

TOWN BOARD MEETING

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2014

Minutes of the Regular Board meeting held on the above date beginning at 7:00 pm at the meeting room of the North Elba Town Hall, 2693 Main Street, Lake Placid, New York

Members Present: Supervisor Politi, Councilman Favro, Councilman Miller, Councilman Doty, Councilman Rand, and Laurie Dudley

Others Present: Attorney Ron Briggs, Larry Straight, Matt Turner

Supervisor Politi opened the Regular Town Board meeting at 7:00 pm by asking everyone to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance.

Supervisor Politi asked for a motion for the minutes of the November 10, 2014 Board Meeting and Public Hearing November 10, 2014.

Councilman Doty moved and Councilman Rand seconded the motion to approve the minutes as written and presented. There being no further discussion, the motion was unanimously carried.

APPROVE SL FIRE CONTRACT- 2015

Supervisor Politi – We just had a public hearing on the Saranac Lake Fire and Rescue contracts. Given that no one appeared, I would like a resolution approving the 2015 Fire Contract with the Village of Saranac Lake in the amount of \$33,729.17. It was noted in the public hearing the contract year was \$26,536.56 a reduction of \$2,807.39 or 7.68%. Ultimately there is an agreement between the Village of Saranac Lake, Town of Harrietstown and Town of St. Armand. Santa Clara, Brighton and Franklin opted out.

Councilman Doty – Santa Clara and Brighton have their own departments and Franklin contracts with them. The same as last year.

Councilman Doty moved and Councilman Favro seconded the motion to approve the 2015 Fire Contract with Saranac Lake. There being no further discussion, the motion was unanimously carried.

APPROVE SL VOLUNTEER RESCUE CONTRACT- 2015

Supervisor Politi – We also have to approve the 2015 Saranac Lake Volunteer Rescue Contract. The agreement runs from January 1, 2015 to December 31, 2015 in the amount of \$27,973 which is down from \$28,755 last year. This agreement is down \$800.

Councilman Doty – Are we in year two or three? As we approach year five, we should start seeing drastic reductions because their insurance return rate and billing should start catching up..

Councilman Favro – They have done one of the best jobs in creating volunteer Ambulance service that operates independently. They are doing transports to SL. They went from BLS, basic stuff, to all ALS. Their service level is high. They should be very proud of themselves.

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Supervisor Politi – The contract was negotiated by Jack and Derek. We need a resolution approving the SL Rescue Contract

Councilman Favro moved and Councilman Doty seconded the motion to approve the 2015 Saranac Lake Volunteer Rescue Contract. There being no further discussion, the motion was unanimously carried.

AUTHORIZATION TO OPEN CHECKING ACCT- HEALTH REIMBURSEMENT

Supervisor Politi – I needs authorization to open a checking account for the Health Savings Reimbursement that we negotiated.

Councilman Favro moved and Councilman Doty seconded the motion to approve a Health Savings Reimbursement account. There being no further discussion, the motion was unanimously carried.

BUDGET ADJUSTMENTS

Supervisor Politi – Everyone received the budget adjustments from Cathy. There is bad news and good news. The bad news; it is the end of year and a lot of expenditures went over budget or were not budgeted in the previous year, i.e. Craig Wood, electricity, street lighting, Grimditch... The good news; there was a substantial amount under budget in the State Retirement Fund (\$49,000) and Park District health insurance (\$43,700). There were costs in the General Funds the amount of \$12,403.46 and costs in the Park District in the amount of \$16,717.87. Other than that, it is mostly housekeeping.

(Budget Adjustments attached)

Councilman Favro moved and Councilman Miller seconded the motion to approve the budget adjustments as written and presented. There being no further discussion, the motion was unanimously carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS – VIDEO MONITOR

Councilman Favro – Jessica talked to me the other day about the video and TV. I sent everybody a link to one that I found which is the cheapest I have ever seen. We have the same thing and I paid \$8K - \$10K. What you do is take a TV and add a thumb drive in the HMI. Its wireless and goes into a program on her computer which is also on the internet. It will shoot a PowerPoint to that TV or multiple TVs.

Councilman Doty – She would transfer information from our website?

Councilman Favro – Its Wi-Fi so you can have one that says this is where the meeting are and have another one that shows the Craig Wood deal of the day. You can have whatever you want. I think we could do it for less than \$900 and that is with the TV. It is \$250 for the 1st year for the licensing and then it is \$190 the year after. There are 2000 templates you can use. The neat part is that she could make a PowerPoint and load it in there. You can have a bunch of information on

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one screen or we can eventually have one at Craig Wood and one at the Landfill. If you look at the link, there is a YouTube video that shows how it works.

Supervisor Politi – How much is it?

Councilman Favro – I think we can do it for \$900. It's a TV and \$250 for the licensing and an adaptor. We would also need a mount for the TV.

Supervisor Politi – A TV from this location send a signal to a monitor at the recycling center so when people go into the recycling Center it will show #1 plastics in the #1 Box.

