

**A Public Hearing to discuss the Paul Smiths-Gabriel's Volunteer Fire Department contract with the Town of Brighton was held Thursday, July 13, 2000 at 6:30 p.m. at the Brighton Town Hall, Paul Smiths, NY, with the following:**

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

**ABSENT:** Council Member: Wilhelmina Sheridan

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Elaine Sater-Town Clerk, Arlene Hogan-Tax Collector, Andy Crary-Deputy Superintendent of Highways, Nik Santagate-Justice, Tom & Pat Willis-Historians

**RESIDENTS:** There were 10 residents present.

**GUESTS:** David Kirstein-Treasurer Paul Smiths-Gabriel's Volunteer Fire Department

**Hearing was Called to Order** by Supervisor Christopher Leifheit **at 6:34 p.m. for the Purpose of discussing the Paul Smiths-Gabriel's Volunteer Fire Department Contract with the Town Of Brighton**

The Town Clerk had a Public Notice published in the Adirondack Daily Enterprise on June 27, 2000, which stated the terms of the contract as follows:

1. Length of Contract: Five (5) years from the first of January 1, 2000 terminating December 31, 2004
2. Cost (payable in two installments by February 1 and April 1:
  - \$53,440.00 for 2000
  - \$55,002.00 for 2001
  - \$56,652.00 for 2002
  - \$58,352.00 for 2003
  - \$60,102.00 for 2004
3. Protection to cover payment of claims authorized by law for benefits to firemen killed or injured on duty

A copy of the complete contract is attached to these minutes.

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

Tom Willis - Rainbow Lake asked what the changes are from the previous contract besides the cost of the contract (Third Paragraph)?

Supervisor Leifheit asked David Kirstein to address the differences in the Fourth Paragraph. It was changed from the previous contract:

“The party of the second part hereby agrees to carry adequate and full insurance protection against liability for personal injury, property and physical damage (fire, theft and collision) including fire fighting vehicles and equipment of every nature and kind, to include the party of the first part as a additional insured party, in all the said policies, to provide certificates of all said insurance showing compliance with the provisions of this clause, and to continue the terms and conditions aforesaid though out the term of the Agreement and any extensions thereof. “

to:

“The said party of the first part shall be responsible, as provided by law, to furnish protection to cover payment of any and all claims authorized by law for benefits to firemen killed or injured while answering, attending upon or returning from a call.”

Mr. Kirstein read a letter dated July 11, 2000 from Ayres Insurance, Re: Town Of Brighton as an additional insured under the Fire Department Commercial General Liability, a copy is attached to these minutes.

**The Town Board (on the advice of the Attorney for the Town) would like an addendum to the contract to the Fourth Paragraph adding the original information back in concerning the town being an additional insured on the liability insurance. Supervisor Leifheit will submit the wording to the Fire Department for approval.**

John Quenell, Council Member asked if the Fire House was going to be opened for public use?

Mr. Kirstein stated the building was not open for public use as a matter of policy due to no staff to maintain the building and the parking lot needs to remain clear in case of a fire call. There have been some requests but the policy remains to not have the public use the building. The Rainbow Lake Water Control Board did use the building one evening for a meeting when someone did not pick up a key for the Town Hall.

Mr. Quenell asked if any more fund raising for covering the mortgage payments was planned?

Mr. Kirstein stated they have asked the residents and have received all the funds they could solicit from them. He does not feel they should go back to the people and asked specific groups for more money.

Linda Dobson, Council Member, asked what was the percentage of calls each year to Paul Smiths College and Camp Gabriel's?

Mr. Kirstein did not have this information off the top of his head. He can obtain it if necessary.

Roger Smith, Council Member, said that one fire call was made to Camp Gabriel's in 1999.

Mr. Kirstein stated that Paul Smith College furnished the building for the Fire Department for 21 years. They also donated the land to build the new Fire House.

Mrs. Dobson asked if anyone tracked the cost per call for the Fire Department. Mr. Kirstein thought it was illegal to track this amount.

Mr. Quenell asked what was the average number of calls for 1999? Mr. Kirstein thought 40 to 60 was average. Mr. Smith said 72 fire calls were made in 1999. Mr. Quenell calculated a cost per call of \$742 using the \$53,440 cost to the town and 72 calls. Using the figure of \$33,000 (before the cost of the building \$20,000) it cost \$458 per call for 72 calls.

Lionel Shuman – Rainbow Lake, asked how many people the largest room in the new Fire House holds? Mr. Smith thought about 45 people.

Mr. Kirstein addressed the question on cost by stating all the volunteer fire fighters are taxpayers. The increase in taxes to Mr. Kirstein was \$32 for the fire contract. He thought the cost per \$1,000 of property assessment was 75 cents for the Fire District that also includes LifeFlight.

Dora Mose, Easy Street (NYS Rt. 86), stated she was a fire fighter and a taxpayer and the (contract) increase is worth it for the protection the residents get from the Fire Department.

Supervisor Leifheit spoke for the board and stated he appreciates all the Fire Department does and gave a “tip of the hat” to the Fire Department. He also feels the Board must get the best service for the taxpayers so contracts like these must be examined carefully.

Mr. Kirstein also added his comments about the good relationship the fire Department has with the Town and the expected continuance of communication with town.

Supervisor Leifheit stated a committee or liaison might be appointed in the future for Fire Department issues.

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

**Motion to close the Hearing** was made by Supervisor Leifheit at 6:50 p.m., second by John Quenell; Aye 4, Absent 1 (Sheridan)

Respectfully Submitted,

Elaine W. Sater  
Brighton Town Clerk