

TOWN BOARD MEETING

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2015

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 Miller, Councilman Doty, Councilman Rand, and Laurie Dudley

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

Members Absent: Councilman Favro

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 Board meeting on January 13, 2015.

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.

COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS AGREEMENTS

Supervisor Politi – The County Board of Elections has requested we agree to two lease agreements with Essex County for the use of our Main Street facility in Lake Placid and the use of our facility in Saranac Lake. They are for Primary and General Elections. We charge them \$1.00. It is the same agreement that we have always had. They provide insurance and we are named as additional insured. I would like to have approval from this Board authorizing me to execute that contract on behalf of the Town of North Elba. We are not responsible for anything and they hold us harmless. There are two elections; the Primary will be held September 8th 11am – 7 pm and the General Election on November 3rd 5am – 10 pm.

Councilman Doty moved and Councilman Miller seconded the motion to approve the execution of the lease agreement with the Board of elections. There being no further discussion, the motion was unanimously carried by those present.

APPOINT JOE HACKETT- PRISON ADVISORY BOARD

Supervisor Politi – Derek spoke with Joe Hackett and he is interested in participating on our Prison Advisory Board. He will be replacing Shirley. Would someone like to nominate him?

Councilman Miller asked if Shirley knew that she will be replaced. Supervisor Politi has not called Shirley. The prison called stating it is time to make a change due to her failing health. Jessica has already taken care of it.

Councilman Doty and Councilman Miller seconded the motion to nominate Joe Hackett to the Prison Advisory Board. There being no further discussion, the motion was unanimously carried by those present.

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CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT - OLYMPIC CENTER

Supervisor Politi – Everyone received a copy of ORDA proposed Capital Improvement. We will take any improvement. I know Joe Lamb is not happy because he believes it is a waste of money when we need it in other areas. I think any improvement is good for us. I have no problem. It is the first time we have been notified in advanced of them doing anything. This is a good thing. I put that out for information purposes.

ORDA BOARD APPOINTMENT

Supervisor Politi - For the record, and I know you all concur, I want to take the opportunity to recognize Jerry Strack commitment and loyalties and dedication to Lake Placid not only on the ORDA Board but everything he has done. Having served us so well for the last 10 yrs on the ORDA Board, this Board has decided to go in a different direction. We wanted to publically recognize Jerry's service to the Town of North Elba and all he did to protect our interests.

Councilman Doty – I couldn't agree more. I was always impressed with Jerry's representation because he was a good day to day type representative. He understood the running of the venues and really had a "ground touch", he knew all the workers and knew what they needed for equipment. He represented a faction the rest of the Board doesn't have a clue about.

Supervisor Politi – With that being said. This Board has met and we have decided to appoint Bill Beaney a local Lake Placidian and currently head hockey coach and head golf coach at Middlebury College. He was instrumental in the completion of the \$17 Million athletic facility at Middlebury. He coached Middlebury to five consecutive NCAA Division III National Hockey Championships. We had the pleasure of interviewing and meeting with Bill. It was the consensus of this Board that he will represent Lake Placid and the Town of North Elba very well on the ORDA Board.

Supervisor Politi moved with a unanimous second the motion to appoint William Beaney as a representative of the Town of North Elba to the ORDA Board. There being no further discussion, the motion was carried by those present.

Councilman Doty – what is the process for getting Bill's name to the Legislature?

Supervisor Politi – Tomorrow I will forward his name and résumé along with a letter to Chairman Barrett and to the Governor's appointment office.

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING TOWN HIGHWAY MACHINERY PURCHASE

Supervisor Politi – We also have before us a resolution authorizing the Town Highway machinery purchase for a 2015 tandem axle 6x4 dump truck with all the equipment for a maximum price of \$157,223 to be delivered to the Town of North Elba by July 13, 2015. It has

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to be approved provided pursuant to provisions of Section 142 of Highway Law. We are trading in, what Larry? Can you explain?

Superintendent Straight – The truck is \$111,706 and the box and plow equipment is \$95,517. The Trade in is a 2004 Volvo value is \$50,000.

