

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

October 12, 2006

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The Regular Town Board Meeting of the Town of Brighton was held on Thursday, October 12, 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 7:00 p.m.

## PLEDGE TO THE FLAG

## ROLL CALL OF OFFICERS

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

**ABSENT:** Council Member Sheila Delarm

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Mary Ellen Salls - Historian, Nik Santagate - Justice, Don Oliver - Superintendent of Highways, Amber McKernan - Tax Collector, and Elaine Sater - Town Clerk

**RESIDENTS:** There were several residents present

**GUESTS:** Gordy Crossman, Franklin County Legislature

## APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- Regular Meeting September 14, 2006

**Motion made** by David Knapp, **second** by Steve Tucker, **to accept the minutes of the Regular Town Board meeting held on Thursday, September 14, 2006, as written.**

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

- Special Meeting September 18, 2006

**Motion made** by David Knapp, **second** by Lydia Wright, **to accept the minutes of the Special Town Board meeting held on Monday, September 18, 2006, as written.**

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

## TOWN CLERK'S REPORT

- **Total Revenue to Supervisor as of September 30, 2006 was \$ 194.62**

8 Sport License

5 Dog Licenses: 4 Renewals, 1 Pure Bred

2 Building Permit (#06-27 and 28)

14 Copier use for FOIL Requests

1. Received notification, dated September 1 and 8, from Franklin County Supreme Court, Re: Two properties in the Town (Tax Map #s: 380-1-28 and 394-2-36.2) are up for sale due to bank foreclosure.
2. Received notice from Adirondack Leadership Expeditions, Re: Open House Saturday, October 14, 2006, from 11 am to 2 pm, to meet the staff and tour the facilities in Onchiota.
3. Sent Food Pantry Contract to St. Paul's Church for signing, received up-to-date Certificate of Insurance., contract not returned as of this date.
4. Received Tentative Budget for 2007 on October 3 and distributed to Board Members. Posted notice of Special Meetings for review of Tentative Budget on Thursdays October 19 and 26, 2006, at 6 p.m.
5. Town Clerk's Office will be closed on Tuesday, October 17, 2006 for Local Government Day in Potsdam.
6. TOWN HALL REQUESTS: Sunday, Sept 24: Junior Girl Scouts - 6:30 to 8:00 p.m.; Saturday, Nov 18: Brighton Food Co-op - 8 am to 12 noon
7. TOWN PARK REQUESTS: None
8. RECORDS MANAGEMENT: Will be ordering three locking lateral file cabinets to replace old file cabinets that do not lock. Requesting a fire proof cabinet for Vital Records in the 2007 budget.

## SUPERVISOR'S CORRESPONDENCE/FINANCIAL REPORT

### 1. FINANCIAL REPORT:

- a. The Financial Report as of September 30, 2006, was distributed to Board Members. CLASS Investment balances: GENERAL \$284,530.94 and HIGHWAY \$82,105.47. Interest income for September was \$1,699.82; interest

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rate is at about 5%.

b. 2006 Budget Amendment:

