

**The Regular Town Board Meeting of the Town of Brighton was held on Thursday, August 14, 2003, at 7:00 p.m. at the Brighton Town Hall, Paul Smiths, NY, with the following:**

**PRESENT:** Supervisor Robert Tebbutt  
Council Members: Alicia Bodmer  
Linda Dobson  
John Quenell  
Steve Tucker

**ABSENT:** None

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

**RESIDENTS:** There were 19 residents present

**GUEST:** Frank Carl-Rainbow Lake Association

**Meeting was Called to Order** by Supervisor Robert Tebbutt at 7:00 p.m.

*APPROVAL OF MINUTES*

**Motion made** by Linda Dobson **to accept the Minutes of the Regular Town of Brighton Board Meeting on July 10, 2003, as written,** second by Alicia Bodmer, Aye 5

*CITIZENS COMMENTS (Limited To 2 Minutes Per Speaker)*

1. **Frank Carl-Rainbow Lake Association:** Would like to ask the Town of Brighton Board to approve a resolution in support of the Rainbow Lake Association placing buoys in critical areas to re-enforce the need for safe and legal operation of watercraft.

**RESOLUTION # 67**

**AUTHORIZATION TO ALLOW RAINBOW LAKE ASSN TO PETITION DEC FOR BUOYS**

**Motion made** by Alicia Bodmer **to authorize the Ad-Hoc Committee of the Rainbow Lake Association to petition the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation to consider the use of buoys in respective waters,** second by John Quenell, Aye 5

**Roll Call Vote:**

Supervisor Robert Tebbutt	Aye
Council Members: Alicia Bodmer	Aye
Linda Dobson	Aye
John Quenell	Aye
Steve Tucker	Aye

**Resolution #67 declared duly adopted**

2. **Keith Smith-Keese Mills Road:** Is there going to be anything done about the logging trucks on the Keese Mills Road? The trucks are going down the road at 3:30 a.m. and on 5 a.m. on Saturday. They are going fast and wrecking the road. There is another exit for them to use. This problem was supposed to be taken care of a while ago.

John Quenell and Alicia Bodmer replied that research was done a while ago and turned over to the Supernauts for further action. The Town can restrict the trucks on the road.

**Supervisor Robert appointed John Quenell and Alicia Bodmer to a committee to look into this issue further and make recommendations to the board.**

3. **William Stebbins-Easy Street (State Route 86):** Would like to see a representative from the State Highway Department. Has tried to call and gets the run around. The speed of cars is too fast and the passing zone should be eliminated, a double yellow line should be down the hill. The cars have killed domestic animals. State Route 86 has not been swept either.

**Supervisor Robert Tebbutt appointed John Quenell and Alicia Bodmer to a committee to look into this issue further and make recommendations to the board.**

4. **George and Michele Oehler-Easy Street (State Route 86):** We are trying to sell our house and people looking at it are commenting on the junkyard across the street. Someone tipped off the owner that people were coming to the board meeting to complain and he cleaned it up today. Most people put up a fence to put their stuff behind. There is a law about the number of vehicles allowed in a yard and these vehicles are probably leaking oil and fuel into the water behind the house. There are probably rodents in the piles of junk. This could be a health and safety issue. Does the Code Enforcement Officer have any jurisdiction over this issue?

John Quenell responded that the Town has a Local Law addressing this issue. This situation came up last year and the Town was going to prosecute but they settled out of court and the property was cleaned up at that time.

Supervisor Robert Tebbutt has spoken to the individual and has not seen any improvement. The answer to this problem is zoning and this town doesn't have zoning. The "Litter Law" doesn't cover vehicles and other zoning issues.

**Supervisor Robert Tebbutt appointed Steve Tucker and Linda Dobson to a committee to look into this issue further and make recommendations to the board.**

5. **Wilhelmina Sheridan-Wardner Road:** What is the status of the petition for the Highway Garage Bond?

Supervisor Robert Tebbutt said this was the next order of business if all the Citizens Comments were completed now; a comment period would be opened again at the end of the meeting.

