

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

June 10, 2010

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The Regular Monthly Meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Brighton was held Thursday, June 10, 2010, at 7:00 p.m. at the Brighton Town Garage, Paul Smiths, NY, with the following:

CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was Called to Order by Supervisor John Quenell at 7:06 p.m.

ROLL CALL OF OFFICERS

PRESENT: Supervisor John Quenell

Council Members: Jeffrey Leavitt, Peter Shrope, Steve Tucker and Lydia Wright

ABSENT: None

OTHERS PRESENT: Michelle White – Deputy Town Clerk , Amber McKernan – Tax Collector and Andy Crary - Superintendent of Highways

RESIDENT(S): One resident was present

The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag was recited.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- Regular Board May 13, 2010

Motion made by Supervisor John Quenell, **second** by Steve Tucker, **to approve the minutes of the Regular Board meeting on May 13, 2010, as written, Aye 5 (Leavitt, Quenell, Shrope, Tucker, Wright), Nay 0**

- Special Board May 24, 2010

Motion made Supervisor John Quenell, **second** by Steve Tucker, **to approve the minutes of a Special Town Board meeting held on May 24, 2010, with the following amendment: Lydia Wright, Council Member, voted “Abstain” on Resolution #59 instead of Aye, Aye 5 (Leavitt, Quenell, Shrope, Tucker, Wright), Nay 0**

TOWN CLERK'S REPORT

Total Revenue to Supervisor as of May 31, 2010 was \$ 1,635.28

1 DEC Sport License

2 Certified Copies and 1 Marriage License

6 Dog Licenses renewed

6 Building Permits (#09-041 and #10-005 thru 009)

1 Copy on copier

- 1) May 20, faxed notice to the Adirondack Daily Enterprise re: Moving of Town Hall to Highway Garage. Posted notices at three Post Offices and at local businesses, as well as on Town Clerk's Sign Board.
- 2) NY State Archives Representative for Region 4, Denis Meadows, visited the Town Hall on Wednesday, May 26 from 10:00 to 10:30 a.m. to inspect new records room.
- 3) Town Clerk's Office is closed until Tuesday June 22, 2010. Michelle White will take minutes at meetings and send Abstracts for Vouchers to Richard Meagher, Bookkeeper.
- 4) TOWN HALL (at Garage) REQUEST: Saturday, June 5, Franklin County Conservative Party, 10:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m..
- 5) TOWN PARK REQUEST: Saranac Lake Youth Soccer Association, Mondays & Wednesdays from July 5 through August 4, 6-10:00 p.m..

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SUPERVISOR'S REPORT

- 1) **Tax Collector Audit:** Supervisor John Quenell commends Tax Collector Amber McKernan on the high quality of her work. An audit of the Tax Collector's records was conducted prior to the monthly meeting.

Motion made by Supervisor John Quenell, **second** by Jeffrey Leavitt **to accept the audit of all documents as presented by Tax Collector Amber McKernan, Aye 4** (Leavitt, Quenell, Shrope, Tucker), **Nay 0, Abstain 1** (Wright)

- 2) **Monthly Financial Report:** Financial Statement as of May 31, 2010 was distributed to the Board. A budget amendment is needed in order to replenish two accounts that are getting short; the Attorney Expense Account includes the expense of the CSEA representative that was not included in the budget.

GENERAL FUND BUDGET AMENDMENT #1-2010

Motion made by Supervisor John Quenell, **second** by Steve Tucker:

RESOLVED that the following amount be and the same hereby are transferred:

\$2083.00 from General Fund Account # A1990.4 Contingency

As follows:

\$2000.00 to Account #A1420.4 Attorney Expenses

\$ 83.00 to Account #A1460.4 Records Management Expenses

ROLL CALL VOTE: 5 Aye (Leavitt, Quenell, Shrope, Tucker, Wright), Nay 0

GENERAL FUND BUDGET AMENDMENT #1-2010 declared duly adopted.

