

**The Regular Meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Brighton was held Thursday, April 12, 2001 at 7:00 p.m. at the Brighton Town Hall, Paul Smiths, NY, with the following:**

**PRESENT:** Supervisor Christopher Leifheit  
Council Members: Alicia Bodmer  
Linda Dobson  
John Quenell  
Roger Smith

**ABSENT: None**

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Elaine Sater-Town Clerk, Don Oliver-Superintendent of Highways, Tom Willis-Historian, and Nik Santagate – Justice

**RESIDENTS:** There was one resident present.

**GUESTS:** None

**Meeting was Called to Order** by Supervisor Christopher Leifheit **at 7:02 p.m.**

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

**Motion made** by Supervisor Christopher Leifheit **to accept the minutes of the Regular Town of Brighton Meeting on March 8, 2001**, as written, second by Linda Dobson; Aye 4, Abstain 1 (Bodmer)

**TOWN CLERK REPORT**

Total Revenue to Supervisor as of MARCH 31, 2001 was \$ 78.65

2 Dog License Renewed

1 Certified Copies

2 Building Permits BRI 2001-03 & 04

1. Attended the NYS Town Clerk's Association Executive Committee Meeting in Canandaigua, NY, March 25 & 26. The new DEC sport license system will not be installed until February 2002.
2. Received letter from North Brook Lodge dated March 27, 2001, Re: Notification of request for Liquor License renewal for 2001
3. Snow shovel is missing from the Town Hall; it was taken between Tuesday, March 6 and Thursday, March 8, 2001. If anyone with a key took it I would like to know; it was inside the Town Hall in the back room and marked with "Town Hall" inside the gray shovel scoop.
4. Town Hall Schedule: Thursday April 26, 2000, Brighton AHC has reserved the Town Hall from 1 to 3 pm
5. Park Use: September 2, 2001, Reunion of Camp Lavigerie Family.
6. Town Clerk's Office will be closed on Tuesday, April 24, 2001 so the Town Clerk can attend the Annual Town Clerk's Convention in Buffalo from April 22 to 25.

**SUPERVISOR'S REPORT AND CORRESPONDENCE:**

**Balances of Accounts as of April 6, 2001 were available and are attached to these minutes**

***Business at Hand:***

1. **Brighten Brighton Project-** Linda Dobson: Flyers have been mailed to residents, no requests for "junk cars" have been received yet, tires will be picked up, and scrap metal will be piled at the garage by the Highway Department for pickup by the "junk car" dealer, Gary Bruno. A 10-day limit will be allowed for scrap metal pickup. The bank account has been set up and the first payment of 25% of funds has been received.
2. **Personal Water Craft Proposed Local Law-**John Quenell: State Attorney General reviewed the proposed local laws and they suggested adding information about residents using the lake as a drinking water source. The two laws will be combined for the Public Hearing and a proposed new local law is being submitted. The Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) Captain Carol Drury advised attendees at Local Government Day in Saranac Lake on March 24 they do not enforce local laws. Major Warburton of the State Troopers in Ray Brook said the state police would enforce the local law.

**RESOLUTION # 31**

**PROPOSED LOCAL LAW 2-2001 - PERSONAL WATER CRAFT AND SPECIALTY PROPCRAFT**

**Motion made** by John Quenell **to propose a local law (attached) to establish a personal watercraft (PWC) and specialty prop-craft regulation zone for the St. Regis Lakes and Osgood Pond**, second by Supervisor Christopher Leifheit, All Aye

**Roll Call Vote:**

Supervisor Christopher Leifheit	Aye
Council Members: Alicia Bodmer	Aye
Linda Dobson	Aye
John Quenell	Aye
Roger Smith	Aye

