

TOWN OF BRIGHTON, FRANKLIN COUNTY, NEW YORK  
REGULAR TOWN BOARD MEETING MINUTES

October 12, 2017

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The Regular Meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Brighton was held Thursday, October 12, 2017, following a Special Meeting at 5:00 pm 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 6:25 pm

**ROLL CALL OF OFFICERS**

PRESENT: Supervisor Peter Shrope

Council Members: Brian McDonnell, Amber McKernan, Steve Tucker and Lydia Wright

ABSENT: None

OTHERS PRESENT: Paul Blaine-Code Enforcement Officer, Andy Crary-Superintendent of Highways, Elaine Sater-Town Clerk and two residents

GUESTS: None

**NOTICE OF MEETING:**

Notice of this meeting was posted on October 5, on the Town Clerk's Sign Board, at local businesses and at post offices in the Town. Notice was published in the Adirondack Daily Enterprise on October 5, 2017

**REPORTS**

1. Highway Department - Andy Crary (Report submitted prior to meeting)
  - a. Greased trucks, cleaned shop
  - b. Town of St. Armand helped with excavator to provide beaver control on Split Rock Road
  - c. Seeded area with hay on Split Rock Road after work completed
  - d. Worked on the Clark-Wardner road
  - e. Worked at the landfill, filled in low spots, seeded and put hay on cover, had Mike Martin of Cedar Eden Environmental, LLC, inspect the work for his follow up report to NYS DEC
  - f. Hauled tar for the Village and Town of Tupper Lake
  - g. Got the plows out
  - h. Made a dump run
  - i. Picked up four picnic tables for park
  - j. Checked roads
  - k. Used loader to move trees from County Road 31 from wind storm
  - l. Need resolution to hire Trudeau Sand and Gravel, Inc., to screen sand for \$4000
  - m. Men using vacation time

**RESOLUTION #50-2017**

**SCREEN SAND FOR WINTER ROADS**

Motion made by Supervisor Peter Shrope, second by Brian McDonnell,

RESOLVED that the Town Board authorizes the Superintendent of Highways to hire Trudeau Sand and Gravel, Inc. of Saranac Lake to screen sand for the 2017-2018 winter season for an amount not to exceed \$4,000.

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

**RESOLUTION #50 declared duly adopted**

- n. Landfill Work: Supervisor Peter Shrope commended Highway employees for work on landfill, saved the Town money by doing it themselves.
  - o. Split Rock Road: Culvert is dented from a vehicle accident about two years ago
  - p. CHIPS Funds: Submitted a request for funds to cover guardrail and paving costs
  - q. Keese Mills Road: Letter was sent to the Franklin County Highway Superintendent to request the NYS Department of Transportation conduct a survey on the Keese Mills Road to determine the speed limit area.
2. Town Clerk- Elaine Sater: Report received prior to Board meeting
    - a. Total Revenue to Supervisor as of September 30, 2017 was \$ 773.46 from 1 Sport License, 5 Certified Copies, 1 Donation for Park Use, 12 Dog Licenses (1 new Tag#191 and 11 renewed), 5 Building Permits

