

## TOWN BOARD MEETING

TUESDAY, APRIL 2, 2013

Minutes of the Regular Board meeting held on the above date beginning at 7:00 pm in 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 Curtis Dudley

Others Present: Larry Straight, Chris Knight, Ted Morgan

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 on the minutes of the Board meeting on March 12, 2013

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

### **BAR OWNERS**

Supervisor Politi – I thought the bar owners would be here today. I am still hopeful the Village offers some direction to what they would like to see potentially happen; whether they are satisfied with the potential change, whether they are against it or whether they would like me to request some type of modification.

Councilman Miller – The Mayor hasn't gotten back to you with a recommendation?

Councilman Doty – Lake Placid is a resort and definitely the exception.

Councilman Miller – This really has nothing to do with us. It's Roby's vote at the County and I believe he asked the Village for input.

Supervisor Politi – Yes, I would like some direction before I vote. If Betty Little or Dan Stec votes for something and they represent us. I'm sure they are doing their due diligence. I am hoping to get some kind of discussion from them.

### **BIKE PATH UPDATE**

Councilman Miller asked for an update on the Bike Path.

Supervisor Politi – I am having a meeting tomorrow at 9am with Cathy Gregory and Chuck Damp in my office to discuss the bike path. You are welcome to come. The State of New York has an issue with regard to evidence of the matched contributions from outside. That is the reason for the meeting with Chuck. He has been on vacation for the last three weeks and I am going on vacation next week, Cathy set up the meeting for tomorrow.

Councilman Miller – What is the deadline? I thought it was coming up soon.

Supervisor Politi – Creighton Manning is still doing their work. We have time. The State wants to know what kind of commitment we have. They want to make sure that we will have the money for the match.

Councilman Doty – That has been our legitimate concern all along.

Supervisor Politi – We have said to Chuck in meetings that we are concerned about doing this. Chuck has thought that the money is there. I know there was money from Betty Little, the Uihlein Foundation and a lot of money given by others. We have talked about the concern for people who said things two years ago and might have a different recollection today. None of us want to commit the Town to something with our own money. The meeting is at 9:00 am and you are certainly welcome.

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### **PROCLAMATION- NATIONAL VOLUNTEER WEEK**

Supervisor Politi – I received a proclamation from the Visitors Bureau declaring May 12 – 18, 2013 as National Volunteer Week. It recognizes those in and around our community who have made a difference.

Councilman Favro moved and Councilman Doty seconded the motion to declare May 12 -18, 2013 as National Volunteer Week. There being no further discussion, the motion was unanimously carried.

### **ROAD NAME CORRECTIONS**

Supervisor Politi –We had approved a number of road name changes for North Country School. Brad Jacques said he made a mistake. They need to be changed. Treetops Way needs to be changed to Camp Treetops Way and Bliss Way needs to be changed to Bob Bliss Way.

Councilman Miller – I didn't know you can have two roads with the same word in it.

Councilman Favro – They didn't used to allow it. Many people were upset to have their road name changed.

Supervisor Politi asked Superintendent Larry Straight to contact Brad Jacques and the County to confirm the road name changes for North Country School.

### **DISCUSS AMC- LAKE PLACID HOSPITAL EMERGENCY ROOM**

Supervisor Politi – I received a note asking for a meeting on April 12<sup>th</sup>. Jack and I have already been at a meeting and there is no reason for us to go back to another. If any two Board members would like to go, I would recommend to them that you be invited.

Councilman Miller – Why isn't it a public meeting?

Supervisor Politi – There will be public meetings. I believe the first week of May there will be joint meetings with the Village Board, Town Board and AMC Board which will be open to the public so that everybody can hear what they have in mind.

Councilman Miller – I am happy to skip it because I would rather discuss this in a public meeting.

Supervisor politi – I made it very clear at the preliminary discussions that it was necessary for them to make a presentation to give the public an opportunity to ask questions and hear answers, as would the Board members for the Village and the Town. They originally talked about doing it in April and I said everyone will be gone.

Councilman Miller – I am sure I am not the only one receiving phone calls.

Supervisor Politi – I am getting phone calls too and I am telling people there is going to be a public discussion and that nobody is making any decisions that I am aware of. There should not be a decision made until the public has had an opportunity to weigh in on it. The AMC Board of Directors expressed to me that they would have said meeting. I tell people this is premature. Everybody wants to tell me why it should be such-and-such and nobody knows the facts.

