

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

February 8, 2007

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The Regular Town Board Meeting of the Town of Brighton was held on Thursday, February 8, 2007 at 7:00 p.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 Martin at 7:15 p.m.

“Pledge of Allegiance” to the flag was recited

ROLL CALL OF OFFICERS

PRESENT: Supervisor Peter Martin, Sr.

Council Members: Sheila Delarm, David Knapp, Steve Tucker and Lydia Wright

ABSENT: None

OTHERS PRESENT: Elaine Sater - Town Clerk and Nik Santagate - Town Justice

RESIDENTS: There were two residents present and a representative of the media

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- Organizational Meeting January 11, 2007

Motion made by David Knapp, **second** by Lydia Wright, **to approve the minutes of the Organizational Meeting held on January 11, 2007 as written.**

ROLL CALL VOTE: Aye 5 (Delarm, Knapp, Martin, Tucker, Wright), Nay 0

- Regular Board January 11, 2007

Motion made by David Knapp, **second** by Steve Tucker, **to approve the minutes of the Regular Town Board meeting held on January 11, 2007 as written.**

ROLL CALL VOTE: Aye 5 (Delarm, Knapp, Martin, Tucker, Wright), Nay 0

- Public Hearing Rescue Contract January 16, 2007

Motion made by David Knapp, **second** by Supervisor Peter Martin, **to approve the minutes of the Public Hearing for the Rescue Contract held on January 16, 2007 as written.**

ROLL CALL VOTE: Aye 5 (Delarm, Knapp, Martin, Tucker, Wright), Nay 0

- Special Board January 18, 2007

Motion made by David Knapp, **second** by Sheila Delarm, **to approve the minutes of the Special Town Board meeting held on January 18, 2007 as written.**

ROLL CALL VOTE: Aye 4 (Delarm, Knapp, Martin, Tucker), Nay 0, Abstain 1 (Wright)

- Special Board January 22, 2007

Motion made by David Knapp, **second** by Lydia Wright, **to approve the minutes of the Special Town Board meeting held on January 22, 2007 as written.**

ROLL CALL VOTE: Aye 5 (Delarm, Knapp, Martin, Tucker, Wright), Nay 0

- Special Board January 25, 2007

Motion made by David Knapp, **second** by Lydia Wright, **to approve the minutes of the Special Town Board meeting held on January 25, 2007 as written.**

ROLL CALL VOTE: Aye 5 (Delarm, Knapp, Martin, Tucker, Wright), Nay 0

- Special Board January 26, 2007

Motion made by David Knapp, **second** by Steve Tucker, **to approve the minutes of the Special Town Board meeting held on January 26, 2007 as written.**

ROLL CALL VOTE: Aye 5 (Delarm, Knapp, Martin, Tucker, Wright), Nay 0

TOWN CLERK'S REPORT

1. Total Revenue to Supervisor as of January 31, 2007 was \$47.68 from 3 Dog License renewals, 1 building permit (#07-01) and three FOIL requests
2. Faxed notice to the Adirondack Daily Enterprise, Re: Regular Meeting of the Town Board will be the 2nd Thursday of every month at 7 p.m in the Town Hall. Notice was published on Tuesday, January 30. Notices were posted in two post offices and on the Town Clerk's sign board.
3. Sent updated names and addresses of Town Officials to the State Comptroller's Office.
4. One dog owner did not renew the license for January.
5. Received letter from the Board of Elections, dated January 23, 2007 Re: Need to extend Resolution #41-2006

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to provide storage and placement of Voting Machine. The new machines are not expected to be in place for the 2007 election.

6. Received notice of Adirondack Park Local Government Day Conference March 21 and 22, 2007 at Crowne Plaza in Lake Placid.
7. TOWN HALL USE REQUESTS: None
8. TOWN PARK USE REQUESTS: None

RESOLUTION #41-2006 (AMENDED)

AUTHORIZATION TO ALLOW THE COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS ACCESS TO POLLING SITES

Motion made by Sheila Delarm, second by David Knapp, To Wit:

WHEREAS, the Franklin County Board of Elections (BOE) took over ownership of all voting machines on January 15, 2006, and

WHEREAS, the BOE has asked the Town to store the voting machine used by the town, and

WHEREAS, the BOE must have access to the location of the polling site in the town,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Franklin County Board of Elections be authorized access to the Town of Brighton handicapped accessible polling site (District 1) in the Brighton Town Hall main room at 12 County Road 31 in Paul Smiths; the site to be equipped with an AVM machine for the Years 2006 and 2007 elections, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Town of Brighton will furnish tables, chairs, and the United States flag on Election Day, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Franklin County Board of Elections will access the building through the Town Clerk or the Town Voting Machine Custodian.

