

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

January 18, 2007

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**A Special Town Board Meeting of the Town of Brighton was held on Thursday, January 18, 2007, at 6:00 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 6:02 p.m.

The "Pledge to the Flag" was recited.

## **ROLL CALL OF OFFICERS**

**PRESENT:** Supervisor Peter Martin, Sr.

Council Members: Sheila Delarm, David Knapp, and Steve Tucker

**ABSENT:** Council Member Lydia Wright

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Elaine Sater - Town Clerk

**RESIDENTS:** There was one resident present

**GUESTS:** Malcolm Jones, Franklin County Emergency Services Director, Tim Snider, Director of Plant Operations, Adirondack Medical Center, and Dan Spencer, Paul Smiths-Gabriels Volunteer Fire Department

**NOTICE OF MEETING:** Notice of this meeting was faxed to the Adirondack Daily Enterprise and posted on the Town Clerk's sign board on Thursday, January 11. Notices were posted at the three post offices and local businesses on Friday, January 12.

## **1. DISASTER PLAN:**

**Sheila Delarm** updated everyone on the process so far with the Disaster Plan. A "boiler plate" was provided by the Emergency Management Services of Franklin County and the Town has made a draft specific to its purposes. At previous meetings it was suggested to keep the names and phone numbers on page 9 and update as needed so the whole document does not have to change with the change in personnel. The Town's draft was reviewed. There were questions for the hospital, what happens when Adirondack Medical Center (AMC) is full.

**Tim Snider, AMC**, said there is a bed status report given to the Department of Health and depending on where there is room patients are directed there.

**Tim Snider** asked what was the probability of a disaster like an ice storm or forest fire.

Discussion was held on how long it had been since a disaster, the chances keep increasing

Discussion was held on the worst case scenario of a "pandemic flu". The Franklin County Public Health Department has information for people to start gathering supplies to have on hand for a crisis. Education is the most important part right now. People need to know how to be self sufficient and act on it now. People that have planned to respond to the disaster may not be available, so everyone needs to know the plan. The stress should be on sanitation and shelters. There are several shelters in the area. Franklin County EMS has to be notified to get things moving at the County, State and Federal level.

**Supervisor Peter Martin** said the Franklin County Coroner is working on his part to include in the plan.

After the plan is finalized a "table top" exercise needs to be held. A letter will be sent to the citizens with information of safety issues to consider.

Other considerations: Communications - There is a Government Emergency Telephone System "GETS" available for priority phone calling through Homeland Security. Radio frequencies is another issue. The Franklin County EMS has extra radios if needed.

There are Automatic External Defibrillators (AED) available in the area also.

Paul Smiths College has sold the hotel in Saranac Lake, they need to change their plan for evacuation.

**Supervisor Peter Martin called a Special Meeting for February 15, at 6 p.m. to discuss the final Disaster Plan.**

**2. PAYMENT FOR RETIREMENT SYSTEM:** A voucher was presented for payment for the NYS Employees and Retirement System due 1 February.

**3. ATTORNEY FOR THE TOWN:** **Supervisor Peter Martin** is looking for an alternate Attorney for the Town. He found someone who might be interested in Plattsburgh and sent him a copy of the Rescue Contract to review. He is an Attorney for other towns. His fees are \$175 per hour, which could be negotiable. Sheila Delarm said she

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would be more interested in getting someone closer. David Knapp agreed with her. Sheila Delarm recommended Janet Bliss of Lake Placid. Steve Tucker said the Town had her and she was cheaper but very slow responding to requests. Discussion was held on pros and cons of location. Supervisor Peter Martin said he called different people in Saranac Lake last year and no one was interested.

4. **FOOD PANTRY CONTRACT:** The Board reviewed the Food Pantry Contract and made no changes for 2007.
5. **RESCUE CONTRACT:** Discussion was held on where the Department of Health stood on helping the Town solve the problem of the Rescue Contract. They would like the Town to resolve the issue for now and work out the problems for next year. There was an addendum to the proposed contract sent to the Village of Saranac Lake. David Knapp attended the Village Board meeting on January 15, 2007 and the Village board accepted the addendum as part of the contract. This contract was received at 5:20 p.m. on the night of the Public Hearing, January 16, 2007 and handed out to the public. If there is no agreement by January 26, 2007 the Town needs to have a "PLAN B" as the residents asked about at the Public Hearing. Sheila Delarm set up a meeting with Northern Ambulance to discuss what they can provide for the Town to cover the rescue service. David Knapp will send a FOIL request to the Village of Saranac Lake for financial information on the fire department budget.

