

Regular Town Board Meeting
March 10, 2009

Minutes of the Regular Town 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 Robert Politi, Councilman; Bob Miller, Jack Favro, Jay Rand, Chuck Damp, and Laurie Curtis Dudley, Town Clerk.

Others Present: Larry Straight, Danny Miller, Jim Beaney, Jeff Edwards, Chris Ward, and Nathan Brown

Supervisor Politi opened the 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 Town Board meeting on February 10, 2009.

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

Supervisor Politi stated the first person on the agenda is Jeff Edwards. How are you doing, Jeff?

Jeff Edward stated it is good to see everybody.

Supervisor Politi stated I did get your letter and the Board has a copy requesting support. I don't think we have any problem with it. There are a couple of thing, which you did address, one being a copy of the insurance certificate which I am sure you will provide us a copy. He stated one of the other for this year is recycling. Because of the Recycling Center and the green initiative and so forth... we are very interested in having a more concentrated recycling effort for the Ironman event. I believe Denice mentioned this to you when she called. He stated that the Board wanted to talk to you about what efforts can be made in terms of making recycling work a little better than it has in the past.

Jeff Edward stated I can talk a little about what we have done in the past; some of the initiatives that we have already put into place. Starting about two years ago we began recycling cardboard off the oval site which is primarily generated from shipping all sorts of things to the site. We added a cardboard collection container over behind the school. In the week preceding the event and immediately following, we do a lot of shipping right after as well. He stated last year the aid stations bagged and collected the plastic water containers. Those are collected separately by Lake Placid Disposal. They go along and pick-up the normal waste with one truck and pick-up the plastic containers with another truck. The challenge with the Gatorade bottles, which are similar to the water containers, is that they are required to be rinsed prior to collection. That presents a little bit of a challenge at the aid stations because there is simply not a good efficient way to do that. He stated we are working on that a little bit. One of the things that we are doing is to get a volunteer organization called the Adirondack Green Circle. They have offered to bring their mobile collection truck to the site, perhaps prior to the weekly event, and then pick it up the next day. He stated we are going to do is invite them to do a trial run with the Marathon, which is a little bit smaller in scale and obviously less of a time commitment. They will start with that and see how it goes and then try to get involved with the Ironman as well. Realize in the race production industry there is a big movement in this regard. There is actually a Green Circle Certification Program for races. We are moving in the direction to become Green Certified. It is a little bit more complicated than merely recycling. We have a local athlete representative who is will be our athlete educator. He is involved in the athlete meeting and sending out email type broadcast to athletes educating them prior to their arrival in Lake Placid about what we are doing and how we will do it. He stated we are definitely thinking in these directions. I'm not certain exactly what you had discussed or had in mind but that is sort of our direction at this point.

Councilman Damp stated I am curious, do you know if Lake Placid Disposal actually recycles or just throw it away?

Jeff Edwards stated it is my understanding that they recycle, but I guess I don't follow the bags where they go.

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Councilman Damp stated well it is our understanding that they just throw it away. If that is the solution then it does not necessarily get us there, unless you require it.

Jeff Edwards stated he will check into that. It was my understanding that when they collected it separately it would be recycled. Maybe I didn't follow that far enough.

Councilman Damp stated I can appreciate that. Many people are under this impression.

Supervisor Politi stated if there is any way that we can help out. We just assumed that the recycling went through our center.

Jeff Edwards stated is it advantageous in this particular case. That is not a problem. I didn't want to burden the Center in terms of volume. Are we trying to generate greater volume?

Supervisor Politi stated no, it is not a problem and yes, we are trying to generate more volume.

Councilman Miller stated at the very least we can be assured that it is actually being recycled.

Jeff I don't see that as a problem. One of the things we can do is make sure it gets to the Transfer Station. It makes sense to me.

Supervisor Politi stated if we could some way coordinate it so it was bagged, even if we had to pick it up the next day. We want to get it to our center.

Jeff Edwards stated obviously plastic is the most visible and the most numerous kind of recyclable material at this point.

Councilman Miller stated where is your cardboard going?

Jeff Edwards stated the same place, Lake Placid Disposal.

Councilman Miller stated there is money in cardboard.

Supervisor Politi stated if Lake Placid Disposal is going to take it, they will take it to Franklin County. It doesn't come here.

Jeff Edwards stated truthfully as well, they charge considerable fees for that collection. So in the case of cardboard, is there a container available?

Supervisor Politi stated you will have to work it out with Shannon. I don't know if you have spoken with her yet, but if we started talking about it now, we could try and come up with a system that is advantageous to the Ironman as well as the Transfer Station.

Councilman Favro stated talking to Shannon would be the key. She can give you ideas and maybe help you expand what you are already doing.