ROLL CALL VOTE: Aye 5 (Delarm, Knapp, Martin, Tucker, Wright), Nay 0

RESOLUTION #41-2006 declared duly amended.

SUPERVISOR'S CORRESPONDENCE/FINANCIAL REPORT

1. **Financial Report:** Distributed the Financial Report as of January 31, 2007 to Board members. All of the tax money has been deposited for the Town's portion of the warrant as of February 7. Interest from CLASS investments for January December 2007 was \$1,368.40. Balance of CLASS Accounts are: General \$238,733.82 and Highway \$83,506.08. Transfers from the General and Highway Accounts will be made into the CLASS corresponding accounts this week.
2. **Audit of Financial Records:** An audit of the financial records for the Justice, Town Clerk, and Supervisor was conducted on January 16, 2007 by Board members Sheila Delarm, Steve Tucker and Lydia Wright.
3. **Correspondence:**
 - a. **Note from Assessor:** Received a note from the Assessor concerning using the assessed value of the Town for determining apportionments for outside service contracts. The current OVERALL assessed value of the town includes a special "aggregate assessment" implemented in Roll Section 2, State Owned Land. This "aggregate assessment" DOES NOT reflect the value of an actual parcel, but is a value place on the roll by the State to offset any loss in assessment of State Owned Land due to revaluation. The 2006 Final roll total included an "aggregate assessed value" of \$10,701,900.
 - b. **Letter from Franklin County Legislature:** Received a letter from Legislature Paul Maroun asking the Town if there are any requests for Member Item grant funding for 2007. Will request funding for generators for the Town Hall and Garage.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

1. **ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICER:** Received a quote from the Tri-Lakes Humane Society for the vacant Animal Control Officer (ACO) position.

RESOLUTION #26

AUTHORIZATION TO CONTRACT FOR ACO SERVICES WITH TRI-LAKE HUMANE SOCIETY

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

WHEREAS, the Animal Control Officer, Andy Crary, resigned at the end of December 2006, and

WHEREAS, the Town has a contract with the Tri-Lakes Humane Society for Animal Shelter Services,

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Supervisor be authorized to sign a contract with the Tri-Lakes

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Humane Society for Dog Control Officer services for 2007 and pay the sum of \$1,750 for the service.

ROLL CALL VOTE: Aye 5 (Delarm, Knapp, Martin, Tucker, Wright), Nay 0

RESOLUTION #26 declared duly adopted.

- 2. ASSESSOR (Doug Tichenor):** Report submitted to the board before the meeting as follows:
- Received numerous Senior STAR renewals from forms mailed to Town seniors in December
 - Mailed Agricultural Land Exemption renewal forms to farm properties currently receiving the exemption
 - Received report from Code Enforcement Officer detailing new construction/demolition permits as of December 2006 with the current status of projects
 - Preparing to commence collection of new construction for the 2007 tentative roll
 - Supervisor Peter Martin** received a request from the Franklin County Real Property Office dated February 5, 2007, Re: NYS Real Property Tax Administration Technology Improvement Grant Program; they would like a statement of support for this grant.

Motion made by Supervisor Peter Martin, second by David Knapp, that the Supervisor be authorized to sign a statement of support of a NYS Real Property Tax Administration Technology Improvement Grant for the Franklin County Real Property Office; Aye 5 (Delarm, Knapp, Martin, Tucker, Wright), Nay 0

- Received letter from the NYS Real Property Office, Re: Town's Residential Assessment Ratio is 123.98%

3. CODE ENFORCEMENT OFFICER (CEO) (Ed Lagree):

- Report from January was distributed to Board members before the meeting with the following information:
 - Issued one permit for 2007
 - For 2006; 26 Permits outstanding, 1 was completed and Certificate of Completion (CofC) issued.
 - For 2005: 11 outstanding
 - For 2004: 9 outstanding
 - For 2003: 2 outstanding
- Lydia Wright** asked if a Certificate of Occupancy (CofO) had to be issued before people could live in a house. There is a house with a building permit on Keese Mills Road that has people living in it and the record does not show that a CofO has been issued. David Knapp said a Temporary CofO could be issued. Lydia Wright will notify the person who was asking about the residence to contact the CEO.
- Contract for CEO Services:** The Town of Santa Clara has a new supervisor and a new contract was not prepared by the outgoing Supervisor. The old contract will be extended for another year.

