

**REGULAR BOARD MEETING - TOWN OF BRIGHTON - FRANKLIN COUNTY, NY**  
**September 11, 2008**

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**The Regular Monthly Meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Brighton was held Thursday, September 11, 2008 at 7:00 p.m. at the Brighton Town Hall, Paul Smiths, NY, with the following:**

**CALL TO ORDER:**

Meeting was **Called to Order** by Deputy Supervisor Steve Tucker at 7:04 p.m.  
The Board recited the "Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag"  
There was a moment of silence in memory of the tragic loss from September 11, 2001

**ROLL CALL OF OFFICERS**

**PRESENT:** Deputy Supervisor Steve Tucker, Council Members: Sheila Delarm, Jeffrey Leavitt, and Lydia Wright  
**ABSENT:** Supervisor Peter Martin, Sr.  
**OTHERS PRESENT:** Andy Crary - Superintendent of Highways, Nik Santagate - Justice, Doug Tichenor - Assessor, and Elaine Sater - Town Clerk  
**RESIDENTS:** There were several residents present  
**GUESTS:** Chuck Gibson and Jim Bullard - Literacy Volunteers, Peggy Wiltberger - Saranac Lake Skate Park Committee, and Jennifer Harry - Saranac Lake Youth Center

**NOTICE OF MEETING:** Notice was posted on the Town Clerk's Sign Board in front of the Town Hall.

**RESIGNATION OF SUPERVISOR**

Sheila Delarm read a letter from Supervisor Peter Martin stating that he is resigning his position as Supervisor as of September 11, 2008. Sheila Delarm read a letter in response to Peter Martin's resignation. The Town Clerk will notify the County that there is a vacancy for Town Supervisor.

**RESOLUTION #85**

**RESIGNATION OF TOWN SUPERVISOR PETER MARTIN**

**Motion made** by Sheila Delarm, **second** by Jeffrey Leavitt, **To Wit:**

**RESOLVED** that the Town Board accepts the resignation of Peter Martin as Town Supervisor as of September 11, 2008, and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the following letter be sent in response to Peter Martin's resignation:

**"Dear Peter, The Brighton Town Board would like to acknowledge your resignation as Town Supervisor. As is the case for anyone who deeply cares about his community, it's not uncommon to do so much that you sometimes get in over your head. When you do so, it's really hard to pull back and not continue to take on more. Thanks Peter for the service you have given the Town of Brighton and thanks for your willingness to pull back when you're overextended. It's an example that we can all learn from. Brighton Town Board"**

**ROLL CALL VOTE:** Aye 3 (Delarm, Leavitt, Tucker), Nay 0, Abstain 1 (Wright), Absent 1 (Martin)

**RESOLUTION #85 declared duly adopted.**

***APPROVAL OF MINUTES***

- Public Hearing Local Law#1-2008, August 14, 2008

**Motion made** by Jeffrey Leavitt, **second** by Lydia Wright, **to approve the minutes of the Public Hearing for Proposed Local Law #1-2008 held on August 14, 2008, as written.**

**Aye 3 (Leavitt, Tucker, Wright), Nay 0, Abstain 1 (Delarm)**

- Regular Board, August 14, 1008

**Motion made** by Deputy Supervisor Steve Tucker, **second** by Lydia Wright, **to approve the minutes of a Regular Town Board meeting held on August 14, 2008, as written.**

**Aye 3 (Leavitt, Tucker, Wright), Nay 0, Abstain 1 (Delarm)**

- Public Hearing for Cable Franchise, September 4, 2008

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**Motion made** by Deputy Supervisor Steve Tucker, **second** by Sheila Delarm, **to approve the minutes of the Public Hearing for Time Warner Cable Franchise held on September 4, 2008, as written.**

**Aye 3 (Delarm, Tucker, Wright), Nay 0, Abstain 1 (Leavitt)**

- Public Hearing for Smart Growth Grant Project, September 4, 2008

**Motion made** by Deputy Supervisor Steve Tucker, **second** by Sheila Delarm, **to approve the minutes of the Public Hearing for the Smart Growth Grant Program held on September 4, 2008, as written.**