**TOWN CLERK REPORT**

**Total Revenue to Supervisor as of July 31, 2003, was \$466.20**

- 1 Registrar Fee
- 6 Dog Licenses
- 3 Building Permits (#03-16, 17 and 20)
- 2 Copier Use and 11 FOIL Requests

1. Received letter dated August 7, 2003, from the Franklin County Board of Elections, Re: Primary Election, There will be NO primary on September 9, 2003. Also received a list of Election Inspectors that attended the Election Inspector Training in July.
2. On August 7, at 5:00 p.m. a petition with 64 signatures was filed in the Town Clerk's Office in response to the resolution for the issuance of Bonds for \$500,000 adopted by the Town Board on July 10, 2003, subject to permissive referendum. Contacted the Attorney for the Town, Scott Goldie, and faxed the 10 page petition the same day. A special election must be held between October 6 and 21 to determine if the resolution is approved.
3. Received a letter, dated August 1, 2003, from the Department of Health, Re: Change in Fees, Marriage License Fees are increasing from \$25 to \$40 and Genealogical searches have doubled from \$11 to \$22 for 1-3 years.
4. Town Hall Use Schedule: Sat, Oct 18 - Claremont for a Baby Shower from 1 to 3:30 p.m., Saturdays, July 10 and Aug 14, 2004 - Rainbow Lake Association
5. Park Use Schedule: Aug 10-John Guest, Aug 16 - Plowe Family, Aug 23 - Kilner Family, Aug 24 - Volz & Nidedker Families, Sept 7 - St. Luke's Church, Sep 13, 20 & 27 - Mountaineers Rugby

**SUPERVISOR REPORT**

**1. Receipt of Petition-Bond Issue for \$500,000 for Highway Garage:**

**Motion made** by Robert Tebbutt **to acknowledge receipt of a petition concerning the Bond Issue of \$500,000 for the Town Highway Garage**, second by John Quenell, Aye 5

2. **Financial Report:** Financial Report as of July 31, 2003, was distributed to Board Members. Balances of accounts are attached to these minutes.

**RESOLUTION #68**

**AUTHORIZATION TO APPROVE BUDGET AMMENDMENT #3**

**Motion made** by John Quenell **to authorize approval of Budget Amendment #3 to the General Fund for a transfer in the amount of \$24.24 from Account No. A1990 Contingency to A9055.8 Disability Insurance to cover a \$50 fine for not renewing disability insurance in a timely manner in 1999**, second by Robert Tebbutt, Aye 5

**Roll Call Vote:**

Supervisor Robert Tebbutt	Aye
Council Members: Alicia Bodmer	Aye
Linda Dobson	Aye
John Quenell	Aye
Steve Tucker	Aye

**Resolution #68 declared duly adopted**

3. **State Retirement System:** Received a letter from the State Retirement System telling the Town its share of the Retirement System payment for 2003 will be \$10, 074. The bill will be presented to the Town in November.
4. **Home Account:** There will be no more activity with the Home Account with NBT bank and funds need to be returned to the Home Administrators that dispersed the funds.

**RESOLUTION #69**

**AUTHORIZATION TO RETURN HOME FUNDS IN THE HOME ACCOUNT AT NBT BANK**

**Motion made** by John Quenell **to return the entire amount (\$2,045) left in the Home Account at NBT Bank to the Home Administrators in Albany as instructed**, second by Steve Tucker, Aye 5

**Roll Call Vote:**

Supervisor Robert Tebbutt	Aye
Council Members: Alicia Bodmer	Aye
Linda Dobson	Aye
John Quenell	Aye
Steve Tucker	Aye

**Resolution #69 declared duly adopted**

5. **Highway Garage Project:** On July 30 bids were opened totally \$497,000, \$75,000 less than the bids received on June 17 based on a change to the plans.

**RESOLUTION #70**

**BID REJECTION FOR HIGHWAY GARAGE**

**Motion made by John Quenell to reject all bids received on July 30, 2003, for the construction of new Town Highway Garage and Salt Shed due to the receipt of a petition for a referendum vote on the Bond Issue of \$500,000, second by Steve Tucker, Aye 5**

**Roll Call Vote:**

Supervisor Robert Tebbutt	Aye
Council Members: Alicia Bodmer	Aye
Linda Dobson	Aye
John Quenell	Aye
Steve Tucker	Aye

**Resolution #70 declared duly adopted**

6. **Special Election:** A Special Election must be held between October 6 and 21 to determine if the Bond Issue is approved.

