

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

April 10, 2014

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A Regular Monthly Meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Brighton was held Thursday, April 10, 2014, 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 Supervisor Peter Shrope at 7:05 p.m.

The "Pledge of Allegiance" to the flag was recited.

ROLL CALL OF OFFICERS

PRESENT: Supervisor Peter Shrope

Council Members: Brian McDonnell, Amber McKernan, Steve Tucker and Lydia Wright

ABSENT: None

OTHERS PRESENT: Andy Crary-Superintendent of Highways, Holly Huber-Tax Collector, Elaine Sater-Town Clerk, and Doug Tichenor - Assessor

RESIDENTS: There was one resident present

GUEST: None

NOTICE OF MEETING:

Notice of this meeting was posted on the Town Clerk's Sign Board.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

1. HIGHWAY – Superintendent of Highways Andy Crary: Report submitted prior to meeting
 - a. Took 2002 Paystar to Plattsburgh for repairs
 - b. Plowing/sanding roads
 - c. Made dump run
 - d. Helped Santa Clara with ice on Keese Mills Road
 - e. Helped Franklin County with loader on Santa Clara's end of Keese Mills Road
 - f. Cuts snow banks again
 - g. Worked on water on county roads
 - h. Worked on frozen culverts on Keese Mills Road
 - i. Worked on Garondah Road with loader pushing back snow banks
 - j. Worked on Split Rock Road with loader, to get water off road
 - k. Furnace quit working, Hyde-Stone called in to repair it.
 - l. Hoping for Spring!

Supervisor Peter Shrope said Shared Service Agreements are coming in from other Town's, copies of our Agreement was sent out last month

2. TOWN CLERK-Elaine Sater: Report submitted prior to meeting.
 - a. Total Revenue to Supervisor as of March 31, 2014 was \$166.50, from 1 Building Permit #14-002 and 363 Copies for a FOIL request
 - b. March 25 received notice of an Incident Report, individual fell on the front steps of the Town Hall, did not report any injury. Steps were icy after the sun went down and water froze on them.
 - c. April 3
 - i. Received resolution from the Town of Franklin for a shared services agreement, distributed copies to Supervisor and Highway Superintendent.
 - ii. Sent notice to the Adirondack Daily Enterprise for Superintendent of Highways, roads are closed to axel weight of 5 tons or more until April 15 or longer if necessary
 - iii. Faxed information to the Association of Towns confirming names to be published in the Directory of Town Officials
 - d. Town's Clerks Office will be closed Tuesday, April 29 and Thursday, May 1 for training at the NYS Town Clerk's Association Annual Meeting and Conference in Saratoga Springs.
 - e. TOWN HALL REQUEST: None
 - f. TOWN PARK REQUEST: None