RESOLUTION #27

AUTHORIZATION TO EXTEND CONTRACT FOR CEO SERVICES

Motion made by David Knapp, second by Steve Tucker, To Wit:

WHEREAS, the extended contract for Code Enforcement Officer (CEO) services with the Town of Santa Clara expired on December 31, 2006, and

WHEREAS, the a new supervisor of the Town of Santa Clara took office on January 1, 2007 and did not have a new contract prepared,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the January 1, 2004 contract with the Town of Santa Clara for Code Enforcement Officer services be extended until December 31, 2007.

ROLL CALL VOTE: Aye 5 (Delarm, Knapp, Martin, Tucker, Wright), Nay 0

Resolution #27 declared duly adopted

4. TAX COLLECTOR (Amber Mckernan):

- January was a pretty busy month. To date collected \$963,591.76, which includes a .03 overpayment. Made 695 postings and collected 80% of the warrant.
- During January collected \$814,162.37 (\$115,996.68 less than last year during the same time period)
- January 22, issued check #761 to Supervisor Peter Martin in the amount of \$200,000. January 25, issued check #762 to Supervisor Peter Martin also in the amount of \$200,000. January 31 issued check #763 to Supervisor Peter Martin in the amount of \$37,588. This satisfied the Town of Brighton's share of the warrant.
- February 5, issued check #764 to Franklin County Treasurer in the amount of \$375,000 as first payment on the County's portion of the warrant.

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- e. On February 8 issued check #765 to Supervisor Peter Martin in the amount of \$17.61 which is the amount of penalties collected to date.
 - f. Sent four faxes and received numerous phone calls regarding tax services
 - g. Tax Collection services were not interrupted by the fire at the Gabriels Post Office. Mail was diverted to the Vermontville Post Office. A public service announcement was made on the local radio station stating that anyone who had mailed anything for the Tax Collector after 10:00 a.m. on Monday at the Garbirel's Post Office should contact the tax collector by phone. The postmistress from the Gabriel's Post Office stated that there was no mail in box 125 (the Tax Collector's PO Box) at the time of the fire.
 - h. The Tax Collector's Office will be closed February 21 through 23.
5. **TOWN JUSTICE- Nik Santagate:** Disposed of 42 cases and issued a check in the amount of \$3,360.00 to the Supervisor. The credit card machine was used for the second time.
6. **HISTORIAN - Mary Ellen Salls:** No Report

COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. **HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT - David Knapp and Steve Tucker**
- a. A very detailed monthly report was received from Superintendent of Highways Don Oliver, it is summarized as follows:
 - i. Plowed and sanded roads almost every day
 - ii. Listed temperatures for each day, ranged from -22 degrees to +20 degrees
 - iii. Pushed back snow banks
 - iv. Washed and greased vehicles
 - v. Sent a loader and backhoe to the Gabriels Post Office fire
 - b. Other issues
 - i. **Letter head for Highway:** Due to the fire at the Gabriels Post Office printing of letterhead with that address was put on hold until the issue of reopening of the post office is resolved
 - ii. **Request for County Highway Department Assistance with Hold Harmless Clause:**

RESOLUTION #28

FRANKLIN COUNTY HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT ASSISTANCE WITH HOLD HARMLESS CLAUSE

Motion made by Lydia Wright, second by David Knapp, To Wit:

RESOLVED that it is hereby requested that the Franklin County Highway Department assist the Highway Department of the Town of Brighton with the following specific equipment: Excavator, dozer if needed, paver and rollers; for the purpose of blacktopping town roads and that it is agreed that this work is to be undertaken by the Town Highway Department and the job is totally under the direction and supervision of the Town Highway Department, and that the town is required to get necessary agency permits, property owners' agreements, and provide utility notification, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Town of Brighton covenants and agrees to defend, indemnify and hold harmless the Franklin County Highway Department against any claims, actions or judgments arising out of the Town of Brighton's actions involved in, or associated with all highway repairs for which it has requested the assistance of the Franklin County Highway Department for the year 2007.

