proposed the program in his fiscal 2016 budget. Boston, which like Northampton is rich with non-profit organizations such as colleges and hospitals, has already asked them to voluntarily contribute 25 percent of their would-be tax bills. Rep. Stephen Kulik, D-Worthington, has submitted a bill to the state Legislature seeking a similar percentage in lieu of taxes.

NORTHAMPTON HEADLINES

Narkewicz invited the public to weigh in on the proposal at several Town Hall-type meetings. He recently fine-tuned the program and included the changes in a resolution he plans to submit on Thursday.

Previous exemptions included governmental and religious organizations, conservation land and non-profits whose property is valued at under \$1 million. Narkewicz now wants to also exempt social services agencies such as ServiceNet, Tri-County Youth Programs and Safe Passage. All the agencies except ServiceNet already fall under the \$1 million exemption.

The mayor also wants to allow tax-exempt institutions to exceed the 50 percent limit on PILOT payment credits in cases where agencies provide "exceptional or extraordinary ... community services." This will be incorporated only after the five-year phase-in period.

Under the new phase-in period, organizations would contribute five percent of their projected property taxes in the first year. The percentage would rise to 25 percent in year five. He estimated that the voluntary contributions would total \$365,000 in year one.

Narkewicz said it is crucial to have the City Council on board for the program.

"I need their support," he said.

If the council approves the resolution, Narkewicz will finalize the program and submit it to the non-profits such as Smith College next year.

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