

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

July 14, 2011

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The Regular Monthly Meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Brighton was held Thursday, July 14, 2011 at 7:00 p.m. at the Brighton Town Garage, 17 County Road 31, Paul Smiths, NY, with the following:

CALL TO ORDER:

Meeting was Called to Order by Supervisor John Quenell at 7:10 p.m.

ROLL CALL OF OFFICERS

PRESENT: Supervisor John Quenell

Council Members: Steve Tucker and Peter Shrope

ABSENT: Council Member Jeffrey Leavitt and Lydia Wright

OTHERS PRESENT: Amber McKernan - Tax Collector, Nik Santagate-Town Justice, and Elaine Sater-Town Clerk

RESIDENTS: There were three residents present

GUESTS: None

Pledge to the Flag was recited

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- Public Hearing LL#1-2011- June 9, 2011

Motion made by Supervisor John Quenell, **second** by Steve Tucker, **to approve the minutes of a Public Hearing for the Local Law #1 for the Year 2011 "Aquatic Invasive Species Prevention Law", held on June 9, 2011 as written, ROLL CALL VOTE: Aye 2 (Quenell, Tucker), Nay 0, Abstain 1 (Shrope), Absent 2 (Leavitt, Wright)**

TOWN CLERK'S REPORT

Total Revenue to Supervisor as of June 30, 2011 was \$ 465.81

9 Dog Licenses Spayed/Neutered

3 Building Permits (#11-011 thru 013)

1. June 9 mailed Local Law #1 for the Year 2011 "The Town of Brighton Aquatic Invasive Species Prevention Law" to Attorney for the Town Scott Goldie for certification, received certified copy back on June 21. June 22 mailed LL #1-2011 to the NYS Department of State; Local Law was filed on June 27 by the Department of State.
2. June 14 attended mandatory training for the DECALS sport licenses system in Lake Placid. Hunting Licenses for the 2011-2012 season go on sale Monday, August 15.
3. June 29 posted notices for a Special Board Meeting to be held on July 1 at 1 p.m. at the local post offices and businesses as well as on the Town Clerk's Sign Board. Faxed Notice to the Adirondack Daily Enterprise on June 28.
4. TOWN HALL REQUEST: Tuesday, June 28, Franklin County Highway Department, 6 to 7 pm and Wednesday, July 13, Conservative Party, 7 p.m.
5. TOWN PARK REQUEST: June 25, Dushane Family, 11 to 8 p.m.; July 10, Moody Family 1-5 pm; July 23, Lawrence Family, 3 to 8 pm.; and August 20, Addicts helping Addicts, 11 am to 6 pm.
6. RECORDS MANAGEMENT: Continuing to shred the Court records from 2003 per the Court Records Disposition Schedule

SUPERVISOR'S REPORT

1. Town Hall Project Update:

- a. **Bids on Project:** Received five electrical bids on July 1, 2011; awarded three bids on July 7, the State needs to approve the contractors, sent the information to Gail Underhill-Plumb at the NYS Office of Historical Preservation. Bid summaries were sent to Crawford and Stearns to create the contracts.
- b. **Funding:** Updated the budget to show the bids awarded, total funds available is \$186,787.32; this does not include the funds raised by Tom and Pat Willis. Incremental expense from June 2011 to

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completion is projected to be \$186,972.00. Requested more reimbursement funds from the Senator Betty Little grant in the amount of \$4,563.00. Gail Underhill-Plumb is asking for an extension on this grant that expired on June 30, 2011; citing NYS delayed spending in 2010.

2. Financial Report:

- a. Budget as of June 30, 2011, was distributed to Board members
- b. Health Insurance is a large portion of the budget; this year is the time to remove the benefit from elected position due to 7 positions being up for election.
- c. Need to amend the General Fund Budget to cover the extra expense of \$3,000 to the Rescue Service

GENERAL BUDGET AMENDMENT #1-2011

Motion made by Supervisor John Quenell, second by Steve Tucker:

RESOLVED that the following amount be and the same hereby is transferred:

\$3,000.00 from Account No. A1990.4 Special Item Contingent

As follows

\$3,000.00 to Account No. A3625.4 Rescue SLVFD Contract

ROLL CALL VOTE: Aye 3 (Quenell, Shrope, Tucker), Nay 0, Absent 2 (Leavitt, Wright)

GENERAL BUDGET AMENDMENT #1-2011 declared duly amended.