- 3) **SPEDS Permit termination:** The town has been paying \$100 /year to keep a permit open following the construction of the garage. A DEC gentleman called asking whether this permit is still needed. It is not, since all storm waters have been managed appropriately. In order to terminate this permit, an engineer's approval is needed. A call will be placed to Jos Garso to verify what the cost might be for such an approval.
- 4) **Retirement:** Board members that are in the retirement system must supply a log of the hours worked for the town to the Town Clerk by the end of this month. The clerk has to prepare a resolution in reference to the monthly hours worked.
- 5) **White Pines Bridge:** NYS has conducted a hydraulic test in the stream and the repair could be done with culverts (3), although it would be expensive and the DEC permit is difficult to obtain. As an alternative the county will do the bridge in 2 to 3 years time at no cost to the town. The county will pick-up 5% of the cost, the state 20% and the Federal 75%. The county would have to own the bridge. Agreement has to come from the county legislature.
- 6) **Over the hill property:** The structure was removed on June 3rd & 4th. The county operated the excavator and loader. Towns of Harrietstown, St. Armand, and Brighton used trucks to haul the debris away. Costs were \$4927.45 versus the \$3,000 that had been allocated. Some of the debris had been stuffed in the basement and the site covered with sand & dirt in order to save additional tipping fees. DEC received a report that this has been done; a DEC officer called J. Quenell to say that because the building had been commercial, this debris must be dug up and brought to the landfill. The county brought back its excavator to dig the debris out. It will be completed on June 14. The landfill would not take anymore debris until Monday. Up to Thursday the additional tipping fees totaled \$7500. Possibly another \$2000-2500 might be incurred. The weight of the sand and dirt on the debris, have added to the costs. The State Comptroller when contacted recommended that appeals could be made to the county for help with these costs. J. Quenell contact the County Treasurer about helping with the cost of the tipping fees.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

- 1) **HIGHWAY - Andy Crary:** Report submitted prior to meeting

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- a) Patched pot holes on Keeses Mill Road.
- b) Picked up Paystar at M.A. Jerrys.
- c) Worked on lawn mower at park
- d) Serviced mowers
- e) Mowed of grass at cemetery's / Town Hall / Garage
- f) Raked road dirt roads
- g) Put Flags out for Memorial Day
- h) Worked on Mt Pond Road
- i) Worked on Over the Hill demolition
- j) Traveled to Malone for parts for lawn mower and fix
- k) Took broom off tractor and put mower on
- l) Mowed White Pines Road
- m) Adjusted bearings on road rake
- n) Set up for Rabies Clinic on June 7, 5 to 6 p.m.
- o) Asked to pass a resolution for 200 tons of salt @ \$62.00/per ton, tabled until next meetings
- p) Needs request for paving to Franklin County approved, would like to do Keeses Mills Road, tabled until next meeting

2) **ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICER (Tri-Lakes Humane Society):** No report

3) **ASSESSOR - Doug Tichenor:** NYS ORPS Report states that Equalization Rate for 2010 is 86%, previous was 84%

4) **CODE ENFORCEMENT OFFICER (CEO) - Paul Blaine:** Report submitted prior to meeting

- a) **Building Permits:** 6 building permits were issued #09-041, 10-005 thru 10-009
- b) **Avoidable Alarms Update:** Five avoidable alarms open.

5) **TAX COLLECTOR - Amber McKernan:** Report submitted prior to meeting

- a) Since last regular meeting of the Town of Brighton board, received 8 phone calls regarding tax information.
- b) Received 4 "good neighbor" calls from persons looking for other types of information
- c) Prepared books for the annual audit by the board and presented them prior to this meeting.
- d) Will be attending the NYS Association of Tax receivers & Collectors (NYSATRC) seminar and training June13-16, in Lake Placid
- e) Will continue to seek updates from the Franklin County Treasurer's office regarding county-wide tax collection software.
- f) Current computer has operating problems, seeking help to fix it. Peter Shrope said he would look at it for her.

6) **TOWN JUSTICE - Nik Santagate:** Report submitted prior to meeting.

