

Regular Town Board Meeting  
Tuesday, May 12, 2009

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 Damp, and Laurie Curtis Dudley

Members Absent: Councilman Rand and Town Attorney Ron Briggs

Others Present: Heather Sackett and Larry Straight

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 April 21, 2009 and the Joint Town/Village meeting on May 5, 2009.

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

Supervisor Politi asked for a motion to approve the Agenda.

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

There being no one present to address the Board, Supervisor Politi moved onto Old Business.

Supervisor Politi confirmed the Public Hearing for the Refuse Law before the Regular Town Board meeting on June 9, 2009 at 6:45 pm.

Supervisor Politi stated we have request by Search and Rescue for the use of the Adirondack Loj Road on May 22<sup>nd</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> as well as October 9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> between Friday 3:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. and Saturday and Sunday 7:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. The purpose is to seek donations for Search and Rescue in the Adirondacks. The Board has approved this request on an annual basis.

Councilman Damp moved and Councilman Favro seconded the motion to approve the use of the Adirondack Loj Road by the Search and Rescue for fundraising purposes. There being no further discussion, the motion was unanimously carried.

Supervisor Politi stated we have a request from Deb and Doug Jerdo. They would like permission to hold an Out of the Darkness Walk on Sunday, October 4<sup>th</sup>, 2009. The walk is to raise money for suicide prevention. The event will begin at the speed skating Oval, the walk will continue around the lake, and end back at the Oval. They will provide insurance. They have already received permission from the Village.

Councilman Damp moved and Councilman Miller seconded the motion to approve the Out of the Darkness event. There being no further discussion, the motion was unanimously carried.

Supervisor Politi stated Butch has made a request to hire a new Park District employee. The employee will be replacing Matthew St. Louis. Councilman Jack Favro, Butch Martin and Lynn Wilson conducted interviews. They have recommended Andrew St. Louis fill the position as a laborer/mechanic for \$14.50 per hour.

Councilman Favro moved and Councilman Damp seconded the motion to approve Andrew St. Louis as the new Park District employee. There being no further discussion, the motion was unanimously carried.

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Supervisor Politi stated we have a request by Superintendent Straight for the approval of several Highway Department employees. First, Devin Kelly has been recommended for a non-competitive seasonal position, Park Attendant for \$10.00 per hour.

Councilman Favro moved and Councilman Damp seconded the motion to approve Devin Kelly as the new Park Attendant. There being no further discussion, the motion was unanimously carried.

Supervisor Politi stated we have a request to fill the MEO 1 non-competitive position. This is presently a seasonal position at the rate of \$11.02 per hour. Steve LaHart has been recommended. He will be taking Ron Hathaway's position who is not presently working due to injury.

Councilman Favro moved and Councilman Miller seconded the motion to approve Steve LaHart for the MEO 1 seasonal employee position for the Highway Department.

Councilman Miller continued the discussion regarding the position; it is a temporary position until such time that we have a decision on Ron Hathaway. If Ron receives permanent disability and leaves this position, the opening will then be advertized. If Steve LaHart lives up to expectations, he will become a strong candidate for the position. Steve LaHart was selected through an interview process.

There being no further discussion, the motion was unanimously carried.

Supervisor Politi stated we have a request for a MEO I permanent position which is currently a temporary position. Tom Lincoln has been recommended for \$13.50 per hour. He is filling the position that has been vacated by a prior employee. He has currently been working on a temporary basis. Tom Lincoln was also selected through an interview process.

Councilman Damp moved and Councilman Miller seconded the motion to approve Tom Lincoln for the MEO 1 permanent position for the Highway Department. There being no further discussion, the motion was unanimously carried with Councilman Favro abstaining due to a conflict of interest.

Supervisor Politi stated we have a request by the Highway Superintendent for an approval of the position of Deputy Highway Superintendent. Ken Porter has been recommended with no change in salary until the next budget session. Ron Hathaway was the Deputy Highway Superintendent. He is no longer working.

Councilman Favro moved and Councilman Damp seconded the motion to approve Ken Porter as the Deputy Highway Superintendent.

Councilman Miller continued the discussion in regards to Ron Hathaway's return. Supervisor Politi stated the position is Larry's appointment and is subject to our approval. With Ron's disability, it is highly unlikely he will return.

There being no further discussion, the motion was unanimously carried.

Supervisor Politi stated we have one budget amendment; A transfer of monies from the Justice Court Grant to the General Funds in the amount of \$2,530. The General Fund pays for the renovations and the grant reimburses the General Fund.