ROLL CALL VOTE: Aye 5 (Delarm, Knapp, Martin, Tucker, Wright), Nay 0

Resolution #28 declared duly adopted.

- iii. **Speed Limit on Vosburgh Road:** Received a letter, dated January 16, 2007, from NYS Department of Transportation notifying the Town that a speed limit of 35 MPH has been established on the Vosburgh Road from County Road 60 to the terminus, a distance of .45 miles. Enforcement can begin when the proper signs are installed by the Town's Highway Department.
- iv. **Decals for Truck:** Still looking into getting large ones
- v. **Snowplow Turnaround on Hoffman Road:** An agreement has been reviewed by the Attorney for the Town, Scott Goldie, to allow the Town to continue using private property as a turnaround for the snowplow.

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RESOLUTION #29

AUTHORIZATION TO SIGN AGREEMENT FOR SNOWPLOW TURNAROUND ON HOFFMAN ROAD

Motion made by Supervisor Peter Martin, **second** by Sheila Delarm, **To Wit:**

WHEREAS, the property on the Hoffman Road is privately owned where the Town of Brighton turns around the snowplow, and

WHEREAS, the Town of Brighton does not desire to take ownership of the property, and

WHEREAS, the Town of Brighton would like a license to use a certain portion of the property for a snowplow turnaround due to the difficulty of turning around where the Hoffman Road actually terminates,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Supervisor be authorized to sign a "License Agreement" with the property owners at 106 Hoffman Road for the sole purpose of allowing the Town to maintain a temporary roadway and to provide the Town a turnaround for its agents and employees in connection with snow plowing and other related activities.

ROLL CALL VOTE: Aye 5 (Delarm, Knapp, Martin, Tucker, Wright), Nay 0

Resolution #29 declared duly adopted.

vi. White Pine Road Bridge: There is no further information at this time

vii. CSEA Contract: Lydia Wright said she will fax and email the Attorney of the Town with the health information for his review

2. PARK & RECREATION - Steve Tucker and Lydia Wright

a. The Fire Department has put down water for ice and Dan Spencer is keeping it cleared off.

b. Lights in the Park Building need to be replaced, they are not working properly. **David Knapp** will contact an electrician to look at them.

c. **Lease of Park from Paul Smith's College:** The liability insurance is enough to cover the lease agreement.

RESOLUTION #30

AUTHORIZATION TO SIGN LEASE AGREEMENT FOR THE PARK

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

WHEREAS, for thirty (30) years the Town of Brighton had a lease agreement to use the land where the ball fields are located at the Town Park until July 4, 2006 and,

WHEREAS, the lease was extended by Resolution #71-2006 on August 10, 2006 until a new lease was received,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Supervisor be authorized to sign a new lease agreement for five years with Paul Smith's College for the land near the Town Park to be used for recreational purposes.

ROLL CALL VOTE: Aye 5 (Delarm, Knapp, Martin, Tucker, Wright), Nay 0

Resolution #30 declared duly adopted.

3. INSURANCE - Sheila Delarm and Lydia Wright

a. The Town's liability insurance covers the Tax Collector's home. If an accident happened an investigation would be conducted. Equipment is also covered. Information from the computer should be backed up every day and kept off site in the Town Hall. Currently the Tax Collector backs up everyday and keeps the data in her car. The final documents are backed up and kept at the Town Hall.

b. A Certificate of Insurance was faxed to the NYS Department of Transportation on February 5, 2007

c. The COBRA medical insurance cancellation was never received by Excellus Blue Cross/Blue Shield. It was faxed again and cancelled as of January 1, 2007; Christy Smith at Burnam received a copy of the cancellation.

d. NYMIR will be meeting with Lydia Wright and Sheila Delarm on February 22 to go over the policy

e. Received a semi-annual loss report from NYMIR dated January 2007; Hogansburg Volunteer Fire Department claim was closed on September 20, 2006.