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- g. RECORDS MANAGEMENT: Reviewing files for documents that can be disposed.
3. TAX COLLECTOR – Holly Huber: Report submitted prior to meeting
- a. Report:
 - i. Processed payments totaling \$240,889.66
 - ii. Issued the following checks to Supervisor Peter Shrope: 3/18/14 Ck#899, \$15 insufficient funds fee; Ck#902, \$563.54 late payment penalties, and 3/25/14, Ck#905, \$450.73 late payment penalties and 2nd notice fees
 - iii. Issued the following checks to Franklin County Treasurer: 3/7/14 Ck#890, \$40,000 tax payments, 3/18/14 Ck#901, \$6,000 tax payments
 - b. Asked the Town Board to look at changing two resolutions, one concerning the collection of a \$15 fee for insufficient funds on checks she deposits and the penalty on tax payors for writing checks without funds, and the other concerning the \$2.00 second notice fee that only the Town of Brighton collects in Franklin County. Discussion was held on the purpose behind these two resolutions. The Board will look at these resolutions at a future meeting.
4. JUSTICE – Nik Santagate: Report submitted prior to meeting
- a. Supervisor Peter Shrope received a report showing 55 cases disposed and a check in the amount of \$5,330.00
 - b. Funds in the amount of \$1,300 from the Court grant were deposited in the Town Hall Restoration Account from the State Comptroller's Office. The funds will be transferred to the General Fund so the file cabinets and rug can be ordered.
5. CODE ENFORCEMENT OFFICER-Paul Blaine: Report submitted prior to meeting
Issued one Building Permit (BP #14-002)
6. ASSESSOR- Doug Tichenor: Report given at meeting
- a. Data collection will start once the snow is gone. He wants to send a mailing to about 600 residential properties to notify them of the Data Collectors visiting their properties. They can refuse a visit in writing. The Data Collectors will have identification. He will notify the State Police about the collectors in case they get any calls, will give them the vehicle license plate numbers.
 - b. Tentative Roll is ready for May 1 filing
 - c. STAR Exemptions for seniors were all renewed. Anyone else who did not renew their Basic STAR will be removed from the exemption; they will find out when the School Tax bills go out in the fall.
 - d. Board of Assessment Review (BAR) meets on Thursday, June 5, from 5 to 9 pm.
 - e. There is an Article 7 assessment challenge from Michael Humes, will meet with the Attorney for the Town Scott Goldie and the Board to discuss strategy on May 8 at 6 pm before the next Regular Board meeting
 - f. Camp Gabriels: The Office of General Services (OGS) had an appraisal done on the property, would like to get a copy of the information for his files. Supervisor Peter Shrope will request it through Senator Betty Little's Office. Currently there is an assessment of \$775,000 on the property, the tax status of the property will be determined when the property sale is completed.
7. TOWN PARK-Supervisor Peter Shrope:
- a. Park Attendant was not reappointed; he needs to take his personal items out of the Park building and turn in his keys by May 1st. He is no longer helping with the Food Pantry.
 - b. Water is getting into the building from the snow melt, snow was removed from around the building
 - c. The remains of the tree that was taken down need to be cleaned up; people can take the wood
 - d. The Park Attendant job description needs to be rewritten to fit the needs of the park
8. FOOD PANTY- Barbara Marshall: No report received
Supervisor Peter Shrope met with Mo Gladd who is now helping Barbara Marshall set up the food pantry. He asked permission to set up on one Tuesday, as the crew was not going to be available on that Wednesday to set up. Supervisor Peter Shrope also spoke with Barb Marshall and misunderstandings from

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the past have been resolved, mostly it was from miscommunications. He was contacted by Jill Suscie from Paul Smith's College, there are some students looking for community service hours who are willing to help clean up the food pantry area on Tuesday April 22.

9. HISTORIAN- Mary Ellen Salls: No report received
10. ANIMAL CONTROL- Tri Lake Humane Society: No report received
11. SUPERVISOR – Peter Shrope:
 - a. Camp Gabriels: Thanks to Brian McDonnell and Paul Smith's College for providing the space for the presentation by the new owners' representatives on April 1, 2014, at the Paul Smith's College VIC. The presentation was well attended by residents and media representatives.
 - b. Received a letter dated March 11, 2014, from the Town of Harrietstown asking if the Town is interested in continuing to explore forming a Fire District, sent the Town's resolution #37-2014 from March 13, 2014, stating "not at this time". Received a thank you from the town's supervisor.
 - c. Budget: Distributed Monthly Budget report for March 2014
 - i. Revenues received: \$1,582.21 from Tax Collector, \$5,330 from Justice, \$166.50 from Town Clerk, and \$2,987.84 from stumpage fees
 - ii. NYCLASS interest: General Fund \$2.52, Total Fund \$85,268.90 and Highway Fund \$1.24, Total Fund \$40,110.55

CITIZENS COMMENTS: None

APPROVAL/AMENDMENT OF MINUTES

- Regular Board – March 13, 2014

Motion made by Lydia Wright, second by Supervisor Peter Shrope, to accept the minutes of the Regular Board meeting of March 13, 2014, as written, but with typographical error corrected. Aye 4 (McDonnell, Shrope, Tucker, Wright), Nay 0, Abstain 1 (McKernan)

