

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

November 09, 2017

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The Regular Meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Brighton was held Thursday, November 9, 2017, at 7:00 pm 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 7:00 pm  
Pledge to the Flag was recited

**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, Elaine Sater-Town Clerk, two residents and a representative of the media

GUESTS: Scott Sabo, Police Benevolent Association

**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. Sand is all screened and put up
  - b. Put the plow, wing and sander on the 2015 truck
  - c. Put plow and wing on 2013 truck
  - d. Changed oil on loader and greased
  - e. Painted the plows and wings
  - f. Hauled tar and sand for Town of Franklin
  - g. Cleaned up debris from wind storm
  - h. Made a dump run
  - i. Put order in for new 2018 pick-up truck
  - j. Need resolution to sign the Snow and Sanding contract with Franklin County
  - k. Employee is out on sick leave
  - l. Will be in and out for the rest of the month for hunting

**RESOLUTION #57-2017**

**SNOW AND ICE CONTRACT WITH FRANKLIN COUNTY FOR WINTER ROADS**

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

RESOLVED that the Town Board accepts the three (3) year agreement with Franklin County Superintendent of Highways Bradford Marsh for the removal of snow and sanding of 7.96 miles of County Roads 55, 60 and 31 in the town of Brighton as follows:

2017-2018 in the amount of \$44,576.00

2018-2019 in the amount of \$45,467.52

2019-2020 in the amount of \$46,149.53

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Town Board authorizes the Superintendent of Highways Andy Crary to sign the agreement.

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

**RESOLUTION #57 declared duly adopted**

2. Town Clerk- Elaine Sater: Report received prior to Board meeting
  - a. Total Revenue to Supervisor as of October 31, 2017 was \$ 932.87 from 5 Sport Licenses, 6 Certified Copies, 6 Dog Licenses (4 new Tag#192 thru 195 and 2 renewed), and 2 Building Permits (#17-029 and 030)
  - b. October 12, updated/verified Town Officials contact information for the Office of the State Comptroller Local Government and School Accountability.

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- c. October 12, received a request for information for a background check from the Virginia State Police for a handgun permit; found the criminal record and faxed to requestor.
  - d. October 19, posted notices for the Public Hearing on the Preliminary Budget 2018 for October 26. Published notice in the Adirondack Daily Enterprise.
  - e. November 2, received Explosives Magazine Certification from the Department of Labor for Peter Henry, expires 11/30/2018.
  - f. TOWN HALL REQUEST: None
  - g. TOWN PARK REQUEST: None
  - h. RECORDS MANAGEMENT: Still working on indexing minutes from 1935-1950 and shredding 2010 Town and Court Records.
3. Historian - Elaine Sater: 1937 Minutes - only four Board members attend the meetings during the year.
- Jan 26 - Board met at Cornelius Meagher's office in Gabriels, Board authorizes \$1,000 for improving Keese Mills Road. Two people (George Riley and Harry Otis) are nominated as Justices of the Peace, vote is a tie, 2-2; meeting adjourned to Feb 2.
- Feb 2 - Question of "Does the Supervisor have a right to vote?" was discussed. Vote taken on the opinion of Town Attorney Ralph Levy, yes the Supervisor can vote on all matters coming before the Board. Vote taken: Ayes 4 (Newell, Hobart, Meagher, Leavitt), Nays 0, Absent 1 (Stien).
- April 14 - Voted to borrow the sum of \$2,000 to pay for Home and Work Relief,
- May 3 - Superintendent of Highways is authorized to spend \$500 for Special Improvements, \$6,297 for Primary Work and General Repairs, and \$778.97 for Special Reserve Fund, also authorized to purchase on credit a "Cold Patch Mixer" for \$825. Clarence Newell resigns as Assessor. William Titus Sr. and Albert Otis are appointed as Assessors for the remainder of the year.
- June 25- Appointed Lewis Strack as Attendance Officer of the School Districts and be paid \$17 per month.
- Aug 23- Gate has been built across the Brandon-McColloms road in the Town of Santa Clara. Supervisor and Superintendent of Highways were instructed to investigate to see if the gate can be removed.
- Nov 4- Regular Meeting at the Town Hall, audited vouchers and accepted Superintendent of Highways estimates for Highway Budget. Supervisor authorized to borrow \$3,500 to pay the audited bills which total \$6,701.94.
- Dec 28- Regular Meeting at Town Hall; audited the Supervisor's financial records; appointed Election Inspectors, accepted the Supervisor's Inventory Report, appointed janitor for \$40 per year.
4. Tax Collector - Holly Huber: Sent an email to the Board, reported her hours for January 2018 to collect taxes as follows: Tuesdays, 6:30 to 8:30am; Wednesdays, 5:30 to 7:30pm; and Saturdays 7:30 to 11:30am.
5. Town Justice - Nik Santagate: Supervisor Peter Shrope said he received a check in the amount of \$4,283.00 and the Town Justice reported he disposed of 48 cases for the month of October
6. Code Enforcement Officer (CEO) - Paul Blaine: Report received prior to meeting
- a. 2 building permit (BP) were issued during September (BP#17-029 and 030)
  - b. Issued one (1) Certificate of Occupancy BP#16-026
  - c. Other issues: Inspected a home going up at 190 Clark Wardner Road, will start looking into a replacement laptop computer
7. Assessor- Roseanne Gallagher: Nothing to report, still working on data collection in Rainbow Lake area
8. Animal Control - Tri Lakes Humane Society: No Report
9. Supervisor - Peter Shrope:
- a. Insurance: Met with insurance agent Pat McGuire, made some suggestions to increase Town's coverage for certain items, full-replacement value of new vehicles, cyber security of computers, and garage at Mt. View Cemetery which is not covered by insurance. Mang Insurance (bonds for Town Officials) will be due in June; Mr. McGuire is a representative for that insurance also.
  - b. CSEA Contract: He and Brian McDonnell met with Union representative and discussed terms of contract, will discuss in Executive Session
  - c. Census 2020: Committee is formed to address Census 2020 includes Lydia Wright and Andy Crary; forms