Supervisor Politi – So the total amount to be expended is \$157,223 which will be paid for from a Bond to be executed by the Town of North Elba. Why did we get only one bid? Is it the kind of truck?

Superintendent Straight – I don't know. There were a lot sent out. I don't think they wanted the trade in.

Councilman Doty moved and Councilman Miller seconded the motion to approve the contract for the 2015 tandem axle 6x4 dump truck with all equipment and approve a bond to be executed by the Town of North Elba. There being no further discussion, the motion was unanimously carried by those present.

Roll Call Vote: Councilman Doty; Aye, Councilman Miller; Aye, Councilman Rand; Aye, Supervisor Politi; Aye.

BUDGET ADJUSTMENTS

Supervisor Politi- We approved these budget adjustments at the last meeting. They amount to \$9,378.09 was excess money used to offset the repairs at the Saranac Lake Town and Unemployment Insurance Benefits for the 4th quarter.

ACTION	ACCOUNT	DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT	REFERENCE	ADDITIONAL INFO
INCREASE EXPENDITURE	A.1420.0451	LAW.LEGAL FEES	1,542.50	VCHR 150116	BRIGS NORFOLK, FOR 6/2014-9/2014 FOR DAYAN
INCREASE EXPENDITURE	A.1625.0416	SARANAC LAKE TOWN HOUSE SEWER REPAIR	1,065.09	VCHR 150188	ADRIONDACK SERVICES
DECREASE EXPENDITURE	A.1625.0411	SARANAC LAKE TOWN HOUSE FUEL OIL	(983.71)		EXCESS 2014 BUDGET
DECREASE EXPENDITURE	A.1625.0423	SARANAC LAKE TOWN HOUSE WATER AND SEWER	(4.06)		EXCESS 2014 BUDGET
	A.9050.0800	UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE BENEFITS PAID	7,558.27	VCHR 150099	NYS UNEMPLOYMENT 4TH QTR REIMBURSEMENT
INCREASE EXPENDITURE	A.9089.0910	MANDATORY PHYSICAL EXAM	200.00	VCHR 150110	CHARGES OVER BUDGET
DECREASE EXPENDITURE	A.9060.0800	GENERAL FUND HOSPITAL AND MEDICAL INSURANCE	(9,378.09)		STANDARD MEDICAL SERVICES, DOT PHYSICALS
			-		EXCESS 2014 BUDGET

ACCEPT RETURNING SEASONAL EMPLOYEE APPOINTMENTS

NAME	POSITION	DATE OF HIRE	UNION CLASSIFICATION	RATE OF PAY	CIVIL SERVICE CLASSIFICATION
SCOTT S ROSSI	TOB SLIDE	1/17/2015	N/A	\$9.75/HR	LABORER
AUSTIN PRATT	TOB SLIDE	1/17/2015	N/A	\$10.50/HR	LABORER

ACCEPT RECOMMENDATION OF NEW HIRE:

NAME	POSITION	DATE OF HIRE	UNION CLASSIFICATION	RATE OF PAY	CIVIL SERVICE CLASSIFICATION
LOGAN BROWN	TOB SLIDE	1/17/2015	N/A	\$9.50/hr	LABORER
SPENCER PRATT	TOB SLIDE	1/17/2015	N/A	\$9.50/hr	LABORER

**RECOMMENDATION MADE BY: BUTCH MARTIN

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Councilman Doty moved and Councilman Rand seconded the motion to approve the Budget Adjustments as written and presented. There being no further discussion, the motion was unanimously carried by those present.

