

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

August 10, 2006

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The Regular Town Board Meeting of the Town of Brighton was held on Thursday, August 10, 2006, at 7:00 p.m. at the Brighton Town Hall, 12 County Road 31, Paul Smiths, NY, as follows:

CALL TO ORDER:

Meeting was Called to Order by Supervisor Peter Martin at 7:04 p.m.

PLEDGE TO THE FLAG

ROLL CALL OF OFFICERS

PRESENT: Supervisor Peter Martin, Council Members: Sheila Delarm, David Knapp, Steve Tucker and Lydia Wright

ABSENT: None

OTHERS PRESENT: Nik Santagate - Justice, Mary Ellen Salls - Historian, Elaine Sater - Town Clerk

RESIDENTS: There were 4 residents present

GUESTS: Susan Patterson, Franklin County Public Health, and Charles Fisk, Troop 12 Boy Scout

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

• **Regular Meeting July 13, 2006**

Motion made by David Knapp, second by Steve Tucker, to accept the minutes of the Regular Town Board meeting held on Thursday, July 13, 2006, as amended to correct typographical errors.

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

TOWN CLERK'S REPORT

• **Total Revenue to Supervisor as of July 31, 2006, was \$262.15**

6 Dog License Renewals

5 Building Permits (#06-18 to 22)

7 FOIL and copier use

1 Donation for Park Use

- a. Received letter dated August 3, 2006, from the Franklin County Board of Elections, Re: Primary Election will be held on Tuesday, September 12, 2006, from 12 Noon to 9 p.m. at the Town Hall. The Board of Elections will be contacting the Election Inspectors.
- b. Received notice dated, 8/7/06, from William Bentz, Jr., Re: Notice of Application for Liquor License for Sampson's Bar and Grill at 9667 State Route 30.
- c. TOWN HALL REQUESTS: None
- d. TOWN PARK REQUESTS: Park will be closed on August 18, 19, and 20. Patty League - Saturday, Aug 13, 2006, 11 a.m. - 5 p.m.
- e. RECORDS MANAGEMENT: Anyone receiving a request for copies of records should notify the Town Clerk as soon as possible because there is a 5-day time limit to reply and a fee of 25 cents per page if copied.

GUEST SPEAKER: Charles Fisk, Troop 12 Boy Scout:

Charles Fisk presented a project he would like to undertake for his Eagle Scout rank. He would like to restore the footbridge near the Town Hall that crosses Weller Brook. Discussion was held concerning this proposed project. Funding will come from donations and fund raising. Supervisor Peter Martin suggested Charles Fisk contact the Department of Environmental Conservation since the bridge involves "wet lands" and the NYS Department of Transportation because they have the right-of-way on the property.

RESOLUTION #70

SUPPORT OF RESTORATION OF BRIDGE AS AN EAGLE SCOUT PROJECT

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

RESOLVED that the Town Board of the Town of Brighton supports Charles Fisk, Troop 12 Boy Scout, in his effort to restore the bridge over the brook near the Town Hall as his Eagle Scout project.

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

Resolution #70 is declared duly adopted.

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SUPERVISOR'S CORRESPONDENCE/FINANCIAL REPORT

1. FINANCIAL REPORT:

- a. The Financial Report as of July 31, 2006, was distributed to each Board Member, along with the CLASS Investment balances (GENERAL \$311,980.59 and HIGHWAY \$131,089.78). Interest income for this month was \$1,902.40, interest rate is at 4.9%.
- b. Adjustments to the general fund budget are needed.

GENERAL FUND 2006 BUDGET AMENDMENT #5-2006

AUTHORIZATION TO AMEND GENERAL FUND 2006 BUDGET

Motion made by Supervisor Peter Martin, Second by David Knapp, To Wit:

RESOLVED, that the 2006 GENERAL FUND BUDGET be amended and the following amounts be and the same hereby are transferred:

\$3,959.00 from Account No. A1990 (Contingency)

as follows:

\$ 500.00 to Account No. A1420.4 (Attorney CE)

\$3,459.00 to Account No. A1320.4 (Accounting CE)

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

GENERAL FUND 2006 BUDGET AMENDMENT #5-2006 declared duly adopted.