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were distributed to be signed.

- d. Budget as of October 31, 2017, provided to Board members:
- i. Revenues from October: \$4,283.00 from Town Justice, and \$932.87 from Town Clerk
  - ii. NYCLASS interest received for the General Fund was \$84.94 in General account \$106,267.19 (\$20,000 for Town Hall Roof Project) and Highway Fund is \$32.40 total in account \$40,498.47.

**ACCEPT/AMEND MINUTES**

- **Special Board - October 12, 2017**

Motion made by Brian McDonnell, second by Lydia Wright, to accept the minutes of the Special Board meeting of October 12, 2017 as written,

**Roll Call Vote: Aye 5 (McDonnell, McKernan, Shrope, Tucker, Wright), Nay 0**

- **Regular Board – October 12, 2017**

Motion made by Amber McKernan, second by Brian McDonnell, to accept the minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of October 12, 2017, with the following change: Page 1, Reports, Highway Department, Para “1h”, change “rum” to “run”

**Roll Call Vote: Aye 5 (McDonnell, McKernan, Shrope, Tucker, Wright), Nay 0**

- **Special Board - Public Hearing Budget 2018 - October 26, 2017**

Motion made by Brian McDonnell, second by Amber McKernan, to accept the minutes of the Special Board Public Hearing for the 2018 Town Budget meeting on October 26, 2017 as written,

**Roll Call Vote: Aye 4 (McDonnell, McKernan, Shrope, Wright), Nay 0, Abstain 1 (Tucker)**

**CITIZENS COMMENTS:** None

**BUSINESS**

1. **Support for Increase in Staffing for Forest Rangers - Scott Sabo, Police Benevolent Association (PBA):** Scott Sabo, a Paul Smith's College graduate and Forest Ranger, asked the Town Board to support a PBA resolution that is requesting an increase in the Department of Environmental Conservation Forest Ranger staffing to a statewide total of 175. He discussed the “WhereAs” clauses in the following resolution. He personally has helped to rescue several people in the High Peaks and went out to California to help with the wild fires for 10 days. He stated that someone was going to die, either himself or a person being rescued because the Forest Rangers are getting over tired from all the rescues they are attempting. For example he “bushwacked” on St. Regis for 8 hours looking for a lost hiker; then without any rest had to go to Cascade Mountain to help with another rescue. Supervisor Peter Shrope said he encountered another Forest Ranger when he was hiking that had to go on a rescue of Poke-a-Moonshine after hiking three mountains with his family. Forest Rangers activity is reported in the Adirondack Daily Enterprise.