**RESOLUTION #71**

**SPECIAL ELECTION TO APPROVE THE BOND ISSUE FOR CONSTRUCTION OF A TOWN HIGHWAY GARAGE AND SALT STORAGE SHED**

The following resolution was offered by Council member John Quenell, who moved its adoption, seconded by Alicia Bodmer to-wit:

**RESOLUTION FOR SPECIAL ELECTION TO APPROVE THE BOND ISSUE FOR CONSTRUCTION OF A TOWN HIGHWAY GARAGE AND SALT STORAGE SHED**

**WHEREAS**, the Town Board had adopted a resolution authorizing the issuance of up to \$500,000.00 in serial bonds of the Town of Brighton on July 10, 2003; and

**WHEREAS**, the above referenced bond resolution was adopted subject to a permissive referendum, pursuant to Town Law Section 220, and

**WHEREAS**, a petition was filed with the Town Clerk on August 7, 2003 bearing a legally sufficient number of qualified electors protesting the above resolution; and

**WHEREAS**, the above referenced bond resolution will take effect only upon the adoption of a proposition to approve said bond resolution by a majority of the qualified electors of the Town of Brighton voting at an election held in the manner prescribed by Article 6 of the Town Law of New York; and

**WHEREAS**, the Town Board desires to provide for the submission of such a proposition to the qualified voters of the Town:

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Town Board of the Town of Brighton, the County of Franklin, as follows:

1. A special election shall be held in the Town of Brighton on the 7th day of October 2003, for the purpose of submitting to the qualified voters of said Town the following proposition:

**SHALL**, the qualified electors of the Town of Brighton, in the County of Franklin, approve the bond resolution adopted by the Town Board of said Town on the 10<sup>th</sup> day of July, 2003, which resolution authorizes the issuance of \$500,000.00 serial bonds of said Town pursuant to Local Finance Law of New York to finance the construction of a new five bay Town Highway garage with ancillary facilities for the Town Highway Department; construction of a salt shed; acquisition of 4.67 acres for said highway garage and salt shed; and incidental expenses in connection therewith, and that the maximum cost of said building, as estimated by the Town Board, is \$600,000.00, and that such cost shall be financed by the issuance of such serial bonds and the remaining \$100,000.00 will come from the Town's general reserve fund, and that the maturity of such obligation will be in excess of five years?

2. Such special election shall be held at the Town of Brighton Town Hall in said Town and the polls for said election shall open at the hour of 8 o'clock in the morning and shall close at the hour of 8 o'clock in the evening. The vote upon such proposition shall be taken by ballot in the manner provided by law.
3. The Town Clerk is hereby authorized and directed to give notice of said special election in the manner provided by law and the cause suitable ballots to be prepared for use at said election. The Town Clerk shall also select from the list of election inspectors and ballot clerks previously designated by the Town Board to act as election inspectors and ballot clerks for this election.

The question of the adoption of the forgoing resolution was duly put to a vote on roll call, which resulted as follows:

**Roll Call Vote:**

Supervisor Robert Tebbutt	Aye
Council Members: Alicia Bodmer	Aye
Linda Dobson	Aye
John Quenell	Aye
Steve Tucker	Aye

**Resolution #71 declared duly adopted**

7. **Highway Garage Roof Repair:** Due to the referendum vote on the Bond Issue for the Highway Garage, the construction will be delayed until the next building season, so the roof on the current garage needs to be repaired. Discussion was held on why the Town Highway Department couldn't do the work on the garage roof themselves. Supervisor Robert Tebbutt will ask Don Oliver that question.

**RESOLUTION #72**

**AUTHORIZATION TO REQUEST BIDS FOR REPAIRING THE ROOF OF THE GARAGE**

**Motion made** by Supervisor Robert Tebbutt **to authorize Superintendent of Highways Don Oliver to request bids for repairing the Highway Garage roof**, second by Linda Dobson, Aye 5

**Roll Call Vote:**

Supervisor Robert Tebbutt	Aye
Council Members: Alicia Bodmer	Aye
Linda Dobson	Aye
John Quenell	Aye
Steve Tucker	Aye

**Resolution #72 declared duly adopted**

8. **Letter from the Brighton Architectural Heritage Committee:** Received a letter to be read into the record:

“This is just to thank you and the Town Board for your support of Brighton History Day. The Brighton Architectural Heritage Committee is very grateful for the support of our town government and hope that our efforts for our History Day live up to this support.

In the 3 days of this activity, two preview days and the actual day on Sunday, we had a total of 153 sign in the guest book - probably a few more actually came. We think this was a good attendance. Most comments were very favorable - in fact none were negative (at least that we heard!) Mary Ellen Salls out did herself this year with 20 new exhibits, most about local families. Some of the relatives who came were in tears at such recognition. George and Dora Fountain seemed very pleased at the recognition given them as Brighton’s eldest citizens.