**Resolution #31 declared duly adopted.**

**RESOLUTION #32**

**AUTHORIZATION TO HOLD A PUBLIC HEARING FOR PROPOSED LOCAL LAW 2-2001 (PWC)**

**Motion made** by John Quenell **to authorize a Public Hearing on Tuesday, July 10 at 7 p.m. at the Town Hall for the purpose of public input for proposed Local Law 2-2001 (Establishing a personal watercraft (PWC) and specialty prop-craft regulation zone for the St. Regis Lakes and Osgood Pond)**, second by Alicia Bodmer, All Aye

**Roll Call Vote:**

Supervisor Christopher Leifheit	Aye
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Council Members: Alicia Bodmer	Aye
Linda Dobson	Aye
John Quenell	Aye
Roger Smith	Aye

**Resolution #32 declared duly adopted.**

3. **Code Enforcement Officer Proposal:** Received a proposed contract for a full-time Code Enforcement Officer (CEO) to be shared by three towns. The Town of Santa Clara is hiring a CEO on May 1, 2001 and would like to contract with two other towns to share the expenses of the full-time position. The Town's expense share would be 1/3 of a \$21,000 salary plus benefits and 35 cents per mile for mileage. Santa Clara will provide a vehicle, cell phone, and vehicle radio. A monthly report would be provided to each town with an active list with inspection steps, certificates issued and completed applications, and a mileage log. Council Member John Quenell and Supervisor Christopher Leifheit met with the Supervisor of the Town of Santa Clara, Mike Adams, to discuss the contract. The expense to the Town Of Brighton would be \$7,000 for salary and about \$923 for benefits such as workers' compensation and disability (not health benefits). The funds would come out of contractual expense for CEO (A3620.4) instead of salary (A3620.1). The current funds budgeted for salary (\$5000) and Deputy Code Enforcement Officer (\$500) would be transferred to contractual expenses. The fee structure for Building Permits needs to be revised to pay for the CEO, this will be looked at in the future. Roger Smith pointed out that new construction increases the assessed value of property and the Town gets more money in taxes from the property owner who is building. John Quenell pointed out increased assessments don't increase the money the Town receives, it only redistributes who pays the taxes. Increasing the fees are more to pay for the time the CEO has to spend on each site, there are more visits for major construction as opposed to adding on a porch. Roger Smith wondered about the Deputy CEO position, he would like to make sure there is one. The Board questioned what the 35 cents per mile was for since the Town currently allows 25 cents for mileage, what the salary increase per year would be since it is connected to the Santa Clara Highway Department increase, and if the new CEO would be enforcing local laws. The Board would like to see the wording of the contract specify the expenses to the Town such as \$7,000 in salary instead of 1/3 of \$21,000. This will be discussed with Mike Adams and reported at the May meeting. Supervisor Christopher Leifheit will also discuss the contract with the Attorney of the Town, Janet Bliss.
  
4. **Landfill Closure:** J. Hutchins Construction has been doing the preliminary work on the Landfill Cap and has submitted an invoice for the work.

**RESOLUTION #33**

**AUTHORIZATION TO EXPEND FUNDS OF \$4,950 TO J.HUTCHINS FOR LANDFILL CAP**

**Motion made by Supervisor Christopher Leifheit to authorize payment of \$4,950.00 from General Fund (A8160.4) to J. Hutchins Construction of Malone for the first invoice on the Landfill Cap construction, second by Linda Dobson, All Aye**

**Roll Call Vote:**

Supervisor Christopher Leifheit	Aye
Council Members: Alicia Bodmer	Aye
Linda Dobson	Aye
John Quenell	Aye
Roger Smith	Aye

**Resolution #33 declared duly adopted.**

5. **Budget Amendment #1-2001:** Disability Insurance was \$251.60 higher than budgeted.