Councilman Miller – The bottom line is, we have a resource in this town and I understand the Hospital's financial constraints but we as representing the Town have to be very careful about the potential of losing a value resource in our town.

Supervisor Politi – So what is your point? Are we losing it tonight? I don't think we are. I am not going to rush to judgment or take some position until such time that I have had an opportunity for them to make a presentation and for me to ask questions. I would like to hear what kinds of responses they are making to the Boards and the public for the questions they have been asked. That is due diligence. Until such time, getting excited over things is somewhat premature.

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Councilman Miller – That is happening because things have leaked out. Before there was news in the paper, we were receiving phone calls because of the rumors around town. It is difficult because someone had gotten out front of the issue.

Supervisor Politi – That is very difficult. No matter what you do people are out front on a lot of things including the Village elections and the results of the election. There is somebody out in front of everything that goes on in town. I understand there was a signed petition of eight-hundred nurses and yet they don't even know what AMC is thinking. I don't think there has been any presentation to them.

Councilman Miller – When people hear that the AMC Board is meeting to discuss closing the hospital there is going to be concern in the community which includes the employees and the people that use the resource. I don't blame them for that.

Supervisor Politi – I don't either. So what is the point? The point is we are hoping they have these public meetings. Should they decide not to have them it would be a blemish on their leadership. I don't know whether they are going to do that or not other than what they told me based on our recommendation that they should do it. I'm not chastising you.

Councilman Miller – You asked me what my point was. My point is that I am very concerned about losing the resource. We need to be advocates to try and protect that resource.

Councilman Favro – We need to get all the facts. They have a reputation to hold so they are going to have to come to the table and talk to people. You lose your reputation and you have nothing.

Supervisor Politi- In my opinion, this is a public relations nightmare for them. I'm not going to prejudge them. I haven't heard what they have to say. Until the facts come out, I am not going to judge them. I don't think that this Board is going to take a position. I made it very clear to their Board that this Board was not going to take a position as to what the hospital might want to do until such time that we have had the opportunity to know the facts. I would feel the Village would do the same. When people call me I say, let's find out because no one has laid a plan out to me. Some people say that Jack and I told the AMC Board that we would do anything they wanted. These are all stories. That is just what you are talking about Bob. The stories get started and it's ridiculous.

Councilman Miller – That is why I want the meeting as public as possible.

Councilman Doty – We need to get the facts first.

Supervisor Politi – They have asked me for some input at this meeting and I gave it to them. I made it clear here what my feelings are. It is necessary for them to make numerous public presentations. If they can't answer the questions then I will have a problem. If they can answer the questions to the satisfaction of folks, they may still have a problem but at least people can't go way saying they didn't have an opportunity to say something. Ultimately, I would hope that this Board makes a recommendation to them as to what we would like to see happen. But ultimately it is their choice. I'm sorry I lectured. I didn't mean to lecture.

Councilman Miller – It's not the first time! The decision might not be theirs. It may be the decision of the Department of Health.

### **PERSONNEL ACTION – LANDFILL (SEASONAL EMPLOYEE)**

Supervisor Politi – Larry has asked that we approve Brady Hayes as a seasonal operator at the Transfer Station at a rate of \$11.23 /hour. It is a non-competitive civil service classification.

Councilman Favro – He is seasonal but if the recycling increases or if someone leaves it makes it easy for the position to become permanent.

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Supervisor Politi – We had intended hiring a seasonal person plus one full-time replacement person. The full-time replacement person did not pan out and Larry is not going to hire anyone for that position.

Councilman Rand moved and Councilman Favro seconded the motion to approve Brady Hayes as a seasonal employee at the Transfer Station at a rate of \$11.23/hour. There being no further discussion, the motion was unanimously carried.

### RECYCLING CENTER COMMENTS

Councilman Rand – Larry, I want to say that the recycling center is so well taken care of. It is amazing how clean and organized it is. People are nice.

Supervisor Politi – I had people that bought a place and went down there for the first time. I happened to run into her. She said the people are so nice and so accommodating. The two girls, Jen and Sue, were there.

### BUDGET ADJUSTMENT- AIRPORT

Supervisor Politi – We have one budget adjustment for overtime plowing of the airport in March. Cathy is offsetting that by \$303.71 from the Contingency Account.