2. OTHER:

- a. Letter from Historian, Mary Ellen Salls, dated July 20, 2006, read for the record as follows:

"Town of Brighton

I would like to thank Peter Martin, our Supervisor and Elaine Sater our Town Clerk for taking time out of his busy day to come to our History Day on the 16th.

I would also like to thank Sheila Delarm-Ekert and her friend Holly Huber for doing the children's program, also our great story teller Amber McKernan for entertaining the young and the old with her witty stories.

It makes a difference when the people of the town join in and make the day so successful. We had over 100 people who came to our display on Sunday the 16th of July, with the promise of returning next year and bringing some of their pictures and stories of their ancestors who settled in this area.

Thanks again to everyone."

The Board thanked Mary Ellen Salls for the wonderful day.

- b. Letter from National Grid, dated August 8, 2006, read for the record as follows:

"Notice to Customers"

On Saturday, August 5, 2006, a tree was cut down by a contractor and fell onto National Grid electric conductors on Vosburg Road in Rainbow Lake causing a power surge to local residents. The contractor was not performing work on behalf of National Grid.

National Grid crews have been working to restore power since Saturday and have been replacing meters as needed on a door-to-door basis. We understand many of our customers may have sustained damage to their property as a result of this incident.

In the event customers have sustained damage, they may want to contact their homeowner's insurance carrier.

Customers are welcome to call National Grid Customer Service for any billing and/or electric operational issues.

National Grid Customer Service 800.642.4272"

Supervisor Peter Martin spoke with a National Grid (NG) representative who explained what took place. He asked NG to come and explain what happened to cause the surges. The high intensity wire touched the lower intensity line and sent high intensity voltage through the lower voltage line. Normally a branch would just burn through the high intensity line and the power be restored. This tree was too large to burn through and it caused the wires to touch. The system allows for three restarts before it shuts down. Different parts of the Town were affected in different ways depending on the type of protection people had on their home electric systems. Many appliances and electronic equipment just had blown fuses, these can be replaced by a qualified repair service.

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- c. Received several letters from Time Warner Cable, RE: Took over from Adelphia on August 1, they will be contacting the Town concerning the new franchise.
- d. Received notice from the NYS Board of Real Property, RE: Certification of the Final State Equalization Rate for the 2006 Assessment Roll, the rate is 100% for the Town of Brighton.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

1. **ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICER (Andy Crary):** Report read by **Supervisor Peter Martin**
Picked up one Husky on the Vosburgh Road on August 6 and turned it over to the Tri-Lakes Humane Society.
2. **ASSESSOR (Doug Tichenor):** Report read by **Supervisor Peter Martin**
Received notice of two property owners filing in court over their assessments. Would like to meet with the Board at the next meeting to discuss the Town's plan of action. Would like the Attorney for the Town to be present also.
3. **CODE ENFORCEMENT OFFICER (Ed Lagree)** Report given to Board before meeting
 - a. Issued 23 Building Permits for 2006, 4 Building Permits are completed
 - b. 17 Building Permits are completed, 25 permits are still open from 2005
 - c. 3 Building Permits completed, 9 permits are still open from 2004
 - d. 1 Building Permit is completed, 1 permit was closed, and 4 permits are still open from 2003
 - e. 1 Building Permit is still open from 2002
4. **TAX COLLECTOR (Amber McKernan)** Report read by **Supervisor Peter Martin**
 - a. Received queries regarding the new assessment.
 - b. Received several inquirers pertaining to previous years' taxes
 - c. Two people came to the office for tax information
 - d. Sent three faxes since the last meeting
5. **TOWN JUSTICE (Nik Santagate)**
 - a. Disposed of 23 cases and issued a check in the amount of \$2,015 to Supervisor Peter Martin
 - b. Credit Card Machine - Training for using the credit card machine will be held on Friday, August 11, at 4 p.m.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. **HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT -**
 - a. **David Knapp** read the report from Superintendent of Highways Don Oliver
 - i. Mowed cemeteries, Town Hall, Garage, and the Landfill cover
 - ii. Repaired washouts on Wardner, Clark-Wardner, Keese Mills Roads and the lower cemetery road
 - iii. Blacktopped the Vosburgh Road
 - iv. Finished the floor in the salt shed
 - v. Requested a quote from Conroy & Conroy, Inc., to install the steel arches on the salt shed, no response yet
 - vi. Paved and patched portions of the Wardner Road
 - b. **Garage Project:** An updated financial report shows that the Garage Project is \$1,423.76 over budget. There is still the erection of the steel roof, the demolition of the old garage and the landscaping between the road and the building. This doesn't include \$30,559.54 spent in 2003 to start the project. The Highway Department does not have the ability to finish the salt shed without hiring equipment to raise the roof. There might be salvageable items on the old garage.
 - c. **Hoffman Road Snowplow Turn-Around:** **Supervisor Peter Martin** spoke with the Attorney for the Town. The Attorney sent a letter to the land owner's attorney saying the Town does not claim the land where the turn-around is located. He is waiting for a response of a written agreement defining everyone's rights and obligations.
 - d. **Bridge on White Pine Road:** **Supervisor Peter Martin** spoke with the bridge inspector, a survey of the hydraulics needs to be completed to determine if a culvert can replace the bridge. The Town took over ownership of the Bridge to apply for a HUD grant in 1996. There is no record this grant was ever approved. Christie Engineering provided a quote in 1996 for removing the bridge and replacing it with a 2 lane bridge.