Councilman Favro – You can do that but you may have to put, we recycle at North Elba, and the next screen would come up with additional info.

Supervisor Politi – It is primarily for here.

Councilman Doty – Buy the program and do it separately at the transfer station.

Councilman Favro – I thought of Craig Wood or Hazardous Waste Day. If you put them in the right spots, you can really expand them. You can do it at a hotel or the Convention Center.

Supervisor Politi – It would be neat to say, Hazardous Waste Day.

Councilman Favro – When meetings are here at night is when people want to know where to go for a meeting. We could have it on at night and shut down all the other screens. We were talking about it being a menu board. It is very cool. You can add pictures. It's worth trying here to see if we want to expand it. It's cheap enough.

COMMITTEE REPORTS – SL YOUTH PROGRAM

Councilman Doty – The Saranac Lake Youth program is at a major crossroads. Paul Leahy resigned because he retired from the school system. The school and the Village were the major organizers and carriers of that whole program. There is no one yet to replace Paul. The school was always good to us in giving us school facilities to run the program out of. We used their kitchen for the breakfast and lunches. The food came from Essex County. However, the Village really wants to drop this program. They do not want to be the major sponsor. They are concerned about the liability. I don't have it first hand from the Village but Jim Amond has told me that is what he has been told. We have a meeting on the 16th to figure out how to save this program. It may be a glorified babysitting for the summer but we teach the kids to swim, we give them breakfast and lunch. The community pays for 35% of the program by sponsoring kids \$60 a person. It is so vital to the working class families in Saranac Lake. I'm afraid something is going to happen to the program. I don't know how to save it if the Village is not the major sponsor. Paul Ellis has always done the accounting for us.

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Supervisor Politi – I think you have to let it play out. You might find that if the Village says we aren't going to do it the families will be there and raise hell and put pressure on them.

Attorney Briggs – What does it cost to run the program?

Councilman Doty –. It costs anywhere from \$38K - \$40K to run the program. They also utilize their lifeguards to but on the swimming program. Essex County Youth is still active but I don't believe Franklin Youth Bureau is active. I don't know that for a fact. We are trying to look at all avenues. Where can we go to pull this same program off? If we have to pay for lifeguards the program then goes from \$40K to who knows. Our North Elba residents are still protected because we have our summer program which is virtually the same.

COMMITTEE REPORTS – ORDA INTERVIEWS

Supervisor Politi – If everybody is here for awhile, we have to conduct interviews. Was the ORDA Advisory Board on the ORDA agenda?

Councilman Doty – It is on the agenda for a resolution for approval. What didn't make sense is that is says, agenda for ten members. ORDA has the ability to name six or nine others. I don't know if they invasion naming people to it or not.

Matt Turner – I think it is nineteen; five from ORDA and four from those two counties.

Councilman Favro – (checking online) the agenda says, Resolution 286 approving a Community Advisory Panel, for December 16th.

Councilman Rand – All of our people have been notified and have accepted?

Supervisor Politi – Joe Lamb was taking care of it.

COMMITTEE REPORTS – COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT MEETING

Councilman Rand – I have a meeting tomorrow with the Development Committee.

Supervisor Politi – The subject that came up was the Judges. I got the impression that everybody felt that it was going to be a difficult issue.

Councilman Doty – It's not a shared service if we are carrying the whole load.

Councilman Rand, Supervisor Politi and Attorney Briggs spoke about Peg Duran retiring and whether the position can be eliminated by attrition however there was no word that the Village has made that decision.

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COMMITTEE REPORTS – FIRE DEPARTMENT VOTING RIGHTS

Councilman Doty – Did you get a response from the letter you were going to write on the Fire District budget and our involvement as far as the ability to have a representative?

Attorney Briggs – We went back and forth. Janet still has the agreement I sent to her. We can't have voting rights because a local cannot let another local government control. In terms of participating in the negotiations and deliberations, that provision is in the agreement but I haven't heard back from Janet. She did respond to the version in which I said we would have a vote. I thought the Fire Department had its own budget but it is really the Village budget.

Supervisor Politi – There is a Fire Department Christmas Party on Saturday.

COMMITTEE REPORTS – UNION CONTRACT

Supervisor Politi – I had a message from a Union guy wanting to meet with me to sign the contract.

Councilman Doty – It was Mike Furner. I gave him your number.

Supervisor Politi – I misplaced his number. I don't want to sign without knowing anything.

Councilman Favro – Remember last time they forgot a whole piece because the Union secretary screwed up.

Councilman Miller said he would take care of getting the contract to Laurie for Roby.

COMMITTEE REPORTS – BIO DIGESTER MEETING

Councilman Miller – There is a bio digester meeting on Friday at 3:00.

Councilman Doty – I may not make the meeting because of plowing. They are just bagging samples from the school for the designer.