Again, thanks to the Town for the support and confidence in us. We couldn’t do it without you!  
Sincerely, Pat and Tom Willis”

**OLD BUSINESS**

1. **CEO Contract:** The cost of the CEO is increasing and the revenue is decreasing. The current CEO is doing a good job with no complaints, but the cost is very high to maintain a contract with the Town of Santa Clara. The contract will be renewed for 1 year so it can be further looked at for cost analysis.

**RESOLUTION #73**

**AUTHORIZATION TO RENEW THE CEO CONTRACT FOR 1 YEAR**

**Motion made** by Alicia Bodmer **to renew the Code Enforcement Officer Contract with the Town of Santa Clara for 1 year from January 1 to December 31, 2004**, second by Robert Tebbutt, Aye 5

**Roll Call Vote:**

Supervisor Robert Tebbutt	Aye
Council Members: Alicia Bodmer	Aye
Linda Dobson	Aye
John Quenell	Aye
Steve Tucker	Aye

**Resolution #73 declared duly adopted**

2. **Saranac Lake Area Youth Program:** Contract was signed by Deputy Supervisor Alicia Bodmer on July 9, 2003, with Supervisor Robert Tebbutt’s approval. Copies were provided to Board members.

**RESOLUTION #74**

**AUTHORIZATION TO APPROVE THE SL AREA YOUTH PROGRAM CONTRACT**

**Motion made** by John Quenell **to approve the Saranac Lake Area Youth Program Contract with the Village of Saranac Lake, and Towns of Harriestown and North Elba, and the Saranac Lake Central School District for one year from April 1, 2003 to March 31, 2004, for the purpose of providing recreational activities for all of the youths residing in the Towns and the Village pursuant to and in accordance with Executive Law Article 19-A**, second by Alicia Bodmer, Aye 5

**Roll Call Vote:**

Supervisor Robert Tebbutt	Aye
Council Members: Alicia Bodmer	Aye
Linda Dobson	Aye
John Quenell	Aye
Steve Tucker	Aye

**Resolution #74 declared duly adopted**

3. **Adelphia Cable Contract:** Bankruptcy proceedings are still in process. The FCC gave an extension of 6 more months for franchise contracts until December 28, 2003

4. **Computers For Town Employees:** Alicia Bodmer looked into costs for the purchase of computers for the Bookkeeper and Tax Collector. The State Contract is for Dell brand and the price for laptops is between \$1000 and \$1500. The amount of \$1,000 each was approved in the budget for both the Tax Collector and Bookkeeper. The Bookkeeper needs a laptop also to take to training and for mobility. The Town has no control over the personal computers being used by these two positions at this time. The employees need to be able to move the computers to other places. John Quenell asked if a lease agreement was looked into and Supervisor Robert Tebbutt asked for the issue to be put on hold until this could be looked into further.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**1. HUD MORTGAGE DISCHARGE:**

**RESOLUTION #75**

**AUTHORIZATION TO DISCHARGE MORTGAGE FOR HUD PROJECT BRI 94-27**

**Motion made by John Quenell to authorizes Supervisor Robert Tebbutt to discharge a mortgage for HUD project BRI 94-27 for \$4,100 recorded in the Office of the Clerk of the County of Franklin, New York in Liber 648 of Mortgages at page 290 on the 12<sup>th</sup> day of November, 1999, second by Linda Dobson, Aye 5**

**Roll Call Vote:**

Supervisor Robert Tebbutt	Aye
Council Members: Alicia Bodmer	Aye
Linda Dobson	Aye
John Quenell	Aye
Steve Tucker	Aye