**RESOLUTION #58**

**SUPPORT FOR POLICE BENEVOLENT ASSOCIATION OF NEW YORK STATE, INC. (PBA OF NYS)  
PROPOSAL TO INCREASE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION FOREST  
RANGER STAFFING TO A STATEWIDE TOTAL OF 175**

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

**WHEREAS**, NYS forest rangers have provided care, custody and control of the Forest Preserve and all DEC managed lands throughout the state since 1885, protecting the valuable natural resources and the people who recreate there; and

**WHEREAS**, forest rangers are unequalled stewards of the land who are police officers, wildland firefighters and wilderness first responders that patrol these lands year round; and

**WHEREAS**, the addition of over 1 million acres of DEC managed lands the last several decades without staffing

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increases has caused the ratio of DEC managed lands per ranger to grow from 1 ranger per 28,516 acres in 1970 to 1 ranger per 53,752 acres today; and

**WHEREAS**, the dramatic increase in recreational use on state lands has led to a corresponding increase in the number of search and rescue operations. In both 2015 and 2016 forest rangers participated in over 300 incidents annually. Those numbers had not been surpassed in the rangers' previous 130 years of existence; and

**WHEREAS**, Adirondack communities rely heavily on tourism associated with state land recreation which, gratefully, has been well-promoted by this administration; and

**WHEREAS**, forest rangers are essential to providing a safe and positive recreational experience for tourists utilizing state land; and

**WHEREAS**, the current level of forest ranger staffing, 135 statewide including supervisors, is not adequate to fulfill their unique mission given the amount of land they patrol and the number of incidents they respond to; and

**WHEREAS**, the proposal by the PBA of NYS to increase forest ranger staffing has wide public and bi-partisan support from local governments, business groups, environmental groups and outdoor recreation clubs for a simple reason: It protects the people from the land and the land from the people; and

**WHEREAS**, this proposal represents the best solution to address the increase in public lands and those utilizing it,

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Town Board of the Town of Brighton, Franklin County, New York, does hereby support the PBA of NYS proposal to increase forest ranger staffing to 175 rangers statewide, which is deemed critically important to our community, state land, the environment and the People of the State of New York; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that a certified copy of this Resolution shall be forwarded to the PBA of NYS, 11 North Pearl Street, Suite 1200 Albany NY 12207.

**ROLL CALL VOTE: Aye 5 (McDonnell, McKernan, Shrope, Tucker, Wright), Nay 0**  
**RESOLUTION #58 declared duly adopted**

2. **Town Hall Maintenance:** Staining of outside will happen in the spring
3. **Land Purchase from Paul Smith's College (PSC):** Have bid estimates on survey, no response from PSC
4. **Park Use Policy:** Still in draft form, needs more work
5. **Park Lease with PSC:** No response from PSC, Mr. McFarland no longer works there, sent a second request
6. **Association of Towns:** Receiving information on training in New York City during February.

**COMMITTEES**

1. **AATV:** Brian McDonnell will be attending a meeting on Dec 4 and 5
2. **Parks and Recreation-Peter Shrope, Amber McKernan:** Branches need to be cleaned up, Supervisor Peter Shrope will ask Ben Tucker if he can do it; Port-a-Potty removed on October 31.

**CITIZENS COMMENTS:**

**Scott Sabo** asked about the ATV traffic on Blue Mountain Road to Keese Mills Road, Town Board said ATVs are not allowed on Town of Brighton roads.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

Motion made by Supervisor Peter Shrope to **GO INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION** at 8:00pm 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 Steve Tucker, Aye 5 (McDonnell, McKernan, Shrope, Tucker, Wright), Nay 0

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Motion made by Supervisor Peter Shrope to **GO OUT OF EXECUTIVE SESSION** at 8:25pm, second by Lydia Wright, Aye 5 (McDonnell, McKernan, Shrope, Tucker, Wright), Nay 0

***AUDIT OF VOUCHERS:***

**RESOLUTION #59-2017**

**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 #11 for Voucher #11A through and including 11C for 2017 GENERAL FUNDS in the amount of \$520.50 and STREET LIGHTING FUND Abstract #11C in the amount of \$58.23

GENERAL FUND: Abstract #11 for Voucher #198 through and including #206 for 2017 funds in the amount of \$3,545.73

HIGHWAY FUND: Abstract #11 for Voucher #98 through and including #104 for 2017 funds in the amount of \$5,506.39

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

**Resolution #59 declared duly adopted**

***ADJOURNMENT***

Motion to Adjourn the meeting at 8:26 pm 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