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2. PARK & RECREATION - Steve Tucker and Lydia Wright

- a. Dan Spencer has been mowing and weed wacking the fields between rains
- b. The power surge on Saturday, August 5, burned out the sump pump and a refrigerator. Dan Spencer will price a new apartment size refrigerator and a new pump. An incident report needs to be turned-in on the damage.
- c. **Lease of Ball Fields: Supervisor Peter Martin** spoke with Paul Smith's College concerning the expired lease on the ball fields. They requested a letter asking to extend the lease. The Board discussed the idea of asking Paul Smith's College to transfer the land to the Town so there is no need for a lease since the Town has been using it for thirty years. They could retain use of the area for classes.

RESOLUTION #71

AUTHORIZATION TO EXTEND LEASE ON BALL FIELDS WITH PAUL SMITH'S COLLEGE

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

WHEREAS, for 30 years the Town of Brighton leased the land where the ball fields are located at the Town Park, and,
WHEREAS, the lease expired on July 4, 2006,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Supervisor be authorized to send a letter to Paul Smith's College requesting the land be transferred to the Town of Brighton with the option to return the land when no longer used for recreational purposes and allow Paul Smith's College the use of the land for classes and recreational purposes, and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the expired lease be extended with Paul Smith's College until the land is transferred or until a new lease is received.

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

Resolution #71 is declared duly adopted.

3. INSURANCE - Sheila Delarm and Lydia Wright

- a. There has been no further word on the Hogsburg Fire Department claim, it was not listed on the Insurance Report from NYMIR. Sheila Delarm will contact NYMIR to discuss this issue.
- b. Steve Tucker will contact Dan Spencer to get an Incident Report filled out for the damage at the Park Building from the power surge.

4. INVESTMENTS - Sheila Delarm and Lydia Wright

Interest rates on the CLASS accounts continue to do well

5. CEMETERY - Steve Tucker and David Knapp:

- a. There was one burial, it was difficult to find enough room in the lot.
- b. Highway Department has mowed the grass and cleaned up the area.

6. TOWN BUILDINGS - Steve Tucker and David Knapp

- a. **Cemetery Building: Supervisor Peter Martin** said a crew from Camp Gabriels will stain the building at the cemetery. They will also cut brush on the Town Roads when the permit is received.
- b. **Town Hall:**
 - i. Railing outside the Town Hall will be stained.
 - ii. Town sign needs to be waterproofed

GUEST SPEAKER: Sue Patterson, Franklin County Public Health

Sue Patterson, RN, gave a talk concerning "pandemic" or "worldwide" flu and how the Town can be prepared if such an occurrence takes place in this area. The current strain of "H5N1" is an avian flu already in Asia but not in United States. Avian flu comes from domestic fowl that get it from wild fowl. The virus is transmitted through the blood of the fowl, not from human to human. This is not a "pandemic flu". There have been three occurrences of worldwide flu: The "Spanish Flu" in 1918, the "Asian" Flu in 1957, and the "Honk Kong" Flu in 1968. These pandemic flu outbreaks lasted about 2 years. There are 6 stages of pandemic flu, #1 being no flu and #6 being pandemic. The World Health Organization (WHO) feels the United States is in stage 3. Public Health has been asked to go around and let people know how to protect themselves in case of pandemic flu. A vaccine will not be available until 6 or 8 months after the virus is known. A vaccine is made in eggs and if the eggs are all destroyed it will be harder to