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- (#17-024 thru 028)
- b. September 15, received FOIL request for pictures of the Sister's Farm in Gabriels, person came on September 19 and took pictures of posters from History Days
  - c. September 28, received a notice from "Adirondack Voters for Change", they are having a forum for Town candidates at the Harriestown Hall on October 16 for anyone who is interested
  - d. October 1, Tentative Town Budget for 2018 was filed; copies were distributed to the Board on Thursday, October 5
  - e. October 5, posted notices on the Town Clerk's Sign Board, at Town businesses and at post offices for the Special Board meeting on October 12 at 5pm. Notice was also published in the Adirondack Daily Enterprise.
  - f. TOWN HALL REQUEST: Rainbow Lake Water Protection District, Thursday, September 29 and Wednesday, December 6, from 1 to 3pm.
  - g. TOWN PARK REQUEST: Paul Smith's College Rugby added Saturday, September 16 and 30, and October 14 and 21 from 10am to 4pm.; received a Certificate of Liability Insurance from Paul Smith's College to cover Rugby. Lease with Paul Smith's College on Park has expired
  - h. RECORDS MANAGEMENT: Still working on indexing minutes from 1935-1950 and shredding 2010 Town and Court Records.
3. Historian - Elaine Sater: 1936 Minutes Continued
- Apr 2 - Board meets at Cornelius Meagher's office in Gabriels; Board purchases Liability Insurance to cover the volunteer firemen for \$165.00. Superintendent of Highways is authorized to purchase a truck for \$1000.
- Apr 20 - Mrs. Chas. Downs resigns as School Director; she was elected at the past election for the position. Mrs. Nellie McDonald is appointed to take the position.
- May 7 - Someone has built a fence obstructing the Town Highway on the west side of the bridge near Colby Corners. Superintendent of Highways is authorized to remove the fence.
- July 28 - Superintendent of Highways is authorized to purchase 1000 feet of 4' snow fence.
- Sept 18 - Board votes to use the US Standard Voting Machine at Town elections. Supervisor is authorized to purchase the machine for \$880 from Automatic Voting Machine Corp. Assessor Gerald Crary and Welfare Officer William Quirk resign their positions.
- Oct 7 - Dr. R. S. Strong is appointed as Health Officer and Jerome Quain is appointed Welfare Officer
- Oct 23 - Vote to purchase a desk for the Welfare Officer for \$20. Guy Summers is appointed as Assessor.
- Nov 5 - (Note: These minutes are not in the minute book, but I found them in a file of original minutes; someone has rewritten the minutes in a book.) This is considered a "Regular Meeting" Audit of Vouchers completed and an abstract for \$5,333.22 is made out. The Superintendent of Highways gives an estimate for the Highway Fund as follows: Item 1 \$7,000, Item 2: none, Item 3: \$4,500 and Item 4:\$3,500. The Supervisor is authorized to borrow \$1,826.45 to pay the outstanding bills; however the paperwork for the loan is for \$2,244.41 at 6% interest from the Saranac Lake National Bank, payable by February 1, 1937.
- Dec 4 - Resolution made to charge back to respective Towns of the County, the cost of hospitalization for welfare cases on a monthly basis. \$750 will be raised by taxes to cover hospitalization costs or any other welfare purpose.
- Dec 28 - This is considered a "Regular" Meeting. Mrs. James Titus is hired as janitor at Town Hall for \$40 a year; to be paid quarterly. Resolution made for Supervisor to collect \$5.00 whenever a political rally is held at the Town Hall. Supervisor's Financial Records were audited by the Board and accepted as correct.
4. Tax Collector - Holly Huber: Nothing to Report
  5. Town Justice - Nik Santagate: Supervisor Peter Shrope said he received a check in the amount of \$2,834.00 and the Town Justice reported he disposed of 34 cases for the month of September
  6. Code Enforcement Officer (CEO) - Paul Blaine: Report received prior to meeting
    - a. 5 building permit (BP) were issued during September (BP#17-024 thru 028)
    - b. Issued one (1) Certificate of Compliance BP#17-022
    - b. Issued two (2) Certificates of Occupancy BPs#17-015 and 12-001
    - c. Other issues: The Fire Department is working on their addition for the boiler and the dome style home is still in progress on Rickerson Pond Road

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7. Assessor- Roseanne Gallagher: Nothing to report, working on data collection in Rainbow Lake area
8. Animal Control - Tri Lakes Humane Society: No Report
9. Supervisor - Peter Shrope:
  - a. Boiler in Town Hall: No heat in Town Hall on October 4, boilers will be cleaned on Monday Oct 23.
  - b. Picnic Tables: The four are finished, had to purchase stain for them, it was not included in the contract to make them. The Town paid for all the materials.
  - c. Received notice that the Franklin County auction for tax sales of property will be conducted on November 14 in Malone; the Guess/Cross property is up for auction. Board would like to thank Mr. Buckley for cleaning up the piece of property next to this property.
  - d. Census 2020: Attended a seminar in Potsdam for information. Would like to participate in updating the information for Census workers by identifying new housing units and streets. Deadline to sign up is December 15, 2017. New Census Day will be April 1, 2020. Lydia Wright said she would help with this project.
  - e. Budget as of September 30, 2017, provided to Board members:
    - i. Highway Budget will have to be adjusted to provide funds for the guardrails on Keese Mills and Split Rock Road.
    - ii. Revenues from September: \$2,834.00 from Town Justice, and \$773.46 from Town Clerk
    - iii. NYCLASS interest received for the General Fund was \$80.04 in General account \$106,182.25 (\$20,000 for Town Hall Roof Project) and Highway Fund is \$30.51 total in account \$40,466.07.