3. **LifeFlight:** Received a signed copy of the 2011 contract for LifeFlight Services with a Thank You letter.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

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

a. Report

- 1) Had Rabies Clinic at Garage
- 2) Mowed and weeded both cemeteries
- 3) Raked the gravel roads
- 4) Made dump run
- 5) Weeded the intersections of roads
- 6) Took the broom off the tractor and installed the ditch bank mower
- 7) Greased the trucks
- 8) Worked on the Paystar, put in new batteries
- 9) Worked on the Flail mower at the Park
- 10) Cleaned up the shop
- 11) Men are using vacation time

b. Abandonment of Roads: Supervisor John Quenell sent a request to the Attorney for the Town Scott Goldie to look into this issue. He is looking into the procedure and will send a letter to the Board. The Fire Department asked if the roads would be needed for fire roads; the roads are access to State land.

c. Snow Removal and Sanding Contract for 2012: Supervisor John Quenell received a letter dated June 10, 2011, from Franklin County Highway Superintendent Jonathan Hutchins with the new contract to remove snow and sand County Roads 31, 55, and 60 for the years 2012 and 2013. Also received voucher for the 2nd payment of 2011 Snow Removal contract for \$19,764.50. Signed voucher and sent it back.

RESOLUTION #43

SNOW REMOVAL AND SAND CONTRACT FOR COUNTY ROADS FOR 2012 AND 2013

Motion made by Supervisor John Quenell, second by Steve Tucker,

WHEREAS there are three County roads (Rts 31, 55, and 60) in the Town of Brighton equaling 7.96 miles, and

WHEREAS these three County roads have been plowed and sanded each year by the Town Highway Department,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Town Superintendent of Highways Andy Crary be authorized to sign the Agreement with Franklin County Highway Department to remove the snow from, or sanding of, County Roads 31, 55, and 60 during the 2012 and 2013 winter seasons for \$5,115 per mile per year (\$40,716.00 per year).

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- b. **Justice Santagate** said the Board should write a letter to President John Mills at Paul Smith's College to let him know when the Town will no longer need the office space for Court at the College

7. **HISTORIAN - Mary Ellen Salls:** Report received prior to meeting

- a. Answered several e-mails requesting information on their families, including Hobart, Newell, Crary and Tyler.
- b. Have a picture of a baseball team in the area with the local Sawyer, Sweet, Tyler and Russell boys in it including several unknowns, but can't seem to find out any other information. Believe it was taken in the early 1900 around 1920. On their uniform is the letters KM; whether this is Keese Mills or Knights of the Macabees an organization the older men in the town belonged to. Any help in identifying this picture would be appreciated.
- c. In the process of putting in alphabetical order all the families in the town of yester years. Have finished the As & Bs so far, but will be adding to these.
- d. Helped the Church of the Assumption to obtain material about their church for their (100th Anniversary) celebration. Also information was needed by Charlie's Inn (train station) for their (100th Anniversary) celebration this weekend at Lake Clear, which includes viewing of our Stage Coach from Paul Smith's College.
- e. Produced a bill (voucher) for supplies needed to finish work

Discussion was held on the baseball picture; a copy of the picture will be obtained to get to Town residents.

8. **PARK & RECREATION – Dan Spencer:** Report received prior to meeting

a. **Report:**

- 1) Raking and picking up piles of pine needles. Mowing fields and helping the soccer people make lines and moving nets into place.
- 2) Watching the kids play foosball and pool inside field house.
- 3) Need new swing seats (regular) and a baby swing seat. Need a new tether ball.
- 4) Is Peter Shrope purchasing paint for the food pantry building and trim or should he pick it up
- 5) Had a boy help out a couple of times so far for community service (3.5 hours worth). Moved the bleachers around to where the soccer coaches wanted them.
- 6) Had a few people call the field house, they said when they called the Town Hall there was something wrong with the answering machine.

The Town Clerk said Tuesday evening thru Thursday morning the telephone is forwarded to Paul Smith's College for the Court and the answering machine at the Town does not pickup calls.

b. **Food Pantry- Barbara Marshall:**

- 1) Served 187 families, 643 individuals
- 2) There is some caulking that needs to be done, not to mention painting the floor, and repainting the bottle bins. Understands the whole pantry/park building will be re-done, the bottle bins should be the same color, to tie it all together.
- 3) Pantry can do its part to help with the purchase of paint materials.
- 4) Someone has tried to get into the bottle bins on a few occasions. The area around the back of the bins is in the dark, so anyone can be back there trying to pry the locks open. It would be good thing to move the bins to where pantry is, preferably to a lighted area. They could be on the side of pantry facing route 86 and we would put up a motion sensor light or on the rink side of the pantry where, she believes, the area is already lighted. Hopes something can be done to prevent any further tampering. Funds generated from these bins are an added plus.
- 5) Wondering if the ping pong table (or whatever is leaning against the wall) can be removed to the garage for storage
- 6) Notified that Morgan Trash will change (trash) pickup day from Friday to Monday starting in July

- c. **Building:** Peter Shrope said he discussed paints and stains with a painter and George Earl who will get funds and painters together. Will spray on stain and paint trim near the end of the month. The metal roof should be painted also.

