

Regular Town Board Meeting
January 13, 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 Denice P. Fredericks, Deputy Town Clerk.

Others Present: Larry Straight, George Earl, Jacob Resneck, Eileen Valentine and Jason Leon.

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

Supervisor Politi there is one change in the agenda I would like to take off D. under new business. He stated does anyone else have any other changes or additions or any old business. He then asked for a motion on the amended agenda for the Regular Town Board meeting.

Councilman Favro moved and Councilman Miller seconded the motion to approve the amended agenda. There being no discussion, the motion was unanimously carried.

Supervisor Politi asked for a motion on the minutes of the Town Board meeting on December 9, 2008 and the Organizational Meeting of January 5, 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 is there anyone here to address the Board?

Supervisor Politi stated I don't have any old business. He stated under new business Jack you have asked for the approval of a couple of road names but actually only one is located in the Town the other is entirely within the Village. He stated I looked at this map and I assume it is the main road. He stated the main road is Lost Pond Trail so a portion of this road is in the Village and a small portion is in the Town. He stated it has already been approved by the County correct. He stated our section would be over by the bridge by Madeline's house.

Councilman Favro moved and Councilman Rand seconded the motion to approve the name of Lost Pond Trail for the road located in the Town in Pat Ledger's subdivision River Bend. Discussion?

Councilman Miller stated is that a public road.

Supervisor Politi stated not at this point.

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Councilman Miller stated is it paved?

Supervisor Politi stated I think a portion is isn't it.

Larry Straight stated on the Village side it is.

Supervisor Politi stated over on Averyville it is paved going in but not our section. He stated it still has to have a road name for the fire department.

Councilman Miller stated is that going to be brought up to Village standards or Town standards.

Supervisor Politi stated I don't know that it would be both. He stated it has to be approved by the Village and the Town.

Councilman Miller stated doesn't it have to be a way verses...

Councilman Favro stated it can be a trail.

Supervisor Politi stated it can be a way or trail I believe.

Councilman Favro stated it can be a way, a trail or a circle.

Supervisor Politi stated I have been told that the County has already approved this.

Councilman Favro stated yes they have already been through and looked at it and approved it.

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

Supervisor Politi stated the next thing on the agenda is the approval of the safety manual for the Town which has been compiled and all board members should have been given a copy of it. He stated it requires Town approval. He stated I think Cathy e-mailed it to you as well putting a hard copy in everyone's box. He stated has everyone had the opportunity to look at it.

Councilman Rand stated I think it was pretty comprehensive.

Supervisor Politi stated it met the approval of PESH and they were satisfied with the modifications that were done.

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

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Supervisor Politi stated the next item on the agenda is a resolution regarding the increasing of landfill tipping fees. He stated I think it discussed in our budget process to increase the tipping fees by one cent per pound from six cents to seven cents. He stated Jack I am going to let you and Bob talk about this you have the information.

Councilman Favro stated we have a C&D pit that is getting pretty full so we are looking for ways to expand that. He stated there is one project going on the next one is the recycling building and if you went down there right now you would see that it is chucked full. He stated everybody has been really good about recycling and making that project work so we need to find a way to expand the recycling section. He stated the third item is the State we received a extension on our burn permit until April but in the future they don't want any burning which means you will have to have somebody come in and grind it or we are going to have to grind it however but by raising it one cent we are at a minimum of about \$60,000 increase in revenue. He stated our idea is that we don't want anyone to have to go out and over extend ourselves especially right now unless it pays for itself we are not moving in that direction. He stated the \$60,000. will allow us to head in that way, one thing that will not be effected is that we have two systems down there one is the regular charges for weight when you go over the scale that will be effected that is the one cent the other one is the punch card system that we have and we are not looking to effect that so the punch cards will still go through and punch like normal. He stated there is a pretty drastic difference in the two just to give you an idea in 08 the punch card revenue was around \$55,000. and the regular charges for the landfill were \$434,000.

Supervisor Politi stated it is a way of increasing revenue to be able to expend monies to make the landfill even better in the future.

Councilman Miller stated on the 17th of February at 7:00 p.m. we will have a meeting here at the town hall where once again Jack and I will be hosting a meeting. He stated we have asked Shannon and Larry to come to the meeting and address the public and explain where we are and what we have done over the last year and take questions and comments from the public.

Supervisor Politi stated is there anything else to address on the tipping fees.

Councilman Miller and Councilman Favro seconded the motion to increase the tipping fees one cent per pound going from six cents per pound to seven cents per pound. There being no further discussion the Supervisor asked for a roll call vote: Councilman Miller; AYE, Councilman Favro; AYE, Councilman Rand; AYE, Councilman Damp; AYE and Supervisor Politi; AYE.