**Aye 4 (Delarm, Leavitt, Tucker, Wright), Nay 0**

- Special Board, September 4, 2008

**Motion made** by Deputy Supervisor Steve Tucker, **second** by Sheila Delarm, **to approve the minutes of the Special Board meeting held on September 4, 2008, as written.**

**Aye 4 (Delarm, Leavitt, Tucker, Wright), Nay 0**

***TOWN CLERK'S REPORT***

**Total Revenue to Deputy Supervisor as of August 31, 2008 was \$ 83.87**

9 Sport Licenses

3 Certified Copies and 1 Marriage License #2-2008

6 Dog Licenses: 4 Renewals and 2 new

42 copiers from FOIL requests

1. Received notification of the 17<sup>th</sup> Annual Local Government Conference for town officials to be held in Potsdam on Tuesday, October 14, registration is \$35 before October 3, \$45 after, and \$60 at the door. Town Clerk's Office will be closed on October 14 to attend this conference.
2. Primary was held at the Town Hall on September 9 for the Conservative Party. There were 7 eligible voters and 4 voted. Robert White, a Town resident, won the election of Judicial Delegate by a vote of 33 to 12. There were 382 eligible voters in Franklin County and 16 people voted, the remaining votes were from St. Armand in Essex County and Clinton County.
3. Local Registration Day is changed from Wednesday Oct 8 to Tuesday Oct 7 and will be held in the Town Hall from 5 to 9 p.m. not at the Town Garage as previously reported. Saturday, October 11 is still from 2 to 9 p.m. in the Town Hall.
4. TOWN HALL REQUESTS: None
5. TOWN PARK REQUESTS: Camp Gabriels Employees - Friday, September 26, 2008 from 3 to 7 p.m., Citizens Advocacy -Friday, September 12, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Paul Smith College Rugby - Saturday, September 20, Sunday, October 5, Saturday October 18 (6 to 10 p.m.), and October 25, 12 to 5 p.m.

**GUEST SPEAKERS:**

1. **Literacy Volunteers - Jim Bullard and Chuck Gibson:** The Literacy Volunteers cover Franklin and Essex County. They saw a news article on July 24, 2008 in the Press Republican concerning the future of Camp Gabriels and are concerned about keeping the Camp open. They currently have tutoring programs at Moriah Shock Facility. Jim Bullard sent a letter to Mr. Jeffrion L. Aubrey, Chairperson for the Assembly Correction Committee and would like the Town's support in turning Camp Gabriels into a school where motivated and capable inmates, can make up for their lost years of schooling and get needed technical training. Literacy Volunteers would be willing to participate in such a project.
2. **Saranac Lake Skateboard Park Committee - Peggy Wiltberger:** President of the Skate Park Committee in Saranac Lake, there are some residents from the Town involved in the Committee or use the skateboard park. They are asking the Town to support the construction of a Skateboard Park in the Village of Saranac in the amount of \$5000 for the 2009 budget.

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3. **Saranac Lake Youth Center - Jennifer Harry:** Secretary of the Saranac Lake Youth Center (SLYC), there are some residents from the Town who use the Youth Center after school. SLYC has been in operation for 25 years and would like to keep their doors open. They are asking the Town to support the Youth Center in the amount of \$1000 for the 2009 Budget. They serve youth 13 to 18 years of age from the Saranac Lake Central School District, the hours of operation currently are 2:30 to 7 p.m. and it is a "substance free" environment. The children have to sign a contract when they use the facility. SLYC has moved into a new location and would like to expand their programs. They provided a computer based slide show to describe the program. Tracey Santagate spoke about her time as the past director of the program; she supports their efforts and would like the Town do also provide support.