TOWN ATTORNEY REPORTS – WESVALLEY PILOT AGREEMENT

Attorney Briggs – Remember we talked a while ago on the Wesvalley PILOT Agreement? I have been working with Brian Stewart. The prior PILOT, which has expired, is \$8,000 per year. In the previous one I recall the Town got all the money and didn't share it with the County or the School. This is drafted to be split between the school, county and town. That is probably the fairest way to do it. It is formerly Comlinks but is now called the Northern Adirondack Housing Development Fund Corporation. What is your pleasure?

Councilman Doty – Did we extend the PILOT? I thought it ran out?

Attorney Briggs – It did run out. Either we do a PILOT or they are tax exempt and they pay no taxes.

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Supervisor Politi – They agreed to pay. We agreed to extend the PILOT because technically they are exempt.

Councilman Doty – Is it a negotiable rate?

Attorney Briggs – Their feeling is that under the law it is a tax exempt property.

Supervisor Politi – We could question the fact that the PILOT was originally given to one entity and now it is two entities later but the use is the same. It wasn't worth arguing about. They agreed to pay.

Councilman Doty – Are they still at capacity? Is it full?

Attorney Briggs – I don't know about that. It's here and I have reviewed it?

Supervisor Politi – What is the reason the school wasn't involved?

Attorney Briggs – I think it was just an oversight. Because the PILOT expired and the Assessor put it back on the Roll as fully taxable. This solves that pending problem.

Councilman Doty – It puts the rent out of reach for those that are there.

Supervisor Politi – It is based on net income and there is no net income. This was prepared by Brian Stewart and I reviewed it. The breakdown with the County, School and Town is the only difference than prior.

Councilman Doty – Do we need to notify Todd?

Attorney Briggs – As soon as it's approved and signed. Todd is aware of what the status should be.

Councilman Doty moved and Councilman Favro seconded the motion to approve the Supervisor signing the Northern Adirondack Housing Development Fund Corporation PILOT Agreement subject to the final review of Attorney Briggs. There being no further discussion, the motion was unanimously carried.

ESSEX COUNTY UPDATE

Supervisor Politi – It was a long say at the County today. I was there from 9am to 6:30pm. The final budget number is 7.5% down from 9.5%. Another point going to Fund Balance If we applied everything against the levy it would have been 6.5%. What we applied to the levy was long term net reductions. We started with a total savings of about \$500,000 in cuts. \$370K of that are long term net savings to the County.

Councilman Doty – What does one point represent?

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Supervisor Politi – About \$180,000 will go to increase the Fund Balance next year. It is a contentious day. We are on a five year plan and then it should go down to 2%.

Supervisor Politi explained that the Long Term Net Savings is not cutting something in the Budget that will reappear next year but a cut that does not reappear i.e. a job that is not going to be replaced ever again. The County found \$375,000 in cuts because they went item by item. The County did not give out raises this year, the Fair Grounds does not cost money to run just maintenance on the buildings, and they are staying in the Transfer Station business because it would otherwise hurt the smaller towns.

NEW PHONE SYSTEM

Supervisor Politi – To let you all know, I told Cathy to put out an RFP for a new phone system because the current system is pretty bad. They need to be replaced.

Laurie Dudley noted the phones continue to ring after we answer and randomly rings when there is not an incoming call.

APPROVE AUDITS AS PER AUDIT #'S

Supervisor Politi asked for approval of the audits.

TOWN OF NORTH ELBA			
12/9/2014			
	Regular	Prepaid	Totals
A FUND GENERAL FUND	95454.98	167316.33	262771.31
B FUND GENERAL OUTSIDE VILLAGE	37.83		37.83
DB FUND TOWN OUTSIDE VILLAGE HIGHWAY	29685.08	67966.17	97651.25
H11 APRON EXPANSION CONST.AND TW DESIGN	48577.97	135253.02	183830.99
H42 HIGHWAY MACHINERY PURCHASE			0
RD04-TAHAWAS WAY ROAD DISTRICT	4972.8		4972.8
SF1 FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT			0
SF2 FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT			0
SF3 FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT			0
SP PARK DISTRICT	73418.99	89626.43	163045.42
SS21 CONSOLIDATED SEWER DISTRICT	5605.87		5605.87
SW1 SEWER DISTRICT #1			0
SW2 MCKENZIE			0
SW3 RAY BROOK	28759.5	541.05	29300.55
T TRUST & AGENCY			0
TE PRIVATE PURPOSE TRUST			0
Batch 1443-1445	286513.02	460703	747216.02
142365-142409; 142441-142487; 142515-142853			

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Batch 999 (Payroll)	0	46887.29	46887.29
142361-142364; 142410-142440; 142488-142514			
Batch - HELD	0	-28.8	-28.8
142044			
DELETED VOUCHERS:			
	0		

Councilman Rand moved and Councilman Favro seconded the motion to approve the audits as presented. There being no further discussion, the motion was unanimously carried.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Town Board, Councilman Doty moved and Councilman Miller seconded the motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:43 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Laurie Curtis Dudley
Town Clerk