

**REGULAR MEETING - TOWN OF BRIGHTON - FRANKLIN COUNTY, NY**

**April 11, 2013**

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**The Regular Monthly Meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Brighton was held Thursday, April 11, 2013, at 7:00p.m. 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 7:03 p.m.

“Pledge to the Flag” was recited.

**ROLL CALL OF OFFICERS**

**PRESENT:** Supervisor Peter Shrope

Council Members: Amber McKernan and Steve Tucker

**ABSENT:** Council Members Brian McDonnell and Lydia Wright

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Paul Blaine-Code Enforcement Officer, Andy Crary-Superintendent of Highways, and Elaine Sater -Town Clerk

**RESIDENTS:** There was one resident present

**GUESTS:** Corey Hurwitch, Manager of the Adirondack Regional Airport in the Town of Harrietstown

**DEPARTMENT REPORTS**

**1. HIGHWAY – Andy Crary:** Report submitted prior to meeting

- a) Plowing and sanding roads
- b) Broke the wing cable on the 2002 Paystar and repaired it
- c) Took the F350 Ford pickup to Ray Brook to get speed sensor replaced
- d) Took F350 to Wayne Darrah’s Body Shop to be repaired from deer accident, insurance covered repairs
- e) Swept the shop floors
- f) Went to Town of Duane for meeting on mowing contract for county roads. Contract needs to be approved; County will pay \$200 per mile for mowing County Roads 31, 60 and 55, a total of 7.96 miles.
- g) Cleaned inside of trucks
- h) Getting the broom tractor ready, went to Burke for a new battery
- i) Moved equipment into the cold storage bay from the garage
- j) Battery for garage alarm system replaced
- k) Starting the 6 am to 2 pm shift

Discussion was held on the pros and cons of mowing the county roads in the Town. Superintendent of Highways Andy Crary said he already has to drive the mower down the County roads to get to the Town roads so he would not be going out of his way to mow the roadsides. He will not be picking up the trees; the County still has to come clean up the roadsides. The County Highway Department only mows once in the summer and that is what the town superintendents agreed to do with the County Superintendent, for the same price.

**RESOLUTION # 39**

**MOWING OF COUNTY ROADS 31, 55, AND 60**

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

**WHEREAS**, the Highway Department has to use the County roads to get to the Town Roads to mow the roadsides, and

**WHEREAS**, the Superintendent of Highways only mows the Town Roads once during the summer,

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Town Board authorizes Supervisor Peter Shrope to sign a contract with the Franklin County Highway Department to mow the 7.96 miles of County Roads (CR31 Jones Pond Road, CR60 Rainbow Lake Road and CR55 Bloomingdale Road) in the Town of Brighton on or about the 1<sup>st</sup> of August, 2013, and be reimbursed \$200.00 per mile equaling \$1,592.00 by Franklin County Highway Department for providing this service per the specifications of the contract for 2013.

**ROLL CALL VOTE:** Aye 3 (McKernan, Shrope, Tucker), Nay 0, Absent 2 (McDonnell, Wright)

**Resolution #39 declared duly adopted**

**2. TOWN CLERK – Elaine Sater:** Report submitted prior to meeting

- a) Total Revenue to Supervisor as of March 31, 2013 was \$205.00 from 10 Certified Copies, 1 new Dog Licenses (#116), and 1 Park Donation.
- b) March 14 posted notices concerning the closures of Town Road to vehicles over 5 tons per axel from April

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15 until May 15.

- c) March 26, received Report of Incident for deer accident with Town F350 pickup truck. Insurance company notified by Superintendent of Highways Andy Crary.
- d) Town Clerk's Office will be closed from Tuesday, April 23 through Thursday, May 2 and will reopen on Tuesday, May 7
- e) TOWN HALL REQUEST: None
- f) TOWN PARK REQUESTS: Mondays, April 8 through the summer, 6 to 8 pm , Perry Softball Team and Sunday April 21, 2 to 5 pm, Wilcox Family
- g) RECORDS MANAGEMENT: Shredding 2005 financial and Town records per MU-1.