Councilman Miller stated we also would not be against Ironman purchasing any kind of collection bins that they can leave us with.

Jeff Edwards stated what I have worked with here in Lake Placid as well as other localities is a large door style shipping container not an open top dumpster. So we will have to figure out a way to keep the cardboard dry.

Councilman Miller stated what does Lake Placid Disposal provide you with? Do they actually give you shipping containers?

Jeff Edwards stated yes, a shipping container on skids. Instead of an open top, it has bay doors.

Supervisor Politi stated Jeff, what is done in other places; thinking of the Green Initiative?

Jeff Edwards stated as you know, the education of the consumer has been one of the greatest challenges. We have tried on site to do collection containers for the other categories, not with

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great success either here or in other locations. We have not been happy about the outcomes. With that being said, I think education is a big part of the process here.

Supervisor Politi stated one would think that a group of athletes would be most conscious of not only of the physical environment but also this particular aspect of perfecting this location because it's so beautiful. He stated ideally we would like to promote that concept just because it's the Adirondacks and also because of Ironman.

Jeff Edwards stated the amount of waste we generate is considerable. We are trying to reduce that. In this case I am glad that I have becomes more aware of what is mutually beneficial to the situation here. I did not realize that you could actually benefit by keeping our waste here.

Supervisor Politi stated we would just assume that all the waste that is produced here stays here. The major transporters in this community are taking the waste to Franklin County. Obviously we generate revenue from that facility, and the monies that are generated for those uses go back into the facility. We want to make the Recycling Center better and we want the entire Transfer Station operation to better the Community. We would like to work on that concept with you. He stated I know Graham would be very interested in it too.

Jeff Edwards stated I will speak directly with Shannon and explore a little bit more about those possibilities.

Supervisor Politi stated even if it was bagged and ready to be picked up the next day; we can do that. Larry's guys can help to pick that up and transport it if that is an issue.

Councilman Rand stated do you reuse the containers that they ship the bikes in? Do they ship them in cardboard boxes?

Jeff Edwards stated most of those are reused by bike shops.

Councilman Rand stated do they ship them back in the same container?

Jeff Edwards stated a lot of the athletes have a hard case as you would for your golf clubs. Many are shipped that way. More recently we have a company that drives to bike shops starting in Florida and heads north. Athletes drop their bikes at the shops a week before the event. A box truck arrives here with 100 bikes or more. There is no packaging involved. The bikes are not disassembled and do not have to be assembled on site when they arrive. That has cut down on the bike related shipping packaging. It is actually disadvantageous to disassemble the bike, ship, and put it back together. That has become the primary way for shipping bikes.

Supervisor Politi stated Jeff would like to have me to write a letter on behalf of the Board so he can use it as an endorsement of the Ironman event for the permit that he needs to get. Would someone please make a motion to approve such a letter on behalf of the Board?

Councilman Miller moved and Councilman Favro seconded the motion to approve a letter of endorsement from Supervisor Politi on behalf of the Board in support of the Ironman. There being no discussion, the motion was unanimously carried.

Supervisor Politi stated you will provide us with the insurance certificate? You will get together with Shannon?

Jeff Edwards stated absolutely.

Supervisor Politi stated I got an email from Mike Drinkwater regarding the rink mentioning an outstanding electrical bill on the hockey box. Do you know anything about it? I am not sure if the Ironman is receiving a bill for the electric use or not. I sent him back an email. I just thought you would know. I don't know if the electric bill he is talking about has to do with parts for the glycol unit or whether it had to do with the Village sending Ironman a bill for the electrical use which shouldn't be.

Jeff Edwards stated I don't know one way or another about that.

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Supervisor Politi stated I sent him an email asking him to clarify it. That is something I will have to take care of with him.

Jeff Edwards stated any other rink related issues?

Supervisor Politi stated the rink has had tremendous use. It is too bad that Graham hasn't seen it. In the beginning, we were concerned if there would be any activity. He stated today there were six or nine kids there; the other night there was fourteen. They are there until late.

Jeff Edwards stated last weekend was incredible. I watch it from early in the morning to late. I think it's a fantastic addition to town. It was one of the nicest World Fest weekend. We had the Lake and Toboggan available as well as the Hockey Box. Everything was full all the time. I thought it was wonderful.

