

TOWN OF BRIGHTON, FRANKLIN COUNTY, NEW YORK
REGULAR TOWN BOARD MEETING MINUTES

March 14, 2019

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The Regular Meeting for the Town Board of the Town of Brighton, Franklin County, NY, was held Thursday, March 14, 2019, at 7:00pm at the Brighton Town Hall, 12 County Road 30, Paul Smiths, NY, with the following:

CALL TO ORDER:

Meeting was Called to Order by Supervisor Peter Shrope at 7:04pm

ROLL CALL OF OFFICERS

PRESENT: Supervisor Peter Shrope

Council Members: Brian McDonnell, Amber McKernan, Steve Tucker and Lydia Wright

ABSENT: None

OTHERS PRESENT: Andy Crary-Superintendent of Highways, Elaine Sater-Town Clerk, and three residents

GUESTS: None

NOTICE OF MEETING:

Notice of this meeting was posted on the Town Clerk's Sign Board and in three local post offices.

Supervisor Peter Shrope wished every one "Happy PII Day"

REPORTS

1. Highway - Andy Crary, Superintendent of Highways: Report provided prior to meeting

- a. Plowing and sanding of roads
- b. Using Loader to push back snow banks
- c. Cut banks back with snow plow
- d. Went to Harrisville for wing parts. Installed them on 2015 plow truck
- e. Went to Albany on March 7 for Advocacy Day for more CHIPS funding
- f. 2013 International truck broke down again, in Plattsburgh getting fixed
- g. Replaced a broken leaf spring on the 2015 truck, Bob's Auto and Truck Service did the repair.
- h. Posting Town Roads from March 25 to April 30 prohibiting trucks with weight more than 5 tons per axel

The Town Board thanked the Highway Department for their work during the winter storms; snow bank at Park was removed so snowmobilers could unload sleds.

2. Town Clerk - Elaine Sater: Report provided prior to meeting

- a. Total Revenue to Supervisor as of February 28, 2019 was \$290.00, from 3 Dog Licenses: 2 renewed and 1 new (Tag# 211) and 2 Building Permits (#19-001 and 002)
- b. Feb 12 - Sent letter to Franklin County Clerk, Re: Proof of Commercial Crime for the Town Justice.
- c. Feb 18 - Annual Financial Report for 2018 was filed with the NYS Comptroller's Office and this office. Notice was published that the Report is available for inspecting and/or copying. in the Adirondack Daily Enterprise on February 21 and posted on February 26 at the three Post Offices in town
- d. March 7 - Received Shared Highway Services Agreement from the Village of Saranac Lake.
- e. TOWN HALL REQUESTS: Saturday, March 16, 9am, Franklin County Conservative Party
- f. TOWN PARK REQUEST: None
- g. RECORDS MANAGEMENT:
 - 1) Indexing Vol 6 of Minutes covering 1968 thru 1970
 - 2) Received a FOIL request from NYOpen Book.com- requesting information on purchases during 2018. Sent them the abstracts which list vendors, prices and check numbers.

3. Historian - Elaine Sater: Report provided prior to meeting

- o Received a request from Erik Schlimmer to review a chapter on the Town of Brighton for his book "With Wagon, Ax, and Rifle".
- o Provided Supervisor Peter Shrope with a copy of the chapter to review also.
- o Reviewed the 5 pages and provide some input:

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- He spelled “McCulloms” two different ways; it has no “u”.
- The fact that Lydia Martin Smith (Paul Smith’s wife) was an educated woman who ran the Paul Smith’s Hotel and kept the books and accounts. She was also the first school teacher at the Keese Mills School in 1867. The Town had 4 school districts by 1870.
- Paul Smith borrowed money from Dr. Hezekiah Loomis to buy the land and build the hotel.
- Dr. Edward L. Trudeau stayed at the hotel in 1873-1874 and used the telegraph that Paul Smith had installed
- The Mt View Cemetery was purchased by the Town in 1872 from the Ricketson family.

Supervisor Peter Shrope sent him a message clarifying the census, the number includes college students at Paul Smith’s College.