**3. TAX COLLECTOR – Holly Huber:** Report submitted prior to meeting

- a) Answered usual calls from property owners and mortgage lenders
- b) Recorded, deposited and provided receipts for property tax payments
- c) Prepared and mailed 2<sup>nd</sup> Notice letters to property owners with unpaid taxes as of 3/15/13
- d) Remitted \$14,800 to Franklin County Treasurer via check #879, cashed 3/28/13
- e) Delivered to Supervisor Shrope check #884, dated 4/11/13 in interest earned on the NBT checking account
- f) Returned the updated tax toll to the County Treasurer and remitted a final payment of \$25,528.54 via check #880, dated 4/9/13
- g) Supervisor Shrope will receive one last small payment in early May 2013 after April 2013's interest is posted to the checking account. At that point the balance of the checking account will be \$0.

Amber McKernan asked if the prior reports were rectified. Supervisor Peter Shrope said he passed the information on to Holly Huber, Tax Collector, to read.

Supervisor Peter Shrope scheduled the Audit of the Tax Collectors financial records for 2013 to take place at 6:15 p.m. prior to the May 9 Regular Board meeting.

**4. TOWN JUSTICE – Nik Santagate:** Report submitted prior to meeting.

Supervisor Peter Shrope received \$5,113.00 for fees and fines from the Justice with a list of 72 disposed cases

**5. CODE ENFORCEMENT OFFICER – Paul Blaine:** Report submitted prior to the meeting.

- a) **Building Permits:** None issued
- b) **Certificate of Occupancy/Compliance:** None
- c) **Complaints:** One still open
- d) Issued four building permits for April already; one for a new home.

**6. ASSESSOR – Douglas Tichenor:** Report submitted prior to meeting

- a) Work is ongoing in producing the 2013 Tentative Assessment Roll which will be filed May 1. There is quite a bit of new construction, mostly incomplete.
- b) **GRIEVANCE DAY IS JUNE 6, 2013** from 5 pm to 9 pm at the Brighton Town Hall.

**7. TOWN PARK – Dan Spencer:** No Report received.

**8. FOOD PANTRY – Barb Marshall:** Report submitted prior to meeting.

- a) Reported a total of 616 people served.
- b) Provided a list of dates for 2013 Food Pantry days
- c) Included a copy of the electrical inspector's watt meter certificate. The watt meter reading is around 860 for usage. Having an interesting time figuring the cost, as each month the numbers change. Will get it as close to the proper amount as possible
- d) Trash is now picked by Casella, they bought out Morgan's. Pickup day is now on Monday – they take trash and the recyclable all at once, which makes it a lot easier for Danny (Spencer).

Supervisor Peter Shrope said in 2012 he calculated the total cost per kilowatt hours at \$.1211697, using this figure times 860kwh equals about \$104.00. A donation of \$240 was received for 6 months of electrical usage. He will recalculate the kwh cost for the past year.

**9. HISTORIAN - Mary Ellen Salls:** No report received

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**10. ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICER (Tri-Lakes Humane Society):** No report received

**11. SUPERVISOR:**

- a) **CSEA contract:** Signed the final contract on April 2 as per the resolution.
- b) **Church Property on Keese Mills Road:** Signed an Adirondack Park Agency document for Paul Smith's College to sell a small piece of land to the buyer of the Presbyterian Church property on Keese Mills Road. The buyer was not willing to buy the Church property without this piece included as it was assumed over the years that the Church owned the parcel.
- c) **Adirondack Park Excellence in Design Competition:** Submitted the Town Hall for the 2013 award.
- d) **Financial Report:**
  - i) Budget as of March 31, 2013 was distributed to Town Board box for review.
  - ii) Revenues for General Fund: \$1,190.91 Stumpage Fees, \$5,113.00 Justice Court, \$205.00 Town Clerk, \$400.00 cemetery plot for S. Shanty, \$2,870.12 Insurance payment for truck repair.
  - iii) Collateral for Deposits over \$250,000: While checking into moving the NYSCLASS funds to an interest bearing account discovered that the Town did not have Collateral coverage for deposits over \$250,000 not covered by FDIC in NBT Bank. A contract with New York State Bank/Mellon signed in 2003 had the incorrect Tax Identification Number (TIN) so there has been no coverage for the Town. A new contract was signed immediately with the correct TIN; monthly statements should start arriving from New York State Bank/Mellon.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

- Regular Board – March 14, 2013

**Motion made** by Supervisor Peter Shrope, **second** Amber McKernan, **to accept the minutes of March 14, 2013 with the following correction: Page 4, Committee, Para 2, Adirondack Regional Airport, Second Sentence: Change "16" to "17". Aye 3 (McKernan, Shrope, Tucker), Nay 0, Absent 2 (McDonnell, Wright)**

