

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

October 16, 2008

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A Special Meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Brighton was held Thursday, October 16, 2008 at 6:00 p.m. at the Brighton Town Hall, Paul Smiths, NY, with the following:

CALL TO ORDER:

Meeting was Called to Order by Supervisor David Knapp at 6:10 p.m.

The "Pledge to the Flag" was recited

ROLL CALL OF OFFICERS

PRESENT: Supervisor David Knapp

Council Members: Sheila Delarm, Jeffrey Leavitt, Steve Tucker (entered meeting late) and Lydia Wright (entered meeting late)

ABSENT: None

OTHERS PRESENT: Richard Meagher- Budget Officer and Elaine Sater - Town Clerk

RESIDENTS: There were no residents present

NOTICE OF MEETING: Notice of this meeting was published in the Adirondack Daily Enterprise on October 9 and 14. Notice was posted on the Town Clerk's Sign Board and at local post offices and businesses.

1. TENTATIVE 2009 BUDGET REVIEW - Richard Meagher, Budget Officer:

- a. **APPROPRIATIONS GENERAL FUND:** Used 3% increase for Cost of Living (COL) for salaries. The Social Security increase is 5.8%. Fuel prices are falling. Bookkeeper is asking for an increase to cover the expenses, he is contracted not an employee, so he does not get a COL raise every year. Assessor is asking for an increase in expenses to cover a data collector, Board of Assessment Review members need an increase. Village of Saranac Lake is asking for \$37,119 in the Rescue contract. Deputy Supervisor asked for an increase of 15%. The Adult Center asked for an increase to \$750.00. Youth Programs include the Franklin Snowmobile Club \$300, Civic Center \$1,500, Saranac Lake (SL) Area Youth Program \$1,500, the SL Skate Park and Youth Center will share \$1,500, total of \$4,800, this will be reduced from \$9,800. The SL Skate Park and the SL Youth Center are new requests for this year. Celebrations account (A7550.4) is added for the Ice Cream Social at \$250. Retirement was reduced by 19% and Health Benefits were increased by 15%. The increase for General Fund is about 6%.
- b. **REVENUES:** Clerk revenues for Vital Records was increased to \$300. Interest and Earning has been reduced to \$6,000 due to the plunge in interest rates. Dog License revenue is increased to \$200.
- c. **STREET LIGHTING DISTRICT:** Easy Street Lighting District is increased to \$900 due to increase in costs.
- d. **FIRE DISTRICT:** Has to be increased by an additional \$3,000 to cover the General Fund reimbursement for the Fire Tax funds that were included in error to the 2008 budget. The actual increase for the Fire Contract is \$2,000 or 3%.
- e. **HIGHWAY FUND:** To be discussed at the next Special Meeting on October 23.
- f. **FUND BALANCES:** Will be used to reduce the tax payers amount and spend down the fund balances.
- g. **HEALTH BENEFITS VERSUS SALARIES:** Discussion was held on salary versus health insurance benefits and how to make it more equitable for people who do not get the benefits. Currently a single policy annual premium is \$4,950, a couple is \$9,630, and a family is \$13,145. The burden on the tax payer only increases as the rates for insurance increase. If people with families got elected to all nine positions, it would be a great burden on the tax payers. The health benefits are not a draw to run for the elected positions as shown in the 2007 Election where there was no competition for most of the positions on the ballot. A proposal was made for 2010 for elected officials to be eligible for a single policy with the option to pay the difference for a family or couple policy or the option of 50% of the single policy annual premium. This could be a \$14,000 savings in health insurance. For 2009 the people not taking the health benefit will be budgeted at 50% of the single policy annual premium.
- h. **COST OF LIVING (COL):** Lydia Wright said past practice for the Board has been to use the COL at budget time to determine the increase for salaries. The Consumer Price Index amount of 5.3% should to be put into the budget for all the salary (.1) accounts. Supervisor David Knapp will let the Bookkeeper know to recalculate the salaries for the budget by 2.3%.

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OLD BUSINESS:

- 1. STATE ROUTE 30 SPEED LIMIT:** Received a letter from the NYS Department of Transportation (DOT) dated October 9, 2008, they have completed an investigation of the traffic flow and have determined to keep the 55 m.p.h. speed on State Route 30. Discussion was held on an accident that happened recently where a motorist failed to stop on State Route 86 and ran into someone driving on State Route 30. Sheila Delarm called the NYS DOT to discuss the incident. The tree needs to be marked that should be removed.
- 2. FALSE ALARMS FOR PSGVFD - Sheila Delarm:** Discussion was held on the draft local law for false alarms that is still being revised, still waiting for input from the Association of Towns. More information is needed to be put into the draft before the law is proposed and goes to Public Hearing. It needs to be clear, concise, and simple. Discussion was held on the amount of the penalty and the number of "free" false alarms. The cost to respond to false alarms is expensive and the cost to administer the law will be expensive. The problem of false alarms needs to be corrected by people with automatic alarm systems.
- 3. SMART GROWTH INITIATIVE:** The Wildlife Conservation Society submitted a contract for working with FX Browne, Inc. on the Smart Growth Initiative for the Town.