BUSINESS

1. **Saranac Lake Central School District (District) – Supervisor Peter Shrope:** Received a letter dated March 14, 2014, from the Superintendent of Schools, Diane Fox, thanking the Town for supporting the school. The District will attend a meeting if the Town Board has questions for them concerning the budget.
2. **Cost Share of Medical Benefits for Employees – Supervisor Peter Shrope:** Due to CSEA contract negotiations the cost to new employees was reduced from 25% to 15%, therefore Resolution #103-2013 from December 12, 2013 has to be amended to reflect this change.

RESOLUTION #103-2013 (Amended)

COST SHARE OF MEDICAL BENEFITS FOR NEW HIGHWAY EMPLOYEES

Motion made by Supervisor Peter Shrope, second by Brian McDonnell,

WHEREAS the highway employees have a contract with CSEA Local #1000, L817, U6870, and

WHEREAS the Town can no longer afford to pay the high cost of Health Insurance,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Town of Brighton Board adopts a new policy that any full time highway employee hired after 1 January 2014 will pay a 15% share of their medical insurance premium.

ROLL CALL VOTE: Aye 5 (McDonnell, McKernan, Shrope, Tucker, Wright), Nay 0

Resolution #103-2013 declared duly amended

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3. **Polling Site Agreement for 2014 - Supervisor Peter Shrope:** Need to approve the polling site for the 2014 elections.

RESOLUTION #46-2014

DESIGNATION OF POLLING SITE FOR 2014

Motion made by 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 2014 Elections as follows: Federal Primary Election (June 24), State & Local Primary Election (September 09), 11:15 am to 10:00 p.m., the General Election (November 4) 5:15 am to 10:00 pm and (if necessary) Special Elections, date and times to be announced.

ROLL CALL VOTE: Aye 5 (McDonnell, McKernan, Shrope, Tucker, Wright), Nay 0,

Resolution #46 declared duly adopted

4. **Gaming Law – Supervisor Peter Shrope:** Has done a lot of research on “Gaming Laws”. Received a letter from Paul Smith’s College asking for the Town to pass a local law allowing raffles. A similar local law was not approved by the Town voters in 1985. He contacted the Attorney for the Town Scott Goldie for information on this subject.

RESOLUTION #47-2014

CONTACTING THE ATTORNEY FOR LOCAL LAW ON GAMES OF CHANCE

Motion made by Brian McDonnell, second by Lydia Wright,

WHEREAS the Town has had two requests to pursue allowing games of chance in the Town, NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Supervisor Peter Shrope be authorized to contact the Attorney for the Town Scott Goldie to move forward with a local law concerning games of chance.

ROLL CALL VOTE: Aye 5 (McDonnell, McKernan, Shrope, Tucker, Wright), Nay 0,

Resolution #47 declared duly adopted

5. **Tax Collector Phone Number – Supervisor Peter Shrope:** The phone number for the Tax Collector’s Office of 327-3644 is no longer being used by the Tax Collector. There was a resolution to give the phone number to the Court but the Judge does not want a different phone number. Discussion was held on keeping or getting rid of the number. The phone is currently forwarded to the Tax Collector’s home phone number, but it is not published on the tax bills. No action taken, the phone number will stay a Town number.
6. **652 Keese Mills Road – Supervisor Peter Shrope:** Need to notify the property owner again to clean up the debris on the property if it is not already removed, will wait until May when the snow is gone.
7. **Sewer Smell in Gabriels-Amber McKernan:** No further information
8. **Adirondack Association of Towns and Villages (AATV)–Brian McDonnell:** Attended the APA Local Government Days in Lake Placid, April 9 and 10, 2014. He has been appointed as a Regional Director for the AATV’s Region A, he handed out their 2014 Legislative Agenda.