**CITIZENS COMMENTS:** None

**BUSINESS**

1. **Adirondack Regional Airport Update – Corey Hurwitch:** Corey Hurwitch is the Manager of the Adirondack Regional Airport; he provided an overview of the activities at the Airport during 2012. One of the major challenges is the winter weather conditions as they cannot use salt on the runways like the highway department can on the roads. They cannot have snow banks since the planes' wings need room and the snow drifts back onto the runways. The snow has to be blown in one direction far away from the runways to keep them open. A snow blower, that can handle removing the snow, costs over \$600,000. There is a new hanger site available to build on when more funds become available. The Federal Aviation Agency (FAA) provides 98% of the funding for many projects. One means to increase revenue is to get taxes removed from registration and maintenance. The increase in revenue from fees brings in more revenue than the taxes paid. They deal with many different groups/agencies and keep up with training including fire training. The Airport fire truck is limited in the amount of water it can use especially if foam is put down as the resupply of water is limited. Steve Tucker said the Paul Smiths-Gabriels Volunteer Fire Department has two trucks that can provide water to the airport if needed. He asked about access at the back of the property for access to more water. Corey Hurwitch discussed the Cape Air service and the increase in passengers since they added a fourth flight in the summer. If the total number of embankments can be increased to over 10,000 people the Airport can get a higher level of entitlement. Increased flights also increased the fuel sold by the Airport which is a large revenue source for them. The military used the airport for training and this helped increase fuel usage also. There is an ongoing apron project that is necessary to allow heavier aircraft to land at the airport, one half was completed and the second half still needs to be replaced. Larger planes mean more revenue from rent, landing fees, and fuel. These were all up during 2012. All types of aircraft can be seen at the Airport. Other projects include renovations to the terminal building, including the dining facility. LifeFlight, a helicopter rescue operation, held a fund raiser and open house in the fall; they plan to do it again. Discussion was held on the contract with the Airport. The Town of Harrietstown usually sends a contract during budget time but one was not received during 2012 or 2013. Corey Hurwitch thanked the Town for its support. Supervisor Peter Shrope will call the supervisor in the Town of Harrietstown to see if they are going to send a contract.

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2. **Saranac Lake Volunteer Rescue Squad (SLVRS) Payment-Supervisor Peter Shrope:** Payment for the SLVRS contract is due.

**RESOLUTION #40**

**PAYMENT TO THE SLVRS FOR \$29,333.00**

**Motion made** Supervisor Peter Shrope, **second** by Steve Tucker,

**WHEREAS** the Town Board approved a contract with the Saranac Lake Volunteer Rescue Squad for emergency services for 2013 in the amount of \$29,333 (Resolution #100-2012, November 8, 2012),

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that Supervisor Peter Shrope be authorized to make the payment in the amount of \$29,333 to the Saranac Lake Volunteer Rescue Squad for emergency services during 2013.

**ROLL CALL VOTE:** Aye 3 (McKernan, Shrope, Tucker), Nay 0, Absent 2 (McDonnell, Wright)

**Resolution #40 declared duly adopted**

3. **NY SAFE Act-Supervisor Peter Shrope:** Franklin Country Supervisors are meeting on April 25 and are planning to discuss the NY Safety and Firearm (SAFE) Act. The Town of Franklin voiced an opinion against the NY SAFE Act. Supervisor Peter Shrope asked the Town Board if they had an opinion they wanted to support as a Town. Discussion was held; no opinion was expressed as a Board.
4. **Building Violations-Supervisor Peter Shrope:** No action has been taken by the property owner on the property at 652 Keese Mills Road. Supervisor Peter Shrope requested some demolition estimates; waiting for snow to melt on the property. He would like to reissue a letter to the land owner after he receives estimates. He spoke to Jeannette Tummons at the Franklin County Real Property Tax Services office about how to get reimbursed if the Town proceeds with this issue. He also discussed the property at 85 County Road 60, one owner was served by the previous supervisor but the second owner could not be found. Two separate letters were sent to two different addresses. Jeannette Tummons said sending two registered letters to each owner at the address provided by them should be sufficient to show proof of notification. Supervisor Peter Shrope also spoke with Scott Goldie, Attorney for the Town, who recommended taking pictures of the property to show the condition. A public hearing still needs to be held after the owners are notified. Amber McKernan said she will contact the County Treasurer's Office to follow up on the issue of taxes not being paid in the past.
5. **CHIPS Funding-Supervisor Peter Shrope:** Received information, by email dated 03/26/13, from Supervisor Russell in the Town of Belmont that said the CHIPS funding for the Town of Brighton will be going up by 28.49% (by \$9,818 to \$44,285) in 2013/2014.
6. **Designation of Polling Site for 2013-Supervisor Peter Shrope:** Received an agreement from the Franklin County Board of Elections to designate the 2013 Polling Site for the Town of Brighton.