**Resolution #75 declared duly adopted.**

**2. Rainbow Lake Association Request:** See Citizens Comments on Page 1, Para 1. Frank Carl

**REPORTS**

1. **COURT (Santagate):** There were 57 cases disposed and \$3,715 was sent to the State Comptroller's Office for July
2. **HIGHWAY COMMITTEE (Quenell/Oliver):**
  - a. Cleaned beaver dams from culverts
  - b. Mowed roadsides
  - c. Prepared vehicles for blacktopping operations
  - d. Blacktopped one mile of Keese's Mills Road
  - e. Mowed grass on the landfill
  - f. Cleaned buildup on shoulder of Split Rock Road
  - g. Ordered firewood for 2003-2004 winter
  - h. Expecting new loader about August 25
  - i. Inspected garage building for needed repairs: Roof repairs required on back bay and break room
  - j. Received citizen inquiry about the placing of a road identification sign at the Rainbow Lake end of the Jones Pond Road. Referred to County Highway Superintendent Jeff Smith, who said that with the new county 911 service they are getting away from using road names and prefer to call them by their route names (County Route 31). He said that their current practice is to not have signs at the corners of county roads, but to just have the county road signs on the roads about 100 yards down (which they currently do have on Jones Pond Road). However, they are starting to move toward better signage at intersections to make roads easier to find. He is going to put in a work order to have a sign placed closer to the intersection.
3. **INSURANCE/INVESTMENTS (Quenell/Dobson):** Nothing to report for Insurance. Balances as of August 4, 2003, for CLASS accounts are \$260,975 General and \$171,412 for Highway. Interest rate is .82%
4. **ASSESSOR (Tichenor): No Report**
5. **TAX COLLECTOR (McKernan):** Since the last board meeting received 14 phone calls regarding tax matters and sent 6 faxes. Also received 2 taxpayers at home regarding tax affairs. Received and balanced the July bank statement on August 12. The balance for the tax collector's bank account now stands at zero.
6. **ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICER (Crary):** Issued 2 tickets, matter turned over to Judge Santagate
7. **CODE ENFORCEMENT OFFICER (Lagree):**
  - a. Issued 20 building permits for 2003, four are completed
  - b. Ten building permits from 2002 are completed and 17 are outstanding, seven were renewed
  - c. One building permit from 2001 is complete, 13 are outstanding, seven were renewed
8. **CEMETERY (Dobson):**
  - a. Met with Peg Tallant of the NYS Department of Transportation on July 16 at the cemetery. Her purpose was to discuss the state's purchase of a small triangle of land just down the road from the cemetery access, approximately 365 square feet, needed by them for drainage purposes when the road is redone next year. She also needed to know if there was any power or water in the cemetery premises. She stated all necessary paperwork would be provided by the State, complete with direction, to the Supervisor.
  - b. One request for a reserved plot was honored
9. **PARKS AND RECREATION (Tucker):**
  - a. Received a quote for putting electric to the pavilion, total cost to install would be \$2,300. This seems too high to put a line to the pavilion and to light a Christmas Tree
  - b. Painting was not finished due to the rain

10. **HISTORIAN (Willis):** Letter was read previously for Brighton History Day, nothing received on the nomination to the Federal Register for the Town Hall

11. **IRS SECTION 125 ADMINISTRATOR (Willis): Nothing to Report**

**CITIZENS COMMENTS:**

**Wilhelmina Sheridan-Wardner Road:** Would like to know if any of the recommendations given to the board by the Citizens Committee for the Town Garage Project were considered or incorporated into the changed plan for the Highway Garage? Are the plans laid in stone? Has Don Oliver seen the recommendations and what did he think about them?

**Supervisor Robert Tebbutt** said that Don Oliver has been working for the Highway Department for 20 years. He has a lot of experience with what the Highway needs and put a lot of time into the plans. Went over plans with Don Oliver and passed them on to the engineer. The engineer made up plans for a building based on the recommendations of the elected Highway Superintendent. Cannot question Don's recommendations. Went over the Citizens Committee's recommendations and Don thought moving the air compressor was a great idea. He did not recommend any of the other ideas be done. Don is not here to address this question and this is his building not ours.

**Wilhelmina Sheridan:** What about the slope of the roof and the storage of archival records already stored in the Highway Garage?

**Supervisor Robert Tebbutt** thought the records were going to be stored in the Town Hall based on the discussion with the Historical Architectural Engineer (Randy Crawford).

**Kevan Moss-McColloms:** The architect said at that meeting that the records should be stored off site and if a new building was being built the records storage should be built into that building because it was cheaper than trying to renovate an old building for storage space.

**Nik Santagate-McColloms:** Also attended the meeting with the Supervisor and John Quenell and the architect said records should be stored off site. Don Oliver has been a great Superintendent of Highways and is highly respected. The Town Clerk is also an elected official and asked two years ago that when a new town garage was built not to forget a records storage area like what is already in the old garage. The storage is for Court Records as well. The Court is producing much more paperwork than before. The Town Clerk's recommendations should also be considered along with the Superintendent of Highway's recommendations.