Supervisor Politi stated I agree with you. I think the visitors expressed it so many times that there is so much going on in this community for kids. They were amazed the amount of people that came down to the oval and both skating rinks open. It's really great. He stated one of the concerns has always been the location; is that actually in the best place? In the beginning, there was a lot of concern about it. As time goes by, there has been more and more positive on it than negative. Originally, we thought it would be better to move it toward the Shipman Youth Center and put a roof on it, which the Village could do along with the Town. To cover it would mean the Glycol unit would not have to come on and also the ice would stay in great shape all the time. The weather outside wouldn't bother playing on the rink and we wouldn't have to shovel and maintain the surface. When we put the Sports Plex down with basket ball it will probably draw an awful lot of attention where it is now than it would if it were over by the Youth Center. It seems as though more and more people are finding it easier to accept the location here.

Jeff Edwards stated I have heard some criticism with regard to the view aspect of it. At the same time the opposing viewpoint is that it is highly visible. It is great to drive down Main Street and see a dozen people playing hockey. It really fits the image of our town so well.

Supervisor Politi stated I agree. I think parents like to know that their kids are there. They can see them. They're not out of site and it nicely lit. I have heard more negative on the cyclone fence than the actual rink. It is not a nice combination of the fence and the back of the boards. I think Graham told me that the boards were all supposed to be clear but that is the way they came.

Jeff Edwards stated one thing to maybe look at is if it does stay, there is the access point.

Supervisor Politi stated we are talking about opening the gate. A negative here is it that there is not a site for the kids to sit down to put on and off skates; a warming hut or that kind of thing. There could be on another location. It's a trade-off. If you want the visibility, than this is the best spot. If you want the other things, than the other is the best spot. What is the status in turns of making the facility permanent?

Jeff Edwards stated Graham is waiting for the consensus about location.

Supervisor Politi stated do you think he will wait through the summer to see how the Sports Plex does?

Jeff Edwards stated I suspect at this point that he would like a decision before he moves to the sports surface knowing that we still need to utilize the space for the race above anything else.

Supervisor Politi stated is he going to be here in the near future?

Jeff Edwards stated I don't know if he will be here before July, but I could find out.

Supervisor Politi stated if he was going to be here, it would be nice to sit down with a couple people from the Village and the Town with Butch and yourself to talk it out and come to that decision. Although I think it can be made without him being here, but it would nice to talk to him.

There being no other business. The Board thanked Jeff for coming to the meeting.

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Supervisor Politi stated I moved Sylvie up and then I remember telling her to come later. She should be here in about 15-20 minutes. Danny, are you here to talk to us?

Danny Miller stated no.

Supervisor Politi introduced himself and the Board to the new Adirondack Enterprise reporter, Nathan Brown. He then moved down the agenda to Health Insurance Benefits.

Supervisor Politi stated Chuck, this was an issue that you wanted to talk about; health insurance benefits beyond retirement.

Councilman Damp stated has everybody had the opportunity to go over Dan's piece?

Councilman Rand, Councilman Favro, Supervisor Politi all received and reviewed the information from Dan McKillip. Councilman Miller stated he did not receive the email that was sent about a week prior. Councilman Favro resent the message from his Blackberry at the Board Meeting. Supervisor Politi gave his copy to Councilman Miller.

Councilman Damp stated I think you need to digest that, read it a few times. Some of it makes sense and some of it I don't agree with. One of the things that we ought to address is the 12% differential which is actually an increase in benefits after retirement. Right now they pay 25% and after retirement it drops to 10%.

Councilman Miller stated was that on purpose or was that an error?

Councilman Damp stated I don't know because I was not here.

Supervisor Politi stated Jay or Jack were you part of the Union negotiations?

Councilman Favro stated I'm not sure it was necessarily the Union. When the 20 part changed. That never changed. That would be my guess.

Councilman Damp stated that would make sense. We would at least keep it consistent with what the current employees benefit is. Not necessarily an incentive at retirement. He stated you need some time to go over that, Bob. I wouldn't try to digest that in a minute or two. He talks about trends and different things. I do think we should move forward on making it more consistent with the current benefits.

Supervisor Politi stated you had talked to me about Medicare.

Councilman Damp stated part of his piece is about when you become eligible for Medicare and maybe there would be an adjustment. Take a look at it, Bob. We can do this next month.

Councilman Miller stated I apologize. I missed it.

Councilman Rand stated I have been concerned about it from the start. It is good to take a look at it. I'm not sure if we want to do away with it.

Councilman Damp stated I would hope we could close that 12 – 15 point gap.

Supervisor Politi stated that would probably have to be part of the Union negotiation next time around.

Councilman Damp stated it isn't a logical adjustment to go from paying 25% while they are working down to so little when they retired.

Councilman Miller asked if it pertains to only Union members and Councilman Damp replied that it is across the Board. He suggested Councilman Miller review the report. He stated I would just keep that differential in the forefront.

Councilman Favro stated right now we are paying supplement through Medicare?