Supervisor Politi stated the budget modifications as given to me by Cathy involve no fund balance monies it is basically internal bookkeeping adjustments like we have had in the past. He stated for 2008 the final for the month of December there was an increase. We are using budgeted revenue to off set expended expenditures at the transfer station they amounted to \$17,336.50 at the transfer station so it is basically an off set, there is no deduction from fund balance and the same for the highway garage there were some

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\$24,875.38 of additional unexpended revenues were utilized to off set the cost of propane, gas and diesel for the month of December. He stated the net result is a zero it is a wash but Cathy needs to have it approved for the 2008 budget.

Councilman Favro moved and Councilman Rand seconded the motion to approve of the budget transfers as recommended by the budget officer Cathy Gregory. There being no discussion, the motion was unanimously carried.

Supervisor Politi asked is there any other new business to come before this Board?

Councilman Damp stated I was wondering if we have had time to think about eliminating lifetime health benefits for newly hired employees and I would like to move forward with that I know we have discussed it a number of times. He stated I was just wondering if we are able to do this at that point or not.

Supervisor Politi stated why don't you explain this for the press.

Councilman Damp stated right now as we all know if they work for a certain period of time for us and have benefits at the time of retirement they have those benefits for life and I am proposing that we eliminate this for new hires it would not impact any current employee that have been hired already it would only be people that have not been hired at this point we don't know who they are but it would only impact newly hired employees. He stated they would receive full benefits as we give to our current employees now while they are working but it would stop at retirement.

Councilman Favro stated do you remember what Cathy said one time she gave us the number of the liability for the current employees.

Councilman Damp stated it was hundreds of thousands of dollars it was close to \$400,000. now granted we never had to write a check in one day. He stated that is for the current retirees then it went up to eight something and that is at current rates which we know we made some changes this year but had we not it would have been 17% plus increase and that projection was two years ago whatever the rates were two years ago.

Supervisor Politi stated are you familiar with other communities doing this?

Councilman Damp stated it is happening more and more and it is not going to impact anybody up till now.

Supervisor Politi stated I understand that but will it have an impact on people wanting to stay for long periods of time.

Councilman Damp stated we had 17 applications for the last job and granted we offer it today but at least in this short period of time there seems to be quite a demand for jobs.

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Supervisor Politi stated we are still offering benefits it is just we are not offering retirement benefits.

Councilman Miller stated do you think that would impact our ability to recruit new candidates?

Councilman Damp stated if you are asking me if it would impact it today the answer is no. going forward I can't tell you.

Supervisor Politi stated I think it is a very good idea it's unfortunate that more municipalities don't do these kinds of things but I would hope it would happen on the County level it would save an awful lot of money someday.

Councilman Damp stated I don't think that somebody that was hired ten years ago on the premise that, that is what the deal was.

Supervisor Politi stated that people that haven't been hired and they come in they know that from day one there are benefits but there are no retirement benefits.

Councilman Damp stated I know we have talked about it some but I don't know if we want to wait another month that is fine it's not something that has to be done tonight but I would like to know if we are going to put it to a vote or not.

Councilman Miller stated I know we have discussed it but to be honest with you I didn't know it was going to be voted on tonight.

Councilman Damp stated it wasn't he asked if there was anything and it is something that has been back here for a while.

Supervisor Politi stated I have no problem if you want to put this off till the next meeting when it is on the agenda to vote on it but personally I have no problem with supporting that.

Councilman Miller stated I'm not sure I have a problem with it either Chuck I think I e-mailed you that but before I vote I would to be a little more informed.

Councilman Damp stated if we wait a month I don't have any problem with it.

Supervisor Politi stated I think there is legitimacy to it what do you think Jay?

Councilman Rand stated it has come up out of the blue and I know we have talked about it before but I didn't have it in mind.

Supervisor Politi stated that is okay it is nothing we had on the agenda.

Councilman Damp stated I have no problem putting it on the agenda for next month.

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Councilman Favro stated we should do that just to be fair.

Supervisor Politi stated are there any committee reports?

Supervisor Politi stated did everybody get a copy of Beverly Reid's historical report I really enjoy reading it so much I really do and see what goes on and all the people she talked to. He stated I would like to take a moment and recognize her fine work and how much we appreciate getting the information because it really is enjoyable reading.