- d. Steve Tucker said the picnic tables also need repair.

- e. Peter Shrope asked about the soccer users. Amber McKernan who lives across the street said it was wonderful to see the children playing on the field. The cigarette butts remain a problem on her side of the street; a can for them is needed.

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- f. Amber McKernan asked if she could plant flowers at the park. The Park Committee agreed.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. **HIGHWAY – Steve Tucker, Jeffrey Leavitt, and Lydia Wright:**
 - a. Andy Crary's mother was in the hospital
 - b. Continue to receive notifications for drug testing for employees
2. **PARKS & RECREATION- Peter Shrope and Steve Tucker:**

Supervisor John Quenell received the agreement for the Saranac Lake Area Youth Program for 2011; will look up the amount from the budget for next meeting. There are 6 or 7 children who participate every year, in prior years Brighton residents have been counselors.
3. **INSURANCE/INVESTMENTS - Lydia Wright, Jeffrey Leavitt, and John Quenell:**

Received the crime policy from Mang Insurance for employee dishonesty coverage from July 1, 2011 to June 30, 2012; the premium is \$350.00.
4. **CEMETERY & TOWN BUILDINGS - Steve Tucker:**
 - a. Sold two plots in the Mt. View Cemetery for \$200.00 each.
 - b. There have not been any burials.
5. **WEBSITE - John Quenell:** Nothing to report
6. **FIRE ADVISORY BOARD (FAB) - Steve Tucker:** Nothing to report
7. **TELECOMMUNICATIONS - Jeffrey Leavitt & John Quenell:** Nothing to report
8. **TOWN HALL PROJECT- John Quenell and Peter Shrope:** See Supervisor's Report
9. **TOWN REDEVELOPMENT CITIZEN'S COMMITTEE- Susan Mayer and Lydia Wright:** Report submitted prior to meeting.
 - a. Have recruited five members for the new Town of Brighton Community Development Citizens Committee. An organizational meeting is tentatively scheduled for July 21.
 - b. OGS reported that there is no new marketing plan as of yet for Camp Gabriels. One of the interested parties, however, continues to contact OGS about his progress in developing its educational facility plan and about his interest in the Camp Gabriels property.
 - c. A meeting with Senator Betty Little was arranged to discuss Camp Gabriels but postponed because Legislature was still in session. It may be rescheduled for mid-July.
 - d. Will attend the Common Alliance Business Conference, Mapping the Future of the Adirondack Park, in Long Lake on July 20.
 - e. Original photos owned by Paul Smith's College were reviewed at PSC's library for use in the town's historical posters for display at the VIC. Certain photos were selected and library staff scanned them for use in the posters. Draft text for the posters is nearly complete and will be provided to the town historian and then the board for input.
 - f. Attended the 2nd Winter Road Maintenance Conference, jointly sponsored by Adk Action.org and the Adirondack Council on June 13, 2011. Minutes and the presentation from the meeting (can be obtained from the Supervisor as they were not provided at this meeting with this report). It was decided that more information/research is needed before any recommendation can be made.

BUSINESS:

1. **Landfill Monitoring- Supervisor John Quenell:**
 - a. **Report for 2010** Received the Post-Closure Landfill Monitoring Report for 2010 from FX Browne,

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Inc. A copy was sent to Dale Becker at NYS DEC as required. In general the ground water quality looks good, but it is evident from the water quality data that landfill leachate is affecting Monitoring Well #3 (MW-3) to some extent. A variance can be requested to reduce the number of parameters that are analyzed and thereby reduce the lab fees. The next testing is in August and September 2011. Peter Shrope asked if the report could be made available on line so people could see it.

- b. **Post -Closure Monitoring at Landfill Contract for 2011:** Received a contract for 2011 Post-Closure Monitoring at the Landfill. Costs would be reduced if a variance can be obtained to reduce the parameters.

RESOLUTION #44

POST-CLOSURE MONITORING AT LANDFILL FOR 2011

Motion made by Supervisor John Quenell, second by Steve Tucker,

RESOLVED that the Supervisor be authorized to sign an Agreement with FX Browne, Inc, to provide post-closure monitoring for the Town of Brighton landfill for the year 2011 in the amount of \$3,420.00 which includes quarterly sample collection, annual report preparation, reimbursable expenses and laboratory subcontract fees.

ROLL CALL VOTE: Aye 3 (Quenell, Shrope, Tucker), Nay 0, Absent 2 (Leavitt, Wright)

Resolution #44 declared duly adopted.