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Councilman Damp stated we shifted this year so the retirees are on a different program. It used to be that they were in our group. But now because of costs it was a substantial change. Their benefits were actually broadened in a sense. They are receiving a better plan. We do need to close that 15 point gap. It doesn't make a lot of sense not to. He stated Dan talked about this being in the middle of a three year contract. If we were to move forward with something we would only impact the nonunion employees until the union contract is up. As he point out could create some relations.

Supervisor Politi stated Dan did not have a copy of the current Policy Procedure Manual. Cathy is sending him the new manual and he said he would respond.

Supervisor Politi transitioned to Sylvie Nelson who arrived to discuss the Town House. He introduced Sylvie to the Board.

Supervisor Politi stated Sylvie is the Director of the Saranac Lake Area Chamber of Commerce. I gave each of you a copy of a letter which I received from the Saranac Area Chamber of Commerce. Supervisor Politi read the letter.

Supervisor Politi stated he invited Sylvie to come here tonight to talk to those of you who have not been involved in the discussions that have led to this point. Chuck and I have both been involved. He stated Sylvie, will you please share with us your thoughts and plans are and then we can go into discussion on it?

Sylvie Nelson stated we are very excited. It gives us an opportunity to partner up with Essex County Tourism. For us it makes sense. The services that we offer, although we tried the best that we can, were limited by the staff that we have. That of course is dictated by our budget. As the Executive Director, I am very committed to make sure that fiscally speaking we are a responsible organization. In that respect, we had to make some compromises that were perhaps not to the best interest of our visitors. Jim and I talked and thought about doing more of a partnership type thing. It evolved to where we are today; trying to see if the Town of North Elba Town House would be made available to us so that we could move our organization there. That is also a new step for us. I have tried to figure out how long we have been in the Town Hall as an organization there. It goes back at least 45 year if not more; perhaps back to when it got restarted after the War. It has been 45 to 50 years in the same place. Nobody really knows. The Town House would allow us not only to do the partnership, because that is just a component of it, but the space is quite a bit larger than we have right now. I don't know if you have had the opportunity to see our current office. It is very crowded. The Town Hall in the town of Harrietstown has been extremely supportive of us as an organization and of this step. We don't want to "ruffle feathers". Larry Miller has assured us that our cooperation, because we work closely with the Town of Harrietstown, would not suffer in that respect. By vacating our space, it gives the opportunity for the Village and the Town to do what you do here; combine offices under one roof. It's not for tomorrow morning, but it is in their plan and in their vision. When all this came together, we went to our members, and some of you are members of the Chamber, and tried to see what the feeling was. There is a lot of emotion attached to the fact that we are on Main Street. That was one of the biggest concerns. In the bigger picture the members understood this would also give us another focus. We put together a task force who strongly suggested to the Board to accept the recommendation that we move forward and present to you a letter of intent that we are indeed interested in going there.

Supervisor Politi stated we have discussed this in the past as I sure you are aware of. I will speak my mind and the other Board members can voice their opinions. I always wanted to develop a closer bond between the Village of Saranac Lake and North Elba. North Elba is obviously a part of the Village of Saranac Lake and we want to have better relations. That is something that has always been discussed. Every time I have been involved with an election, I have heard it time and time again the fact that North Elba needs to be more involved with the Saranac Lake community. We have tried very hard to do that and believe this is an opportunity for us to take a building that we feel is underutilized for our purposes available to the Saranac Lake Community to better not only the North Elba region but to better the Saranac Lake Village area. We saw it as a natural marriage. I look at it as a great partnership. I have told you that this is something I would support. I think that is the general consensus of the Board members. Chuck, you went to the meetings.

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Councilman Damp stated I think it makes perfect sense. The coverage of the weekends at the busier time of the year is deficit now. This is a sure fire way of filling that gap.

Sylvie Nelson stated defiantly. Plus the partnership will help not just help the Village but the entire region. Jim and I were very committed to make sure that the visitor gets a positive Adirondack experience. It does not matter where they stop. By us being able to partner in that location, we will be able to provide that.

Supervisor Politi stated I agree with you. We have looked at it from the standpoint that it is not a Saranac Lake thing and it's not a North Elba thing, it is a Community thing. We are a part of that Community. We want to reach out and help the Community become even better. He stated there are a couple things that we have discussed that you are aware of. I want to make sure the Board would want me to acknowledge that the use will have to be subject to a couple of conditions. We would need continued use of the building twice a year for two Board meetings, July and September, in the main room. It would have to be subject to our ability to hold elections in the building as well as Tax Collecting. You had said these were not a problem whatsoever. Other than that, there are some issues in terms of maintenance and so forth.

