

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

December 30, 2006

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A Special Town Board Meeting of the Town of Brighton was held on Saturday, December 30, 2006, at 5:30 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 5:44 p.m.

PLEDGE TO THE FLAG

ROLL CALL OF OFFICERS

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

ABSENT: None

OTHERS: Elaine Sater - Town Clerk

RESIDENTS: There were no residents present

GUESTS: None

NOTICE OF MEETING: Notice of this meeting was faxed to the Adirondack Daily Enterprise on Thursday, December 28, 2006 and posted on the Town Clerk's sign board. On December 29 notices were posted in the local post offices and businesses.

- 1. RESCUE CONTRACT:** Supervisor Peter Martin received a notice from the Town of Santa Clara and Harriestown that a public hearing had to be held before a rescue contract could be approved by the Board in accordance with Town Law Section 184. A letter was received from the Village of Saranac Lake with a six-month contract and a notice that rescue service would no longer be available if the Town did not sign the contract by December 31, 2006. The letter to extend the current contract with a 20% increase over last year's cost, sent on December 21, was rejected by the Village Board. Discussion on what next step to take was held. A letter was drafted by several citizens for rebuttal to an article in the Adirondack Daily Enterprise concerning the Village stopping all fire and rescue services to the towns that do not sign a contract immediately. A copy has been presented to the Board for approval as an added signature on the letter. The cost to the Town for rescue service will be \$616 per call this year and \$1,103 by the third year of the three-year phase-in cost of about \$53,000 base upon the full assessed value of real property in the Town. The cost per call is based on an average of 48 calls to the Town from 2003 to 2005. The Board would like a fair and reasonable amount agreed upon for rescue service.

RESOLUTION #105

AUTHORIZATION TO SEND A LETTER TO VILLAGE MANAGER, RE: RESCUE CONTRACT

Motion made by Lydia Wright, **second** by Sheila Delarm, **To Wit:**

WHEREAS, the Town is acting in good faith to protect the resources of its tax payers, and

WHEREAS, the Village of Saranac Lake has proposed an unfair and unreasonable way to determine the Town portion of the cost of rescue services based on the full assessed value of real property in the Town,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Town Board authorizes David Knapp, Deputy Supervisor, to sign the following letter addressed to the Village of Saranac Lake and the other parties listed on the letter as a good faith effort to negotiate a fair and reasonable contract for rescue services for the Town of Brighton.

“This letter is to re-confirm that the Town of Brighton will continue to negotiate a fair and reasonable contract for Rescue services with the Village of Saranac Lake.

We are required by Town Law, Section 184, to hold a Public Hearing on 10 days published notice before the Town may enter into a contract for Rescue services.

It will not be logistically possible for the Town to enter into a Rescue contract with the Village prior to January 1, 2007 because of the public hearing requirement. Also, the annual amount the Town will be required to pay to the Village has not yet been definitely agreed upon. The Town therefore requests that the Village act in good faith for the safety and welfare of the public by granting an extension of Rescue services provided under the current contract to at least January 31, 2007.”

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

RESOLUTION #105 declared duly adopted.

- 2. LETTER TO ADIRONDACK DAILY ENTERPRISE:**

RESOLUTION #106

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AUTHORIZATION TO SIGN A GUEST COMMENTARY, RE: RESCUE CONTRACT

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

WHEREAS, the Adirondack Daily Enterprise published an article concerning the towns that did not sign a contract for fire and rescue service with the Village of Saranac Lake, and

WHEREAS, the Town has been acting in good faith to protect the resources of its tax payers by meeting with the other towns effected by the unfair and unreasonable way to determine the Town portion of the cost of rescue services by using the full assessed value of real property in the Town,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Town Board authorizes the Town's name to appear as "David Knapp, Deputy Supervisor" on an article entitled "Guest Commentary" concerning the proposed rescue contract from the Village of Saranac Lake, for publication in the Adirondack Daily Enterprise.

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

RESOLUTION #106 declared duly adopted.

- 3. PUBLIC HEARING:** A public hearing is scheduled for Tuesday, January 16, 2007 at 6 p.m. for the public to comment on the proposed rescue service contract for the Village of Saranac Lake.

OTHER BUSINESS

- 1. AUDIT OF TOWN OFFICIALS FINANCIAL DOCUMENTS:** An audit of the Town Clerk's and Justice's financial documents will follow immediately after the Public Hearing on the Rescue Contract on January 16, 2007.
- 2. DISASTER PLAN MEETING:** The time for the Disaster Plan meeting on January 18 is 6 p.m.
- 3. STATE LEGISLATURES:** There is a breakfast scheduled at the Hotel Saranac on January 10, 2007 at 7:30 a.m. with the area's legislative representatives, Theresa Sayward, Betty Little, and Janet Dupery. Board members are asked to attend. The rescue service billing issue should be brought to their attention.
- 4. HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT: Supervisor Peter Martin** said highway employees need to report to work earlier to get the roads cleared for the safety of people going to work and school. **David Knapp** will contact Don Oliver to determine the schedule.

AUDIT OF VOUCHERS:

A voucher from the Tax Collector for petty cash of \$50 was presented for pre-payment. The Board audited the voucher and approved it for payment by signing it.

ADJOURNMENT: Motion to Adjourn at 8:06 p.m. **made** by David Knapp, **second** by Lydia Wright, **Aye 5, Nay0**

Respectfully Submitted,

Elaine Sater
Brighton Town Clerk