

**PUBLIC HEARING FOR RESCUE SERVICES 2011**  
**TOWN OF BRIGHTON - FRANKLIN COUNTY, NY**  
**May 12, 2011**  
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**A Public Hearing for a Rescue Services Agreement for 2011 was held on Thursday, May 12, 2011 at 6:30 p.m. at the Highway Garage, 17 County Road 31, Paul Smiths, NY, with the following:**

**CALL TO ORDER:**

**The Public Hearing was Called to Order** by Supervisor John Quenell at 6:37 p.m.

**ROLL CALL OF TOWN OFFICERS**

**PRESENT:** Supervisor John Quenell, Council Members: Peter Shrope, Steve Tucker and Lydia Wright

**ABSENT:** Council Members Jeffrey Leavitt

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Elaine Sater - Town Clerk

**RESIDENTS:** Four residents were present

The "Pledge to the Flag" was recited.

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING:** Notice of this public hearing was published twice in the Adirondack Daily Enterprise on Thursday, April 28 and May 5, 2011. The notice was also posted on the Town Clerk's Sign Board and at three post offices and businesses in the Town on April 28, 2011.

**Supervisor John Quenell** said the purpose of the Public Hearing was to hear comments on the SLVRS Agreement for rescue services for 2011 in the amount of \$3,000. He sent a letter dated April 23 to the Saranac Lake Volunteer Rescue Squad (SLVRS) requesting a resolution for evidence that the SLVRS board consented to the agreement in accordance with Town Law, Section 184, Para 2. He did not receive a response to his letter.

**Julie Harjung, President, SLVRS** was in the audience. She questioned the need for a resolution; she said the other towns in the area did not request a resolution or hold a public hearing for this contract. She wanted to know if the rules were different for this town. She said that the contract was all the Town was going to get since a resolution would just repeat what was in the contract. She will sign the agreement if the board was willing to accept her signature as President of the SLVRS.

**Supervisor John Quenell** said the rules were not different and he was unable to speak for the other towns but the law states a resolution was needed from a rescue service as well as a public hearing for a contract. He was willing to accept her signature on the contract as a resolution. He said that the Town has already paid the Village of Saranac Lake the amount of \$36,549.67 for rescue services from General Fund Account A3410.5. This contract is for additional funds of \$3,000 to be paid directly to the SLVRS.

**The Floor was opened to the public for comment**

**Julie Harjung** said the Village pays for the drivers and SLVRS does not get funds directly from the Village so they need extra funds for operating until insurance payments are received. They need the funds to get the newly formed rescue service off the ground. Co-pays are not being collected from Town residents.

**Lydia Wright** asked what the set up will be for next year; will the town have to contract with the Village or the SLVRS directly.

**Julie Harjung** said the Village was supposed to handle the billing and expenses but that did not happen, so she does not know about next year.

**Amber McKernan** asked how people without insurance are being billed and are they being billed for the same amount as insurance companies are paying for people with insurance.

**Julie Harjung** said bills are sent directly to the people that don't have insurance. They have to be billed at the same rate as people with insurance. The SLVRS has opted not to send unpaid bills to a collection agency.

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**Peter Shrope** said the Town is not legally responsible for providing rescue services to the residents of the Town, just fire protection. The amount of \$3,000 is not the issue; it is the principle of asking for more money after a contract was already signed.

**Julie Harjung** said the Village had an agreement with the Towns last year and the extra funds were mentioned in it; she is asking for the funds because the Village was making them pay for expenses that they didn't expect.

**Steve Tucker** asked if the Town would have to pay the Village the same amount next year. He would rather deal with the SLVRS than the Village.

**Julie Harjung** said she could not answer that question.

**There were no further comments from the floor.**

**Motion to Adjourn the Public Hearing at 6:58 p.m.** made by Steve Tucker, second by Lydia Wright, Aye 4 (Quenell, Tucker, Shrope, Wright), Absent 1 (Leavitt)

Respectfully Submitted,

Elaine Sater  
Brighton Town Clerk