***SUPERVISOR'S FINANCIAL REPORT/CORRESPONDENCE***

**1. Financial Report:**

- a. **Town Accounts:** Total funds of \$480,881.19 are in the Town's accounts as of September 11
- b. **CLASS Investments:** Interest for August 2008 was \$384.44 for the General Fund and \$312.81 for the Highway Fund; Total Class General Fund Interest to date is \$4,332.32, total General Fund is \$213,588.45 and Highway Fund interest to date is \$2,780.22, total Highway Fund is \$193,853.68, total in both funds is \$407,442.13.
- c. **Budget Amendment General Fund:**

**GENERAL FUND 2008 BUDGET AMENDMENT #6**

**Motion made** by Deputy Supervisor Steve Tucker, **second** by Lydia Wright, **To Wit:**

**RESOLVED that the following amounts be and the same hereby are transferred:**

**\$ 1,509.00 from Account No. A1990.4 (Contingency)**

**As follows:**

**\$ 100.00 to Account No. A1010.4 (Town Board Expenses) to cover extra mileage and ice cream**

**\$ 400.00 to Account No. A1420.4 (Attorney Expenses)**

**\$ 9.00 to Account No. A4020.4 (Vital Statistics Expenses) for Safety Paper**

**\$ 1,000.00 to Account A5132.4 (Town Garage Expenses) for Oil Separator repairs**

**ROLL CALL VOTE: Aye 4 (Delarm, Leavitt, Tucker, Wright), Nay 0**

**GENERAL FUND 2008 BUDGET AMENDMENT #6 declared duly adopted.**

- d. **Audit of Financial Records:** Deputy Supervisor Steve Tucker needs to obtain the Financial Records from the former Supervisor for auditing. A date needs to be set to complete the audit with Peter Martin.

**2. Correspondence:**

- a. Sent letter to the Rabideau Corporation, dated September 3, 2008 in reply to his letter of April 16, 2008. RE: Further explanation about the Town Hall Project.
- b. Sent letter to Rainbow Lake Association, dated September 14, RE: Support of grant request to Lake Champlain Basin Program
- c. Sent letter to Franklin County Legislature, dated September 9, Re: Request for heating oil tax reduction
- d. Received Notice of Permit Applications from Adirondack Park Agency (APA), Re: P#2008-217, Immena to replace bridge on Keese Mills Road and P#2008-218, Paul Smiths College to install Verizon Cell Tower
- e. Received Memorandum from the Franklin County Personnel Office, dated August 14, 2008, Re: Rules for Provisional and Temporary Appointments
- f. Received an announcement from the APA, dated August 18, 2008, RE: Conservation Subdivisions Special Program, to be held September 24, 2008 in Ray Brook at 7 p.m.
- g. Received email from National Grid, dated August 25, 2008, Re: Town to be credited for outages for outdoor lights. Provided a form to report lighting problems.
- h. Received an email from John Dukette, former resident, dated August 26, 2008, Re: Concerned about the appearance of the Town. Would like to see people clean up their yards. Copy was forwarded to Code Enforcement Officer.
- i. Received letter from Robert Wright, dated August 26, 2008, Re: Accident on County Route 60, would like the

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Town to reimburse him for his "out of pocket" expenses from an accident with a tree that was in the road. Discussion was held on the events of this accident. Andy Crary, Superintendent of Highways, said that when he arrived to remove the tree, Robert Wright hit it. Peter Martin was on his way home from another job and reported the tree was in the road to Andy Crary. Peter Martin was not acting as Town Supervisor, but as a citizen, when he reported the tree down. Sheila Delarm will contact the insurance company NYMIR to handle this request.

- j. Received a note from Shelly Smith's Day Care, Re: Thank you for the ice cream

**DEPARTMENT REPORTS**

**1. ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICER (Tri-Lakes Humane Society):** Report submitted prior to the meeting  
During August handled a total of 3 calls: 1 in regards to a dog that attacked another dog on Rickerson Pond Road, received a stray mother cat and newborn kittens that were sprayed by a skunk in Rainbow Lake.

**2. ASSESSOR (Doug Tichenor):** Reported at meeting

- a. **Board of Assessment Review (BAR) Members:** No one has responded to the notice, the Board did not find people for these positions. The BAR needs to meet in September to approve corrections to the tax roll.
- b. **George Earle Article 7 - 2006 & 2007:** Met with appraisers from Hostetter's and gave them sales for the 2005 and 2006 time frame. They went out to look at the Earle property on Tuesday September 9.
- c. **George Earle Small Claims for 2008 Assessment:** The hearing was held on August 19 in Saranac Lake, the Attorney for the Town was not able to attend, so Doug Tichenor attended at the last minute. He thought the hearing was going to be rescheduled. The Hearing Officer set aside the \$933,500 assessed value of the property and set it at \$767,000 (a 25% decrease in the land value, not the buildings). Earle's concern is with the value of his property compared to his neighbors property value.

