

A special meeting of the town of Brighton Town Board was held at the town hall on 25 November 2003. Present were Supervisor Bob Tebbut, Councilpersons Linda Dobson, John Quenell and Steve Tucker. Absent was Alicia Bodmer.

The minutes were taken by Amber McKernan due to the absence of the Town Clerk Elaine Sater.

Others present were: Lydia Wright, and Nik, Cori and Levi Santagate

The meeting was **called to order** at 4:30 pm. by Supervisor Tebbutt.

OLD BUSINESS:

Supervisor Tebbutt announced that the next meeting of the town board would be held on 18 November at the St Regis Inn at 5 pm. There will be a brief board meeting followed by a community-wide Christmas party which is open to all residents of Brighton. The town clerk is requested to post the notice of the special meeting at the appropriate sites. **A motion was made** by John Quenell to **approve the change of date of the next town board meeting to 18 Dec to be held at the St Regis Inn at 5 pm. Linda Dobson seconded the motion.** The vote was Aye by Linda Dobson, John Quenell, Steve Tucker and Bob Tebbutt. Alicia Bodmer was absent. **Motion passed and carried.**

Mr. Tebbutt extended his thanks to Amber McKernan for her services in taking the minutes for this special board meeting.

NEW BUSINESS:

Mr. Tebbutt advised the board members present of a Holiday luncheon at the Lake Placid Lodge. The invitation was extended to Mr. Tebbutt and his associates. It will be held on 18 December from 12-2 pm.

The town now has a new copier. The Town now owns the old copier. It had been leased by the town, but the lessor felt that the copier was not worth reclaiming due to its age. There was a question if we should put the old copier out for bid. John Quenell stated that another option would be to have it declared valued at \$0.00. Mr. Tebbutt inquired of Steve Tucker as to whether or not the Fire Dept would be interested in the copier. Mr. Tucker stated that the Fire Dept already has a copier but would bring the town's offer to the Fire Dept. Mr. Tebbutt asked if the Fire Dept would be able to store it for us in the event that they do not want to use the copier themselves. It was also mentioned that the copier could be donated to another organization. Amber McKernan stated that Pendragon Theater was looking for a donation of a new copier. John Quenell stated that he had already contacted Lockrow's with a request for documentation stating that the copier was valued at \$0.00. Mr. Tebbutt said that he preferred to keep the copier in the town and if the Fire Dept was not interested in using it, he would consider donating it to other organizations within the town. He will follow up on the disposition of the copier.

The **Highway contract** is up for renewal. For the past 6 years it has been at \$100,000.00. Before it is renewed it needs to be reviewed. Supervisor Tebbutt made a **motion to send the contract to the town attorney for review. Linda Dobson seconded the motion.** The vote was John Quenell Aye, Linda Dobson Aye, Bob Tebbutt Aye, and Steve Tucker Aye. Alicia Bodmer was absent. **Motion passed and carried.**

Mr. Tebbutt then brought the issue of **Health Insurance** to the table. He gave the floor to John Quenell, who has laid most of the groundwork.

Mr. Quenell then gave the floor to Steve Tucker before addressing the health insurance issue.

RESOLUTION# 103

AUTHORIZATION FOR FIRE DEPARTMENT TO PURSUE LGMIF GRANT

Steve Tucker made a **motion requesting permission from the town board to allow the fire department to apply for a grant for the purpose of purchasing a computer and software for the fire department's records management. Linda Dobson seconded the motion.**

Steve Tucker stated that there is grant money that has been made available to Franklin County for the purchase of computers and software to manage records for the fire department. Local Government Records Management Improvement Fund (LGMIF) is the source of these funds. A letter approving the application for the grant is needed from the town board. During the discussion, John Quenell asked if there would be any expense to the town in the future. Steve Tucker stated there is a \$300 per annum fee for the maintenance of the software, but that cost will come out of the fire department's budget. Mr. Tebbutt requested that Steve Tucker draft the letter to apply for the grant, and Mr. Tebbutt will sign it, as supervisor.