**Wilhelmina Sheridan:** Why does the break room need to be so large for only 4 people?

**Debbie McBride-Keese Mills Road:** Has been watching this develop from afar. Received a letter in April and it said if I have any questions to call the Supervisor. I had no questions at that time. In July received a letter by mail dated July 11, 2003, on that date. It sounded like someone stayed up all night to write the letter and get it in the mail because it addressed issues discussed at the board meeting on July 10. It appears this letter was written before the meeting was held. It sounds like you are taking the word of one man (Highway Superintendent) to decide on the building, you have sent out for bids and refused those bids, and you sent out for bids again and refused them tonight. This doesn't sound like good business from a town standpoint. Next year when you send out for bids again what are the bidders going to do, are you going to get any bids? What is going to be on the ballot? Is it going to be the same plan? The recommendations were presented before the July 10 meeting, but the plans do not include any of the recommendations. Were the plans approved at the July 10 meeting and are they or the money being voted on October 7 (in the Special Election)? It seems the citizens are also putting a lot of effort into the recommendations and it seems that only one or two people are having all the input into the plans. It seems that a committee should be put together of citizens and board members to discuss the plans.

**John Quenell:** Only the money is on the ballot.

**Supervisor Robert Tebbutt:** The bidding was all done according to the law. The people bidding understood that. They understood it was subject to permissive referendum. This is the way these things go.

**Alicia Bodmer:** The bids could not be accepted on advice of council and the engineer.

**Supervisor Robert Tebbutt:** The fact that there is a petition for referendum vote makes it impossible to start building a garage this year. This gives us all winter long to look at this carefully and come up with the very best garage for everybody. I would like to appoint a committee to look at this issue.

**Wilhelmina Sheridan:** The board has already received recommendations from the Citizens Committee.

**Supervisor Robert Tebbutt:** The Citizens Committee was set up specifically to look at this building (Town Hall). There was never any charge to look at the Town Garage. The minutes of the board meeting reflect this.

**Wilhelmina Sheridan:** At the first meeting of the Citizens Committee the Highway Garage Project was discussed and added as a topic of discussion because the first plans for the new garage incorporated the offices at the Town Hall and this is reflected in the minutes of the first meeting and is in all the minutes of

the meetings. Supervisor Robert Tebbutt was at the first meeting when the committee set the agenda and he never challenged it.

**Supervisor Robert Tebbutt:** The Committee was not charged with discussion of the Town Garage Project. Another committee can be set up to discuss the Town Garage Project.

**Debbie McBride:** Who is responsible to make sure more than one person looks at the plans?

**Alicia Bodmer:** A committee can be set up to advise the board on the plans.

**Lydia Wright-Keese Mills Road:** On May 8 the Board formed the Citizens Committee. The Town Offices were still part of the Highway Garage plans at that time; they were not a separate issue. This is when the citizens approached the Board and said the Town Offices should stay in the Town Hall. At that time the Offices were going to be part of the Highway Garage Project and couldn't be removed.

**Supervisor Robert Tebbutt:** The board listened to the citizens and removed the offices from the Town Garage Project then appointed the Citizens Committee to look at the Town Hall and how it could be better utilized.

**Lydia Wright:** The offices were still part of the Garage Project in June.

**Supervisor Robert Tebbutt:** The Highway Garage was not a part of the Committee's charge. Need to move on and we have all winter to look at the plans for a new garage.

**David Knapp-Rainbow Lake Road:** Sat during the first bid opening and heard the engineer tell the board the bids should go out during the winter so the work can start on April 1. The vote is now to see if you have the funding, usually you have the funding before you start the process of building. Now you have a good idea of the cost but labor should be cheaper if the building starts in the spring. When you accelerate a contractor to finish a job before winter the costs are higher, especially with over time. You need to be ready to start construction as soon as the ground is free of frost.

**Peter Martin-Rainbow Lake Road:** After the vote, what if the bids are over \$500,000 what is the Town going to do for the extra funding? Is there a backup plan? Has the board gone directly to the building companies for input or has the engineer done all the work?

**Supervisor Robert Tebbutt:** We would have to pass a resolution for the extra funds. It isn't as simple as going to the building companies, they have to meet state code and it's a complex process. There is no plan cast in stone. Whatever the date is to go out for bids again, would like a committee to look at all the options before the bid goes out again.

**Kevan Moss:** Is the \$10,074 for employee compensation due in November for just the highway employees?

**John Quenell:** This is retirement of all the town employees, not just for Highway employees

**Kevan Moss:** Do we really need a highway department? We have 18 miles of road; the Highway is 50% of the budget. Could the services be contracted out?