Check written to Supervisor in the amount of \$5,370.00 for 70 disposed cases during May

7) **HISTORIAN - Mary Ellen Salls:** No report submitted

COMMITTEE REPORTS

1) **PARK & RECREATION - Steve Tucker and Peter Shrope**

- a) **Park Usage:** Received a list of dates from Dan Spencer with number of people who were at the park during May. Hard to figure how many of these are repeat user rather than new users. Dan Spencer will be asked to

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- make notes of how many people use the bathrooms.
- b) **Food Pantry at Park(Jeffrey Leavitt and Peter Shrope):** A meeting is being set-up to put everybody on the same page. George Earle, Barbara Marshall and Dan Spencer will be invited to meet with the board. The plan is to build a partition wall and close the women's bathroom. The Food Pantry is ready to move and has more than enough funds and materials to make the move. Volunteers are also available for doing the work.
 - c) **Saranac Lake Youth Soccer Association (SLYSA):** Steve Tucker has been asked if the pitcher's mound could be removed from the baseball field, since SLYSA now needs to make 5 separate soccer fields because of the large number of children that have signed up. There is also a demand to build a kick wall for practice.
- 2) **INSURANCE/INVESTMENTS - Lydia Wright and Supervisor John Quenell:**
- a) Insurance: Supervisor John Quenell expects CSEA to be resolved by the end of the month.
 - b) Investments: NYCLASS - Highway Fund has interest income is \$31.84 for the month of May with a balance of \$189,896.63 and General Fund has interest income of \$40.78 for the month with a balance of \$234,972.94.
 - c) **Health Care Reform Alert:** A letter about Federal Reinsurance for health plan covering early retirees was received, it is unclear whether this is applicable to anyone at this point.
- 3) **CEMETERY& TOWN BUILDINGS - Steve Tucker:**
- a) **Cemetery:**
 - i) Two burials: June 10 & June 12. Potter's Field was used for the Griffin burial; it was unoccupied.
 - ii) Some headstones are tipped, could it be a project for the Boy Scouts. Inquiries will be made with Bob Eckert.
 - iii) Discussion was held on purchasing another mower, Andy Crary will look into pricing.
 - b) **Town Buildings:** Nothing to report
- 4) **HIGHWAY- Jeffrey Leavitt, Steve Tucker and Lydia Wright:**
Jeffrey Leavitt said that after the first of the month he plans to tour all highways and roads to see what needs to be done.
- 5) **WEBSITE - Supervisor John Quenell:** Received a call from a constituent requesting that the dog license information be added on the website.
- 6) **FIRE ADVISORY BOARD (FAB) – Jeffrey Leavitt & Steve Tucker:**
Met with the Town of Franklin without the Village of Saranac Lake being represented to discuss how the Village wants to modify their billing method. The Village wants to go by assessed value. The Village has a lot of tax-exempt properties which mean that a lot of the cost would be incurred by the surrounding towns. J. Quenell mentioned that the town now pays \$37,000 for the rescue. A sharp increase is expected. The Town just signed a contract; there was no mention that they were going to change the basis for billing. Larry Miller, Supervisor of Harrietstown wants to ask the village to split cost of fire and rescue and then charge the rescue only to surrounding towns based on number of parcels. Maybe by head count might be fairer or rescue calls per town. A letter is being prepared by the FAB to the Village. Discussion was held on option available to the towns for fire and rescue service.
- 7) **TELECOMMUNICATIONS - Jeffrey Leavitt and Supervisor John Quenell:**
- a) **Cell Phone Service:** Jeffrey Leavitt said that suppliers are not interested in building new structures; there is no funding for it.
 - b) **Time Warner (TW) Cable Contract –** Supervisor John Quenell talked to Steve Horn about the Time Warner contract renewal. S. Horn reviewed Brighton's proposed contract versus other NYS towns of similar new contracts with TW and found that in addition to our clauses, some had a clause about providing cable service from trunk lines. There is a possibility that this could apply to McColloms, because there is an aerial trunk line along State Route 30.
- 8) **TOWN HALL PROJECT- Supervisor John Quenell, Peter Shrope, and Lydia Wright::**
- a) Completed application for contract for the matching grants from SHPO; theoretically it is being