COMMITTEES:

1. **Adirondack Regional Airport – Amber and Tom McKernan:** Several projects are ongoing at the airport. The terminal is being expanded, the apron in front of the terminal is being rebuilt, several small buildings that hold electronic equipment are being rebuilt, Cape Air is going to be flying to White Plains starting on June 26. There will not be a fourth flight to Boston during the summer.

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2. **Park & Recreation – Steve Tucker, Supervisor Peter Shrope:** Steve Tucker attended a Saranac Lake Area Youth Association (SLAYA) meeting, they will be using Romano’s Bowling Lanes for a Family fun Night on Saturday May 3, as well as a Local Government Challenge from 12 to 5 pm and there will be raffles also. Also discusses field trips for the summer program.
3. **Town Hall Project/Open House – Supervisor Peter Shrope, Lydia Wright:**
 - a. Met with committee, Open House will be from 1 to 3 p.m. on Sunday, July 27.
 - b. Receiving responses to invitations sent out
 - c. Received an electronic payment in the amount of \$10,934.42 from the grant voucher submitted in March 2013, still need a final payment to close out the project.
4. **Assessment - Brian McDonnell, Lydia Wright:** Need to look for a replacement for the Assessor position and fill Board of Assessment Review vacancy.

CITIZENS COMMENTS:

Brian McDonnell – VIC: There is a Forest, Food and Fork event at the VIC in Paul Smiths on Monday, April 21, and a Science, Arts and Music (SAM) Festival on Saturday, April 26. At the NY State/Adirondack Maple Weekend there was a tasting contest and the VIC’s maple syrup won the best taste award.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Motion to GO INTO Executive Session at 9:30 pm made by Supervisor Peter Shrope, second by Lydia Wright, for the purpose of discussing the medical, financial, credit or employment history of a particular person, in accordance with Public Officers Law, Article 7, Section 105f. Aye 5 (McDonnell, McKernan, Shrope, Tucker, Wright), Nay 0

Motion to GO OUT OF Executive Session at 9:55 pm made by Brian McDonnell, second by Lydia Wright. Aye 5 (McDonnell, McKernan, Shrope, Tucker, Wright), Nay 0

RESOLUTION # 48-2014

RETURN OF SICK DAYS TO EMPLOYEE

Motion made by Supervisor Peter Shrope, second by Brian McDonnell,

WHEREAS the Town of Brighton has been reimbursed by Corvel Enterprise, the Plan Administrator for the Franklin County Self-Insurance Program, for two-thirds (2/3) of the sick time paid to Highway Employee Glen Perrino from August through October 2013,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Town will return thirty (30) sick days to Glen Perrino which represents two-thirds (2/3) of the total sick days he was paid for from August through October 2013 .

ROLL CALL VOTE: Aye 5 (McDonnell, McDonnell, Shrope, Tucker, Wright), Nay 0

Resolution #48 declared duly adopted.

AUDIT OF VOUCHERS

RESOLUTION #49-2014

PAYMENT OF AUDITED VOUCHERS AS LISTED ON THE ABSTRACTS

Motion made by Amber McKernan, second by Lydia Wright,

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

PREPAID FUNDS: Abstract #4 for Voucher #4A through and including #4C for 2014 General Funds in the amount

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of \$909.96 and STREET LIGHTING FUNDS in the amount of \$84.31

GENERAL FUND: Abstract #4 for Voucher #71, 72 and 74 through and including #92 for 2014 funds in the amount of \$8,653.71 and

HIGHWAY FUND: Abstract #4 for Voucher #37 through and including #43 for 2014 funds in the amount of \$6,638.04

ROLL CALL VOTE: Aye 5 (McDonnell, McKernan, Shrope, Tucker, Wright), Nay 0
Resolution #49 declared duly adopted.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to Adjourn at 10:05 p.m. made by Lydia Wright, Second by Amber McKernan, Aye 5 (McDonnell, McKernan, Shrope, Tucker, Wright), Nay 0

Respectfully Submitted,

Elaine W. Sater, RMC,
Brighton Town Clerk