RESOLUTION #94

WILDLIFE CONSERVATION SOCIETY CONTRACT FOR SMART GROWTH INITIATIVE

Motion made by Supervisor David Knapp, second by Steve Tucker, To Wit:

WHEREAS, FX Browne, Inc. has a contract with the Town to look at Smart Growth Initiatives in the Town, and WHEREAS, FX Browne, Inc. has recommended the non-profit organization the Wildlife Conservation Society for performing Geographic Information Systems (GIS) services for the Smart Growth Initiatives,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Supervisor David Knapp be authorized to sign a contract with Wildlife Conservation Society to perform an environmental risk assessment using Geographic Information Systems (GIS) for the amount of \$5,000 for the Smart Growth Initiative in the Town.

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

RESOLUTION #94 declared duly adopted.

- 4. SNOW AND ICE REMOVAL CONTRACT WITH FRANKLIN COUNTY:** Superintendent Andy Crary spoke with the other towns and they already have signed the agreement without the fuel differential clause, the change in road category that increased the amount received will make up the difference for fuel.

RESOLUTION #95

SNOW AND ICE REMOVAL AGREEMENT WITH FRANKLIN COUNTY

Motion made by Supervisor David Knapp, second by Lydia Wright, To Wit:

RESOLVED that Superintendent of Highways, Andy Crary, be authorized to sign a one year Agreement with Franklin County Highway Department to remove snow and ice from the following county roads in the Town: County Road 55 (Bloomingdale Road), County Road 60 (Rainbow Lake Road) and County Road 31 (Jones Pond Road) for the amount of \$38,757 for the year 2009.

ROLL CALL VOTE: Aye 4 (Delarm, Knapp, Tucker, Wright), Nay 1 (Leavitt)

RESOLUTION #95 declared duly adopted.

- 5. SPLIT ROCK ROAD GUIDE RAILS:** The guide rails have been fixed where the dry hydrant is located. The other side will be looked at in the spring.
- 6. PSGVFD BUDGET REQUEST:** The Town Board has requested a copy of a budget from the Paul Smiths Gabriels Volunteer Fire Department but it has not been received. Supervisor David Knapp will send another letter.

Motion made by Supervisor David Knapp, second by Jeffrey Leavitt, to authorize Supervisor David Knapp to write a letter to the Paul Smiths Gabriels Volunteer Fire Department respectfully requesting a copy of the 2009 Budget to justify the expense to the Town tax payers for the fire contract and to ask for a copy of the NYS Office of the

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Comptroller's Audit when it is completed. Aye 5 (Delarm, Knapp, Leavitt, Tucker, Wright), Nay 0

- 7. TIME WARNER CABLE FOR MCCOLLOMS:** Supervisor David Knapp will contact Nancy Riche about the McColloms residents who want cable access. He spoke with Larry Miller, Supervisor of Harriestown, who had a discussion with the Public Service Commission. They were not able to negotiate any more service for their town but did increase their revenue to 5%. Harriestown has almost 100% coverage for cable already. Supervisor David Knapp is waiting to hear from the Public Service Commission.

NEW BUSINESS

- 1. BOARD MEETINGS:** Sheila Delarm will not be able to attend the January, February, and March Board meetings as she will be attending a "First Responder Course" at the PSGVFD on Tuesday and Thursday evenings during those months..
- 2. RESCUE CONTRACT FOR 2009:** David Knapp FOIed the Village of Saranac Lake Fire Department Budget. The contingency fund for the Emergency Medical Technician was still in at \$50,000. There will be a Fire Advisory Meeting in the next week to discuss the contract.
- 3. JOURNAL FOR BOARD MEMBERS:** Supervisor David Knapp would like the Board to record their time spent on Town business. He would like contact information recorded so someone will know what issues and who they were dealing with if something should happen to them. He will get a draft of the form to the Board Members.
- 4. MAINTENANCE ON BUILDINGS:** Supervisor David Knapp will draft a form to use for reporting maintenance needed on Town buildings. Prior to the monthly Board meeting, this form will be filled out for each building.
- 5. ATTORNEY FOR THE TOWN:** Jeffrey Leavitt asked about the issue of contacting the Attorney for the Town. Supervisor David Knapp asked him to bring a proposal to the next Board meeting. Discussion was held on trying to find someone closer than Canton.
- 6. INVOICE FROM CRAWFORD & STEARNS:** Received an invoice from Crawford & Stearns concerning fire alarm work on the Town Hall project. There was no discussion about a fire alarm system by anyone on the Board. Lydia Wright will call them to discuss the invoice.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to Adjourn at 9:30 p.m. made by Lydia Wright, **Second** by Supervisor David Knapp, **Aye 5 (Delarm, Knapp, Leavitt, Tucker, Wright) Nay 0**

Respectfully Submitted,

Elaine Sater
Brighton Town Clerk