

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

September 14, 2017

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The Regular Meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Brighton was held Thursday, September 14, 2017, at 7:00 p.m. at the Brighton Town Hall, 12 County Road 31, Paul Smiths, NY, with the following:

CALL TO ORDER:

Meeting was Called to Order by Supervisor Peter Shrope at 7:02 p.m.

Pledge to the Flag was recited

ROLL CALL OF OFFICERS

PRESENT: Supervisor Peter Shrope

Council Members: Brian McDonnell, Steve Tucker and Lydia Wright

ABSENT: Council Member Amber McKernan,

OTHERS PRESENT: Paul Blaine-Code Enforcement Officer, Andy Crary-Superintendent of Highways, and Elaine Sater-Town Clerk

GUESTS: None

NOTICE OF MEETING:

Notice of this meeting was posted on the Town Clerk's Sign Board

REPORTS

1. Highway Department - Andy Crary (Report submitted prior to meeting.)
 - a. Road raked dirt roads twice
 - b. Took 2013 Truck to Plattsburgh to have new clutch fan put in under warranty work, labor and antifreeze was not included
 - c. Opened landfill road for post closure monitoring/testing
 - d. Attended meeting in Malone
 - e. Cleaned out culverts on Keese Mills, Clarke Wardner and Split Rock Roads from beaver activity
 - f. Had loader tire fixed
 - g. Worked on Clark Wardner Road
 - h. Attended meeting with Assembly member Billy Jones at Highway Garage and Camp Gabriels
 - i. Helped County with truck to haul tar
 - j. Mowing cemeteries
 - k. Put shoulders on Keese Mills Road
 - l. Helped Town of Santa Clara with shoulders
 - m. Had extra generator fixed for Town Hall use to keep furnace running in winter
 - n. Need resolution for salt purchase of 250 tons from County Contract
 - o. Need to rent a tracked skid steer from Taylor Rental for a week at \$990 to fix the landfill cover due to the dirt settling
 - p. Would like to replace the 2015 Ford Pickup in the next budget year using High Peaks Ford. Truck has 40,000 miles on it; can get about \$20,000 for trade in value; will need to get a new plow frame to fit new truck
 - q. Men are using their vacation time
 - r. Supervisor Peter Shrope said the tree planting was completed and Wesley Moody can get his final payment

RESOLUTION #42-2017

TREES FOR BERM AT GARAGE

Motion made by Supervisor Peter Shrope, second by Lydia Wright,

RESOLVED that the Town Board authorizes the Supervisor to pay Wesley Moody, Inc. of Saranac Lake, the remainder due in the amount of \$2,477.50, the final payment for planting trees in front of the Town Garage.

ROLL CALL VOTE: Aye 4 (McDonnell, Shrope, Tucker, Wright), Nay 0, Absent 1 (McKernan)

RESOLUTION #42 declared duly adopted

- s. Landfill Work: When Cedar Eden Inc. did their monitoring they noticed spots in the landfill cover that need to be filled in so there is no standing water on the cover. The Highway Department can do the work if they

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rent a tracked skip steer for \$990 per week instead of by the day. A quote of \$10,000 was obtained if the Town were to hire someone to do the work, if the Town supplies the sand it would be \$8,000. The Town is responsible for the cover for 30 years from start of post closure monitoring which began in March 2002. There are still three items that are not below the threshold for contamination; testing has to continue until they are below the threshold.

RESOLUTION #43-2017

LANDFILL COVER WORK

Motion made by Supervisor Peter Shrope, second by Lydia Wright,

RESOLVED that the Town Board authorizes the Superintendent of Highways to correct the settling of the landfill cap by having the Highway Department do the work; to rent a tracked skip steer from Taylor Supply at \$990 per week and to purchase back dirt, straw and grass seed as needed, Total Not to Exceed \$2,500.