Sylvie Nelson stated we know that there are some details to be worked out. That's what Jim and I want to do from today on. We are very committed in making sure signage is adequate. That was at the top of the priority list.

Supervisor Politi stated one thing we discussed was the possibility of the Park District continuing to plow the parking lot. We would do that all the time. We also cut the grass. We would continue doing the outside work. The building actually needs to be painted which we would intend to do in the near future.

Sylvie Nelson stated overall, it is a good thing for our organization and our members; more specifically also the business community. We will be capturing quite a bit more traffic on that road. It is the most used road in the Park. That offsets the Main Street address. Because we are on River Street does not mean we won't be committed to our Community and our Region.

Supervisor Politi stated although there is no contract at this point, does the Board want to move forward in the direction of allowing the Saranac Lake Chamber and the Essex County Visitors Bureau to occupy the space, and allowing me to notify the current occupants of our potential change to their status.

Councilman Rand and Sylvie Nelsen discuss light heartily a solution to the acoustic problem.

Supervisor Politi stated you have the opportunity to put a kiosk outside during the summer. There is a lot of opportunity in that location.

Councilman Damp moved and Councilman Favro seconded the motion to approve the Saranac Lake Chamber occupying the Town House and allowing Supervisor Politi to notify the current occupants of our potential change to their status. There being no discussion, the motion was unanimously carried.

Supervisor Politi stated we are glad to have you. We hope the Community embraces your concept. Change is always difficult.

Sylvie Nelson stated that is always part of it. While we work out the details, then in six months we are not going to talk about this. She stated thank you for this opportunity. I am really looking forward to working in a closer partnership with the Town of North Elba. From our organizations perspective, that is something that hasn't occurred in the four years that I have been here.

Supervisor Politi stated we want to make it better. We are taking some steps to try and make it better; not only in this way but financially getting sales tax money back that will benefit that section of the Village.

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Supervisor Politi stated the Literacy Volunteers are in the office on the right. I don't see a reason why we couldn't at some point put a bathroom at that location to solve the handicap bathroom problem.

Sylvie Nelson stated we involved Lauren LaFave from the Tri-Lakes Center for Independent Living. She can definitely help us in that respect.

Sylvie Nelson thanked the Board and said she would be in touch.

Supervisor Politi stated the next item on the agenda is the fire doors. We have two quotes on the magnetic fire doors which we discussed. One was with Zone Alarm for \$1,192.23 for six magnetic door holders. The other one is Mahoney Electric; their price was \$4,635. The reason there was a big difference is the Mahoney Electric included a fire alarm control panel, 24 volt power supply, and a 110 volt relay. We did not ask for these, and they did not breakdown the prices. We got an estimate that we weren't looking for. Unless you all know the cost of those things, Kim gave me an idea that the \$1,192.23 was probably not going to be beat by the other estimate.

Councilman Damp stated the bottom line is that they were both told what we wanted and one bid on the things that were not needed. I'm looking for a motion to accept the \$1,192.23.

Councilman Damp moved and Councilman Miller seconded the motion to approve the Zone Alarm bid of \$1,192.23 for magnetic fire doors. There being no discussion, the motion was unanimously carried.

Supervisor Politi stated I received a request from the Town of Tupper Lake for a Resolution supporting the Adirondack Club & Resort. I gave you a copy of that. It is pretty self-explanatory. He stated obviously the people of the Town of Tupper Lake would like to see that development go forward for economic reasons. They have requested support from adjoining communities.

Councilman Rand moved and Councilman Favro seconded the motion to approve a Resolution supporting the Adirondack Club & Resort in Tupper Lake.

Councilman Miller stated why is the Town of North Elba discussing this?

Supervisor Politi stated they are seeking support of all of the neighboring towns. This particular Resort would include the development of the ski area which would potentially benefit our area. He stated they are looking for support from outline community. It's not unusual. They would like this Resolution sent to Governor Patterson, Senator Little, Assembly Woman Duprey and Sayward and so forth. It is no different than someone going to the County and seeking a Resolution of support from Essex County for a project that they have in their community. My guess is that they already have a Resolution in support from Franklin County Board of Legislatures. It is part of a package that is sent to try and move the APA along.

Council Miller stated this is still a big discussion within the Town of Tupper Lake. Isn't it?

Supervisor Politi stated yes. It has not been approved yet. But in terms of the people, I don't know that. Chuck?

Councilman Damp stated at least in the public forums, the overwhelming majority seem to be in favor of it. There are certainly some fairly vocal minority groups that are opposed; the adjacent property owners perhaps. They have close to 80 people show up at public meeting and nobody speaks against it.

Supervisor Politi stated this request came from the Town Supervisor.