COMMITTEE REPORTS – SARANAC LAKE YOUTH PROGRAM

Councilman Doty – I have been talking about the Saranac Lake youth Program and our efforts to find new Directors. The Village of Saranac Lake, who is the administrator, felt that they needed to shore up; a budget, worries about liability, more hands on with the program. These were there initial reactions well over a month ago. They did assure me at that time that the money was in the budget and the program was fine for 2015. We moved ahead on those premises. Paul Leahy was the Executive Director because he worked for the school. He retired in January. We had use of the kitchen and received food from the County through the food program. The school helped us with bussing to get the kids to Lake Colby for swimming lessons when there was summer school. The program had grown tremendously over the last three to four years. Primarily due to the community businesses for writing \$11K-\$15K in checks to sponsor kids. It is a \$40K a year program. The Village was good at helping out with lifeguards. The Program was under their insurance umbrella policy. It is a 17 year old program. Even though I say it is a glorified daycare, it was a very structured program. There were crafts and five different field trips. Jack Favro with the Olympic Center gave the kids a mock Olympics every year and ORDA gave the kids rides on the gondola every year. We received many letters from the parents. The program offered at least 100 families with a structured program for kids for the summer. There aren't adequate daycare centers in the area that could take care of that number of kids. We averaged 80 -120 a week. It is very similar to our Lake Placid program. As I was working to bring this program back, I worked with Jessica and they incorporated swimming lessons for the kids. She got the school to talk about the meal program. There is a formula for what you can apply for. The two programs were very similar. I'm beating around the bush about where we are going: it has been the Village of Saranac Lake's decision since Paul Leahy retired and their concerns over liability and not feeling as though they had control of the program, they have dropped it. This letter from John Sweeney it is canceled as of April 30, 2015.

Councilman Rand – What is the deal with Pisgah? They said they were headed in that direction.

Supervisor Politi – This letter says, they are going to focus their resources on Mt Pisgah. It sounds like they are rechanneling their money to making Mt Pisgah better and the 6er's Program and other programs that support the community as a whole rather than the children. Are the parents aware of this?

Councilman Doty – I can't get my arms around the fact that there liability exposure is 10x greater at Pisgah and to devote more time to the 6er's Program? We are talking about the youth of our community. In a Government Program, rarely do you get something needed and supported by your community. Dropping something like this is more than disappointing. The parents are not aware of it. . We are afraid the kids will be latch-key kids. I will say that during our meetings John Sweeney has been great about trying to find solutions. Ultimately, he decided that it is in the Village's best interest to drop the program. He was the only one from the Village that stepped up to meet with us. This year we needed to ensure the program still ran. We used a brainstorming session to use hypotheticals on how the program can move forward. We had good meeting with

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Dana Fox, the Superintendent of the SL School District and the nutritionist. She was going to contact Essex County to learn about food grants.

Attorney Briggs – Are they worried that they will have to pay someone since they lost Paul?

Councilman Doty – It could be. We did have years that the Village had to fill in gaps in the amount of \$2K or \$5K. In the last five yours the community donated as well as the Town of Brighton and the Town of Harrietstown.

Attorney Briggs – Is this John Sweeney’s call or did it come from the Board?

Supervisor Politi – It has to come from the Board. It really affects kids from the Village of Saranac Lake and Bloomingdale. They are more than welcome to come to our program. It is a more expensive program and we subsidize to a much greater extent. I don’t understand the SL Village because there was very little cost involved with the way the program was designed. It was fabulous that the businesses got involved.

Councilman Doty – We initiated staff development where professionals would come in every year and go over this program and the responsibilities with all the staff.

Supervisor Politi – How many SL Village kids?

Councilman Doty – The high bulk are from Harrietstown and the Village. It represents 90%. It’s a huge loss. There will be no program this year because there is no time now to save it. Remarks have been made that because North Elba has a structured program that we would pick up the whole program. That is not a reality. WE can certainly take care of our own from that side. We brainstormed about using NCCC or the new Dewey Mountain Center through the Town of Harrietstown. Now that the Village doesn’t want it anymore, we will see what the interest is.

The Board continued discussion about how surprising it is that the SL Village Board would drop a successful youth program that was low cost. Councilman Rand suggested the program use Mt. Pisgah.

COMMITTEE REPORTS - BIODIGESTER

Councilman Miller – The County signed the contract with the biodigester company. Thank you, Roby for seeing that it was signed and mailed. The next step is that we will receive our contract. I asked Tammy to get it to me ASAP so we would have it ready for whatever modifications Ron Briggs and the rest of the Board think are needed. We are hoping to approve the contract at our next meeting because time is of the essence. We are really falling behind on this one.

COMMITTEE REPORTS –COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Councilman Rand – I went to a meeting at Dean’s house but it was very low attended. Art Devlin was on the phone. It ended up that the Village needed more time on the Court.