**HIGHWAY FUND 2006 BUDGET AMENDMENT #2**

**Motion made** by Supervisor Peter Martin, **second** by David Knapp, **to Wit:**

**RESOLVED, that the following amount be and the same hereby is appropriated:**

**\$2,458.00 from the Unexpended Balance of the Highway Fund**

**as follows:**

**\$2,458.00 to Account No. DA5112.2 Capital Outlay (to cover additional paving expenses)**

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

**HIGHWAY FUND 2006 BUDGET AMENDMENT #2 declared duly adopted.**

**2. OTHER:**

- a. Received a letter, no date, from several lake associations, Re: Greater transparency and fairness in the tax assessment process within the towns. Received a letter, dated September 22, 2006, from the Coalition of Tri-Lakes Associations, Re: Requesting notification of the Board meeting when the topic of the tax assessment process is addressed. This issue is tabled until the Coalition of Tri-Lakes Associations is notified of a meeting. The Assessor also sent a letter, no date, addressing this issue. The Assessor explained his process to the Town Board in May 2006.
- b. Asked Corcraft, Division of Industries, NYS Department of Correctional Services, to inspect the Town Hall and submit a quote for Asbestos Abatement of the floor tiles. The cost is \$8,058 for removal except for the air monitoring. The process should take 8 days. The walls will have to be removed to get to all the tiles.
- c. Received a letter, no date, from Robert Byno, Re: Increasing the Veterans Exemption to match Harrietstown. The Town already has a local law (#1-2005) setting the veteran's exemptions higher than Harrietstown.

***DEPARTMENT REPORTS***

**1. ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICER (Andy Crary): No Report**

**2. ASSESSOR (Doug Tichenor): No report**

**3. CODE ENFORCEMENT OFFICER (Ed Lagree) Report given to Board before meeting**

- a. Issued 31 Building Permits for 2006, 8 Building Permits are completed
- b. 22 Building Permits are completed, 1 permit has been closed, 19 permits are still open, 5 have been renewed, from 2005
- c. 3 Building Permits completed, 9 permits are still open, 8 have been renewed, from 2004
- d. 1 Building Permit is completed, 1 permit closed, and 4 permits are still open, 3 have been renewed, from 2003
- e. 1 Building Permit is still open from 2002

**4. TAX COLLECTOR (Amber McKernan)**

- a. Received several calls for school tax information
- b. Received notification of the result of an assessment hearing from the County Clerk's office, will be kept informed as to whether or not further action is necessary.
- c. Prepared budget request for 2007 tax collection season.
- d. Inventoried supplies and will be ordering some in the next few weeks.
- e. Presented 2006 books for audit before this meeting.
- f. Records from the 2006 tax season have been turned over to the Records Manager.

**5. TOWN JUSTICE (Nik Santagate)**

Disposed of 36 cases, gave a check to the Supervisor in the amount of \$3,095. This check is \$450 shorter than collected due to a check returned for Non Sufficient Funds (NFS) during August. The person has been notified.

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**6. HISTORIAN (Mary Ellen Salls):**

Received phone calls from people who have family connections to Brighton. The Betters used to live in Otisville and ran a store, they had several children and did laundry for people. The Butlers lived where the Keese Mills school house is located and the Simpsons sent a picture of the 1<sup>st</sup> St. John's in the Wilderness Church. The Russells asked about being buried in the St John's Cemetery. It is a private cemetery so they have to ask the Stoddards.

**Supervisor Peter Martin** said during an audit at Camp Gabriels some inspectors saw pictures of the old buildings and would like to come back to visit on History Day.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**1. HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT**

- a. David Knapp read the report from Superintendent of Highways Don Oliver
  - i. Shoulder work on Keese Mills Road using Franklin County shoulder spreader
  - ii. Mowed lawn at Town Hall
  - iii. Raked Tebbutt Road, Clark Wardner Road and Hoffman Road
  - iv. Rented man lifts to work on the Salt Shed roof
  - v. Screened winter road sand
  - vi. Getting winter equipment ready

**Lydia Wright** noted that the equipment stored on Paul Smith's College land behind the Town Hall was removed.

- vii. Surplus equipment in old garage is ready to be put out to bid.

**RESOLUTION #79**

**AUTHORIZATION TO REQUEST BIDS FOR SURPLUS EQUIPMENT**

**Motion** by David Knapp, **Second** by Steve Tucker, **To Wit:**

**RESOLVED**, that the Superintendent of Highways, Don Oliver, be authorised to place an advertisement for bids in the Adirondack Daily Enterprise for the following surplus equipment: exhaust fan, hot air furnace, two overhead doors with tracks and electric openers, 5 windows, 17 fluorescent light fixtures, and two doors.