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- reviewed. With the financial problems at state level, grants are not being paid at this time.
- b) Town forces and volunteers are doing what can be done without much cost.
 - c) P. Shrope asked whether more signs are needed to inform about the relocation of town hall services, people are having trouble finding the Court and Building Inspector.
 - d) Supervisor John Quenell was happy to report that he has found a source to match the bead board of the interior of town hall, in order to make a seamless repair on damaged walls.
- 9) **TOWN REDEVELOPMENT CITIZENS COMMITTEE - Susan Mayer:** Report submitted prior to meeting
- a) Called OGS contact Richard Bennett for an update on the status of Camp Gabriels. He said OGS had just sent letters out to appraisers requesting bids on appraising the Camp. One bid had been received at that point.
 - b) The Committee has met on May 26 with Franklin county IDA Director John Tubs for discussion on reuse options for Camp Gabriels; these were housing development, a private college satellite campus or a commercial developer buying the Camp to sell or lease sections of the property to various commercial entities.
 - c) The IDA Director is excited about the property and was going to look into finding funding for an economic fiscal impact analysis. He also said a county comprehensive economic development strategy is underway and he was interested in making Camp Gabriels a priority project. The committee felt that it would make sense for the IDA to take a leading role in identifying a reuse for the property..
 - d) Next steps involve identifying some housing and commercial developers and private colleges with environmental sciences programs to contact about the property. The committee also is developing a packet of information about the property and the area to send to these identified contacts.
 - e) The May 18 VIC transition committee meeting was cancelled due to the ARC meeting being held the next day in Lake Placid where a presentation on the transition team's work would be given. An announcement was made during that presentation that Paul Smiths College was attempting to purchase the Paul Smiths' VIC VIC from the state. At this time, no future VIC transition committee meeting has been scheduled..

OLD BUSINESS: *None*

NEW BUSINESS:

Dry Hydrants: The Town has over the years installed 13 Dry Hydrants. However the need for larger sized hose connections at the hydrants heads has increased, because newer fire fighting equipment is designed for 6-inch connections rather than the 4.5-inch and 5-inch connections presently installed on the hydrants. It is possible to replace the existing hydrant heads with new 6-inch heads. The materials cost is about \$150-\$200 per head. 4 of these are on hand.

RESOLUTION #62

DRY HYDRANTS NOT TO EXCEED \$1,000.00 FOR PSGVFD

Motion made by John Quenell, **second** by Peter Shrope

RESOLVED to reimburse the Paul Smiths Gabriels Volunteer Fire Department for dry hydrant parts during 2010 for a cost not to exceed \$1000.00.

ROLL CALL VOTE: Aye 3 (Leavitt, Shrope, Wright), Nay 0, Abstain 2 (Quenell, Tucker).

Resolution #62 declared duly adopted.

CITIZENS COMMENTS: *None*

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AUDIT OF VOUCHERS

Motion made by Supervisor John Quenell, second by Lydia Wright, to audit the vouchers. Aye 5 (Leavitt, Quenell, Shrope, Tucker, Wright), Nay 0

RESOLUTION #63

PAYMENT OF AUDITED VOUCHERS AS LISTED ON THE ABSTRACTS

Motion made by Lydia Wright, second by Supervisor John Quenell:

RESOLVED that the Supervisor be authorized to pay the audited vouchers as listed on the abstracts as follows:

PREPAID FUNDS: Abstract #6 for Voucher #6A through and including 6C for 2010 General Funds in the amount of \$717.32 and 2010 Street Light Funds in the amount of \$49.93

GENERAL FUND: Abstract #6 for Voucher #148 through and including #168 for 2010 funds in the amount of \$3,874.51

HIGHWAY FUND: Abstract #6 for Voucher #51 through and including #56 for 2010 funds in the amount of \$962.90

CAPTIAL PROJECT: TOWN HALL PROJECT: Abstract #14 for Voucher #20 through and including #25 for Capital Project funds in the amount of \$ 466.03

ROLL CALL VOTE: Aye 3 (Quenell, Shrope, Wright), Nay 0, Abstain 2 (Leavitt, Tucker)

Resolution #63 declared duly adopted.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to Adjourn at 9:26 p.m. made by John Quenell, Second by Lydia Wright, Aye 5 (Leavitt, Quenell, Shrope, Tucker, Wright), Nay 0

Respectfully Submitted,

Michelle White
Deputy-Brighton Town Clerk