Councilman Damp stated both the Village and the Town have come out in favor of the same Resolution.

Councilman Miller stated I don't know if I want to support or not to support something that is happening in Tupper Lake.

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Supervisor Politi and the Board stated you don't have to vote, you won't offend us, and they won't know who you are.

Supervisor Politi asked for a roll call vote.

Councilman Rand: AYE; Councilman Favro: AYE; Councilman Damp: AYE; and Supervisor Politi: AYE; Councilman Miller: NAY. There being no discussion, the motion was carried with a four to one vote.

Supervisor Politi stated I included the Collateral Source Resolution. It was a request by the Town Attorney for a Resolution of Legislation preventing double dipping on the municipal level. This has been something sent to towns across the State of New York. He requested that the Town of North Elba also support this Resolution. Everyone has copies. I'm not sure if you all have had a chance to read it or not. It is self explanatory.

Councilman Rand moved and Councilman Damp second the motion to approve a Resolution preventing double dipping. There being no further discussion, the motion was unanimously carried.

Supervisor Politi stated another Resolution we were asked is from the Climate Smart Community Pledge. It is being circulated by the DEC. He summarizes the pledge; state and local partnership to include climate protection to adopt strategies to decrease energy usage, increase recycling, and support green initiatives in communities across the State.

Supervisor Politi stated I have read it, and we are doing a lot of the things already. We are already utilizing hybrid vehicles, conducted at least two energy audits here, Jay is working on the thermostat issue, we have expanded our recycling program, we have updated our comprehensive plan. We have also installed a new fuel distribution center. All of these things fall within the parameters of this particular Community Pledge to become more protective of the environment. He stated the only thing that concerns me in the Pledge is that part about establishing a Task Force of local officials and community members. I would much rather had somebody here raise their hand and say, I want to lead that Pledge from the community.

Councilman Rand stated we should run this by the Planning Board.

Supervisor Politi stated it may be best to approve this with the Village. I think that Kate Fish would like to be involved as a Task Force leader working on these kinds of things. A lot of this involves trying to reduce electricity use by 15%. I think the Village has already reduced electricity usage substantially more than 15% by adopting the 5,000 kilowatt cost per usage.

Councilman Miller stated who wrote this? Where did it come from?

Supervisor Politi stated it is from the DEC, Department of Environmental Conservation. It is a statewide community pledge that they have sent around working with local Governments to embrace the concept of being more aware of climate and environmental issues. He stated there is nothing wrong with that concept. The issue is trying to put people in place.

Councilman Rand stated I think it is a good idea to discuss it with the Village and perhaps get the Planning Board as well. These things can be complicated and a lot of work.

Supervisor Politi stated what happens so many times is that we have a pledge and nothing ever happens. We probably have taken more steps already than most communities in terms of reduction of electricity usage and recycling program. Even with the fuel distribution center, most communities don't have such a thing.

Councilman Miller stated I don't like some of the "Where As" statements. I like the ultimate goal. I agree we ought to be working with the Village and the Planning Board on how to accomplish these things in a practical sense. I just don't know how I feel about the political speak. They are asking me to say I believe that local and global environments are primarily due to burning of fossil fuels. Well how do I know if that is true? I would just like to accomplish some of these because they are good ideas.

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Councilman Damp stated they might pull our burning permits the day we sign that too.

Supervisor Politi stated do you want to table it until we have an opportunity to talk to the Mayor about their position on it. So much of this makes and yet some of the set up on it might be difficult.

Supervisor Politi transitioned into Budget Modifications. He stated we do have a budget modification of \$644.03. This is really a housekeeping issue. Increasing acquired property fees by \$644.03 and decreasing the contingency account by the same amount. It has to do with the property we were given by the Jones Foundation, the land running between the Village Sand Pit and the bridge at interval that runs all the way down to almost the red barn on River Road. They gave us that property a few months ago. Taxes were owed because it was an individual who owned it; \$644.03 was owed to the County. We will not have to pay taxes on it in the future. Because of the timing of the transfer, we were responsible for paying the County for that back amount of tax. Cathy needs an approval of the Budget Modifications.

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

Supervisor Politi stated Cathy is looking for an approval of the Employee Assistance Contract. I gave you a copy of that. Although we discussed it previously, there is a modification. If you look on page two, paragraph 14; Supervisor Politi reads that modification:

The EMPLOYER agrees to pay the AGENCY a fee of \$25.00 per annum per covered employees, for the service described in the preceding paragraphs, upon execution of this agreement. The fee will be pro-rated for seasonal employees based on their start date and termination date supplied to the AGENCY by the EMPLOYER.