The final roll call vote: John Quenell Aye, Linda Dobson Aye, Bob Tebbutt Aye and Steve Tucker Aye. Alicia Bodmer was absent. **Motion passed and carried.**

Resolution #103 declared duly adopted.

Mr. Quenell then brought **Health Insurance** back to the table. He stated that a self-insurance plan for town officials and employees was in some ways better and cheaper than other plans. However, it is not simple to set up. It might be worth pursuing, but at this time, there is not enough time to have everything in place for the coming year.

There is a newer program now being offered through Blue Cross; EPO or Exclusive Provider Organization. It has been suggested that the change in coverage be made from the current PPO or Preferred Provider Organization. The current policy, the PPO pays for services through co-pays and deductibles. The EPO pays for services through co-pays only. For example, if you were to incur a bill for \$5000 due to a hospital stay, under the PPO you would pay 20% out of pocket. Under the EPO you would only pay \$500 out of pocket for that same stay.

On the negative side, under the EPO co-payments are \$30.00; the PPO has a \$15 co-pay. Prescription co-pays are higher as well. Under the current PPO, we now co-pay \$5-15-30 for the three categories of prescription drugs. Under the EPO, the co-pay is \$10-25-40.

EPO plans require that patients be seen only by network providers for coverage to be in effect. There are 10,609 providers nationally. All hospitals in 31 counties in NY State participate in this plan. A question was raised regarding out-of-state services, as some services are provided by Vermont hospitals. Mr. Quenell stated that this is a widespread network throughout the country, so should not present a problem. A list of participating providers in the surrounding region of New York State was distributed to the members of the board.

On the positive side, the premium for the EPO family plan is \$8007/annum. The PPO is \$9786/annum.

There is a separate insurance plan for town highway employees, the cost of which is \$12,322/annum for 2004.

If the town stays with the PPO, the annual cost of health insurance to the town will be \$105,000. If the plan is changed to the EPO, the 10% employee contribution toward the premium can be discontinued and the costs can still come in under budget. The town will continue to offer the one-time buyout for those who do not participate in the insurance program through the town.

RESOLUTION #104

AUTHORIZATION TO CHANGE HEALTH CARE PLANS FOR ELECTED TOWN OFFICIALS

John Quenell moved that for 2004 the Town agree to sign up for the BCBS EPO plan as quoted, (the premium for the EPO family plan is \$8007/annum) that the Town discontinue the 10% employee contribution toward the premium, and that the Town continue with the 10% of premium one-time buyout for those who are eligible for the insurance but choose not to take it. Bob Tebbutt seconded the motion.

Nik Santagate: What about specialists out of area?

John Quenell: All Blues are network. The coverage wait time for a pre-existing condition is 11 months, but as long as coverage is continuous, the coverage carries through.

The roll call vote was as follows: John Quenell, Aye, Linda Dobson Aye, Bob Tebbutt Aye and Steve Tucker Aye. Alicia Bodmer was absent. **Motion passed and carried. RESOLUTION #104 was duly adopted.**

Citizen's Comments:

Nik Santagate: I feel that the 10% employee contribution should continue. If people are paying that 10% they might re-consider how they use their insurance.

Supervisor Tebbutt: Not having to pay the 10% offsets the increase co-pay costs.

Lydia Wright: Does this insurance apply across the board to all employees?

Supervisor Tebbutt: Health Insurance for the highway department is carried through CSEA. Their insurance is governed by union regulations

Lydia Wright: The highway superintendent is an elected official. Should he not get regular General Fund Insurance?

John Quenell: Don Oliver is under special insurance arrangement.

RESOLUTION#105

AUTHORIZATION TO PAY VOUCHERS

Linda Dobson moved that the meeting be adjourned and to authorize the Supervisor to pay the voucher as listed on the Abstract as follows:

GENERAL FUND: Abstract #13 for Voucher #319 in the amount of \$309.00

Supervisor Tebbutt seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote as follows: John Quenell Aye, Linda Dobson Aye, Bob Tebbutt Aye and Steve Tucker Aye. Alicia Bodmer was absent.

Resolution #105 declared duly adopted.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:30 pm

Respectfully Submitted by Amber McKernan