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Supervisor Politi – I suggested to Craig that we have a joint meeting. It is important for us to be in tuned with some of these changes and they need to in tuned with some of the things we are doing. I would like to schedule a Joint Board Meeting in the next 30 days if at all possible. Jay has a difficult schedule coming up.

The Board agreed that it is important to meet with the Village and that it should be scheduled on a more routinely basis. Laure will talk to Ellen and schedule a date. Councilman Rand will let Dean Dietrich know about the meeting.

TOWN ATTORNEY

Attorney Briggs – The Adirondack Inn filed an Article 7 petition against the Town starting in 2008 through the present Assessment Roll of 2014. The agreement is that the Assessment Rate for years 2008 -2013 will remain the same. They will get no reduction. For 2014 and the next two year after, the Assessment will be reduced from \$4,750,000 down to \$3,100,000. That is an artificially low Assessment to reflect the fact that we are not making any refunds. At the end of the three year period it will be reassessed at its market value at that time. I'm asking the Board to authorize Council to sign this on behalf of the Town.

Supervisor Politi – I want the Board members to know that they wanted to settle this at \$2,000,000 which is crazy. I have always felt it was worth more of the \$5,000,000 range but to make up for errors that were made in the past by going to \$3,100,000 it offsets and works so that neither the Town or the school have to pay money back that we don't have.

Councilman Doty – Do we need corroboration from Todd Anthony?

Councilman Miller – As long as the MAI is okay with it, he should be happy with it.

Attorney Briggs – The school will have to make a partial payment because they paid in September.

Councilman Doty – Are they all from the sale and the new owners?

Attorney Briggs – This is the new owners. The chink in our armor was the year before the sale, we increased the assessment to the sale price but you can't do that. You have to creep it up. That is the Welcome Stranger Law.

Councilman Doty – I wish more could be settled like that.

Supervisor Politi – We settle everyone that way.

Attorney Briggs – Now that it is so consistently applied, the Attorneys don't even ask for refunds anymore because we never do.

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Councilman Doty moved and Councilman Miller seconded the motion to approve the reassessment for three years and authorize Attorney Briggs to sign the decision on behalf to the Town Board. There being no further discussion, the motion was unanimously carried by those present.

35TH ANNIVERSARY – TORCH LIGHTING

Supervisor Politi reminded the Board of the events and made sure that all received copies of the schedule for Friday night. 30 for 30 on ESPN played the Miracle on Ice from the Russian perspective. It was a fabulous show. There are reruns. It is worth seeing.

APPROVE AUDITS AS PER AUDIT #'S

Supervisor Politi asked for approval of the audits

TOWN OF NORTH ELBA			
CLAIMS APPROVED FOR PAYMENT 2/10/15			
	Regular	Prepaid	Totals
A FUND GENERAL FUND	274142.79	39613.02	313755.81
B FUND GENERAL OUTSIDE VILLAGE	37.73	0	37.73
DB FUND TOWN OUTSIDE VILLAGE HIGHWAY	13213.9	7038.46	20252.36
H42-HIGHWAY MACHINERY PURCHASE	21.63	0	21.63
SF1-FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT #1	225017.12	0	225017.12
SF3-FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT #2	88106.35		
SP PARK DISTRICT	64094.11	5807.69	69901.8
SW3 RAY BROOK	36.88	930.9	967.78
Batch 15002-1505	664670.51	53390.07	718060.58
150098-150148; 150174-150204; 150206-150221; 150223-150280			
Batch 999 (Payroll)	0	47312.19	47312.19
150046-150048; 150074-150097; 150149-150173			
Batch - HELD	2500	0	2500
150222			
DELETED VOUCHERS:			

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

PRESS RECAP

Matt Turner arrived late to the meeting and Supervisor Politi recapped the ORDA Board appointment. Matt asked about the capital improvement to ORDA and Councilman Doty gave

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him his copy and Supervisor Politi explained the improvements to the bleacher area in the 80 Rink.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Town Board, Councilman Miller moved and Councilman Rand seconded the motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:58 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Laurie Curtis Dudley, Town Clerk