**ACCEPT/AMEND MINUTES**

**- Regular Board – September 14, 2017**

Motion made by Brian McDonnell, second by Lydia Wright, to accept the minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of September 14, 2017, with the following changes: Page 2, Reports, Highway Department, Para “s”, change “skip” to skid” in second sentence and Resolution #43-2017; page 3, Reports, Supervisor, Para 9a, 1<sup>st</sup> sentence: change “People” to “County Supervisors”.

**Roll Call Vote: Aye 4 (McDonnell, Shrope, Tucker, Wright), Nay 0, Abstain 1 (McKernan)**

**CITIZENS COMMENTS: None**

**BUSINESS**

**1. PRELIMINARY BUDGET 2018 PUBLIC HEARING:**

**Motion made by Supervisor Peter Shrope, second by Lydia Wright, to hold the Public Hearing for the Preliminary Budget 2018 on Thursday, October 26 at 6 pm.**

**Roll Call Vote: Aye 5 (McDonnell, McKernan, Shrope, Tucker, Wright), Nay 0**

2. **Voting Machine:** Received notice that the voting machine will be picked up on Tuesday, November 7 after the polls close. Town Clerk will wait for the Board of Elections to pick up the machine as she normally takes the ballots into Harrietstown after the polls close.
3. **Land Bank Proposal #3 on Ballot for November 7 Election:** Request received from Adirondack Association of Towns and Villages to support the “Land Bank” amendment that sets aside 250 acres of land that will be available for exchanging land in the Forest Preserve for utilities and highway work so a constitutional amendment does not need to be sought in the future.

**RESOLUTION #51-2017**

**SUPPORT FOR A STATEWIDE CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT BALLOT PROPOSAL #3 THAT CREATES A LAND ACCOUNT TO ADDRESS SPECIFIC PUBLIC HEALTH AND SAFETY CONCERNS FOR USE BY TOWNS, VILLAGES, AND COUNTIES HAVING NO VIABLE ALTERNATIVE OTHER THAN USING FOREST PRESERVE LAND.**

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Motion made by Supervisor Peter Shrope, second by Brian McDonnell,

WHEREAS, the NY State Forest Preserve lands, in many instances, border local and state highways where local government needs to use a portion of land to straighten a dangerous road, replace a culvert to prevent floods, create a safer bike path, drill a water supply well, or install broadband and other critical infrastructure, and

WHEREAS, the proposed Amendment will create a land account with up to 250-acres of State Forest Preserve land eligible for use by towns, villages, and counties that have no viable alternative to using State Forest Preserve land to address specific public health or safety concerns, and

WHEREAS, as in exchange for the land removed from the State Forest Preserve, another 250-acres of land, will be added to the State Forest Preserve, subject to NY State legislative approval, and

WHEREAS, the proposed Amendment also will allow bicycle trails and certain public utility lines to be located within the width of specific highways that cross the State Forest Preserve while minimizing removal of trees and vegetation, and

WHEREAS, the NY State Constitution has been amended to allow such projects in the past, requiring approval by two separately elected NY State Legislatures and a Statewide Referendum, and

WHEREAS, there exists currently a NYS DOT landbank for NY State road projects which has a long- standing record of success, and

WHEREAS, if approved by the voters of New York State, Ballot Proposal #3 would eliminate the time-consuming and costly bureaucratic process for completing important road maintenance, utility installation and bicycle path creation projects in the Adirondacks and Catskills, a process not faced by communities in any other region of New York State, and

WHEREAS, the Amendment has wide bi-partisan support from local governments, environmental protection organizations, business groups, recreational enthusiasts, and others for two simple reasons; It's for public good and it's rooted in plain old common sense, and

WHEREAS, this Amendment represents the best possible solution to long standing or continuing issues, which local government leaders have work for many years to resolve, and

WHEREAS, Ballot Proposal #3 on November 7, 2017 warrants the support of all the voters of New York State,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Town of Brighton, Franklin County, Town Board does hereby support Ballot Proposal #3 on November 7, 2017, which is deemed critically important to our communities, the State Forest Preserve, the environment and the People of the State of New York, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Resolution shall be forwarded to NYSAC and the Adirondack Association of Towns and Villages.

