

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

**November 7, 2013**

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**A Special Meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Brighton was held Thursday, November 7, 2013, at 7:00 p.m. at the Brighton Town Hall, 12 County Road 31, Paul Smiths, NY, with the following:**

**CALL TO ORDER:**

**Meeting was Called to Order** by Supervisor Peter Shrope at 7:03 p.m.

“Pledge to the Flag” was recited.

**ROLL CALL OF OFFICERS**

**PRESENT:** Supervisor Peter Shrope

**COUNCIL MEMBERS:** Brian McDonnell, Amber McKernan, Steve Tucker and Lydia Wright

**ABSENT:** None

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Richard Meagher – Bookkeeper and Elaine Sater -Town Clerk

**RESIDENTS:** There was one resident present

**GUESTS:** None

**NOTICE OF MEETING:** Notice of this meeting was posted on Thursday, October 31, 2013, on the Town Clerk’s Signboard and at three post offices in the Town and published in the Adirondack Daily Enterprise.

The purpose of the Special Meeting is to hold three Public Hearings for Fire and Rescue Contracts and the Town Budget for 2014 and to discuss Town business.

***PUBLIC HEARINGS:***

**1. PUBLIC HEARING FOR FIRE CONTRACT FOR 2014 OPENED AT 7:05 P.M.**

**Supervisor Peter Shrope** opened the floor for public comment on the Fire Contract with Paul Smiths-Gabriels Volunteer Fire Department. He said the Fire Department is asking for a three-year contract with a 3% increase each year, the amount requested for 2014 is \$81,569. Discussion was held on when the Fire Department will be paying off a mortgage on their building. Steve Tucker said the payment was for half the usual payment in the 2014 budget as the loan would be paid off in the summer of 2014. The other half of the mortgage payment was transferred to a truck fund to buy a new truck in the future.

**Tom McKernan:** Spoke in favor of reducing the Paul Smiths Gabriels Volunteer Fire Contract to one year instead of three years due to the question concerning paying off of a mortgage by the Fire Department, the amount of future contracts should be reduced instead of increasing by 3% each year.

Discussion was held on having a meeting with the Fire Chief to discuss the mortgage issue.

There were no further public comments.

**PUBLIC HEARING FOR FIRE CONTRACT CLOSED AT 7:20 P.M.**

**2. PUBLIC HEARING FOR RESCUE CONTRACT FOR 2014 OPENED AT 7:21 P.M.**

**Supervisor Peter Shrope** opened the floor for public comment on the Rescue Contract with Saranac Lake Volunteer Rescue Squad, Inc. He said the SLVRS is asking for a one-year contract in the amount of \$28,333. Discussion was held on how the cost it determined. The Fire Advisory Board compromised on the percentage of 5.5 for each Town in 2011.

**Tom McKernan:** Spoke in favor of approving the Rescue contract

There were no further public comments.

**PUBLIC HEARING FOR RESCUE CONTRACT CLOSED AT 7:38 P.M.**

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- 3. PUBLIC HEARING FOR PRELIMINARY TOWN BUDGET FOR 2014 OPEN at 7:40 P.M.**  
Supervisor Peter Shrope opened the floor for public comment on the Preliminary Town Budget for 2014. Richard Meagher said the budget was “bare bones” and met the tax cap set by the State.

**PRELIMINARY BUDGET FOR 2014**

**GENERAL FUND: APPROPRIATIONS: \$427,111**  
**REVENUES: \$52,884**  
**FUND BALANCE USED: \$23,895**  
**AMOUNT TO BE RAISED BY TAXES: \$350,332**

**HIGHWAY FUND: APPROPRIATIONS: \$283,952**  
**REVENUES: \$85,916**  
**FUND BALANCE USED: \$27,294**  
**AMOUNT TO BE RAISED BY TAXES: \$170,742**

**FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT: \$81,569**  
**STREET LIGHTING DISTRICT: \$900**  
**FUND BALANCE USED: \$300**  
**AMOUNT TO BE RAISED BY TAXES: \$600**

**TOTAL TO BE RAISED BY TAXES \$603,243**

Tom McKernan spoke in favor of the budget. He said the budget looked good and the board did a lot of hard work on it.

There were no further comments

**PUBLIC HEARING FOR PRELIMINARY TOWN BUDGET FOR 2014 CLOSED AT 7:50 P.M.**

***CITIZENS COMMENTS:***

Tom McKernan congratulated the Town Officials who were re-elected on Tuesday, November 5

***OTHER BUSINESS:***

- 1. ST. REGIS MOUNTAIN UNIT MANAGEMENT PLAN- Supervisor Peter Shrope:** Received a request from a resident to support the Unit Management Plan for St. Regis Mountain to preserve the fire tower and open it to the public. The deadline to get comments to the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation is November 15

**RESOLUTION #88**

**ST. REGIS MOUNTAIN UNIT MANAGEMENT PLAN NYSDEC**

**Motion made** by Lydia Wright, **second** by Brian McDonnell.

**WHEREAS** the Town of Brighton in Franklin County considers the fire tower on St. Regis Mountain to be of significant value as an historic landmark, an important orienting beacon, and a factor of aesthetic quality in a large portion of the Town, and

**WHEREAS** the Town has opposed the removal of the fire tower from St. Regis Mountain (Resolution #104-2001) and supports its retention and rehabilitation on the original site with full public access (Resolution #38-2010)

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Town Board of the Town of Brighton in Franklin County, New York, strongly supports the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation Draft Unit Management Plan for the St. Regis Mountain Fire Town Historic District and the choice of Alternative 4 which allows for full public access of the fire tower.

**ROLL CALL VOTE:** Aye 5 (McDonnell, McKernan, Shrope, Tucker, Wright), Nay 0

**Resolution #88 declared duly adopted.**

- 2. HULL ROAD TRASH PILE- Supervisor Peter Shrope:** Received an email dated 11/04/2013 from a resident concerning a large pile of trash at the end of Hull Road left by a property owner who removed the items from a

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house after the previous owner was evicted from the property. Discussion was held as to the Town's responsibility in cleaning up the trash. Supervisor Peter Shrope said the Code Enforcement Officer is waiting for a response from the County Sheriff's Office concerning this issue as they were involved in the eviction.

- 3. WHITE PINE ROAD BRIDGE- Supervisor Peter Shrope:** Spoke with Gordy Crossman, County Legislature concerning the resolution by the County to take possession of the bridge on the White Pine Road. Resolution #181 was adopted by the Franklin County Legislature on August 19, 2010, saying the County would take ownership of the bridge after the construction was completed. A copy has been provided to the Town.

***ADJOURNMENT***

**Motion to Adjourn at 8:20 p.m.** made by Amber McKernan, **Second** by Lydia Wright, **Aye 5 (McDonnell, McKernan, Shrope, Tucker, Wright), Nay 0**

Respectfully Submitted,

Elaine W. Sater, RMC  
Brighton Town Clerk