

The Special Meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Brighton was held on Monday, January 22, 2007 at 5:30 p.m. at the Brighton Town Hall, Paul Smiths, NY, with the following:

CALL TO ORDER: Supervisor Peter Martin called the meeting to order at 5:45 p.m.
The “Pledge to the Flag” was recited

ROLL CALL OF OFFICERS:

PRESENT: Supervisor Peter Martin

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

ABSENT: None

OTHERS PRESENT: Elaine Sater - Town Clerk

RESIDENTS: There were three residents present

Notice of Meeting was posted on the Town Clerk’s signboard on January 19, 2007, and faxed to the Adirondack Daily Enterprise. Notices were placed in the three post offices and at local businesses.

RESCUE CONTRACT: A meeting was held with the owner of Northern Ambulance Service to determine if she could cover the Town of Brighton in the event the Village of Saranac Lake stopped rescue service on January 26, 2007 at 12:01 p.m. Discussion was held on what would have to be done to cover the Town. The way the village is determining the Town’s portion of the cost for rescue services over a three-year period is the reason the contract has not been acceptable to the Board. The Village has set a deadline of January 26 for the Board to sign the contract or lose the service. They are not interested in negotiating the price of the contract. Historically (1998 and 2004) the contract has not been signed by either party until as late as March and the service was still provided.

Steve Tucker left the meeting at 6:08 p.m.

Lydia Wright had information on a NYS Comptroller’s audit report on the Village from 10 years ago. In the report they recommend the Village use a “per call basis” system to obtain a fair amount of revenue from the towns they contract with for rescue service. The “cost per call” for fire (\$900) was about three times that of rescue service (\$315). Since the Town only contracts for rescue service the amount in the current contract is based on 80% of the Village’s budget calculated on the percentage of the assessed property value in the five towns of Harrietstown, Santa Clara, Franklin, North Elba, St. Armand and Brighton. Using this amount the cost per call for rescue is about \$20 per \$100,000 assessed value of property, leaving about \$8 per \$100,000 assessed value for fire protection. The Village’s portion of the budget will be about 52% and they get about 62% of the calls. The Town Board attended a meeting with Tom Michaels, Mayor of the Village of Saranac Lake, on January 5. They also attended meetings the Village held on January 8 and 15 to listen to discussion on the contract counter proposals. Discussion was held on the possible reactions to the most recent proposal to the Village by the Town.

A five minute recess was called by Supervisor Peter Martin.

Motion made by David Knapp, **second** by Sheila Delarm **to send the current proposal from the Town, dated January 18, 2007 with the proposed contract with addendum from the Village of Saranac Lake dated January 15, copy of the General Municipal Law 209b and the letter from the Village dated January 3, 2007 cutting off service as of January 26, Aye 4 (Delarm, Knapp, Martin, Wright), Nay 0, Absent 1 (Tucker)**

Sheila Delarm left the meeting at 6:57 p.m.

Discussion was held on where an ambulance could be stored if Northern Ambulance could cover the area at a reasonable rate. David Knapp will speak with the Superintendent of Highways about using the garage.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion made by David Knapp, **second** by Lydia Wright **to Adjourn the Special Board Meeting at 7:32 p.m., second** by Lydia Wright, **Aye 3 (Knapp, Martin, and Wright), Nay 0, Absent 2 (Delarm, Tucker)**

Respectfully submitted,

Elaine W. Sater, Brighton Town Clerk