Supervisor Politi stated that is what Cathy wanted added. It was added. This is a contract for employee assistance with the Behavior Health Services North a company in Plattsburgh. It for items such as work related to performance issues, training, short term counseling assistance and referral programs. I would like to have approval to sign this contract.

Councilman Favro moved and Councilman Miller seconded the motion to approve the Employee Assistance Contract. There being no discussion, the motion was unanimously carried.

Supervisor Politi stated if you don't mind is it possible to move the April meeting to the 21st. We won't have a workshop that month because almost everyone is gone the first two weeks. I don't think there will be a lot of business on the 21st. Can I have a motion?

Councilman Damp moved and Councilman Rand seconded the motion to approve to change the next Board Meeting to April 21st. There being no discussion, the motion was unanimously carried.

Supervisor Politi stated another thing I would like to mention. I did not have a chance to give it to you because I just got it myself today. We received a notice from the New York State of Real Property Services a Certification of our Residential Assessment Rate at 100%. You will probably get calls from people of the next couple of weeks. Maybe you already have. Many people are saying, how is it that our assessment could have possibly gone up in this economy given what has happening nationwide in the housing market. How can it go up? Most people don't understand that the assessors are not raising the assessments as a result of a town wide reevaluation. They are being told by the Office of Real Property Services that in order to maintain 100% Equalization Rate in order to get State aid to not only the schools but to communities that all Towns and Villages must maintain 100% Equalization Rate. Unfortunately the formula for establishing this rate is a three year sales study. They use the sales from 2008, 2007, 2006. The Market was still very strong in 2006 and in the early stages of 2007. The weakness in the Market has only occurred recently. The Office of Real Property tax Service is not indicative of what is happening today. I have always had a problem with the three year study and believe it should be a two year study. Next year we should see a dramatic change. I would

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assume there would be no increase whatsoever. If someone calls you and said the Assessor changed their assessment, it is not really the case. NYS Office of Real Property Services directed our assessor to raise rates about 4 ½ % this year.

Councilman Damp stated our ultimate goal is to deliver a zero or no increase in the levy. Although your assessment has gone up maybe 5 points on average, we can hope that the tax rate can go down as much.

Supervisor Politi stated you will notice that on the tax receipts the tax rate on a majority of them did not go up and had actually gone down.

Councilman Miller stated people want to blame their tax rates on the Assessor for changing their assessment. People have to understand that what changes their taxes is how much Government is spending; whether it is Town, County or School. If we can control the spending then we can control the taxes.

Supervisor Politi stated another thing I didn't have a chance to give you today is a copy of the Profit/Loss Statement on the Toboggan Slide for this year. Including the Health and Dental it shows a revenue base of about \$13,622.63 for the year.

Supervisor Politi stated Chuck, I don't know if you got this in your water bill; a report from the State of New York Department of Health with regard to the annual inspection of the Ray Brook Water District.

Councilman Damp discussed a new screen for well #2 with further discussion by the Board in regards to well #3 not producing, as well as the phenomenal quality of water.

Supervisor Politi stated it says the water system is kept neat, orderly, operating properly, and in good shape. I will talk to Brad Hathaway regarding the screen for well # 2 and well #3 production.

Supervisor Politi stated other than that, I really don't have anything else in terms of new business.

Councilman Damp stated I did go to the wrap up meeting of Joe Lamb's group had about the World Fests. Overall it was very widely praised. They defiantly want to continue to do something similar going forward. I heard a lot of ideas about resurrecting the Sports Commission and start bringing in more of these types of evens. They have saved the domain name of something like lpworldfest.com. They are also working towards service work and all kinds of stuff. He and the group that is there definitely see things getting legs and growing. You may want to follow up because he indicated that someone there has a source for recycling bins.

Supervisor Politi stated Stan Pilawa is the contact company. He has spoken with Shannon. He has a large waste management company he lives here in Lake Placid. He might have access to those kinds of things. He's an NSA Ski Jumper. He is a great friend of Joe Lamb's.

Councilman Damp stated the one thing they thought they could improve is the receptacles that they were using. They were really pushing recycling. It was a very favorable meeting, and definitely looks like it will continue in some shape or form.

Supervisor Politi stated we spoke about this at our workshop. It would be great to have them do it one weekend during the winter. I really think it is important in the future that we get Butch to clean the ice off where that skating rink is. To have that in addition to the Toboggan is nice to have those things on a busy weekend. People really get to enjoy it.

Councilman Damp stated there was a lot of talk, if this happens, about the Sunday night. This wasn't their choice night. They will probably look towards a Saturday night.

Supervisor Politi stated that first Saturday night of the Luge, it was during President's week, there were a lot of people there. If you had a World Fest, or even if it were called a Winter Fest, every year at that time, it would be really busy.