### Sheila Delarm left the meeting at 9:14 p.m.

Discussion was held on what service would be available in the event that the rescue service is stopped by the Village of Saranac Lake after January 26, 2007. Letters of intent to help the town are needed from the Department of Health and Tupper Lake and St. Regis Falls rescue services. If the other two towns (Harriestown and Santa Clara) sign the contract than Brighton will not have any power left to negotiate. Discussion was held concerning the wording of the contract and changes were identified. A copy of the contract with changes requested will be sent to the Attorney for the Town, Scott Goldie, for his review.

### RESOLUTION #21

#### AUTHORIZATION TO REQUEST CHANGES TO RESCUE CONTRACT FOR 2007

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

**WHEREAS**, a contract for 2007 Rescue Services with addendum was received from the Village of Saranac Lake dated January 15, 2007, and

**WHEREAS**, after review it was noted that the contract addressed "fire protection" and the Town only contracts for rescue services, and

**WHEREAS**, approval of the Saranac Lake Volunteer Fire Department is not evident in the contract,

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Deputy Supervisor David Knapp be authorized to sign a letter to be forwarded to the Village of Saranac Lake concerning changes to the rescue contract with addendums for 2007 as follows:**

The Town of Brighton Board has reviewed the contract proposed by the Village of Saranac Lake, dated January 15, 2007. A Public Hearing was held to discuss this contract. The following items need to be changed before this contract can be approved by the Town of Brighton Board:

A. Page 1, second paragraph, Change "Village of Saranac Lake Fire Department" to "Saranac Lake Volunteer Fire Department".

Reason: This is the proper name of the Fire Department

B. Page 2, Covenant THIRD, second sentence: Change due date "January 1" to "February 1"

Reason: The Town does not collect taxes until after January 1. The funds are not available until February 1.

C. Page 2, Covenant THIRD, third sentence: Delete "and Volunteers", "fire protection", and "or fire police protection". Add after "rescue" the word "and first aid squad relief"

Reason: The Town of Brighton is not contracting for fire protection or fire police protection. The volunteers are already covered under the term "FIRE DEPARTMENT".

D. Page 2, Covenant FOURTH, first sentence: After the words "...fire apparatus," add the words "emergency vehicles,". After the words "...originating in the" delete the word "DISTRICT" and add the word "TOWN". After the word "... for" delete the words "fire protection" and "fire police assistance".

Reason: The word "DISTRICT" is not defined in the agreement but the word "TOWN" is.

The Town is not contracting for fire protection or fire police assistance.

E. Page 2, Covenant FIFTH, first sentence: After the words "...FIRE DEPARTMENT" delete the words "or

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Volunteer Fire Company of the Village”.

Reason: The definition of “FIRE DEPARTMENT” includes volunteers.

F. Page 2, Covenant SIXTH, first sentence: Delete the words “DISTRICT” and add the word “TOWN”.

Reason: The word DISTRICT is not defined in the agreement.

G. Page 3, Covenant NINTH: This provision has not been met by the Village of Saranac Lake.

Reason: In accordance with General Municipal Law (GML), Section 209b, para 2d, it states that “Before any authorization is granted under paragraphs a and b of this subdivision, or before any contract to furnish general ambulance service is entered into pursuant to paragraph c of this subdivision, and before any public hearing is conducted as herein provided, the consents of the fire department, the fire company and the emergency rescue and first aid squad to furnish the general ambulance service shall be obtained.” Please provide a copy of this resolution to the Town of Brighton Board.

H. Page 3, Covenant TENTH, first sentence: After the words “...proportionate share” add “of \$ (insert #)”.

Reason: What is the proportionate share due under this Agreement?

I. Page 5, Para 1, 2 and 3. Change references to the “Village of Saranac Lake Fire Department” to “Saranac Lake Volunteer Fire Department”.

Reason: This is the proper name of the FIRE DEPARTMENT.

It will not be logistically possible for the Town to enter into a Rescue contract with the Village prior to January 26, 2007 because of the changes requested to the proposed contract. Please provide a corrected copy of this contract for further review by the Town of Brighton Board with the Fire Department’s consents.

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 until a public hearing can be held in accordance with GML 209b, and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that a highlighted copy of General Municipal Law Section 209b be sent with the letter requesting signatures as required by law.

**ROLL CALL VOTE: Aye 3 (Knapp, Martin, Tucker), Nay 0, Absent 2 (Delarm, Wright)**

**Resolution #21 declared duly adopted.**

**SPECIAL MEETINGS:**

**Supervisor Peter Martin** called a Special Meeting for Monday, January 22 at 5:30 p.m. and for Thursday, January 25, at 7:30 p.m. to discuss the Rescue Contract and other town business.

**ADJOURNMENT**

**Motion to Adjourn at 10:45 p.m. made by David Knapp, second by Steve Tucker, Aye 3, Nay 0, Absent 2 (Delarm, Wright)**

Respectfully Submitted,

Elaine Sater  
Brighton Town Clerk