

TOWN OF BRIGHTON, FRANKLIN COUNTY, NEW YORK
REGULAR TOWN BOARD MEETING MINUTES - October 13, 2016

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The Regular Meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Brighton was held Thursday October 13, 2016, following a Special Board meeting held at 6:00 p.m. at the Brighton Town Hall, Paul Smiths, NY, with the following:

CALL TO ORDER:

Meeting was Called to Order by Supervisor Pete Shrope at 6:30 p.m.

ROLL CALL OF OFFICERS

PRESENT: Supervisor Peter Shrope

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

ABSENT: None

OTHERS PRESENT: Paul Blaine-Code Enforcement Officer, Andy Crary-Superintendent of Highways, Holly Huber - Tax Collector, Elaine Sater - Town Clerk and three residents

GUEST: John Hutchins, Superintendent of Franklin County Highways

NOTICE OF MEETING:

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

COUNTY LEGISLATURE DISTRICT #3

John Hutchins from Malone is running for County Legislature in District #3 against Andrea Dumas. He spoke about what he plans to do for the County if he is elected. He is currently the Franklin County Superintendent of Highways and has requested grant funding for shared services with the Towns in Franklin County. He is responsible for all the highways in Franklin County from Piercefield to the Canadian border. He has worked on several projects in the Town of Brighton. He is concerned with the fiscal stress of Franklin County.

Gordy Crossman currently holds the District #3 Legislature position but will not be running again. The Town of Brighton is in District #3 as well as part of Malone, Bangor, and Duane.

REPORTS

1. Highway Department - Andy Crary
 - a. Mowed Town Hall, Garage, and cemeteries for the last time this season
 - b. Raked the dirt roads
 - c. Hauled tar for Town of Franklin
 - d. Chipped brush on Wardner, Keese Mills, and White Pine roads
 - e. Hauled tar for Franklin County for the Santa Clara bridge
 - f. Put shoulders on Tansy Lane
 - g. Helped Harrietstown do shouldering
 - h. Road checks
 - i. Hauled grindings for County
 - j. Bob's Auto adjusted clutch and installed light whip on the 2013 Truck
 - k. Worked on Church Pond Road
 - l. Picked up flags in cemeteries
 - m. Screened sand for winter
 - n. Helped County with shoulders on Forest Home Road
 - o. Got the plows and sander out
 - p. High Peaks Ford fixed power steering leak on F350
 - q. Need plow for F350 truck now, cannot repair it anymore

RESOLUTION #72-2016

PURCHASE OF PLOW FOR F350 PICK UP TRUCK

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

RESOLVED that the Town Board authorizes the Superintendent of Highways to obtain quotes and purchase a new plow for the F350 Pick up Truck Not to Exceed \$5,000.

**ROLL CALL VOTE: Aye 5 (McDonnell, McKernan, Shrope, Tucker, Wright), Nay 0
Resolution #72 declared duly adopted.**

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2. Town Clerk- Elaine Sater:
 - a. Total Revenue to Supervisor as of September 30, 2016 was \$ 2,072.50, from 5 Sport Licenses, 2 Certified copies of Vital Records, 9 Dog licenses, 6 renewed and 3 new (#178 to 180), 10 Building Permits (#16-022 through 031), and 2 copies on the copier
 - b. August 30 received email for a Freedom of Information (FOIL) request from America Transparency, requesting information on items Town purchased during 2014. Provided excel files of abstracts from 2014 with check numbers on September 9.
 - c. Sep 27 received email notice of NYS DEC mining permit renewal for Garage; expires in October 2021.
 - d. TOWN HALL REQUEST: None
 - e. TOWN PARK REQUEST: None
 - f. RECORDS MANAGEMENT: Completed "Index of Minutes" for 1990 and 1991

3. Historian - Elaine Sater: Report given at Meeting:

Continued information from the minutes of early Town Board meetings from 1876 to 1880:

March 7, 1876: Resolution to raise no money except \$250 that lays at the option of the Supervisor. Supervisor is CE Martin, Town Clerk is John McLaughlin, Auditors are Edward Rork, FTB Weller, and John Whitcher. Collector is Myron Otis, Excise Commissioner is Lovel Newell, and Poor Master is AA Smith.