2. **Health Insurance – Supervisor John Quenell:** The Town is facing some financial perils; the "Tax Cap" law was passed that limits the Town's budget to 2% or the CPI, whichever is less. This will affect the Town's budget. In August the Comptroller's Office is having training in Plattsburgh. Other factors that have hurt the Town are the cash reserves that have been run down in the past years, state aid might decrease, health insurance premiums keep going up, 12 % in 2011, 13% for 2012, and there is no end in sight. The Saranac Lake rescue service fees are not going down. In his opinion the town can do without health insurance and still function, except for the full time employees in the Highway Department. Presented a list of numbers showing what would happen if all the elected officials took the health insurance in 2012. The health insurance cost would increase to \$122,691.00. Presented a graph of the cash reserves. In 2007 the Town had \$247,000 in the bank and the Town has spent down the reserves to \$78,000 in 2011 to keep the taxes from increasing. The Town can't continue to do this. If all Town elected officials took the health insurance the Town would be bankrupt by the middle of 2012. This is the worse case scenario.

Peter Shrope said the numbers were "pie in the sky". He is not up for reelection and he does not expect to take the health insurance so \$16,457 can be taken off the total. He asked if the proposal was to increase employees share of the premium payment or eliminate the health insurance altogether.

Supervisor John Quenell said he is suggesting to eliminate the health insurance altogether for the elected officials except for the Superintendent of Highways.

Peter Shrope said he would like to have a philosophical discussion about ways to cut the budget. The Board needs to look at all the items in the budget.

Discussion was held on looking at the value for the services provided. Another meeting will be scheduled to discuss ways to cut the budget.

CITIZEN'S COMMENTS:

Nik Santagate – McColloms: Thanked Peter Shrope for bringing out other ideas for the Town's budget, there are many areas the Town could look at for saving money. He would like to see the Town offer an individual health plan to elected officials and give people the option to purchase the family plan, currently family plans are offered to all elected officials. The Highway Department pays no premiums and the elected officials pay a small part. To completely remove the health benefit is a slap in the face and a vindictive move by the Board. The Town has provided health benefits to elected officials for over 20 years. The Highway should not be considered as a separate entity in the Town. The tax payers in Brighton pay for the entire budget. The Board is talking about eliminating 6 miles of highway, the Highway Department in the past took care of 25 miles, to loss 6 miles is about 20%. He asked if there was a plan to cut 20% from that budget. He asked if the Board looked at the cost per mile for the Highway Department.

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Supervisor John Quenell said the roads being abandoned are dirt roads and don't get plowed. He said the Town should walk away from them and not repair them from the damage this spring. The CHIPS funds will be reduced so this is a cut to the Highway budget. The Town has cut the Highway department from 7 employees to three over the years; they recently cut a full-time employee. When the new garage was built the cost per mile of the Highway Department was average for the State. He will look at this number again.

Nik Santagate said the Town built a garage to take care of 25 miles of roads, now the Town can't take care of all the roads. It will take a long time to pay off the garage. He would like to see the Board look at all the items on the budget and not just cut the health insurance out.

There were no further Citizen's Comments

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion to GO INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION at 8:57 p.m. made by Supervisor John Quenell, second by Peter Shrope, in accordance with Public Officers Law, Article 7, Section 105(d) to discuss "Town of Brighton vs Paul Smith's College" Avoidable Alarm Violations; ROLL CALL VOTE: Aye 3 (Quenell, Shrope, Tucker), Nay 0, Absent 2 (Leavitt, Wright)

Motion to GO OUT OF EXECUTIVE SESSION at 9:05 p.m. by Supervisor John Quenell, second by Steve Tucker. ROLL CALL VOTE: Aye 3 (Quenell, Shrope, Tucker), Nay 0, Absent 2 (Leavitt, Wright)

AUDIT OF VOUCHERS

RESOLUTION #45

PAYMENT OF AUDITED VOUCHERS AS LISTED ON THE ABSTRACTS

Motion made by Supervisor John Quenell, second by Peter Shrope,

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

PREPAID FUNDS: Abstract #7 for Voucher #7A through and including 7C for 2011 General Funds in the amount of \$676.80 and 2011 Street Light Funds in the amount of \$54.11

GENERAL FUND: Abstract #7 for Voucher #152 through and including #168 for 2011 funds in the amount of \$12,234.52.

HIGHWAY FUND: Abstract #7 for Voucher #62 through and including #71 for 2011 funds in the amount of \$6,932.87

CAPITAL PROJECT FUND – TOWN HALL PROJECT: Abstract #25 for Voucher #48 through and including #55 for funds in the amount of \$1,973.98

ROLL CALL VOTE: Aye 3 (Quenell, Shrope, Tucker), Nay 0, Absent 2 (Leavitt, Wright)

Resolution #45 declared duly adopted.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to Adjourn at 9:15 pm made by Supervisor John Quenell, Second by Steve Tucker, Aye 3 (Quenell, Shrope, Tucker), Nay 0, Absent 2 (Leavitt, Wright)

Respectfully Submitted,

Elaine Sater
Brighton Town Clerk