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

Supervisor Politi stated there is an issue at the landfill regarding mulch fees. Contractors are getting truckloads and tandem loads of mulch for free and then selling it to the public. It has been

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suggested that we consider adding a fee for loading mulch; \$5 for loading a pick-up truck and \$5 per yard for a tandem/dump trucks which is about 18 cubic yards for a \$90 fee.

Councilman Miller and Supervisor Politi discussed the current charge \$1 to load the trucks and that many are locals for use in their gardens. If someone shovels the mulch by themselves, then there is no charge. If they use our loader, which entails an employee running a machine, then \$5 is a reasonable fee.

Councilman Damp stated I would like an exemption for not-for-profit groups, the Garden Club and Beautification. Larry Straight would also like to exclude shared services, the Lake Placid Village as well as the surrounding towns.

Councilman Miller stated he is concerned with whether Trudeau is being charged enough. Trudeau charges \$20 for a pick-up truck and we charge them \$5. Councilman Damp believes \$5 fee is fine. The same amount of people will be going to the landfill for mulch, and \$5 will not stop them. Superintendent Larry Straight stated there is always plenty of mulch.

Supervisor Politi summarized the discussion; a loading fee of \$5 for a pick-up truck, \$5 per cubic yard for tandems and dump trucks. Not-for-profits, Garden Club, Municipalities, and Beautification would be exempt. The decision is Larry Straight's.

Councilman Favro moved and Councilman Damp seconded the motion to approve the mulch fees as discussed. There being no further discussion, the motion was unanimously carried.

Supervisor Politi transitioned to the Mirror Lake drainage and paving project. He stated we need to allocate monies from the Budget. The project includes paving George & Bliss Road from the intersection of Mirror Lake Drive, 600 feet to the Village line. The cost of a seasonal employee is included. Funds, not to exceed \$190,000 dollars, need to be allocated from last year's unused funds to this year's budget. The estimate from Larry Straight is approximately \$181,980 dollars. He stated we need a motion to move the funds.

Councilman Damp moved and Councilman Favro seconded the motion to move the unused funds from last year to this year's budget for the purpose of completing the Mirror Lake drainage and paving project.

Discussion continued between Councilman Damp and Larry Straight; the funds are dedicated highway funds that were not used last year because of the pending legal action. Supervisor Politi explained we could not do the work last year because of the traffic being rerouted around Mirror Lake Drive due to the anticipation of the Convention Center construction.

There being no further discussion, the motion was unanimously carried.

Supervisor Politi transitioned to Committee Reports.

Councilman Damp reported the Saranac Lake Youth Group received the lunch money from Essex County. The new director is quite dynamic, is a part-time substitute teacher, and anticipates more children than last year.

Supervisor Politi reported he and Councilman Favro attended the Fireman's Ball. The Town and Village honored Liane Colby as the first female fire chief in 105 years. She is the very first female fire chief in the history of Essex County. It was a nice event. She was voted in by her peers who recognize that her qualifications, experience, and character count more than gender. He stated it is a tribute to the guys because it is very unusual these days especially in a fire department.

Councilman Favro stated I have given many speeches at the Fire Department benefits. They have always said that the fire department has been for 200 years unimpeded by progress. Everything is always very rigid and very much the same. For a woman to be elected is huge. Liane is a very dynamic person too. Supervisor Politi agreed and added she is also in complete control.

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Supervisor Politi asked for a motion to approve the Audits.

TOWN OF NORTH ELBA		
CLAIMS APPROVED FOR PAYMENT 5/12/09		
	<b>Regular</b>	<b>Prepaid</b>
A FUND	60,028.04	30,926.45
DA FUND	5,385.18	8,931.54
DB FUND	41.74	-
H31-CODE UPDATE	7,500.00	-
H43 2008 CAPITAL PROJECTS	309.98	-
SP PARK DISTRICT	341,057.87	12,717.09
SW2 MCKENZIE	-	74.91
SW3 RAY BROOK	4,579.00	-
T TRUST & AGENCY	-	549.93
TE PRIVATE PURPOSE TRUST	-	-
	418,901.81	53,199.92
9787-9795;9797-9817;9837-9926;9928-9944;9946-9953; 9955-9957		

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

Councilman Damp asked about the railroad. He stated their letter referred to commercial use which I don't see happening.

Supervisor Politi stated he voiced some concerns and offered him an opportunity to speak to the Board. I have not heard from him. Passengers from Utica to Lake Placid or the transportation of freight generating an economic boom is difficult to believe.

Those present agreed with Councilman Miller when he stated the railroad would make a great bike path.

There being no further business to come before the Town Board, Councilman Miller moved and Councilman Damp seconded the motion to adjourn the Regular Town Board meeting at 7:29 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Laurie Curtis Dudley  
Town Clerk