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Councilman Damp stated it sounds like that is where it's headed. It isn't going to be just this year. It was a very good wrap-up. The Village was represented, the Visitors Bureau, us, the service groups (Lions and Rotary). The Lions were very happy with whatever worked out for them. They definitely plan on participating in some degree in the future too. They also had a school representative there. They do want to get more involvement with the schools. They realized that maybe it was too short a notice. The art projects they were working on didn't give them enough time to work that in. Overall it was a favorable meeting.

Councilman Miller stated I have heard more than a few positive comments on those flags that the kids made. He stated they look dynamite.

Councilman Damp stated I didn't notice them until today.

Supervisor Politi stated I don't mean to change the subject, but I was talking to Shannon the other day. She was telling me she has a group of painters that are coming in to paint the Earth on the wall at the Recycling Center. She is working with some of the Artist in the area and kids from the Art Program at school.

Discussion continued regarding the Recycling Center with high regards for Shannon Porter's ideas and ambition.

Supervisor Miller stated you moved out the can crusher. It looks nice. I stopped into the Recycling Center the other day. I have never seen it look nicer. It looks terrific. Larry and Dave were working in there and they were helping customers. It was actually a lady from ORDA who was asking about bringing some unusual items. They were right on top of it giving her answers and helping her out with directions.

Supervisor Politi stated it's a great service to the public and a great way help the public understand what we are doing.

Supervisor Polity stated does anyone have anything else?

Supervisor Politi stated we need to approve the Audits per the Audit numbers.

TOWN OF NORTH ELBA		
CLAIMS APPROVED FOR PAYMENT 3/10/09		
	Regular	Prepaid
A FUND	72,464.11	30,634.09
DA FUND	4,162.47	18,076.68
H43 2008 AIRPORT CAPITAL PROJECT	8,860.00	-
SF2 FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT	19,896.22	-
SP PARK DISTRICT	26,540.76	24,090.52
T TRUST & AGENCY	-	275.00
TE PRIVATE PURPOSE TRUST	-	607.79
	131,923.56	73,684.08
9089; 9237; 9263; 9293; 9295-9331; 9353-9415; 9417-9424; 9445-9463		

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

Supervisor Politi stated there is no Executive Session. I don't have anything else. Before we adjourn, Chris, I always open this up to the Press for any questions or comments.

Chris Ward stated just had a few housekeeping questions. The Town House that they are moving to; what is the official name and the location? What are the dates?

Supervisor Politi stated it is known as the "Town House". It is right next door to Guide Boat Real Estate. The building has white columns on the front. I will have to get the exact address to you. As for the dates, we are talking about June 1st.

Chris Ward stated how many employees will be over there?

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Councilman Damp stated Saranac Lake Chamber will have two and Jim will staff one; so maybe three employees. Two are already full time employees of the Saranac Lake Chamber.

Chris Ward asked for a copy of the letter. Councilman Damp offered Chris his copy.

Supervisor Politi asked Nathan Brown if he had questions.

Nathan Brown stated where did the Collateral Source Resolution come from?

Supervisor Politi stated it came from the Town Attorney and must be something that is being sent to all Town Attorneys. It is a Legislative request. I don't know exactly who because he must have taken it off of something. Do you want a copy of it?

Councilman Favro offered his copy.

Councilman Damp stated it was a result of a lawsuit.

Supervisor Politi stated it cites the case. You can check it. It was a 1999 lawsuit. The Attorney General has been looking into a lot of the double dipping cases not only with Town Attorneys but also Attorneys who represent a School Board and the Town and may be looking for retirement benefits from both places. I'm sure that has a lot to do with it. They are auditing many of these Towns right now.

Councilman Miller stated there are Attorneys who may be working for three or four school districts and collecting retirements from each of them.

Councilman Damp stated it also focuses on Disability, Pension, and employees replace of loss earnings. It does not just focus on employee double dipping.

Supervisor Politi stated I did not mean it was just Attorneys. That was just example of one of the areas. Nathan, you would have to read the Case. I didn't read it.

Councilman Damp stated it makes sense. By getting disability for an injury you should not be earning more than you were when you were working.

Nathan Brown stated where do the fire doors go?

Councilman Damp stated on the second floor closing off the hallway. The doors are left open because they are too heavy for the senior citizens. The Fire Inspector came in and criticized the fact that we leave them open without a device that will automatically shut them should a fire occur. The doors will be held open by a magnet and if the fire alarm goes off, the doors will automatically close.

There being nothing else to be brought before the Board at this time, Councilman Damp moved and Councilman Favro seconded the motion to adjourn the Regular Board meeting at 8:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Laurie Curtis Dudley
Town Clerk