Councilman Damp stated at 4:30 p.m. this afternoon I did attend a meeting called World Fest a group that Joe Lamb has put together. He stated it does look like they have gotten very close to their budget goals and they did officially appoint Eric Grainger as sort of the Coordinator at a small fee and it looks like they have quite an ambitious sort of festive planned for three nights.

Supervisor Politi stated is this only during bobsled and skeleton or is there one for luge and then one for bobsled skeleton?

Councilman Damp stated there is one for each. He stated there is three different nights.

Supervisor Politi stated to be held at the beach?

Councilman Damp stated hopefully obviously weather somewhat is contingent on that but they have curling, snow golf, snow soccer, pee wee hockey, fire works and they want to do some award type things but they haven't worked out the logistics with the governing bodies because there is going to be more awards at the run and then sort of a rehash of that or not. He stated I guess there is a trophy that our forefathers in 1949 developed here because of the death of somebody at our bob run it was a Danish diplomat that died and we put an annual trophy that they still give out and it sounds like that trophy will be here for the World Cup. He sounds like a really neat thing they have a lot of vendors that they are trying to line up and we are trying to get some street actors and that kind of stuff. He stated they are going to have figure skating and speed skating as well.

Supervisor Politi stated the Town's position is that we are going to contribute equipment and labor.

Councilman Damp stated I talked very briefly with Roby and I will talk to Butch and see if we can coordinate the hours of the toboggan chute to more coincide with the hours of this festival. He stated I guess we close from 4 to 7 when it is in operation and this would be from 3 to 6 so I have to talk to Butch.

Supervisor Politi stated the Village is going to do the same thing they are going to supply the same kind of services.

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Councilman Damp stated they hire Dennis Ryan to do the fireworks

Councilman Damp stated Saranac Lake Youth I have been to one brief meeting and it looks like there will be a directorial change at the Saranac Lake Youth group not the getaway but the one that is held at the school. He stated there will be another meeting next week on Thursday I think.

Councilman Rand stated you asked me to review the energy conservation study so I kind of reviewed it and sent a copy to Kim and Cathy. He stated we said a couple of months ago to look into the programmable thermostats so I will contact a few different companies that might be able to outline this for us and maybe get somebody like Kim or Jim who are here everyday and maybe they can help coordinate it. He stated I will make the contacts and see where we go.

Councilman Miller stated do we need a motion to hire for building and codes.

Supervisor Politi stated not yet, I didn't get it, so we can do it next meeting or we can call a special meeting if needed.

Supervisor Politi stated Jack did you and Jay by chance forward to Kim the work charts for supervision of the custodial services here.

Councilman Rand stated I faxed in my sheet with a note on it that it is a sample but it would have to be adjusted a lot to meet the daily schedules here verses what we have.

Councilman Favro stated I didn't have time to do it yet.

Supervisor Politi stated I have noticed things are a lot better.

Supervisor Politi stated is there anything else on committee reports?

Councilman Miller stated I have been invited to sit in on a meeting at school for Environmental issues.

Supervisor Politi stated the Town Attorney couldn't be here this evening he's in Vail that's the good news the bad news is he took a bad fall and broke 4 ribs.

Supervisor Politi stated the only thing I have on the County level is, did everyone get a copy of this, this is the sales tax split between Essex County Towns and Villages based on the \$1,600,000. that is the estimate based on the \$24,000,000. sales tax a quarter of percent represented by a million six which was divided by the 2008 assessment roll and the most recent population figures and it shows that the total payout to the Town of North Elba is going to be around \$450,000. and the monies attributable to just the Town are about \$300,000. The Village of Saranac Lake is around \$23,000. and the Village of Lake Placid is around \$128,500. He stated these are the more accurate figures based on 2008

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assuming that \$24,000,000. sales tax amount should be about accurate. He stated other than that I don't have anything else to report on the County level.

Supervisor Politi asked for a motion to approve the audits as per the audit numbers as follows:

TOWN OF NORTH ELBA
CLAIMS APPROVED FOR PAYMENT 1/13/09

	<u>Regular</u>	<u>Prepaid</u>
A FUND	204,343.09	34,127.57
DA FUND	45,807.06	7,236.68
DB FUND	783.06	-
H43 2008 AIRPORT CAPITAL PROJECT	10,972.67	-
SP PARK DISTRICT	11,964.20	9,977.74
SS20 LIBERTY HILL	-	6,141.05
SW2 MCKENZIE	-	73.80
SW3 RAY BROOK	19,029.31	8,515.87
T TRUST & AGENCY	-	36.91
TE PRIVATE PURPOSE TRUST	-	5,008.00
	<u>292,899.39</u>	<u>71,117.62</u>

82530; 82593; 82599-82678; 82702-82747; 9001-9022; 9044-9055; 9057-9072
9056-DELETED

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

Supervisor Politi stated I don't know if you have seen this it is the tentative fund balance for years end.