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

**RESOLUTION #51 declared duly adopted**

4. **Saranac Lake Area Youth Program (SLAYP):** Received an Inter-municipal Agreement for 2018 with Town of Harrietstown for the Saranac Lake Area Youth Program. Amount of \$1,500 is in the budget.

**RESOLUTION #52-2017**

**SARANAC LAKE AREA YOUTH PROGRAM FOR 2018**

Motion made by Supervisor Peter Shrope, second by Steve Tucker,

RESOLVED that the Town Board authorizes the Supervisor to sign an Inter-municipal Agreement with the Towns of Harrietstown, North Elba, and St. Armand, the Village of Saranac Lake, and the Saranac Lake Central School District to provide for residents of the Town of Brighton to participate in the Saranac Lake Area Youth Program for 2018, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the amount of \$1,500 be included in the 2018 Budget for this program.

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

**RESOLUTION #52 declared duly adopted**

5. **Franklin Snowmobilers, Inc:** Received a contract and request for funds for the grooming of snowmobile trails in the Town of Brighton for 2017.

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**RESOLUTION #53-2017**

**SNOWMOBILE TRAIL GROOMING**

Motion made by Supervisor Peter Shrope, second by Steve Tucker,

RESOLVED that the Town Board authorizes the Supervisor to sign a contract with the Franklin Snowmobilers, Inc, for grooming the snowmobile trails in the Town of Brighton for 2017, and  
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Supervisor be authorized to pay the Franklin Snowmobilers the amount of \$300 for this service.

**ROLL CALL VOTE: Aye 5 (McDonnell, McKernan, Shrope, Tucker, Wright), Nay 0**  
**RESOLUTION #53 declared duly adopted**

6. **North Country LifeFlight:** Received contract for Medivac services for 2018

**RESOLUTION #54-2017**

**NC LIFEFLIGHT MEDIVAC SERVICES FOR 2018**

Motion made by Supervisor Peter Shrope, second by Amber McKernan,

RESOLVED that the Town Board authorizes the Supervisor to sign a contract with North Country LifeFlight, Inc, for medivac services for 2018 and  
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the amount of \$1,500 be included in the Budget for 2018.

**ROLL CALL VOTE: Aye 5 (McDonnell, McKernan, Shrope, Tucker, Wright), Nay 0**  
**RESOLUTION #54 declared duly adopted**

7. **Town Hall Maintenance:** Still waiting for quotes from painters for staining wood

8. **Land Purchase from Paul Smith's College:** Waiting to obtain a quote from another surveyor, will apply for a minor subdivision later.

9. **Park Use Policy:** Still in draft form, needs more work

**COMMITTEES**

**Parks and Recreation- Peter Shrope, Amber McKernan:** New hose was installed behind building, made a sign about not drinking the water from the hose. Port-a-Potty will be removed on October 31.

**CITIZENS COMMENTS: None**

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

Motion made by Supervisor Peter Shrope to **GO INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION** at 7:35pm for collective negotiations pursuant to Article 14 of the Civil Service Law, in accordance with Public Officers Law, Article 7, Section 105(e), second by Lydia Wright, Aye 5 (McDonnell, McKernan, Shrope, Tucker, Wright), Nay 0

Motion made by Amber McKernan to **GO OUT OF EXECUTIVE SESSION** at 8:00pm, second by Lydia Wright, Aye 5 (McDonnell, McKernan, Shrope, Tucker, Wright), Nay 0

**AUDIT OF VOUCHERS:**

**RESOLUTION #55-2017**

**PAYMENT OF AUDITED VOUCHERS AS LISTED ON THE ABSTRACTS**

Motion made by Amber McKernan, second by Lydia Wright,

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

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PREPAID FUNDS: Abstract #10 for Voucher #10A through and including 10C for 2017 GENERAL FUNDS in the amount of \$471.06 and STREET LIGHTING FUND Abstract #10C in the amount of \$55.49

GENERAL FUND: Abstract #10 for Voucher #176 through and including #197 for 2017 funds in the amount of \$6,457.55

HIGHWAY FUND: Abstract #10 for Voucher #86 through and including #97 for 2017 funds in the amount of \$14,599.77

**ROLL CALL VOTE:** Aye 5 (McDonnell, McKernan, Shrope, Tucker, Wright), Nay 0  
**Resolution #55 declared duly adopted**

***ADJOURNMENT***

Motion to Adjourn the meeting at 8:03 pm 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

DRAFT