**Alicia Bodmer:** Did you hear what they said about the County and what it takes to get them to put up signs on their roads? We have community control over the work the Town Highway Department does.

**Kevan Moss:** How much does it cost per mile? Most of the taxpayers do not benefit from the Town Highway Department.

**John Quenell:** Researched the cost with the State several months ago at the beginning of the Highway Garage Project; it costs \$15,000 per mile in the Town of Brighton. This is the average cost in the State. There is only one instance where a Town contracts with someone else to do the work and it's a very small town. If this was a good idea there should be more towns doing it. The official number of town road miles is 21.

**Alicia Bodmer:** We also get funds from the county to plow their roads.

**Nik Santagate:** Maybe this is an issue the committee should look into.

**Supervisor Robert Tebbutt:** Looked at this issue and did a cost analysis. Heard that the Town of Franklin has 100 miles of road and they take as much time to plow all those roads as it takes the Town of Brighton to plow its roads. The "time out-of-the-barn" was the same because of the dead ends and turn-a-rounds the Brighton crew has to make. What does it cost to plow a "lane mile"? We are in the middle of the cost not high or low.

**Kevan Moss:** Farmers have to plow their roads to get out and this is not unusual in this area. Would like to know what the cost would be to have someone plow the road on contract. McColloms Road is an example of a road that could be done by contract.

**Rouse Fountain-State Route 86:** Was the \$15,000 accounting for just the expenses for the year or did it take into consideration the cost over time for depreciation and capital expenses?

**John Quenell:** Don't remember what costs were looked at, may have just been the budget.

**Supervisor Robert Tebbutt:** We have a perceived need for a new highway garage. A recommendation was made and people are unhappy with that recommendation. We have the ability to pay for a \$500,000 project without an outrageous tax increase but wouldn't want to go much higher than that. We have a permissive referendum coming up giving people the opportunity to exercise our great system of democracy. If people don't want to spend \$500,000 they can vote against it. If you vote for it, then we will go ahead and proceed with putting together a committee that is made up of board members, concerned citizens, highway department employees, the engineer, and any other appropriately involved person. We will come up with a plan and go out for bids and build a building that makes everyone happy.

**Nik Santagate:** Agree with what you just said but not comfortable with knowing it took a group of people from the public to stop the project. Where does the board stand with the referendum? If the petition had not been filed, was the board going to go ahead and award the bid and not listen to the suggestions. The whole process was not that great and I'm disappointed that it took the town's people to file a petition to slow this thing down.

**Supervisor Robert Tebbutt:** I'm sure you represent a group of people that feel that way; everyone is entitled to an opinion, that's why we have petitions and referendums. I personally have spent hundreds of hours on this project; I have driven a thousand miles to visit garages and talked to highway superintendents all over the North County. I have consistently been given the opinion that this plan is a good one. It sounds like you are saying there was no effort put into this project.

**Nik Santagate:** Did not mean to insinuate that and if that is what you heard that is not what I meant to say. I think there was tremendous amounts of time put into this project, I just think there is a voice out there calling out that has not been listened to. It is wonderful to visit all the other garages but there is a voice right here that has been calling out and I think this is reflected in the minutes.

**Wilhelmina Sheridan:** On the other side of this, the committee put in a lot of time and effort and it seems the recommendations were ignored.

**Supervisor Robert Tebbutt:** I can guarantee that the recommendations were not ignored.

**Alicia Bodmer:** May be some of the citizens should go look at other town garages and see what the highway department needs to have to get their job done.

**Marie-Amiee Fisk-State Route 86:** What about moving the Food Pantry closer to the bathroom. There is a safety hazard for elderly people to have cross the bays to get to the bathroom. Unless you are saying you don't want the Food Pantry in the garage at all.

**Supervisor Robert Tebbutt:** You make a good point, but this is not the time to get into that specific a detail. We will relook at the plan and this is what the committee will do.

**Lydia Wright:** This was one of the recommendations made by the Citizens Committee. You have just had it validated. The recommendation was to isolated the food pantry from the garage itself and put it near the bathroom. This was one of the suggestions and it was completely blown off.

**Supervisor Robert Tebbutt:** This suggestion was not blown off and the committee will have to look at this.

**Tom Willis-Garondah Road:** What if the \$500,000 Bond issue is voted down where is the Town then? What will the board do then?