4. INVESTMENTS - Sheila Delarm and Lydia Wright: Nothing to Report

5. CEMETERY - Steve Tucker and David Knapp: Nothing to Report

6. TOWN BUILDINGS - Steve Tucker and David Knapp

a. **Town Hall:** Smoke detector and lights were replaced. The fuel ran low for the furnace and a delivery was made on Saturday morning (January 27). The furnace went out Saturday afternoon. The pipes under the

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building froze and the circulating pump had to be replaced. David Knapp put a salamander under the building to thaw the pipes. The Griffith Energy service person brought two more to heat up the area. The furnace was supposed to be serviced on Wednesday, February 7 but it did not look like it was completed. David Knapp will contact Griffith Energy to get a service contract set up for both the Town Hall and Highway Garage.

Supervisor Peter Martin thanked David Knapp and Elaine Sater for dealing with the furnace. David Knapp was at the town hall until after 11 p.m. helping the service person.

b. Town Hall Project:

- i. Crawford and Stearns expect to have the "bid packages" ready by the end of the month. They will charge \$1,500 for a set up fee and an extra cost for copying. The Town will post the notice for bidders. Crawford and Stearns will send a proposal for the work. The addition needs to be completed before the asbestos can be removed from the floor tiles.
- ii. Funding: Need to determine what is available for funds to pay for the project. Contacted Pat Willis for information from the Restoration Fund. As of January 18, 2007 there were private donations of \$23,810. Member item funding needs to be submitted for this year.

OLD BUSINESS

1. **DISASTER PLAN:** The meeting on January 18 was attended by Tim Snider, Adirondack Medical Center, Malcolm Jones, Director of Franklin County Emergency Center, and Dan Spencer, a member of the Paul Smiths Gabriels Volunteer Fire Department.: Need Ron Keough's information on the coroner's portion to complete the Disaster Plan. There is a meeting on Thursday, February 15, 2007 at 6 p.m. for further discussion on the Disaster Plan. Robert Eckert will provide an updated pandemic flu presentation. A "table top" drill will be held after the plan is finalized; a county wide drill will be later in the spring. A Town wide email list would be a nice thing to have for getting information out quickly to the residents.
2. **FIRE ADVISORY BOARD:** A Fire Advisory Board (FAB) is being set up according to the provisions of the Rescue Contract with the Village of Saranac Lake. David Knapp attended a meeting on February 7, 2007, called by Supervisor Larry Miller from the Town of Harrietstown to determine how the FAB will function. The Town will have a delegate with one vote and an alternate to represent the Town. The Village of Saranac Lake has to finalize its budget by May 1, so a determination of rescue costs need to be made before that date. Bill Jost also attended the meeting; he is interested in participating in the process. There is a form letter being circulated for signature for supporting the change in the law for allowing billing of the rescue services. David Knapp said he liked the idea of making the cost for rescue services be based on the population of the towns instead of the assessed value of property. He contacted John Quenell for demographics that has been collected over the past years. The Town is paying \$30,000 for rescue and \$65,000 for fire, combined together (\$95,000) the cost is close to what larger towns are paying for the same services. The proportion for rescue costs to fire is very high. The next meeting of the FAB will be on Thursday, February 15 at 4 p.m.

RESOLUTION #31

AUTHORIZATION TO REPRESENT THE TOWN OF BRIGHTON ON THE FIRE ADVISORY BOARD

Motion made by Sheila Delarm, **second** by Steve Tucker, **To Wit:**

WHEREAS, a Fire Advisory Board (FAB) is being set up to address the distribution of costs of fire and rescue services in the area, and

WHEREAS, the Town of Brighton contracts with the Village of Saranac Lake for rescue services,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Town Board of the Town of Brighton appoints David Knapp to represent the Town of Brighton on the Fire Advisory Board as a voting member, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Bill Jost be appointed as the alternate voting member, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the second alternate voting member can be any Town Board member who is available to attend the meeting.

ROLL CALL VOTE: Aye 4 (Delarm, Martin, Tucker, Wright), Nay 0, Abstain 1 (Knapp)

Resolution #31 declared duly adopted.

3. **ALTERNATE RESCUE SERVICES:** David Knapp and Sheila Delarm attended a meeting on Thursday, February 1, 2007 with people interested in pursuing "alternate rescue services". If the Fire Advisory Board is

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not able to come to any compromise this Town may need to have another plan in place. This group is going to parallel the FAB to be ready to move on options if necessary. This group is for informational purposes only.