Discussion was held on the results of the hearing. Deputy Supervisor Steve Tucker will contact Attorney for the Town, Scott Goldie, to determine if an appeal can be filed. The information used for the hearing by George Earle was information not agreed to by the Town Board.

- d. **Sales in Town:** Has had four sales of waterfront property on Rainbow Lake that were sold at 70% of their assessed value.
- e. **Humes Article 7:** Still pending, will have to go through same process with an appraiser as the Earle property

**3. CODE ENFORCEMENT OFFICER (CEO) (Paul Blaine):** Report submitted prior to the meeting

- a. For 2008, issued 4 new permits, issued three Certification of Occupancy (CofO), 16 permits are open
- b. For 2007, 21 permits open
- c. For 2006, 14 permits open
- d. For 2005, 4 permits open, issued two CofOs, one 2<sup>nd</sup> renewal
- e. For 2004, 1 permit open, issued final renewal
- f. No status on the wireless hookup
- g. Local Law #1-2008 for Regulation of Junk Storage: Steve Tucker will send copy of law to the Attorney for the Town with Public Hearing Comments.

**4. TAX COLLECTOR (Amber McKernan): Submitted prior to meeting**

- a. Received 6 phone calls regarding tax information
- b. Receiving phone calls from mortgaging institutions updating contact information for the upcoming 2009 tax season.
- c. Will be contacting the Franklin County Treasurer's Office to get an update on the centralized Real Property data grant and ascertain as to any decision being made on the partial payment for taxes for the 2009 tax season.
- d. Office will be closed from Wednesday, October 8 to Thursday, October 23. Will leave a voice message to this effect with a cell phone number for the mortgaging institutions to leave updated information.

**5. TOWN JUSTICE (Nik Santagate):** Report submitted: prior to meeting

Turned in to the Supervisor \$4,915.00 in fines and fees and closed about 40 cases

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**6. HISTORIAN - Mary Ellen Salls:** No report

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**1. HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT - Jeffrey Leavitt and Steve Tucker:**

- a. **Report from Andy Crary, Superintendent of Highways**, submitted prior to the meeting
- i. Helped Santa Clara with the back-hoe to remove beaver dam on the Keese Mills Road
  - ii. Put tar apron on 2002 Paystar
  - iii. Used the brush hog on the landfill cap
  - iv. Put 4 loads of crusher run on the Clark-Wardner Road
  - v. Mowed Town Hall and Garage lawns and cemeteries
  - vi. Set up for food pantry
  - vii. Hauled tar and sand for Harrietstown
  - viii. Worked on trucks and loader, cleaned vehicles
  - ix. Picked up flags from cemeteries and took to VFW for burning
  - x. Borrowed Santa Clara's chipper and chipped for three days on White Pine and North Brook Roads
  - xi. Borrowed Harrietstown's chipper for 5 days and worked on Wardner, Riley, Burt LaFountain, and White Pine Road.
  - xii. Picked up new water coolers for Town Hall and Garage from Day Wholesale
  - xiii. Made dump run
  - xiv. Price for road salt is \$89.92 a ton, need to order 275 tons for winter
  - xv. Need to get sand screened

**RESOLUTION #86**

**AUTHORIZATION TO HIRE TRUDEAU TO SCREEN SAND**

**Motion made** by Lydia Wright, **Second** by Deputy Supervisor Steve Tucker, **To Wit:**

**WHEREAS**, the Town of Brighton has its own sand to use on Town roads, and

**WHEREAS**, the Highway Department does not have the equipment to screen the sand so it can be used in the sanding truck during the 2008 and 2009 winter season,

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Town Board authorizes the Superintendent of Highways, Andy Crary, to contract with Trudeau Sand and Gravel, Inc. to screen the Town's sand for the amount of \$3,600.