APR 2013 Board Meeting Budget Amendments  
FOR CLAIMS PAID THROUGH APRIL 2, 2013

Park District: ACTION	ACCOUNT	DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT	VOUCHER NUMBER	ADDITIONAL INFO
INCREASE	SP.1357.101	AIRPORT. PERSONAL SERVICES	164.70		MARCH PAYROLL, ANNUAL BUDGET WAS
INCREASE	SP.1357.103	AIRPORT. PERSONAL SERVICES	139.01		MARCH PAYROLL, ANNUAL BUDGET WAS SP.1357.0101 ACCOUNT WAS BUDGETED
					NEW UNION AGREEMENT INCREASED PAY BUDGETED 25% OF PAYROLL EXPENSE TO AIRPORT, 75% TO CEMETERY (GENERAL
DECREASE	SP.1990.400	CONTINGENT ACCOUNT	<u>(303.71)</u>		
			<u>-</u>		

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

### SENATOR BETTY LITTLE - \$150,000

Supervisor Politi – I heard from Betty Little today and she said the \$150,000 has been approved. The Dormitory Authority is processing the paperwork. It will be coming in the near future. This was money that was directed for the Park District, originally for Craig Wood, but because of the bonding it couldn't be. It was redirected to offset the local match for the renovation for the Terminal Building and the renovation of the runway. It came out of New York State Tourism to promote tourism. It is going into the Park District regardless.

### VILLAGE CLEAN-UP

Heidi Rolland has designated Saturday, April 20<sup>th</sup> as Clean-up day. Supervisor Politi gave Larry Straight the information and asked him to coordinate it with Heidi.

### CRAIG WOOD – UPDATE

Cathy Gregory put a Revenue/Expense Report together for the Board for the Craig Wood clubhouse renovation project.

Councilman Doty – The latest additional expense was \$4,500 for the update to the elevator hooking into the smoke detectors which is state mandated. The company is Mahoney and I gave the paperwork to Laurie.

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Supervisor Politi – The report shows the total payout including any retainage. In the event the cost is less than what is anticipated, the numbers don't reflect it. There is still quite a bit of money that hasn't been paid out to the contractor. It is not necessarily an accurate number.

Councilman Doty – I have met with Cathy twice this week to go over numbers and we are within our limits.

Supervisor Politi – Of course the other \$150,000 coming in will really help the Park District and help to do some things we were not able to do.

Councilman Doty – Can we consider winter events now that the building has been renovated? Joe Warren is speaking with at least two parties for December events. They are not huge, but they are big enough. We have to heat the building all winter anyway.

Supervisor Politi - Anytime we generate revenue it helps the Park District. With that being said, the contractual agreement that we have with the concessioner does not include those particular months. What if someone other than Joe calls? Do you want to limit it to one party or multiple parties?

Councilman Doty – I should rephrase it, should we open up his contract to include year round usage?

Councilman Favro – I'm all for using it more and more. We would love to see it run year round. The temperature is kept at 50 degrees and it needs to change to 70 degrees.

Councilman Doty – Lynn's idea was to create a little sliding hill out there for the community can go out to use it. If every Sunday it is open from 11 am – 3pm.

Supervisor Politi – It's a great idea. I would much rather see them sliding down the hill towards the 10<sup>th</sup> green than sliding down the hill over here into the road.

Councilman Doty – It gives Joe every Sunday to have a pot of chili or soup on.

Supervisor Politi – It's a great idea but it's not like in the summer when you get 200 people in there. You can't go outside so the room is much smaller. The parties are much smaller. I am wondering whether we should increase the fee per person in the winter.

Councilman Doty – Certain or overhead is greater.

Supervisor Politi – If we are charging \$5 per person, maybe we need to charge \$10 per person in the wintertime.

Councilman Favro – We need to sit down and figure out everything we can do in the winter and then come up with the dollar figure. If Joe knows how many events with potential money coming in, we can know costs, and if we can buy new tables or not.

Councilman Rand – You could make a heck of a toboggan shoot at the 9<sup>th</sup> hole.

Supervisor Politi – We need to decide if we charge \$10, \$15 or \$20 per person in the wintertime. To me \$300 to \$400 for a heated room for a party of 20 people is reasonable and would be a lot more somewhere else.

Councilman Favro – The party is one day, but you have the day before and the day after for heat. Is he going to leave food in there for the next party?

Supervisor Politi – I don't have a problem extending the agreement with Joe on a year round basis or changing the per person fee for use of the venue?