ROLL CALL VOTE: Aye 4 (McDonnell, Shrope, Tucker, Wright), Nay 0, Absent 1 (McKernan)

RESOLUTION #43 declared duly adopted

- t. Purchase of salt:

RESOLUTION #44-2017

SALT FOR WINTER ROAD MAINTENANCE

Motion made by Supervisor Peter Shrope, second by Lydia Wright,

RESOLVED that the Town Board authorizes the Superintendent of Highways to purchase about 250 tons of salt from the County Contract for mixing with sand for winter road maintenance Not to Exceed \$13,000.00.

ROLL CALL VOTE: Aye 3 (Shrope, Tucker, Wright), Nay 1, (McDonnell), Absent 1 (McKernan)

RESOLUTION #44 declared duly adopted

- u. Keese Mills Road: Letter from Resident dated August 24, 2017, concerning speed limit and traffic on road. Supervisor Peter Shrope said he thanks the citizen for his comments.

RESOLUTION #45-2017

SPEED ON KEESE MILLS ROAD

Motion made by Supervisor Peter Shrope, second by Steve Tucker,

RESOLVED that the Town Board authorizes the Supervisor to contact the Franklin County Superintendent of Highways to request a study of the speed limit zone on Keese Mills Road due to increase use on the road.

ROLL CALL VOTE: Aye 4 (McDonnell, Shrope, Tucker, Wright), Nay 0, Absent 1 (McKernan)

RESOLUTION #45 declared duly adopted

2. Town Clerk- Elaine Sater:

- a. Total Revenue to Supervisor as of August 31 was \$507.84 from 3 Sport License, 1Park Use Donation, 4 Dog Licenses: 1 new (Tag#190) and 3 renewed, and 3 Building Permits (#17-021 thru 023)
- b. Received notice from the NY State and Local Retirement System that three Board members still need to provide Record of Activities (ROA) for retirement purposes.
- c. Received 2 FOIL request: 1) August 15: Request for Court records from 1989, no record on file 2) August 29: Request for information from Town Vouchers from 2016, sent file of abstracts from 2016 with check numbers.
- d. TOWN HALL REQUEST: None
- e. TOWN PARK REQUEST: Sundays, October 1 and 15, and Saturday September 16 and October 7, Paul Smith's College Rugby from 10am to 4 pm
- f. RECORDS MANAGEMENT: Working on indexing minutes from 1935-1950 and shredding 2010 Town and Court Records.

