

**A Public Hearing to discuss rescue services for the Town of Brighton was held Thursday, February 8, 2001 at 6:30 p.m. at the Brighton Town Hall, Paul Smiths, NY, with the following:**

**PRESENT:** Supervisor Christopher Leifheit  
Council Members: Alicia Bodmer  
Linda Dobson  
John Quenell  
Roger Smith

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Elaine Sater-Town Clerk, Don Oliver–Superintendent of Highways, Tom Willis-Historian and Amber McKernan-Tax Collector

**RESIDENTS:** There were 2 residents present

Public Hearing was **Called to Order** by Supervisor Christopher Leifheit at **6:35 p.m. for the Purpose of public input on the rescue services from the Fire Department of the Village of Saranac Lake and North Country LifeFlight.**

**Public Notice** was published in the Adirondack Daily Enterprise on January 29, 2001 and posted at the three local post offices.

**The Floor was opened for discussion and this is a summary of the discussion:**

**Doug Duquette-County Route 55 and Peter Martin-County Route 30** spoke in favor of signing the contracts with the Village of Saranac Lake and North Country LifeFlight for the purposes of rescue services for the Town Of Brighton.

Doug Duquette questioned why the Public Hearing was being held. Supervisor Leifheit said it was because the contract with the Village of Saranac Lake had expired and the Village had offered a new three-year contract, the public hearing is required by law. Mr. Duquette is a resident of the Town Of Brighton, works at Camp Gabriel's and is the Assistant Chief with the Saranac Lake Volunteer Fire Department (SLVFD). He thought the fees were pretty cheap for the rescue services provided by the SLVFD. At Camp Gabriel's they try to use state vehicles whenever possible to transport inmates and employees when they need to go to the Adirondack Medical Center instead of calling the rescue services. Mr. Duquette thought that New York State should have money available to help pay for medical transport from Camp Gabriel's and the Town should look into this. New regulations have caused costs to increase a lot in the rescue area. The Town of Franklin looked into setting up its own rescue service a year ago and determined it would cost \$200,000 a year to start one.

Peter Martin, a resident, also works at Camp Gabriel's and is a volunteer for the SLVFD. He added that on a number of calls FREMA-Advanced Life Support (ALS) and LifeFlight respond with the SLVFD. The Supervisor should speak to the Fire Rescue Chief Todd Goff to get more information about the figures on calls to the Town Of Brighton. Mr. Martin heard rumors that the Town was looking into new services and said it would cost a lot more to set up a new service since SLVFD uses volunteer Emergency Medical Technicians (EMTs) not paid ones. The SLVFD also has access to the "Jaws of Life" for extrication and a scuba team which a new service may not.

Roger Smith noted that the Paul Smiths/Gabriel's Volunteer Fire Department also responds as mutual aid to any call in the Town Of Brighton along with the SLVFD.

Supervisor Leifheit stated he thought the Town Board's motivation should always be the interest of the taxpayers in fiscal matters to determine what services are provided and what the resident's taxes are paying for before a contract of this size is approved. He appreciates the residents' time taken to give valuable input into this matter.

**Tom Willis- Garondah Road:** Asked if the contract amounts were the same as the Budget for 2001. Yes, \$1,000 for LifeFlight and \$17,092.96 for the rescue contract for the year 2001.

**There were no more comments from the public.**

**Motion to Adjourn the Public Hearing** was made by Supervisor Christopher Leifheit at 7:11 p.m., second by Linda Dobson; All Aye

Respectfully Submitted,

Elaine W. Sater  
Brighton Town Clerk