**RESOLUTION #34**

**AUTHORIZATION TO AMEND 2001 BUDGET FOR GENERAL FUND**

**Motion made by Supervisor Christopher Leifheit to authorize Budget Amendment #1-2001 General Fund for \$251.60 from Account #A1990.4 (Contingent) to Account #A9055.8 (Disability Insurance), second by John Quenell, All Aye**

**Roll Call Vote:**

Supervisor Christopher Leifheit	Aye
Council Members: Alicia Bodmer	Aye
Linda Dobson	Aye
John Quenell	Aye
Roger Smith	Aye

**Resolution #34 declared duly adopted.**

**COUNCIL MEMBERS:**

**John Quenell**

1. **Adelphia Contract:** Sent to Department of Public Service (DPS) and they reviewed and made suggestions, will bring summary of contract and suggestions to next meeting
2. **Highway Equipment Reserve:** A resolution (#15-2001) was made to set up a CLASS Account for Equipment Reserve, has it been completed yet? No, the account is not set up yet, but money from the checking accounts was transferred to the CLASS accounts and the interest amount received doubled. The next step will be to set up the Equipment Reserve Account as soon as Supervisor Christopher Leifheit reviews the accounts to find out where the \$100,000 should be pulled from.
3. **New Garage for Highway Department:** Can a dialog be started to discuss what needs to be done next to get this project moving? Supervisor Christopher Leifheit talked to an architect who will look at the building and make recommendations as to what requirements are needed.

4. **Census 2000:** Received information on the Town Of Brighton: Total resident population is 1,682; 1,485 are 18 years and older. The 1990 census was 1,511. Camp Gabriels population increased.
5. **Junk Yards:** The resident on Easy Street has added more junk to their front yard. The proposed Junk law needs to be brought to a Public Hearing, it has been reviewed by the Attorney to the Town, Janet Bliss

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**1. ASSESSOR- Doug Tichenor:**

- a. Received numerous inquiries relative to the STAR Exemption
- b. Received returned aged STAR renewal forms
- c. Commenced work on the 2001 tentative assessment roll
- d. Commenced work on the Town Of Brighton 2002 assessment update project, still need Board approval
  - (1) New property record cards are being produced for the Town by ORPS (Office of Real Property Services)
  - (2) The property data will be field checked by the assessor for accuracy
  - (3) Valuation will be commenced in the fall of 2001
  - (4) Assessments will be disclosed by 3/1/02 with informal meetings scheduled with interested property owners

**RESOLUTION #35**

**AUTHORIZATION TO UPDATE THE ASSESSEMENT FOR THE TOWN IN 2002**

**WHEREAS, the Assessor of the Town Of Brighton, Douglas Tichenor, has indicated the need for updating the assessment in said Town,**

**THEREFORE, Be it resolved that the Town Board of the Town Of Brighton supports equitable assessment practices and directs the Assessor, Douglas Tichenor, to take the steps necessary to achieve the update of assessments in the Town Of Brighton.**

**Motion made by Supervisor Christopher Leifheit, Second by Alicia Bodmer, All Aye**

**Roll Call Vote:**

Supervisor Christopher Leifheit	Aye
Council Members: Alicia Bodmer	Aye
Linda Dobson	Aye
John Quenell	Aye
Roger Smith	Aye

**Resolution #35 declared duly adopted.**

**2. CEMETERY:** Nothing to Report

**3. CODE ENFORCEMENT OFFICER:**

- a. Issued 2 Building Permits
- b. Responded to 1 bona fide complaint
- c. Discussed dumpster and garage at the trailer park in Gabriels with waste management company
- d. Discussed roof load requirements with Plattsburgh Housing Outlet for the placement of a HUD manufactured housing unit

**4. COURT- Nik Santagate:**

- a. Reviewed 46 cases and sent \$2,397 to the State Comptroller
- b. The Court Clerk, Sonya Franciamone, has returned to work

**5. HIGHWAY – Don Oliver:**

- a. Changed road grader charging system from generator to alternator because the generator is no longer repairable
- b. Sent the pickup to Dannemora Ford to have brake work done, had it serviced while there
- c. Pushed banks back on side roads and County Route 31
- d. Rebuilt plow frame on the Oshkosh, working on changing the box
- e. Forrest Pennington is out on sick list, his shoulder was damaged in an auto accident. He will return to work on Monday, April 16, 2001. John Quenell received a request for insurance reimbursement for his salary. Forrest has not lost any wages since he was using sick time. The insurance will reimburse for sick time so Forrest can keep his sick time. John Quenell will look into this further.