- 4. FREMSA CONTRACT:** The contract received from FREMSA is asking for an increase of \$250 over the amount approved by the Town Budget in Resolution #13 on January 11, 2007. **Steve Tucker** asked if the Fire Department determined whether the responders were for FREMSA or for the Saranac Lake rescue department. **Sheila Delarm** asked for a breakdown of the number of calls and response time for each year. **Supervisor Peter Martin** said when Advanced Life Support (ALS) is needed FREMSA responds; FREMSA was formed when there were no ALS responders available in the rescue department. Currently the Saranac Lake Volunteer Fire Department has ALS, FREMSA supplements them.

RESOLUTION #13-2007 (AMENDED)

AUTHORIZATION TO CONTRACT WITH FREMSA AND PAY \$1,500 FOR 2007 ALS SERVICES

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

WHEREAS, the Town of Brighton does not have a rescue service, and

WHEREAS, the First Responders Emergency Medical Services Association (FREMSA) provides basic life support and advanced life support services,

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Supervisor be authorized to sign a contract with First Responder Emergency Medical Services Association (FREMSA) for basic life support and emergency advanced life support first responder services (ALS) to sick and/or injured persons within the Town of Brighton for three years 2007, 2008 and 2009, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Supervisor be authorized to pay FREMSA the amount of \$1,500 for 2007 services.

ROLL CALL VOTE: Aye 5 (Delarm, Knapp, Martin, Tucker, Wright), Nay 0

Resolution #13 declared duly amended.

- 5. TIME WARNER CABLE IN MCCOLLOMS:** **Sheila Delarm** contacted Time Warner. Al Sutphen said he sent out a team to see how many residents were in McColloms; they could only find 10 houses. They prefer 15 houses per mile before providing service. Sheila Delarm asked if he counted the driveways, she will conduct a survey of the residents and businesses in McColloms and give him a more accurate count.

NEW BUSINESS

- 1. FRANKLIN COUNTY MUTUAL AID AGREEMENT:** Steve Tucker said he was a member of the Franklin County Fire Advisory Board. He attended a meeting and was given a Mutual Aid Agreement for the Town to approve.

RESOLUTION #32

AUTHORIZATION TO SUPPORT MUTUAL AID FOR FIRE PROTECTION BY THE PSGVFD

Motion made by Steve Tucker, **Second** by Supervisor Peter Martin, **To Wit:**

WHEREAS, the Town of Brighton contracts with the Paul Smiths Gabriels Volunteer Fire Department (PSGVFD) for Fire Protection and

WHEREAS, the Franklin County Fire Coordinator provides a Mutual Aid Plan to the County Legislature,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Town of Brighton Board encourages the participating by the Paul Smiths-Gabriels Volunteer Fire Department (PSGVFD) in the Franklin County Mutual Aid Plan as now in force and as amended from time to time and certifies to the Franklin County Legislature through its County Fire Coordinator that no restriction exists against "outside" service by such fire department within the meaning of Section 209 of the General Municipal Law, which would affect the power of such fire department to participate in such plan, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution is filed with the County Fire Coordinator.

ROLL CALL VOTE: Aye 5 (Delarm, Knapp, Martin, Tucker, Wright), Nay 0

Resolution #32 declared duly adopted.

- 2. THANK YOU LETTER FOR RESCUE SERVICE COVERAGE:** **David Knapp** sent a letter to the Adirondack Daily Enterprise thanking everyone who helped to cover the Town for rescue services after the 12

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noon deadline until the contract was signed around 4 p.m. on January 26, 2007. He would like to send a copy of the letter to all the agencies listed on the initial request for help but needs the addresses. **Supervisor Peter Martin** said some information was put out against the St. Regis Fall rescue service for helping out the Town of Brighton after the Village of Saranac Lake stopped rescue services coverage at 12:01 p.m. He said Tupper Lake and St. Regis Falls rescue services went "above and beyond" the call for help from the Town when it was requested by him. **Sheila Delarm** said they portrayed the "essence of volunteersism". **Supervisor Peter Martin** would like to send a "Certificate of Appreciation" to both the Tupper Lake and St. Regis Falls rescue departments for their help.