**ROLL CALL VOTE:** Aye 3 (Delarm, Tucker, Wright), Nay 0, Abstain 1 (Leavitt)

**RESOLUTION #86 declared duly adopted.**

- b. **Plow for 1997 Truck:** Andy Crary is waiting for a date from Viking to take truck to Harrisville to get the plow installed
- c. **Snow and Ice Contract for 2009:** Contract is still in negotiation with the County. They are offering \$36,708 for 2009; it was \$32,000 for 2008. Andy Crary will be attending a meeting on September 15 to further discuss this contact.
- d. **CSEA Contract:** No further information from CSEA Union Representative
- e. **State Route 30 Speed Limit:** Nor further information received
- f. **White Pine Road Bridge:** Deputy Supervisor Steve Tucker said the Town received a proposal from Barton & Loguidice, P.C., the engineering firm for Franklin County. Sheila Delarm spoke with Scott Goldie, Attorney for the Town, who said once the Town pays for the work, the Town will be responsible for the bridge and will not be able to get grant funding to fix it. She set up a meeting with the County Board of Legislatures to discuss the ownership of the bridge for Monday, September 15. The NYS DOT told Andy Crary the "red flag" has been removed and there is no longer a 5-ton weight limit on the bridge. Sheila Delarm said the repair records should be reviewed at the County to determine who has been repairing the bridge. Received a letter from the Osgood Pond Association dated August 25, 2008, with questions about the bridge. A question of the fire trucks getting over the bridge was discussed. Jeffrey Leavitt measured the bridge at the narrowest point and it is 9 feet 4 inches wide. He said Fire Trucks by law cannot be more than 8 feet wide. The Paul Smiths Gabriels

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Volunteer Fire Department (PSGVFD) will be conducting a training to practice driving over the bridge. The bridge is the same width as the doors of the fire house. The pickup truck will have to be used to plow the road, if needed the loader can get over the bridge. The drill rig from Paul Smiths College can go over the bridge. Andy Crary will remove the 5-ton limit sign on the road.

- g. Slush Pond Road Order on Consent:** Deputy Supervisor Steve Tucker signed the Order on Consent and sent it to NYS DEC, waiting for signed copy from DEC before sending the check of \$2,500. Received a letter from the Attorney for the Town who sent a revised copy of the contract after the original copy was sent.
- h. Road Repairs:** Guide rails are still needed on one side of Split Rock Road, need a NYSDEC permit to trim trees on McColloms Road

***CITIZENS COMMENTS:***

**Tracie Santagate:** Santa Clara has supported the SLYC and could be used as a base for the budget. Would like the board to pass a resolution thanking residents who are leaving the community for their service to the Town, particularly Lorna Buckert. She and Sheila Delarm will work on the wording for next meeting.

**Holly Huber** said she read the Code of Ethics and the Town should add that a violation of the Code is not doing the duties of the job.

**Philip Delarm, BAR:** Said the Town did not have a full BAR to meet this year, since only two people were available. The County should have had a BAR here on Grievance Day to run the BAR

**Sheila Delarm** said that she was told by the County Real Property Office that two people were a quorum and could meet. Discussion was held on why the BAR did not meet and how to make sure this does not happen again.

Lydia Wright asked Phil Delarm to reconsider his resignation.

***COMMITTEE REPORTS (Continued)***

- 2. PARK & RECREATION - Steve Tucker and Lydia Wright:** Saranac Lake Area Youth Program will be meeting sometime this month. Billy Wilson, Director, said it was a good program this year. There were some youth from Brighton hired as Counselors.
- 3. INSURANCE/INVESTMENTS - Sheila Delarm and Lydia Wright:**
  - a. Franklin County Self Insurance Plan: Steve Tucker was going to get a list from the Fire Department of volunteers reported to Franklin County.
  - b. Nothing to report for Investments
- 4. CEMETERY - Steve Tucker and Jeffrey Leavitt:** There were three burials of cremations
- 5. TOWN BUILDINGS - Steve Tucker and Jeffrey Leavitt**
  - a. Town Hall Project Grant (Lydia Wright and Jeffrey Leavitt):** No further information available
  - b. Garage:**
    - i. Salt Shed Grant has been completed, check in the amount of \$16, 298.40 as final payment was received. It will be deposited into the Capital Fund Highway Project Account then transferred to the General Account as repayment of the loan from the General Fund.
    - ii. Looking into the possibility of a wood burning boiler
  - c. Town Hall:** Furnace needs to be cleaned
  - d. Park:**
    - i. Rug was not removed
    - ii. Hose to the hot water heater was removed and hot water heater shut off unless needed
    - iii. Locks have been replaced