4. **Tax Collector - Holly Huber:** Report received prior to meeting
 - a. Monies received after 1/31/19 but on or before 2/28/19 totaled \$288,318.35, comprised of \$287,897.74 in taxes, \$393.99 in penalties, \$4.30 in bank interest, and \$22.32 in overpayment of taxes. February penalty monies and January bank interest will be paid to Supervisor Shrope by 3/15/19.
 - b. Issued checks #1008 and 1009 in the amount of \$747,000.00 to Franklin County Treasurer and ck# 1010 to a tax payer for overpayment of \$22.32.
 - c. Second notice of unpaid taxes will be mailed by 3/15/19
5. **Justice - Nik Santagate:** Report provided prior to meeting
Supervisor received a check in the amount of \$2,593.00 for 34 disposed cases from February
6. **Code Enforcement Officer - Paul Blaine:** Report provided prior to meeting
 - a. One building permit (#19-002) was issued during February
 - b. One Certificate of Occupancy was issued for BP#18-007
7. **Assessor - Roseanne Gallagher:** Report provided prior to meeting
 - a. Mailed five notices on March 12th to property owners that didn’t renew their enhanced (senior) STAR exemptions by March 1 deadline. The procedure she has to follow is to change the STAR exemption to the Basic STAR exemption and notify the recipient that they can send their renewal along with the Income Verification form to the NY State Dept of Tax and Finance (DTF) along with a letter explaining a “good cause” for why they missed the deadline. DTF will notify her if she should reinstate the Enhanced STAR exemption. They also can notify her in writing to remove their STAR exemption and then they can apply with DTF for the STAR credit. She left messages at least 10 days before the deadline at four of the five owners. The fifth one didn’t have voicemail and never answered the phone.
 - b. The State did what they call a Market Value Survey of Brighton. The survey was done last year but it is for this year’s equalization rate. It looks like the equalization rate will drop to around 70%. It was 84% last year.
 - c. Wrapping up the processing of all the properties collected last year. Will have a final count soon. Will try to come to the Town Board meeting in April to update the Board on the status of it.
8. **Animal Control - Tri-Lakes Humane Society:** Nothing to report
9. **Supervisor - Peter Shrope:**
 - a. Budget Report: Report as of February 28, 2019, was provided to Board members
 - b. Revenues: \$22,733.76 from Franklin County for snow and ice contract, \$900.00 from Franklin County for Traffic Diversion Program, \$2,593.00 from Town Justice, \$290.00 from Town Clerk, and \$398.29 penalties from Tax Collector
 - c. NYCLASS Investments: Interest for February was \$189.41 for General, Total Amount \$108,702.38 (\$20,000 for Town Hall), and \$72.18 for Highway, Total Amount \$41,426.47.
 - d. Renewed the HRA for Health Benefits, due on March 1
 - e. Sent the Aid to Municipalities (AIM) resolution (#17-2019) to government officials

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MINUTES AMENDMENT/ACCEPTANCE

- Minutes of Regular Board Meeting February 14, 2019

Motion made by Amber McKernan, second by Brian McDonnell, to accept the minutes of the February 14, 2019, Regular Board meeting as written.

ROLL CALL VOTE: Aye 5 (McDonnell, McKernan, Shrope, Tucker, Wright), Nay 0

CITIZEN COMMENTS: None

BUSINESS

- 1. Sexual Harassment Training - Supervisor Peter Shrope:** There is a 3 hour "Train the Trainer" training in Altona that he will attend. All employees and subcontractors for the Town need to have Sexual Harassment Training before October 19.
- 2. Franklin County Auction - Supervisor Peter Shrope:** Received a list of 80 County properties up for auction on May 15 by Franklin County. The Town of Brighton does not have any properties listed.
- 3. Cell Phone Coverage/Snowmobile Trails - Supervisor Peter Shrope:** Received information that the Adirondack Local Government Review Board is supporting two issues: one to get wider cell phone coverage in the Adirondacks and one to get more snowmobile trails by removing a cap on the number of miles allowed on State land.
- 4. Adirondack Water Institute (AWI) Meeting - Brian McDonnell:** He and Supervisor Peter Shrope met with Eric Holmlund of AWI to discuss how the Town could support the AWI to educate, detect, and control invasive species in the Towns waters. Supervisor Peter Shrope said the Town Board needs to create a policy first before any contracts are made. He will draft one with Brian McDonnell for the Board to review at the April meeting. There is already a Local Law (#1-2011 "The Town of Brighton Aquatic Invasive Species Prevention") concerning this issue.
- 5. Land Purchase from Paul Smith's College - Supervisor Peter Shrope:** The request he send to Paul Smiths' College concerning land behind the garage is now 25 months old. They requested the Town make a proposal and the information was sent in an email on January 15, 2019, to the Chief Finance Officer who forwarded it to the Facility Manager who has never responded. Will send a letter to the CFO to follow up. The land needs to be surveyed and an estimate value put on the land.
- 6. Park Lease from Paul Smith's College - Supervisor Peter Shrope:** The lease on the ball park expired in September 2017, a request was send to renew, no response received. Will send a follow up letter to the CFO with a May 1 deadline. Any requests for field reservation will be directed to Paul Smith's College.

COMMITTEES: Nothing to report

CITIZEN COMMENTS:

Tom Booth - Osgood Pond: Supports what the Town is doing with the Adirondack Water Institute for invasive species prevention.

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AUDIT OF VOUCHERS:

RESOLUTION #19-2019

PAYMENT OF AUDITED VOUCHERS AS LISTED ON THE ABSTRACTS

Motion made Amber McKernan, second by Brian McDonnell,

RESOLVED that the Supervisor be authorized to pay the audited vouchers as listed on the abstracts as follows:

PREPAID FUNDS: Abstract #3 for Voucher #3A thru 3D for 2019 General Funds in the amount of \$31,298.61 and Voucher #3C for STREET LIGHTING 2019 FUND in the amount of \$67.45

GENERAL FUND: Abstract #3 for Voucher #45 through and including #59 for 2019 funds in the amount of \$34,769.88

HIGHWAY FUND: Abstract #3 for Voucher #22 through and including #40 for 2019 funds in the amount of \$13,916.66

SPECIAL FUND-FIRE: Abstract #2 for Voucher #2 for 2019 funds in the amount of \$47,279.00

**ROLL CALL VOTE: Aye 5 (McDonnell, McKernan, Shrope, Tucker, Wright), Nay 0
Resolution #19 declared duly adopted.**

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to Adjourn at 8:20pm made by Amber McKernan, second by Lydia Wright, Aye 5 (McDonnell, McKernan, Shrope, Tucker, Wright), Nay 0

Respectfully Submitted,

Elaine W. Sater, RMC
Brighton Town Clerk