**Supervisor Robert Tebbutt** said he had thought about this but did not know what the board would do

**Alicia Bodmer** said it would depend on what the insurance company would say.

**Rouse Fountain:** Is it mandatory to build the salt shed?

**Supervisor Robert Tebbutt:** Yes the salt shed is mandatory but not right away, there might be some grant funding available for building the salt shed next year.

**Nik Santagate:** Would like to answer Tom Willis's question with this thought: Would like to have heard the board say if the bond is voted down they will work hard to find out why the bond was voted down and try to correct that problem.

**Supervisor Robert Tebbutt:** That goes without saying, the board would find out why

**Kevan Moss:** The new committee should have a plan out to the public before the vote, if people feel the building meets their concerns they will vote for the funding. Most people are for a garage just not this plan. If you have nothing to show them before the vote, they will defeat it.



**Peter Martin:** The committee should be appointed by the next meeting, and add to the charge of the committee that if the bond is voted down to look at what to do with the old building (repairs, etc.). If you appoint the committee after the vote you lose a month of work.

**Wilhelmina Sheridan:** When will the committee be formed?

Discussion was held on whom the committee members would be and when to appoint the members.

**Peter Martin:** Would like to see the plans explained the way the Department of Transportation explained the new road project. Everyone had the opportunity to see the whole plan and give comments.

**Dave Knapp:** How will people be notified of the Special Election, who is eligible to vote, and who gets the letters mailed by the Town? Did not receive the letter sent to the residents.

**John Quenell:** Letters were sent to registered voters of the Town and to lake associations' members.

**Supervisor Robert Tebbutt:** There is also a website for the public. A public notice will be published in the newspaper.

**Gould Hoyt-Keese Mills Road:** Channel 22 could also be used to get the information out; it's a community service station. I'm skittish about the alternatives on the old garage to patch it up. If that is the alternative people will pass up the old garage.

**Peter Martin:** The committee needs to be ready to look at the alternative if the vote doesn't pass

**Supervisor Robert Tebbutt** said 2 board members and 2 members from the Highway Department would be on the committee as well as 4 recommended from the Citizens Committee and any other appropriate member. The engineer will have to be paid if he's on the committee.

**John Quenell:** Would advise against spending any incremental money on the engineer until the vote is held. The contract for the engineer went out to bid and has already been amended once when the first bids were rejected.

**Linda Dobson:** Without the engineer the committee will have an even number of people and should probably be an odd number.

**Peter Martin:** Would like to know when the board approved the appraisal of the ALPO building. Can only find where it says the appraisal was done in the minutes, but not when. Don't need an answer to this right now but would like an answer at the next meeting. Supervisor Robert Tebbutt said he would look into this issue.

**RESOLUTION #76**

**AUTHORIZATION TO PAY VOUCHERS**

**Motion made by Linda Dobson to authorize the Supervisor to pay the vouchers as listed on the Abstracts as follows:**

**GENERAL FUND: Abstract #9 for Voucher #205 through and including #225 in the amount of \$6,765.59 and TRUST & AGENCY Funds for \$723.90**

**HIGHWAY FUND: Abstract #9 for Voucher #79 through and including #85 in the amount of \$3,575.02**

**STREET LIGHTING FUND: Abstract #8 for Voucher #8 in the amount of \$46.42**

**CAPITAL PROJECT HIGHWAY GARAGE: Abstract #7 for Voucher #15 through and including #17 in the amount of \$2,409.86**

Second by John Quenell, Aye 5

**Roll Call Vote:**

Supervisor Robert Tebbutt	Aye
Council Members: Alicia Bodmer	Aye
Linda Dobson	Aye
John Quenell	Aye
Steve Tucker	Aye

**Resolution #76 declared duly adopted.**

**HIGHWAY GARAGE PROJECT COMMITTEE:** Supervisor Robert Tebbutt asked for 2 board members to be on the committee for the Highway Garage Project. Steve Tucker and John Quenell will be the only board members on the board for sure in January 2004. Alicia Bodmer and Linda Dobson will not be on the board and Robert Tebbutt is up for election. John Quenell declined being on the committee; he likes the plan that the bids were just rejected on.

**Motion made by Linda Dobson to Adjourn the Regular Board Meeting at 9:50 p.m.,** second by Alicia Bodmer, Aye 5

Respectfully submitted,

Elaine W. Sater  
Brighton Town Clerk