**RESOLUTION#41**

**DESIGNATION OF POLLING SITE FOR 2013**

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

**RESOLVED** that the Town Board authorizes Supervisor Peter Shrope to sign an agreement with the Franklin County Board of Elections designating the Brighton Town Hall at 12 County Road 31 as a Polling Site for the Town of Brighton Election District 1 for the Primary Election (if necessary, September 10, 2013 11:15 am to 10:00 p.m.), the General Election (November 5, 2013 5:15 am to 10:00 pm) and Special Elections (if necessary, date and times to be announced) during 2013.

**ROLL CALL VOTE:** Aye 3 (McKernan, Shrope, Tucker), Nay 0, Absent 2 (McDonnell, Wright)

**Resolution #41 declared duly adopted**

**COMMITTEES**

1. **HIGHWAY- Brian McDonnell and Steve Tucker:** Nothing further to report
2. **ADIRONDACK REGIONAL AIRPORT-Tom and Amber McKernan:** Nothing further to report

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3. **PARKS AND RECREATION–Supervisor Peter Shrope and Steve Tucker:** Dan Spencer asked for a new lawn mower to replace the one at the Park. Nothing was in the budget this year. Discussion was held on what type of machine is needed for the Park. Three years ago a flail mower was purchased, but it is not being used. This issue was tabled until budget discussions.
4. **INVESTMENTS AND INSURANCE–Lydia Wright:** NYCLASS accounts had interest of \$.09 for General Fund and \$.03 for Highway for March 2013; total of \$.12. A new service provider is taking over the management of the fund on May 1.
5. **CEMETERIES AND BUILDINGS–Amber McKernan and Steve Tucker:** Steve Tucker received a few burial permits from the Fortune-Keough Funeral Home for filing. There will be a burial the week of May 15 for the Shanty girl.
6. **TOWN HALL PROJECT/OPEN HOUSE–Supervisor Peter Shrope and Lydia Wright:** Sent an email to Gail Underwood-Plumb asking if the final report needed any further information, no response received. She has received the package.
7. **ASSESSMENT–Brian McDonnell and Lydia Wright:** Supervisor Peter Shrope said a reassessment will be looked at during budget discussions for 2014.
8. **SALARIES/BENEFITS ADMINISTRATION–Supervisor Peter Shrope and Brian McDonnell:** Nothing to report

**CITIZENS COMMENTS:** None

**AUDIT OF VOUCHERS**

**RESOLUTION #42**

**PAYMENT OF AUDITED VOUCHERS AS LISTED ON THE ABSTRACTS**

Motion made by Amber McKernan, second by Steve Tucker,

**RESOLVED** that the Supervisor be authorized to pay the audited vouchers as listed on the abstracts as follows:

**PREPAID FUNDS:** Abstract #4 for Voucher #4A through and including #4C for 2013 General Funds in the amount of \$612.08 and 2013 Street Light Funds in the amount of \$57.96

**GENERAL FUND:** Abstract #4 for Voucher 64 through and including #76 for 2013 funds in the amount of \$35,459.52.

**HIGHWAY FUND:** Abstract #4 for Voucher #32 through and including #37 for 2013 funds in the amount of \$2,801.17

**ROLL CALL VOTE:** Aye 3 (McKernan, Shrope, Tucker), Nay 0, Absent 2 (McDonnell, Wright)

Resolution#42 declared duly adopted

**ADJOURNMENT**

Motion to Adjourn at 9:14 p.m. made by Supervisor Peter Shrope, Second by Amber McKernan, Aye 3 (McKernan, Shrope, Tucker), Nay 0, Absent 2 (McDonnell, Wright)

Respectfully Submitted,

Elaine Sater, RMC  
Brighton Town Clerk