3. GABRIELS POST OFFICE:

- a. On January 30, 2007 the Post Office in Gabriels, and the house it was in, burned to the ground. About 6 a.m. a person, who stopped to put mail in the outside box, noticed the fire and woke up the family of three living in the house. He ran across the street to another house to find a phone. Another person was driving by and noticed the fire also, he gave the family a ride to another house. The family would have frozen if the second car had not come by when it did. The temperature was about 28 degrees below zero. **Sheila Delarm** thanked Rebecca Steffan and the staff from the Adirondack Daily Enterprise for getting the story out so quickly to keep the public informed about where their mail was being relocated. The media has been getting more details concerning the Post Office than the Postmistress. A television station from Syracuse has contacted the Post Office for a story. Residents in the area were interviewed by local television stations as well. **Supervisor Peter Martin** said there is a large group of people trying to save the Post Office from being closed permanently. They are sending letters to get the United State Postal Service (USPS) to reopen the Post Office as soon as possible in Gabriels because it is a community hub and a great loss to the community. Currently the residents who used the Post Office have to travel 9 miles one way to Vermontville Post Office to pick up mail. **Supervisor Peter Martin** contacted Representative John McHugh's office for support in getting the Post Office reopened. He also spoke to State Senator Betty Little's office and they sent a letter. He also contacted State Assemblywoman Janet Duprey who also contacted Rep. McHugh's office. This is the second time the Post Office has burned. It was opened in 1896 near where Camp Gabriels is located. **Sheila Delarm** said she heard from the media that as of Monday, February 12, the mail will be moved to the Post Office on Paul Smith's College. She spoke with Tim Healy, USPS District Manager in Albany to determine if anything is being done about reopening the Post Office in Gabriels. He said there has been no discussion yet. She drafted a letter for the Board's approval with concerns about using the Vermontville and the Paul Smith College post offices by the residents of the Town. Discussion was held concerning what actions the community can take to attempt getting the Post Office reopened in Gabriels, the residents should not wait until the USPS makes the decision. Petitions are being circulated to everyone who uses the Post Office, not just the box holders. Letters can also be written to the USPS and elected officials. **Sheila Delarm** will collect all the petitions to mail to Tim Healy. Discussion was held on alternative ideas for a building for the Post Office. **Steve Tucker** said his uncle, Mark Tucker, owns the land where the building was and would like to rebuild just a building for the Post Office. The USPS prefers to lease over buying property.

Motion made by David Knapp, second by Supervisor Peter Martin, to authorize the following letter dated February 2, 2007 to be sent to Tim Healy, USPS District Manager in Albany, concerning the Gabriels Post Office.

"Dear Mr. Healy, We're writing as a result of the fire at the post office in Gabriels. As you know, losing a post office in a rural area has a significant impact on the entire community. Post Offices are more than opportunities to mail letters, buy stamps or pick up ones mail. They're community hubs. Places where people go to connect, to hear what's going on in the community. It's not just a place to hurry in and out of, it's an important part of our lives.

Our culture is moving toward a human disconnect. With more and more of our interactions over the internet and phone, we're losing our sense of connection -- our sense of community. Gabriels is a community that still experiences the human connection of neighbor helping neighbor. It's what we do because it's the *right* thing to do. Take the fire for instance. How many postmasters do you have that would go in a burning building to rescue what is considered important to the postal service, when in the big picture, human lives are important, paperwork is not. When the volunteer firefighters got on scene, all of whom know Eileen Leavitt by name and have known her for years, they too went in the burning building to rescue the mail. The mail! We're not talking about entering a burning building to save human lives, we're talking about saving property. And quite frankly, they didn't do

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it for the postal service, they did it for Eileen. She's a person whom they all personally know and respect, not a nameless postmaster behind a counter; they risked their lives to help her, because that's what people do in small towns.

If ever there was an advertisement for why to use the postal service vs. Fedex, DHL or those guys in brown, Eileen is that advertisement and the Gabriels Post Office is the vehicle of USPS customer service. If you want to strengthen your brand, strengthen it with stories like that of Gabriels.

For the Hadynski family that lost their home in this fire, the community has already raised over \$4,000, has found them alternative housing, provided them with clothing, food and almost all the belongings they lost, and all this within a couple of days. A local restaurant is hosting a benefit dinner for them at the end of the month. This community rises to challenges. Please don't let the building of a new post office be a limiting factor in this issue. The Town of Brighton is filled with very creative, giving people who are offering to house, build, whatever it takes to provide both a temporary and a permanent home for the "new & improved" Gabriels Post Office. Just let our community know what we can do to help and you'll receive the same kind of support and assistance that the Hadynski family is receiving.