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3. Historian - Elaine Sater: Nothing to report
4. Tax Collector - Holly Huber: No Report
Sent a notice that email address has changed to "brightonpropertytaxes@gmail"
5. Town Justice - Nik Santagate: Supervisor Peter Shrope said he received a check in the amount of \$2,168.00 and the Town Justice reported he disposed of 28 cases for the month of August
6. Code Enforcement Officer (CEO) - Paul Blaine: Report received prior to meeting
 - a. 3 building permit (BP) were issued during July (BP#17-021 thru 023)
 - b. Issued one (1) Certificates of Occupancy BPs#16-010
 - c. Other issues: The Fire Department is putting up an addition, the dome style home is going up on Ricketson Pond Road, a new home is going up on Split Rock Road, can get a \$500 reduction to the maintenance fee from BAS on the computer software.
7. Assessor- Roseanne Gallagher: Report received prior to meeting
 - a. There were 6 arms length sales over the last few months:
 - i. 06/2017-394.-2-5, 595 Keese Mills Rd. A 1970 trailer and garage on 1.82 acres. Sold for \$80,000. Assessment is \$43,800. Timothy and Mary Rock to Beth and Ross Myers from PA.
 - ii. 07/2017- 366.4-1-5, 60 Garondah Rd. Wilhelm Family Trust to Keith and Marjorie Bair from PA., sold for \$350,000, assessed at \$309,300. Has 50FF on Rainbow Lake and ½ acre of land. Has a 1850 Sq. foot Old style house and a garage
 - iii. 07/2017- 394.-2-25, 269 Keese Mills Rd., Doreen Arrison to A and F Intl NY LLC from PA., sold for \$122,000, assessed at \$95,300. 2 Story house and garage on .46 acres.
 - iv. 07/2017- 367.1-2-1, 44 Hull Rd., Alan and Karen Zaur to Richard and Carolyn Trudeau from Saranac Lake, sold for \$370,000, assessed at \$367,100. 92 FF Rainbow Lake and .41 acres. Has a 1952 square foot camp and small boathouse.
 - v. 08/2017- 382.-1-2.100, 266 County Rt 60, LJK Drake to Steve Reiss from PA., sold for \$390,000, assessed at \$283,800. This is the 1810 square foot log home and garage way up on the hill that sold for \$385,000 in 2014. It has a chain across the driveway. I looked at it on Google Earth and it doesn't look like anything really has changed since Doug data collected it. The driveway looks to be about ½ a mile long. I don't know why it sells for so much.
 - vi. 08/2017- 367.1-3-21, 39 Loon Landing, Seth and Julia Freedman to Edward and Mary Gorko from PA. Sold for \$430,000, assessed at \$463,100. Has 145FF on Rainbow Lake and 1.36 acres of land with a 1276 Sq. foot log home and a garage.
 - b. I am hoping to be back out data collecting by the last week of September. I believe I am on track to have at least half of the improved properties done by the end of this second year of data collecting. I will give a count of where I am at by the end of the year.
 - c. People have gotten their (school) tax bills and so far there has only been one correction of errors that I have had to do for Brighton. This was for someone who had applied for the enhanced star before the March 1st deadline. Somehow I didn't get it changed from the Basic Star on the file and so had to do a correction to the tax roll.
 - d. Supervisor Peter Shrope said he received notification from the NYS Department of Taxation & Finance dated 8/7/2017 that the Final State Equalization Rate is 86.00.
8. Animal Control - Tri Lakes Humane Society: No Report
9. Supervisor - Peter Shrope:
 - a. Countywide Shared Services Plan: People voted "yes" on August 23 for the shared services plan
 - b. Met with Assembly Member Billy Jones to visit the Town Garage and Camp Gabriels property; several people from the area connected with local, county and state government agencies also visited the property along with Town Board members and the Highway Superintendent.
 - c. Received a thank you letter from the Saranac Lake Youth Soccer Association, they donated an additional \$100 for the use of the soccer fields at the park.
 - d. Lease on Park Fields: Lease with Paul Smith's College (PSC) expires this year, sent an email to PSC facilities office earlier in the year, no response yet, will follow up. Discussion was held on needing to lime

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and fertilizer the fields. Steve Tucker said he purchases lime in bulk for his farmlands and would be willing to spread lime on the 4 acres. The Town would pay for the supplies and his time.

RESOLUTION #46

MAINTAINING FIELDS AT PARK

Motion made by Supervisor Peter Shrope, second by Brian McDonnell,

RESOLVED that Supervisor be authorized to hire Tucker's Farms, Inc. to fertilize and lime the playing fields at the Town Park and reimburse Tucker's Farms, Inc for the cost of the materials and for time and use of the equipment for 2 tons per acre for 4 acres to be done after the fields are not longer in use and before winter.

ROLL CALL VOTE: Aye 3 (McDonnell, Shrope, Wright), Nay 0, Abstain 1 (Tucker), Absent 1 (McKernan)
RESOLUTION #46 declared duly adopted

- e. NY State and Local Retirement Record of Activities (ROA): Council Member Amber McKernan submitted a three month calendar for hours worked from June to August. Average of 3.92 hours per month is equal to .65 days per month for retirement purposes.

RESOLUTION #47 - 2017

RECORD OF ACTIVITIES FOR COUNCIL MEMBER AMBER MCKERNAN

Motion made by Supervisor Peter Shrope, second by Steve Tucker,

RESOLVED that Town of Brighton, Franklin County/30520/ hereby establishes the following standard work days for these titles and will report the officials to the New York State and Local Retirement System based on their Record of Activities (ROA):

Council Member Amber McKernan, 6 hours Standard Work Day, Term 1/1/2014 to 12/31/2017, ROA .65

ROLL CALL VOTE: Aye 4 (McDonnell, Shrope, Tucker, Wright), Nay 0, Absent 1 (McKernan)
RESOLUTION #47 declared duly adopted