Councilman Doty – It has to mutually beneficial for the Town as well as the contractual person. I will work with Joe and relay the information.

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Supervisor Politi – I did go out and it looks great. You're getting down to the end.

Councilman Doty – The carpet in the two offices is unbelievable. The kitchen equipment is coming in Thursday.

Supervisor Politi – I would like to move our June meeting to Craig Wood.

Ted Morgan – When will the golf course open?

Supervisor Politi – Possibly May 15<sup>th</sup>. It depends on the weather. Last year we were playing golf at this time and this year it's winter.

Councilman Rand – We were waterskiing at this time.

Councilman Doty – When we have our Town meeting there, I would like to have recognition for our town crew who has been unbelievable. I could not have gone through this process without them. Lynn has been unbelievable and the piping St. Lewis has done for the plumbing. Jack Irvin could not have gotten everything done without those guys.

Supervisor Politi – When we talked about the downstairs hallway, those guys went in and did a great job. It shows me that our guys are capable of doing it. When we have our Town Board meeting there in June, we will have a formal dedication.

Councilman Miller – I love how excited they are. They are so proud of it.

Councilman Doty – They are already talking about what fairway they are going to do next with water and irrigation.

Supervisor Politi – Jeff Estes should be here soon. It is important to get him out there and coordinated with things. We have many of the trophies of Craig Wood and need to figure out a way to display that memorabilia which is part of our history.

Superintendent Straight – I spoke with Tony LaVigne today about the parking lot. He is willing to work with us. It will be cheaper for him to help and if we can do more work for ourselves. Also, there was a 28% increase in our CHIPS funding for 2013-2014 which amounts to about \$12,000 /yr for us.

Supervisor Politi – The Governor talked about being here to discuss the CHIPS fund. Maybe the storm kept him away.

### LANDFILL – UPDATE

Councilman Favro – We had a big truck of recyclables going out the other day.

Supervisor Politi – The County is discussing the future of landfills. The County's ability to subsidize landfills is a concern. They did sign a contract with Franklin County. I am confident that it will stay for awhile.

Councilman Doty – Circle is still done with the County next year.

Supervisor Politi – They will have to RFP that.

Superintendent Straight – The only problem I see is if something happens with our compactors. There is nothing to replace them.

Supervisor Politi – We are talking about the possibility of the County bonding for a replacement compactors and then raise the fee to cover the bonding cost so that everybody has decent equipment. Our equipment is in the worse shape.

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### BEACH - UPDATE

Supervisor Politi – I still have nothing on the Beach.

Councilman Miller – You've heard nothing?

Supervisor Politi – I have not. Our contract is up May 31<sup>st</sup>. We have to give notice by a certain date. If I don't hear, we'll have to discuss it in May. We need to reach some kind of agreement.

### VILLAGE WATER/SEWER BILLING

Councilman Favro – Has anyone had any calls on the water snafu?

Supervisor Politi – I have. Most people understand that mistakes are made, but if mistakes are made over the last two years then they would like the same amount of time to pay it back.

Councilman Miller – How long did they know about this situation? It was poor communication and people felt blindsided.

Councilman Favro – I wish they had come to us and said you are going to get calls and this is what is happening. When they finished up their budgets, didn't they notice they had a shortfall? In my business I do as the rest of our businesses.

Councilman Miller – It was \$111,000 that they were shy. In the paper they were chastised for not reporting your bill wasn't higher.

Councilman Doty – Were all the problems residential or commercial as well?

Chris Morris – It was just residential and multi-family.

Councilman Favro – I have heard of bills from \$2.00 bills into the thousands.

Councilman Miller – People owe thousands of dollars?

Supervisor Politi – Laurie's is thousands. I wish I knew all the facts. No one has ever told me.

Supervisor Politi – Janet said it had been discussed publically. I am not aware of it.

Chris Morris – The only time I am aware is at the meeting when they announced it. Peggy said they didn't discover the mistake until February of this year. I would be surprised if they discussed it prior to that.

Supervisor Politi – My bill goes back two years, April 2011.

Councilman Favro – People don't have the money. To pay it off by October is ridiculous. If it took them 5 quarters to screw it up, they should give people 5 quarters at least to pay it back. To say you should have known your bill was low. I don't watch my meter, the bill comes in and I pay it. To say it is low is a poor statement.

Councilman Miller – They should apologize to the people that they made this error and then say that they will work with the users to pay it back as quickly as they can. Don't chastise them for it.