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

**RESOLUTION #79** declared duly adopted.

**b. OTHER:**

- i. **Hoffman Road Snowplow Turn-Around:** Received a letter from the Attorney for the Town, a License Agreement was sent for approval but Exhibit A is missing and there are questions concerning the maintenance of the turnaround and removing the parcel from the assessment role. Supervisor Peter Martin will contact the Attorney for further information.
- ii. **Bridge on White Pine Road:** Supervisor Peter Martin said the testing of the hydraulics needs to be done. He will contact whoever is working on the County Road 31 bridge to see who did that work.
- iii. **Vosburgh Road:** A resident appeared before the Board last month asking for speed limit signs on the newly paved road. The request has to go to the county for a survey and approval. The County has to send the request on to the State for final approval.

**RESOLUTION #80**

**AUTHORIZATION TO REQUEST A MAXIMUM SPEED ZONE ON THE VOSBURGH ROAD**

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

**WHEREAS**, Richard McCormick, a resident on the Vosburgh Road in the Town of Brighton appeared before the Board on September 14, 2006, to request a speed zone be set on the Vosburgh Road, and

**WHEREAS**, the Vosburgh Road was paved in August 2006,

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Town of Brighton Board requests a maximum speed limit be set on the Vosburgh Road from the intersection of the Tebbutt and Vosburgh Road to the end of the Vosburgh Road in pursuant to Section 1622.1 of the Vehicle and Traffic Law.

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

**RESOLUTION #80** declared duly adopted.

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**2. PARK & RECREATION - Steve Tucker and Lydia Wright**

- a. Dan Spencer is getting the park ready for winter
- b. **Saranac Lake Area Youth Program (SLAYP):** The meeting was rescheduled for this week.
- c. **Lease of Ball Fields at Park: Supervisor Peter Martin** said according to Steve McFarland, the attorney for Paul Smith's College is preparing a lease for the Town. The Board of Directors will discuss the transfer of the land at a later date.

**3. INSURANCE - Sheila Delarm and Lydia Wright**

No further information has been received on the Hogansburg Fire Department Incident

**4. INVESTMENTS - Sheila Delarm and Lydia Wright**

**CLASS Accounts** continue to do well and collect about 5% interest.

**5. CEMETERY - Steve Tucker and David Knapp:**

- a. **Survey of Mountain View Cemetery Section 4:** Stacy Allott has not yet completed this project
- b. **Request for Plots:** Received two requests for plots, will contact people to determine what area they want

**6. TOWN BUILDINGS - Steve Tucker and David Knapp:**

- a. **Town Hall Restoration Project:** Reviewed plans and specification book with Lydia Wright; need to make some minor changes before it goes out to bid. Will contact Crawford and Stearns with the information.
- b. **Town Hall:** Installed a new rail on the front steps, repaired some of the steps.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**1. FOOD PANTRY: Supervisor Peter Martin** asked if the revised contract had been returned. No one had received it yet.

**2. RESCUE SERVICES CONTRACT: Supervisor Peter Martin** attended a meeting in Harrietstown on Tuesday, October 10, to discuss the rescue contract. Ron Keough, council member from the Harrietstown Board has sent a letter to the Franklin County Treasurer requesting information pertaining to the State owned land in the towns that contract with the village of Saranac Lake for Fire and/or Rescue Services which includes the Town of Brighton. The group did not go along with the idea of using cost per call to determine share of expenses, they would rather use the assessed value of the towns. Another meeting will be scheduled for discussion.

**3. DISASTER PLAN: Supervisor Peter Martin** said the meeting on September 18 was very productive. The Coroner Ron Keough asked to be included in the Plan in case of a Mass Casualty. The State Police were impressed with the plan. They had some good suggestions for the plan such as: use titles not names in the general plan, but be specific in attachments since they are easier to change. Attendance was good, most of the organizations that were invited attended with only a few missing. When information that was requested is received the plan will be finalized.

