

**PUBLIC HEARING FOR POST OFFICE - TOWN OF BRIGHTON - FRANKLIN COUNTY, NY  
January 17, 2008**

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**A Public Hearing was held on Thursday, January 17, 2008 for the new Postal Facility in Gabriels at 6:00 p.m. at the Brighton Town Hall, 12 County Road 31 in Paul Smiths, NY, with the following:**

**CALL TO ORDER:**

**The Public Hearing was Called to Order** by Supervisor Peter Martin at 6:00 p.m.

The Board said the "Pledge of Allegiance" to the flag.

**ROLL CALL OF OFFICERS**

**PRESENT:** Supervisor Peter Martin, Sr.

Council Members: Sheila Delarm, Jeffrey Leavitt (entered hearing late), Steve Tucker and Lydia Wright

**ABSENT:** None

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Elaine Sater - Town Clerk, Paul Senk and Richard Russo from the United States Postal Service

**RESIDENTS:** There were about thirty residents present

**NOTICE OF MEETING:** Notice of this meeting was posted on January 3, 2008 and the Adirondack Daily Enterprise was notified. The United States Postal Service (USPS) also posted a notice.

***Public Comments:***

Richard Russo explained the process for notifying the USPS concerning the location of a new post office building for Gabriels. There is a 45day time frame for public comments starting as of this meeting. Comments can be sent to the USPS. There will be an advertisement for comments and an advertisement for proposals in the local paper. The Town Board will be able to review the list of proposals. After a location is determined the bid for construction will be let. The post office operates on its own revenues, they do not get funding from federal income taxes.

Barbara Ryan spoke in favor of the post officer being located in Gabriels proper somewhere on the main road (State route 86), preferably near the current businesses. The building is a community focal point. Moving the building to any other place would impact the other business in Gabriels. There is a dinner and two small grocery stores that people frequent when stopping at the post office.

Christopher Leifheit spoke in favor of the building remaining in Gabriels near where it was located on State Route 86. He asked about the square footage and parking requirements for the building.

Richard Russo said the size would be about 800 square feet and there needs to be space for 7 parking places. The details will be in the advertisement for proposals.

Gordy Crossman, Franklin County Legislature spoke in favor of the post office. He said the people in the Town have worked hard to get the post office back and he wanted to thank the people from the USPS for coming here to listen to the people.

Debbie Allen spoke in favor of the post office being located in the Gabriels area. The temporary trailer is currently in a very convenient location for people who travel toward Saranac Lake from Gabriels and she would like to see it stay in that area.

Keith Smith spoke in favor of the post office remaining where it is because he works in Gabriels and it is convenient for him. He asked if the announcement of Camp Gabriels closing in a year would affect the new post office.

Paul Senk said it would not make a difference since the USPS has already determined that the post office would be replaced.

Bob Eckert said the closing of Camp Gabriels should not affect the post office because if the prison does close it is possible another business could open there. The location of the post office is important in influencing the economy of the area. If the building was located in a business's parking lot people may be more inclined to use the business.

Holly Huber asked about the design of the new post office and would it be a standard post office or could there be community input for the design to fit the area. She asked if the post office would be a "green" building.

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Richard Russo said the designs are standard and due to lack of funds the changes to current designs is minimal so not a lot of "green" construction is incorporated. Renovations of existing space is preferable to building new.

Tom Tucker said he was the Fire Chief during the fire. He is glad to see the USPS back to discuss a new post office. He spoke in favor of a post office being located within the area of Mill Hill Road, the town line near Split Rock Road and St. John's house on State Route 86. He said it would be nice to get indoor plumbing for the postal workers, since there is none in the temporary building.

Paul McGivney asked if the lobby could be designed so there is 24 hour access as in other post offices. Many people work out of the area and can't get their mail during the hours the postal worker is there. He would like to see the post office at the diner. Handicapped accessibility is a major concern due to the number of elderly who use the post office.

Steve Smith said he would like to see the building in the immediate area of Gabriels where the building is now located; anywhere from the Hobart Road to County Road 60 (Rainbow Lake Road). Space is available at the Brighton Mini Mart

Sheila Delarm asked how long it would take to get a permanent facility.

Richard Russo said the permit process will take about 180 days, getting a permanent place will depend on construction. It could take up to two years to complete.

Sheila Delarm said if it will take that long can something be done with the temporary facility. The stairs are wonderful; but the trailer almost tipped over during the severe wind storm last week.

Jeffrey Leavitt asked if the temporary post office could be lowered onto the ground. It sways in the wind, the doors don't stay locked.

Paul Senk said he would talk to the engineers to see what can be done to tie down the trailer. It is located on church property so they may not be able to dig up the area.

There were no further comments from the public.

Supervisor Peter Martin thanked everyone for attending especially the UPSP representatives. The weather kept them from having the hearing in December.

**The public hearing was closed at 6:45 p.m.**

Respectfully Submitted,

Elaine Sater  
Brighton Town Clerk