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make the vaccine. There will be a priority list for people who can receive the limited vaccine, such as, health care workers, fire and rescue people, etc. People who plow the roads should probably be added to the list in the North Country if the roads are to remain open in the winter. Flu is transmitted by sneezing, so washing hands is important, as well as washing off things people touch, such as phones or computer key boards. People should investigate how work can still be done without coming in contact with people. People should stay at home and avoid places where people gather. When people get the flu it affects the respiratory system, coughing, fever, lungs fill up. It lasts about 14 days. Consider that about 40% of the people will be affected. A two-week supply of food and supplies should be maintained in the home in case deliveries to stores cannot be made. Consider a source of water. Basic nursing is to drink plenty of fluids, get temperature down with showers, stand and sit up, do not lay down flat. Flu comes in waves, it will last 3 or 4 months then diminish, then return until it runs out of hosts. Historically it affects 20 to 30 year olds the hardest, unlike the seasonal flu that generally affects the very young and old. There are handouts available from the State Public Health Department.

OLD BUSINESS

- 1. FOOD PANTRY: Supervisor Peter Martin** has not received a contract from Barb Marshall for the Food Pantry. **Sheila Delarm** will contact her in regards to this contract.
- 2. KEESE MILL'S ROAD - LOGGING TRUCKS: Supervisor Peter Martin** spoke with Paul Mitchell Logging. The trucks will not be there much longer, the problem of speed will be taken care of by Paul Mitchell. If there are any more complaints, people should record the truck number and notify the company so he will know with which driver to speak.
- 3. RESCUE SERVICES CONTRACT: Supervisor Peter Martin** attended a meeting at the Town of Harrietstown concerning the rescue services provided by the Village of Saranac Lake. There were more people at the meeting than he was lead to believe would be attending; town council members attended from other towns. Information was passed out concerning the amount each town would pay based on the assessed value of land. This information has been passed out to the Board for review. The Town of Harrietstown received a quote from CVPH in Plattsburgh of \$440,000 for a year of rescue service. Supervisor Peter Martin would like to propose figures based on the number of rescue calls per town. He called a Special Meeting for Monday, August 14, at 6 p.m. to discuss this further with the Town Board.
- 4. DISASTER PLAN: Sheila Delarm** will send a letter to people/organizations involved with the disaster preparedness process to invite them to attend a meeting to review the Disaster Plan for the Town. **Supervisor Peter Martin** called a Special Meeting for Monday, September 18, at 6 p.m. for discussing the Town's Disaster Plan.
- 5. RETURNED KEY: The Town Clerk** reported that the keys turned-in by Sheila Delarm belonged to the Highway Department. A vendor had borrowed them to make a delivery to the Town Hall and claimed they left the keys in the door. When the Highway Department went to get the keys from the door they were gone. This happened three months ago.

NEW BUSINESS: There was no new business

CITIZENS' COMMENTS : There were no citizens comments

AUDIT OF VOUCHERS

Motion to Audit the Vouchers made by David Knapp, Second by Lydia Wright, Aye 5, Nay 0

RESOLUTION #72

AUTHORIZATION TO PAY VOUCHERS 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:

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PREPAID: Abstract #7 for Voucher #7A through and including #7C for General Funds in the amount of \$631.72 and Voucher #7C for Street Lighting Funds in the amount of \$51.15.

GENERAL FUND: Abstract #8 for Voucher #188 through and including #200 for funds in the amount of \$1,656.44.

HIGHWAY FUND: Abstract #8 for Voucher #75 through and including #81 for funds in the amount of \$6,830.93

CAPITAL PROJECT- HIGHWAY GARAGE: Abstract #24 for Voucher #79 through and including #81 for funds in the amount of \$966.60

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

Resolution #72 declared duly adopted.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to Adjourn at 9:34 p.m. made by David Knapp, second by Lydia Wright, Aye 5, Nay 0

Respectfully Submitted,

Elaine Sater
Brighton Town Clerk