March 6, 1877: Resolved that there shall be no money expended in ploughing and scraping or filling in of old roads after the first of September and nothing shall prohibit the cutting out and clearing of a new road after that time. Town Clerk changes to Edward Dustin; Assessor changes to FTB Weller, Collector changes to Ervin Jaquish, Auditors are John McLaughlin, Alfred Otis, and Philemon King, Commissioner Excise is James Cross; Constables are Benjamin Munsil, Elverdo Patterson, and Clarence McArthur.

March 6, 1878: Resolved that the Commissioners of Highways shall have the power to lay pumps logs from Weller Spring to the watering trough beside the road. Resolved that EW Dustin, Geo Knowles and Philemon King be appointed to stake out the grave yard into lots and also to look up the monies not expended and was placed in the hands of Seth Wardner and Ricketsons for the purpose of building a fence and if any be found to use it to paint the fence and the committee shall have full charge of the yard and burying ground until further order of the Town.

March 4, 1879: Resolved that \$35 be raised for the purpose of painting the burying ground fence. Motion made is made by JD Knowles, Assessor and second by EW Dustin, Town Clerk. The roads are very bad shape from drifted snow and other causes seriously impeding travel and are wholly impassable by loaded teams. There is a resolution to have the incoming Commissioner of Highways Edward Rork appoint "...pathmasters"(spelling?) in each of the Districts to take the lawful way to remedy the condition of the highways and give the taxed inhabitants credit for the work on the annual summer taxes on a motion by E. Ricketson, Auditor and second by J Cross. Assessor changes to AC McCollum, Collector changes to AK Wilcox. There is a note that EG Ricketson, Auditor, is not a freeholder as the law requires.

March 2, 1880: Resolved that \$25 will be raised to put pump logs from Weller Spring to road. Assessor changes to AA Smith, Town Clerk changes to GD Knowles, Collector there is a tie between AK Wilcox and C. McCasters; Com Excise is Ben Monta, Auditors are Thomas Redwood, Fred Otis and Orem Otis; Inspectors of Elections are FTB Weller and Thomas Clark, Constables are P. King, M Sweany, and T LaBountay; Poor Master is L. Newell

March 30, 1880: Meeting held to appoint William Ricketson as Collector, AK Wilcox Constable and Wm Ricketson as Constable. Attendees were FTB Weller, Inspector of Elections, and Geo Knowles Justices of the Peace (also Town Clerk) and Gustaus Torrance of Harriestown.

4. Tax Collector - Holly Huber: Nothing to Report

Discussion was held with Amber McKernan and Brian McDonnell concerning documents received from the Tax Collector in response to questions from the Tax Collector's audit. Supervisor Peter Shrope asked that the discussion continue between the two Board members who did the audit and the tax collector outside the Board meeting.

Supervisor Peter Shrope said he revisited her request to be exempted from providing monthly reports to the Board. In the Organizational Meeting on January 14, 2016, Resolution #06-2016, certain positions were requested to provide reports and the Tax Collector was included; if there is no monthly report she should let him know.

5. Town Justice - Nik Santagate: Report received prior to meeting:

Supervisor Peter Shrope received a check in the amount of \$2,976.00 and the Justice disposed of 26 cases for