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***OLD BUSINESS***

- 1. BUOYS ON SPITFIRE LAKE- Lydia Wright:** Received approval of the application from DEC for buoys on Spitfire Lake; Floating Object Permit has been issued to the Town. The Town will be responsible for any damages caused by the buoys. Permit should have been issued to the St. Regis Property Owners Association and they should be liable for any damages.
- 2. FIRE ADVISORY BOARD (FAB) UPDATE - Sheila Delarm:** Meeting is scheduled for October, no action has been taken
- 3. FALSE ALARMS FOR PSGVFD - Sheila Delarm:**
  - a. Received response from the Attorney for the Town, draft of local law needs to be rewritten to incorporate his remarks
  - b. Paul Smiths College representatives are interested in the local law. They wanted the Town to know that they look at student residents as individual renters. They asked how the law addresses the false alarms, as per building or per organization.
- 4. REQUEST FOR AUDIT OF FINANCIAL RECORDS AND BUDGET FROM PSGVFD - Steve Tucker:**
  - a. The PSGVFD is currently being audited by the NYS Comptroller's Office, a copy of that audit will be requested when it is available.
  - b. A copy of the annual budget has not been received.
- 5. TIME WARNER CABLE - Sheila Delarm:** Peter Martin spoke with Time Warner and they are offering 3% (\$6,600) to 5% (\$11,000) of Gross Revenues per year to the Town. Tom Doheny of Time Warner is willing to negotiate. Sheila Delarm contacted other town supervisors to discuss area-wide negotiations and she heard back from Larry Miller of Harrietstown. Paul Maroun, Franklin County Legislature, is willing to help any way he can. Sheila Delarm will contact the Public Service Commission.
- 6. CODE OF ETHICS - Steve Tucker:** The Code needs to be revised. This will be addressed at another meeting.
- 7. SMART GROWTH GRANT- Sheila Delarm/Rebecca Buerkette:** Received a contract from the Wildlife Conservation Society for the Board to review for the GIS portion of the program. The Town needs to retain ownership of the information produced by this grant. A letter will be sent to the Adirondack Watershed Institute to let them know another company was selected to provide this service. The Committee needs to meet and discuss the next steps.

***NEW BUSINESS***

**LENGTH OF BOARD MEETINGS, Jeffrey Leavitt:** Discussion was held on the citizens making comments and interrupting the meeting and the length of the agenda.

**Motion made by Jeffrey Leavitt, second by Lydia Wright, that the Board seeks to operate its Board meetings in an efficient and expedite manner, stick to the agenda, and keep the Citizens Comments at the end of the meeting. Aye 4, (Delarm, Leavitt, Tucker, Wright), Nay 0**

***AUDIT OF VOUCHERS***

**Motion to Audit the Vouchers made by Lydia Wright, second by Sheila Delarm; Aye 4 (Delarm, Leavitt, Tucker, Wright), Nay 0**

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**RESOLUTION #87**

**AUTHORIZATION TO PAY AUDITED VOUCHERS AS LISTED ON THE ABSTRACTS**

**Motion made by Lydia Wright, second by Sheila Delarm, To Wit:**

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

**PREPAID FUNDS: Abstract #9 for Voucher #9A and 9B for 2008 General Funds in the amount of \$365.64 and 2008 Street Light Funds in the amount of \$57.45**

**GENERAL FUND: Abstract #10 for Voucher #223 through and including #248 for 2008 funds in the amount of \$8,052.15**

**HIGHWAY FUND: Abstract #10 for Voucher #87 through and including #93 for 2008 funds in the amount of \$4,039.59**

**ROLL CALL VOTE: Aye 4 (Delarm, Leavitt, Tucker, Wright), Nay 0**

**Resolution #87 declared duly adopted.**

***ADJOURNMENT***

**Motion to Adjourn at 11:25 p.m. made by Lydia Wright, Second by Sheila Delarm, Aye 3 (Delarm, Tucker, Wright), Nay 0, Abstain 1 (Leavitt)**

Respectfully Submitted,

Elaine Sater  
Brighton Town Clerk