Councilman Doty – There is nothing like Ray Brook water!

### BOARD MEMBER VACATIONS

Vacations are as follows: Supervisor Politi; April 10th for 2-3 weeks, Councilman Rand; April 11<sup>th</sup> – 26<sup>th</sup>, Councilman Favro; April 22<sup>nd</sup> – 26<sup>th</sup>, Councilman Doty; May 2<sup>nd</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup> and Councilman Miller is not going on vacation.

Supervisor Politi – Although I am always available by phone, one of you needs to be available if an issue comes up.

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### PRESS QUESTIONS

Ted Morgan asked if there was an agreement in the deed for the hospital that requires the Hospital to stay open.

Supervisor Politi – In the event that the Hospital does not provide primary care services or 24 hour Emergency Room service in the Town of North Elba there is a clause within the deed that says the Town can exercise the option to take the property back for \$10. The deed is public record if you want a copy of it. We are going to advocate for the services that make sense for the Town of North Elba period.

Chris Morris asked Laurie if she is serving as Interim Village Clerk.

Laurie Curtis Dudley – No, I am only doing their minutes. They are paying me \$50/hr which included the meeting time and the time it takes me to type the minutes.

### APPROVE AUDITS AS PER AUDIT #'S

Supervisor Politi asked for a motion approving the audits.

TOWN OF NORTH ELBA			
CLAIMS APPROVED FOR PAYMENT 4/2/2013			
	Regular	Prepaid	Totals
A FUND GENERAL FUND	\$144,437.43	\$43,854.01	\$188,291.44
DB FUND TOWN OUTSIDE VILLAGE HIGHWAY	\$6,261.35	\$8,533.19	\$14,794.54
H01 SECURITY/PERIMETER FENCE AIRPORT CAP. PROJECT			\$0.00
H02 -BLOCK HANGAR REHABILITATION AIRPORT CAP. PROJECT			\$0.00
H03 - 5 BAY T HANGAR			\$0.00
H04-C&D WASTE CELL			\$0.00
H05- CRAIG WOOD GOLF COURSE CONSTRUCTION	\$60,785.64		\$60,785.64
H06-TERMINAL BLDG			\$0.00
H07 RUN WAY REHAB	\$3,867.16		\$3,867.16
H08-AIRPORT MASTER PLAN	\$40,340.18		\$40,340.18
H09-APRON EXPANSION			\$0.00
H41-REC (BIKE) PATH			\$0.00
RD03-THIEANOQUEN WAY ROAD DISTRICT			\$0.00
SF1- FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT 1			\$0.00
SF2- FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT 2	\$29,333.00		\$29,333.00
SF3 - FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT 3			\$0.00
SP PARK DISTRICT	\$12,363.30	\$17,158.48	\$29,521.78
SS21 CONSOLIDATED SEWER DISTRICT	\$1,000.00		\$1,000.00
SW1 SEWER DISTRICT #1			\$0.00
SW2 MCKENZIE			\$0.00
SW3 RAY BROOK	\$1,197.46		\$1,197.46
T TRUST & AGENCY		\$90.00	\$90.00
TE PRIVATE PURPOSE TRUST			\$0.00
<b>Batch 1302-1306</b>	<b>\$299,585.52</b>	<b>\$69,635.68</b>	<b>\$369,221.20</b>
130511-130559; 130593-130617; 130621-130669			

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

### ESSEX COUNTY

Supervisor Politi – We're having County Budget meetings with Departments for the first time ever. They started a month ago and are going Department by Department to discuss potential cost savings items.

Councilman Doty – Is the sale ratified on the Nursing Home yet?

Supervisor Politi – The sale was approved. We are waiting on the vote by the Union on the Union Contract. It should be very soon.

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Ted Morgan asked for updates and Chris Morris informed him that the minutes are on their website within a day or two after the meeting.

Councilman Favro asked about the “Need a ride?” program at the County.

Supervisor Politi – We are trying to encourage people to ride the bus. A lot of people didn’t want to ride the bus because they were afraid if they had an emergency and had to get home. They made a deal the Sheriff’s Department or the County Manager who will go out of their way to make sure you get home if there is an emergency. It encourages people to ride the bus and save money.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the Town Board, Councilman Doty moved and Councilman Favro seconded the motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:53 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Laurie Curtis Dudley, Town Clerk