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the month of September

6. Code Enforcement Officer (CEO) - Paul Blaine: Report received prior to meeting
 - a. Ten (10) building permits (BPs #16-022 and 031) issued
 - b. Two (2) Certificates of Occupancy were issued for BPs #15-010 and 031
 - c. One (1) Certificate of Completion was issued for BP #16-021
7. Assessor - Roseanne Gallagher: Report provided prior to meeting
 - a. Picked up real property transfer reports from the county- there is a total of nine, most are from August. They recently hired a new tax mapper to replace two mappers that retired and are just starting to catch up on processing transfers.
 - i. Three of them are property splits- two from Tansy Lane. Leavitt Farms sold Lot #6- 4.11 acres, for \$60,000, which is the total value on the vacant land that is left in that subdivision. The other Tansy Lane split is the transfer of the road to the town.
 - ii. The property that was auctioned by the county in June- SBL 381.4-1-14, sold for \$5,750 at auction. It's a very small home on ¼ acre at 85 County Rt 60. I think the buyer was the next door neighbor. It's assessed at \$19,000.
 - iii. There were 3 arms length transfers- Two of them sold very close to assessed value. 367.1-4-21 is assessed at \$167,600 and it sold for \$170,000. The sellers were Richard and Deborah Harrison, buyer is Chelsea Silver. This is at 51 Vosburgh Rd. The next one is SBL- 334.-1-29, 97 Sunnyside Rd.. It's assessed at \$188,700 and sold for \$192,000. Seller is Nancy Reich, sold to Martin and Jennifer Lieb. The 3rd arms length sale was the part of the Dole property on Spitfire Lake with all the residential buildings. This is the one that he filed a grievance on in 2015. It is assessed at \$957,100 and it sold for \$2,340,000.
 - b. Attended the local government conference in Potsdam this last Tuesday (October 11). The assessor's session was on doing revaluations. This was worth 4 CE credits; required to get 12 CE credits a year
 - c. Have been out data collecting in Brighton twice in September and reviewed a total of 43 residential parcels. That brings the total of residential parcels that I have reviewed to a bit over 100. I'm not counting vacants; I do them as they occur wherever I am data collecting. I plan to review Easy Street this fall. That will bring me over my goal of ¼ of the residential properties. I also plan to collect as much new construction as I can before the winter. Completing the new cards for all I've reviewed will keep me busy over the winter.
8. Animal Control - Tri Lakes Humane Society: No report
9. Supervisor - Supervisor Peter Shrope:
 - a. Camp Gabriels: Will send the letter from Assemblymember Janet Duprey to Ned Limeux. Will send the package to Al Graf in the Assembly for support of the Constitutional amendment. Willie Jayneway and NYS Senator Betty Little are still supporting it. Would also like to send a proposal to the Legislative Committee of the NYS Association of Towns for its Legislative Agenda during the next Annual meeting in February 2017.

Motion made by Supervisor Peter Shrope, second by Brain McDonnell; **to submit a proposal to the New York State Association of Town for its annual meeting to support the designation of Camp Gabriels property as "Not Forest Preserve" by the State of New York.** Aye 5 (McDonnell, McKernan, Shrope, Tucker, Wright), Nay 0

- b. Tansy Lane: Deed has been filed with Franklin County Clerk, voucher for \$1.00 to Art Leavitt prepared for transfer of property. Received a call from the County Clerk concerning the land in the middle of the circle; it is not part of the transfer.
- c. Fiscal Stress Report: NYS Office of the State Comptroller has determined that the Town has a fiscal stress level of 6.7% (considered "no designation"), 40% is considered a cause for concern
- d. Budget as of September 30, 2016, was provided to Board members, Revenue: \$21,074.10 from Franklin County for Snow and Ice 2016, \$400.00 Lester Cemetery Plot, \$2,976.00 from Town Justice and \$2,072.52 from Town Clerk
- e. NYCLASS: Interest of \$27.27 for General Fund; total in account \$105,550.43 (\$20,000 is reserved for Town Hall), and Highway Fund interest is \$10.39, total in account \$40,220.06
- f. Preliminary Budget 2017 has been approved for the Public Hearing, AIM (Aid to Municipalities) funds (A3001) will be \$11,884.00

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- g. Franklin County Supervisors' meeting is October 27 at Paul Smith's College
- h. Mining Permit for Highway Sand: New York State Department of Environmental Conservation Mining Permit was received; however the Adirondack Park Agency (APA)'s Mining Permit is out of date. It expired in October 2006 and was never renewed due to changes in supervisors. Town has to reapply for the APA permit before sand can be mined; Brian McDonnell said to look into a Juridical Inquiry Form ("JIF") with the APA.

APPROVAL/AMENDMENT OF MINUTES

- Regular Board – September 8, 2016

Motion made by Lydia Wright, second by Steve Tucker, to accept the minutes of the Regular Board meeting of September 8, 2016, as written. **Roll Call Vote:** Aye 4 (McKernan, Shrope, Tucker, Wright), Nay 0, Abstain 1 (McDonnell)

CITIZENS COMMENTS: None

BUSINESS

- 1. **Contracts for Approval- Supervisor Peter Shrope:**
 - a. **North Country LifeFlight 2017:** Received a contract for 2017 for medevac services

RESOLUTION #73-2016

MEDEVAC SERVICE FROM NORTH COUNTRY LIFEFLIGHT 2017

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

RESOLVED that the Town Board authorizes the Supervisor to sign an agreement with North Country Life Flight, Inc., for the purpose of operating the medical component of the medevac program which will serve its residents and visitors during 2017 in the amount of \$1,500.