The Gabriels Post Office is centrally located so many of our Seniors and others walk to it to get their mail. As you know, there is no rural delivery so our residents rely on its close proximity. A temporary move to the Paul Smiths Post Office is nice for the interim, but it's not a fix. Driving on a college campus with students walking in the road, with parking that is distant for our elderly, is not optimal in the long run. Please see this as temporary solution.

Again, we have many businesses and residents who have offered to help house the Gabriels Post Office and to help in any way that they can. Just let us know what you need and we'll be there for you at 12939 as you have been since 1896 for us!

Respectfully, Peter Martin, Supervisor and Sheila Delarm-Eckert, Councilperson

cc: Betty Little, Senator, Hillary Clinton, Senator, John M. McHugh, Congressman, Janet L. Duprey, Assemblywoman, Ray Susice, Franklin Co. Legislator, Tim Burpoe, Franklin Co. Legislator, Gordy Crossman, Franklin Co. Legislator"

ROLL CALL VOTE: Aye 5 (Delarm, Knapp, Martin, Tucker, Wright) , Nay 0

b. A letter from the Tax Collector, Amber McKernan, was read for the record as follows:

"I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those who responded to the fire at the Post Office last Tuesday (January 30, 2007). The fire departments did an outstanding job under extremely harsh conditions. I would like to especially thank the postmistress of the Gabriels Post Office, Eileen Leavitt. The end of January and the beginning of February are undoubtedly the busiest time for this office, with the bulk of the payments coming in at that time. My biggest concern with the fire at the Post Office was that mail had come into the tax collector's post box that contained tax payments after my usual morning pick-up. In the midst of all of the turmoil of the fire and finding a temporary home for the Gabriels post office, Eileen took the time to call me to let me know where I could pick up the tax collector's mail, and assured me that there was no mail in that box after my morning pick-up the day before. It certainly speaks to the dedication and concern with which Eileen serves at the Gabriels Post Office on a daily basis.

I also want to thank the private citizens who came forward with offers of help in case I needed I because of the fire It truly is an extraordinary community in which we live.

Signed, Amber Mckernan Tax Collector"

c. David Knapp volunteered to write a letter of thanks to Camp Gabriels for their help at the fire. Discussion was held about the inmates being able to sign the petition also since they are users of the Post Office also.

Motion made by Sheila Delarm, second by Lydia Wright, to authorize David Knapp to write a letter of thanks to the Superintendent and staff of Camp Gabriels for their help with the fire.

ROLL CALL VOTE: Aye 5 (Delarm, Knapp, Martin, Tucker, Wright) , Nay 0

d. Benefit Dinner: There is a benefit dinner for the Hadynski family who lost everything in the fire at the old Meacham Lake Inn, now called Samson's Bar and Grill, on Tuesday, February 27 from noon to 7 p.m.

CITIZENS COMMENTS: None

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

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AUDIT OF VOUCHERS

RESOLUTION #33

AUTHORIZATION TO PAY AUDITED VOUCHERS AS LISTED ON THE ABSTRACTS

Motion made by Lydia Wright, second by David Knapp, To Wit:

RESOLVED that the Supervisor be authorized to pay the audited vouchers as listed on the abstracts as follows:
PRE PAID FUNDS: Abstract #2 for Voucher s #2A through #2C, Vouchers #36 and #37 for General Funds in the amount of \$23,057.61, Voucher #2C for 2007 Street Light Funds in the amount of \$75.56, and Voucher #7 for Highway Funds in the amount of \$9,155.00.

GENERAL FUND: Abstract #2 for Voucher #38 through and including #65 for 2007 funds in the amount of \$9,041.84

HIGHWAY FUND: Abstract #2 for Vouchers #4 and #8 through and including #19 for 2007 funds in the amount of \$7,182.12

CAPITAL PROJECT - HIGHWAY GARAGE: Abstract #27 for Voucher #89 and 90 in the amount of \$87.13

ROLL CALL VOTE: Aye 5 (Delarm, Knapp, Martin, Tucker, Wright), Nay 0

Resolution #33 declared duly adopted.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to Adjourn at 9:53 p.m. **made** by David Knapp, **second** by Lydia Wright, **Aye 5, No 0**

Respectfully Submitted,

Elaine Sater
Brighton Town Clerk