



The Town of Franklin

P.O. Box 209, Route 3, Vermontville, NY 12989 • 518-891-2189 • Fax: 518-891-6389 • www.townoffranklin.com



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Town of Franklin Board Meetings

February 12, 2007 - 6:30 pm Public Hearing: Friends Of The North Country

Present:

Scott Campbell, Friends of the North Country
Laurie Berube
Nancy Tanner
Roy J. Tanner

A duly noticed public hearing on proposed housing rehabilitation grant was given by Friends of the North Country on February 12, 2007 at 6:30 pm at the Vermontville Town Hall. In attendance were Scott Campbell, FONC, and residents interested in applying for grant funding, including Nancy Tanner, Roy J. Tanner and Laurie Berube. The hearing was called to order at 6:35 pm. Scott Campbell explained the requirements involved and the process of applying for funds to those present. A second public hearing will be held at 6:30 pm on Monday March 12, 2007 at the Vermontville Town Hall. The hearing adjourned at 7:10 pm.

February 12, 2007 - 7:00 pm

The Town Board of the Town of Franklin held a regularly scheduled and duly noticed Special Board meeting on Monday, February 12, 2007 at 7:00 pm at the Vermontville Town Hall.

Board members present:

Supervisor Mary Ellen Keith
Councilman Gene Goff
Councilperson Janet Ordway

Councilman Tim Goff
Councilman Walt Kretser

Other Board Members Present:

Town Clerk Sandra Oliver

Others present:

Susan Hardy of Adirondack Leadership Expeditions
Mike McCurdy of Adirondack Leadership Expeditions
Al Berg
Jean Baltzly

CALL TO ORDER

Supervisor Keith called the meeting to order; the Pledge of Allegiance was recited; the Town Clerk called the roll, and announced a quorum was present.

AUDIT OF BILLS

The following claims were presented and reviewed by the Board:

General	Warrant #2	Claims 11-37	\$24,569.85
Highway	Warrant #2	Claim 5-17	\$13,584.21
Prepay General	Warrant #1	Claims 1- 11	\$2,193.19

Motion to pay approved bills (G.Goff-W.Kretser m/s/p) ALL AYE

MINUTES OF MEETINGS

The minutes of the January 8, 2007 organizational and board meeting were revised, as follows:

Youth Program Director and Youth Program Assistant - \$9.per hour is base salary and will be appointed by the Town Supervisor upon the recommendation of the Recreation Committee, minimum wage to be paid. Kathy Drake has been appointed as Youth Program Director and will be paid \$11. per hour. Assistants will be paid minimum wage.

This position pays \$9. per hour; the Youth Program Director is appointed by the Town Supervisor upon the recommendation of the Recreation Committee. Kathy Drake has been appointed as Youth Program Director for 2007 and will be paid \$11. per hour because of her experience. Assistants will be paid minimum wage. (change per Feb 12, 2007 meeting)

The minutes of the January 22, 2007 meeting were accepted as presented.

Accept minutes of meetings (J.Ordney-T.Goff m/s/p) ALL AYE

SUPERVISOR'S REPORT

Balances on hand at January 1, 2007

General Fund	CK	\$12,639.27
	SV	\$122,844.63
	CLASS	\$173,709.08
Highway Fund	CK	\$13,645.22
	SV	\$213,977.06
	CLASS	\$88,645.20
	Cap Proj Hwy	\$57,932.72
Landfill	CK	\$3,895.64
	CLASS	\$62,432.57
Fire	CK	\$10,176.91
	CLASS	\$4,593.11
Cap. Building	CLASS	\$141,789.71

Accept Supervisor's Report (J.Ordney-T.Goff m/s/p) ALL AYE

ADIRONDACK LEADERSHIP EXPEDITIONS

Susan Hardy and Mike (◆Moss◆) McCurdy of Adirondack Leadership Expeditions (◆ALE◆) presented progress report to address concerns of town residents concerning a runaway inmate last fall. An advisory

board has been formed, and a member of the board and Onchiota resident, Lauren LeFebvre, will serve as community liaison. Several suggestions were made at the first meeting of the board, including, establishing a telephone tree to notify residents of any problems, erecting a fence with a tall gate, and tagging ALE property boundaries, although ALE is waiting for Paul Smith's College's decision on the gate and fence. In addition, ALE's clinical staff will offer therapeutic services to those in the community. They will start with clients of the Tri-Lakes Center for Independent Living. Ms. Hardy will be assisted by the Town Clerk in ascertaining names and addresses of surrounding property owners. The advisory board will meet again in March. Suggestions from residents present included sending a letter to neighboring property owners advising of steps being taken and asking if they wish to take part in a telephone tree. The Town Board thanked Ms. Hardy and Mr. McCurdy and indicated good first steps had been taken.