- f. Town Budget for 2018: Requests for budget items was distributed to Town Officials, due to Bookkeeper by September 20
- g. Local Government Day: Will be attending Local Government Day in Potsdam on October 10 for workshops on the 2020 Census and preparing budgets. Submitted a voucher for registration fee of \$40.00
- h. CSEA Union Contract: Expires this year, Brian McDonnell and he have met to discuss proposals received from the Union.
- i. Budget as of August 31, 2017, provided to Board members:
 - i. Revenues for August: \$21,388.52 from Franklin County for snow and ice contract, \$2,168 from Town Justice, and \$507.84 from Town Clerk
 - ii. NYCLASS interest received for the General Fund was \$79.49 in General account \$106,102.21 (\$20,000 for Town Hall Roof Project) and Highway Fund is \$30.32 total in account \$40,435.56.

ACCEPT/AMEND MINUTES

- Regular Board – August 10, 2017

Motion made by Brian McDonnell, second by Steve Tucker, to accept the minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of August 10, 2017, as written, Aye 4 (McDonnell, Shrope, Tucker, Wright), Nay 0, Absent 1 (McKernan,)

CITIZENS COMMENTS: None

BUSINESS

1. **Town Hall Maintenance:** Asked two painters to look at the shingles for re-staining; waiting quotes

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2. **Land Purchase from Paul Smith's College:** Waiting for 2nd quote from a surveyor
3. **Park Use Policy:** Still in draft form, needs more work.
4. **BUDGET MEETING:** Special meeting for discussing the Tentative Budget for 2018 will be held on Thursday, October 12 at 5 pm. to be followed directly afterwards by the Regular Town Board meeting.

COMMITTEES

Parks and Recreation- Peter Shrope, Amber McKernan: Sam Reynolds is in the process of building four picnic tables, vouchers are submitted for supplies

CITIZENS COMMENTS:

Steve Tucker said the Paul Smiths Gabriels Volunteer Fire Department hosted the Army from Fort Drum in Watertown, Forest Rangers, State Troopers, and others looking for a lost hiker on St. Regis Mountain. Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) set up their Command Post at the Fire Hall. They looked at the Town Hall as a possible base of operation for any future needs. The Fire Department fed the people on Sunday, September 2, while they searched for the hiker. He was found unharmed on Monday morning, September 3. On Monday, September 11, the PSGVFD was recognized for their help by different departments.

AUDIT OF VOUCHERS:

RESOLUTION #48-2017

PAYMENT OF AUDITED VOUCHERS AS LISTED ON THE ABSTRACTS

Motion made by Lydia Wright, 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 #9 for Voucher #9A through and including 9C for 2017 GENERAL FUNDS in the amount of \$467.29 and STREET LIGHTING FUND Abstract #9C in the amount of \$55.88

GENERAL FUND: Abstract #9 for Voucher #155 through and including #175 for 2017 funds in the amount of \$11,909.35

HIGHWAY FUND: Abstract #9 for Voucher #76 through and including #85 for 2017 funds in the amount of \$27,951.03

ROLL CALL VOTE: Aye 4 (McDonnell, Shrope, Tucker, Wright), Nay 0, Absent 1 (McKernan)

Resolution #48 declared duly adopted

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Motion made by Lydia Wright to GO INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION at 8:30pm. for collective negotiations pursuant to Article 14 of the Civil Service Law, in accordance with Public Officers Law, Article 7, Section 105(e), second by Supervisor Peter Shrope, Aye 4 (McDonnell, Shrope, Tucker, Wright), Nay 0, Absent 1 (McKernan)

Motion made by Lydia Wright to GO OUT OF EXECUTIVE SESSION at 8:43pm, second by Brian McDonnell, Aye 4 (McDonnell, Shrope, Tucker, Wright), Nay 0, Absent 1 (McKernan)

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to Adjourn the meeting at 8:44 pm made by Lydia Wright, second by Brian McDonnell, Aye 4 (McDonnell, Shrope, Tucker, Wright), Nay 0, Absent 1 (McKernan)

Respectfully Submitted,

Elaine W. Sater, RMC
Brighton Town Clerk