**4. TIME WARNER CABLE: Supervisor Peter Martin** contacted Al Sutphen in Saranac Lake, Time Warner Cable is conducting a survey of users and potential users in the Town. If the people in McColloms are interested in cable they should let Time Warner know. They plan to offer more services in the future.

**5. EAGLE SCOUT PROJECT - Bridge Repair:** Supervisor Peter Martin met with the NY Department of Transportation (DOT) engineer who approves the permits for working in the Right of Way (ROW). There is a dam under the bridge. The dam can't be disturbed without Adirondack Park Agency (APA) approval. The bridge cannot be extended without Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) approval. The Town would be responsible for obtaining the DOT permit and cover the liability of the individual working on the dam. The only thing the engineer could see that could be replaced was the rails. The Code Enforcement Officer would have to approve a permit to allow the rails to be replaced.

**6. BUDGET 2007 -** Copies were distributed to the Board, the meetings are on October 19 and 26 at 6 pm to discuss

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it further.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

- 1. ELECTRICAL SERVICE AT TOWN HALL:** Supervisor Peter Martin made a request for quotes for installing a generator transfer switch and outlet for 7500 Watt generator at the Town Hall. A second quote is needed due to the cost being over \$1000.
- 2. FRANKLIN COUNTY LEGISLATURE GORDY CROSSMAN:**
  - a. County 2007 Tentative Budget:** A decrease in 14.18% is expected, the 1% sales tax has helped to reduce the tax levy. Budget hearing will be held in Saranac Lake at the Town Hall on October 25 at 4 p.m. Union negotiations are still not completed.
  - b. Chargeback for Elections Expenses:** The Town 's share is \$15,235.57 using property assessments to determine cost. Legislatures are proposing the County take over all the cost and use the sales tax to pay for it. Steve Burpoe proposed the County use the number of registered voters to determine the cost to the Town. This would be \$5,133.70 based on 572 registered voters in the Town. The option that has the best chance of being passed is what he will support.

**Supervisor Peter Martin** asked if more paving funds could be obtained for County Road 60.

**Legislature Crossman** said he would discuss this with Jeff Smith at the County Highway Department

**CITIZENS' COMMENTS :**

- **Copy of Budget:** A person asked for a copy of the budget.

It can be obtained from the Town Clerk.

- **Vosburgh Road Speed Limit:** A person asked if Vosburgh Road had a posted speed limit now.

The maximum speed is 55 mph by law unless a sign is posted stating otherwise. The road is not safe for 55 mph

- **Bell at Town Garage:** A person said the bell from the Methodist/Episcopal Church should be put in some kind of enclosure so it can be displayed instead of stored in the garage

- **Town Hall Project:** A person asked if the funding from Senator Little would be lost if it is not spent this year.

As soon as Crawford and Stearns has their questions answered the bid packages will be ready to go out. This is a good time of year to request bids. An update from the Fund Raising Committee is needed. The funding is still available and Supervisor Martin has been speaking with the State Assembly office to obtain funding from them.

**There were no further Citizens' Comments**

**AUDIT OF VOUCHERS**

**Motion to Audit the Vouchers** made by Supervisor Peter Martin, **Second** by Lydia Wright, **Aye 4, Nay 0, Absent 1**

**RESOLUTION #81**

**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:  
**PREPAID: Abstract #9 for Voucher #9A through and including #9C for General Funds in the amount of \$650.40 and Voucher #9C for Street Lighting Funds in the amount of \$59.21.**

**GENERAL FUND: Abstract #10 for Voucher #218 through and including #239 for funds in the amount of \$9,074.65.**

**HIGHWAY FUND: Abstract #10 for Voucher #88 through and including #100 for funds in the amount of \$12,431.94**

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

**RESOLUTION #81 DECLARED DULY ADOPTED.**

**ADJOURNMENT**

**Motion to Adjourn at 9:15 p.m. made by Lydia Wright, second by David Knapp, Aye 4, Nay 0, Absent 1 (Delarm)**

Respectfully Submitted,

Elaine Sater  
Brighton Town Clerk