Councilman Damp stated do you know what the \$40,000. reserve in the general fund is?

Supervisor Politi stated it may be a grant.

Councilman Damp stated Ray Brook is what?

Supervisor Politi stated it is Ray Brook water.

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Councilman Damp stated how we can have a \$97,000. balance when it is only a\$15, 000. or \$16,000. thing.

Supervisor Politi stated because we never spend much money there.

Councilman Damp stated we talked at the Department Head meeting and the three contracts did she send the response on the three insurance contracts from Guardian. He stated I remember the conversation but I thought we approved it but I guess we didn't. He stated I guess we don't have three contracts and we don't get that as a freebee.

Supervisor Politi stated can you do that still.

Councilman Damp stated you would be actually be adding a layer of benefits and I think there was some reason we didn't now that I check into the notes and stuff there are some reasons why we didn't go forward with it. He stated from what she put out it seemed like we would have a better program through that group in Plattsburgh that the Guardian program would not necessarily answer everything that we needed it would not do the drug part as well as that Neighbor Good Services or whatever it is.

Supervisor Politi stated she met with Lee Pollock today on work place violence and I think that they have put that program on.

Jacob Resneck stated on tipping fees how does it work now.

Supervisor Politi stated there are two things you can buy a punch card and for each bag they punch the ticket.

Jacob Resneck stated other wise they just weigh your vehicle.

Supervisor Politi stated it kind of encourages people to buy punch cards.

Jacob Resneck asked how much are the punch cards?

Larry Straight stated \$10.00 and \$20.00 per card. He stated it depends on the size of the bags as to the number of punches.

Jacob Resneck stated other wise the scale weight is a penny a pound and estimate about a minimum of \$66,000.

Supervisor Politi stated it is increasing a penny a pound it is 6 cents now and will go 7 cents per pound.

Jacob Resneck stated in regards to the recycling meeting are you considering increasing the number of plastics you can take.

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Councilman Miller stated we are looking into expanding I think Shannon has located a place that will take them but the question is what it will cost us.

Supervisor Politi stated right now we are bulk storing plastics because there is no market for it and as soon as the market changes then we will move the product.

Jacob Resneck stated and the glass is continuing to be crushed to use as the C&D liner.

Larry Straight stated yes.

Jacob Resneck stated what about the metal?

Larry Straight stated we have a scrapper come in and pick it up but its way down. He stated we have an area where we can store and not have to sell it now.

Jacob Resneck stated the other thing is retirement benefits that Chuck was talking about under the proposal if you retire from North Elba you would no longer have your health benefits you would have to go Cobra or something He stated a 55 year old person on Cobra could he be able to do that it would be expensive to get health insurance at that age till your 62.

Councilman Damp stated Cobra no matter what it is only a 18 month proposition it's a transitional option it's not the answer for that 10 year window or whatever. He stated if they retire at 55 you hope that they made the financial planning to address that he stated the way it is currently set up they would have to with us 10 years. He stated they would have to have 10 years and have benefits at retirement the way it is now.

Jacob Resneck stated if you work for the Town for 10 years you get lifetime benefits

Councilman Miller stated if you are a full time employee.

Councilman Damp stated there is state retirement eligibility too. He stated a ten year employee is not necessarily going to get those benefits without a bunch of other hoops that they have to go through.

Supervisor Politi stated right now there I believe it is a minimum of 10 years but there is a 80 rule so if you retire at 55 you would have to of worked for the Town for 25 years to total 80 but there has to be a minimum of 10 before you would be entitled.

Councilman Damp stated I want to make it totally clear we are not impacting any current employee that wasn't my intent.

Supervisor Politi stated we had to do the same thing with health care costs and we had to start that at a certain date in 1991 I think we switched over to an new employee had to pay 23% or 25% of their health care costs. He stated all communities are having to do these kinds of things because you can't afford to be in business.

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Supervisor Politi stated I think we are one of the very few municipalities around and I don't know of any others in the County where board members aren't entitled to health insurance benefits. He stated it's a recent change and thinks the only one.

Jacob Resneck stated when did that change take place?

Supervisor Politi stated six or seven months ago.

There being no further business to be brought before the board, Councilman Miller moved and Councilman Favro seconded the motion to adjourn the Regular Town Board Meeting at 7:40 p.m. The motion was unanimously carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Denice P. Fredericks
Deputy Town Clerk

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