ROLL CALL VOTE: Aye 5 (McDonnell, McKernan, Shrope, Tucker, Wright), Nay 0
Resolution #73 declared duly adopted.

- b. **Adirondack Regional Airport - Supervisor Peter Shrope:** Received an invoice and a contract from Town of Harrietstown for support to the regional airport.

RESOLUTION #74-2016

ADIRONDACK REGIONAL AIRPORT WITH TOWN OF HARRIETSTOWN FOR 2016

Motion made by Supervisor Peter Shrope, Second by Amber McKernan

RESOLVED that the Town Board authorizes the Supervisor to sign an agreement with the Town of Harrietstown to provide airport services for the Town of Brighton residents for 2016 and
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Town of Brighton will pay the amount of \$1,500 to the Town of Harrietstown.

ROLL CALL VOTE: Aye 5 (McDonnell, McKernan, Shrope, Tucker, Wright), Nay 0
Resolution #74 declared duly adopted.

- 2. **Rescue Services - Supervisor Peter Shrope:** Received a contract that needs to have a public hearing before approval. Saranac Lake Volunteer Rescue Services for 2017, amount remains the same as 2016 at \$28,270; amount in the Tentative Budget needs to be change back to \$28,270. Public Hearing on November 10, 2106.

RESOLUTION #71-2016 (Amended)

AMENDMENT TO TENTATIVE BUDGET 2017

Motion made by Supervisor Peter Shrope, second by Amber McKernan,

RESOLVED to change the Tentative Budget for 2017 by increasing General Fund Appropriations Account No. A3625.4 by \$1,131 from \$27,139 to \$28,270 for rescue services.

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ROLL CALL VOTE: Aye 5 (McDonnell, McKernan, Shrope, Tucker, Wright), Nay 0
Resolution #71 declared duly amended.

3. **Fire Protection Services - Supervisor Peter Shrope:** Received a five year contract from the Paul Smiths-Gabriels Volunteer Fire Department with a 3% increase each year. A Public Hearing is needed before approval. Since the last contract the State has set a cap of 2% or the Cost of Living rate on budgets. Five years is a long time to tie the Town's funds to a contract. The Fire Department would like to add an addition to its building. They are applying for a lower ISO rating which could lower the insurance rates to homeowners. The Fire Department has a website. Public Hearing to be held on November 10, 2016.

COMMITTEES:

1. **AATV - Brian McDonnell:** The Adirondack Park Agency (APA) is looking at proposals for classification of the Boreas Pond property and particularly at the recommendations from the 5 towns near it to make it more accessible to the public.
2. **Adirondack Regional Airport - Tom and Amber McKernan:** New hanger was dedicated; there is now a charter service called Gull Aviation, they use a King Air 90 airplane to fly anywhere in the United States.
3. **Park & Recreation - Supervisor Peter Shrope and Amber McKernan:**
 - a. The port-a-potty has been canceled for the winter
 - b. Dead trees need to be removed; Amber McKernan will contact Paul Smith's College's Urban Tree Management to see if they will do it. She should flag the trees for them.
 - c. Signs for "Clean up after Dogs" need to be posted
 - d. Swing needs to be untangled
 - e. Locks need to be changed on the buildings

CITIZENS COMMENTS: None

AUDIT OF VOUCHERS

RESOLUTION #75-2016

PAYMENT OF AUDITED VOUCHERS AS LISTED ON THE ABSTRACTS

Motion made by Amber McKernan, second by Lydia Wright,

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

PREPAID FUNDS: Abstract #10 for Voucher #10A through and including #10C GENERAL FUNDS in the amount of \$442.65 and STREET LIGHTING FUNDS in the amount of \$55.99.

GENERAL FUND: Abstract #10 for Voucher #189 through and including #211 in the amount of \$ 6,442.36

HIGHWAY FUND: Abstract #10 for Voucher #79 through and including #91 in the amount of \$26,513.66

ROLL CALL VOTE: Aye 5 (McDonnell, McKernan, Shrope, Tucker, Wright), Nay 0
Resolution #75 declared duly adopted

ADJOURNMENT: Motion to Adjourn the meeting at 8:40 p.m. made by Amber McKernan, second by Supervisor Peter Shrope; **Aye 5 (McDonnell, McKernan, Shrope, Tucker, Wright), Nay 0**

Respectfully Submitted,

Elaine W. Sater, RMC
Brighton Town Clerk