**6. INSURANCE - John Quenell:** Nothing to report

**7. PARK:** The Park should not be opened for public gatherings until the branches are cleaned up. Supervisor Christopher Leifheit will contact Randall Swanson at Paul Smiths College to see if his Urban Tree Management students will help clean up the Park again. Highway can rent a chipper to help with the clean up. Niagara Mohawk (Paul Marshall) needs to be contacted to remove two trees near power lines.

**8. TAX COLLECTOR- Amber McKernan:** Amber has been out of town due to an illness in her family. Tom McKernan was appointed Deputy Tax Collector and provided the following report:

- a. Total receipts collected in March 2001: \$25,655.17
- b. Penalties Collected in March: \$392.81
- c. Total Receipts to Date: \$663,021.20
- d. Total checks issued to Date: \$586,704.76
- e. Current Checking Account Balance: \$76,316.44

**CITIZENS COMMENTS:**

**Steve Tucker-Gabriels:** The Paul Smiths/Gabriels Volunteer Fire Department (PS/GVFD) voted to install a permanent bar in the Fire House. He stated statistics about Fire Member accidents involving alcohol at other Fire Departments. Saranac Lake Fire recently removed its beer refrigerator. The Village of Saranac Lake owns the building not the Fire Department. Fire Chief Roger Smith said the vote was 13 to 2 in favor and the bar will consist of a counter with a sink and locked cabinets for the alcohol. Currently the alcohol is stored in an unlocked electrical room and the beer is in an unlocked refrigerator. This bar will not be opened to the general public. The PSGVFD, Inc. owns its Fire Hall not the Town.

**Tom Willis-Rainbow Lake:**

- a. The Board agreed to be a conduit for funds for a grant from the Arts Council to complete the Brighton 2000 project. Brighton AHC received a check for \$1,800 for this project from the Arts Council.
- b. History Lesson: In 1909 the Town Board voted to expend \$500 to build a shed to house the highway equipment. In 1910 Supervisor, Clerk, and Highway Superintendent were paid a salary for the first time. A time sheet was kept by each position in 1909 to determine how much time was spent for each job. Salaries in 1930 were Clerk: \$40, Highway Superintendent: \$5 a day, Highway Laborers: \$.40 per hour, Truck driver: \$.50 an hour, and Snow Plow Operator \$100 per month.

**RESOLUTION #36**

**AUTHORIZATION TO PAY ALL BILLS LISTED ON ABSTRACTS**

**Motion made by Supervisor Christopher Leifheit to pay all the bills as listed on the abstracts attached to these minutes as follows:**

**ABSTRACT #4 - All Funds: Pre-Paid Voucher #4A through and including Voucher #4H as follows: \$11,417.58 General Fund and \$2,241.84 Highway Fund, Total Pre-Paid: \$13,659.42**

**ABSTRACT #4 - General Fund: Voucher #49 through and including Voucher #64 as follows: \$9,775.21**

**ABSTRACT #4 - Highway Fund: Voucher #39 through and including Voucher #55 as follows: \$6,650.35**

**ABSTRACT #4 – Street Lighting District: Voucher #4 for \$51.36**

Second by Linda Dobson, All Aye

**Roll Call Vote:**

Supervisor Christopher Leifheit	Aye
Council Members: Alicia Bodmer	Aye
Linda Dobson	Aye
John Quenell	Aye
Roger Smith	Aye

**Resolution #36 declared duly adopted.**

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**Adirondack Association of Towns:** Should the Town join this organization? Alicia Bodmer will represent the Town at the meetings. Supervisor Christopher Leifheit will find out cost of membership.

**Motion made by Linda Dobson to adjourn the Regular Town Board Meeting at 9:15 p.m.,** second by Alicia Bodmer; All Aye

Respectfully submitted,

Elaine W. Sater  
Brighton Town Clerk