HIGHWAY REPORT

Both Supt. James Rascoe and Deputy Supt. Eric Merrill were ill, and no written report had been submitted.

1. OPEN BIDS SUBMITTED FOR NEW TRACTOR.

Requests for bids for new tractor were published in Adirondack Daily Enterprise, Albany Times-Union, Malone Telegram, Plattsburgh Press-Republican and Syracuse Post Standard. The following were received:

Burke Farm Supply Burke, NY	New Holland TN70DA 4WD Tractor	\$31,195.00
	New Holland TN75DA 4WD Tractor	\$32,500.00
	Sweepster 8' CH Sweeper	\$8,650.00
	Rhino 1348 Boom Flail Cutter	\$10,750.00
United Farm Supply Constable, NY	Kioti 65HP Tractor 4WD with Marolin rear mounted boom cutter and front mounted Sweepster	\$46,850.00
Giroux Bros., Inc. Plattsburgh, NY	John Deere 5325 Utility Tractor with package	\$41,895.00
	CH8 Front mounted sweepster	\$9,300.00
	Rhino SV1937 Boom Cutter	\$18,760.00
	24 add'l mos.	\$1,423.00
	Freight	\$415.32
	Package Discount	(\$10,193.32)

2. RESOLUTION FOR COUNTY HIGHWAY ASSISTANCE.

The Town has been requested by Franklin County Highway Dept. to sign an official request for county assistance and submit a resolution holding the County harmless.

Motion for resolution (M.E.Keith-G.Goff m/s/p) ALL AYE

RESOLUTION NO. 6: COUNTY HIGHWAY ASSISTANCE AGREEMENT WHEREAS, the Town of Franklin requires the assistance of the Franklin County Highway Department; and WHEREAS, the Franklin County Highway Department is willing to lend its equipment and expertise, providing the Town hold it harmless; NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Board of the Town of Franklin hereby authorizes the Highway Superintendent to execute said Request.

Those voting aye:

Supervisor Mary Ellen Keith
Councilman Gene Goff
Councilman Tim Goff
Councilperson Janet Ordway
Councilman Walt Kretser

Those Voting nay:

None

3. HIGHWAY COMMITTEE.

Coun. Walt Kretser indicated the Highway Committee would review the bids submitted with Supt. Rascoe very carefully. Coun. G. Goff suggested the Committee review the amount of sand and salt used this year as opposed to last. The Board indicated it was very pleased with the work being done by the department.

OLD BUSINESS

1. ELECTION 2007. The Franklin County Board of Elections informed the Town it will be using the mechanical voting machines for the elections this year. They requested the Town adopt a resolution continuing permission to store the machines.

Motion for resolution (G.Goff-W.Kretser m/s/p) ALL AYE

RESOLUTION NO. 7: AUTHORIZATION FOR FRANKLIN COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS TO USE TOWN'S POLLING PLACES WHEREAS, Franklin County Board of Elections (BOE) assumed ownership of all voting machines in January 2006; and WHEREAS, BOE has requested the Town to store the voting machines currently used by the Town; and WHEREAS, BOE must have access to the polling sites in the Town; NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Franklin County Board of Elections be and hereby is authorized access to the Town of Franklin handicapped accessible polling sites at the Vermontville Town Hall, 7 Cold Brook Road, Vermontville and the Merrillsville Town Hall, 55 Black Spruce Lane, Loon Lake, New York; and BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Town will furnish tables, chairs and the United States flag on Election Day; and BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Franklin County Board of elections will access the buildings through the Town Clerk.

Those voting aye:

Supervisor Mary Ellen Keith
Councilman Gene Goff
Councilperson Janet Ordway
Councilman Tim Goff
Councilman Walt Kretser

Those Voting nay:

None

2. FIRE/RESCUE CONTRACT UPDATE.

a. FIRE ADVISORY BOARD. Coun. Gene Goff reported the Town now had a signed a 6-month contract for rescue service with the Village of Saranac Lake for \$11,403.15 to be renewed for an additional 6 months (total \$22,806.31). This contract contained a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) forming the Saranac Lake Regional Fire Advisory Board (Fire Advisory Board) to be comprised of representatives of the Village, the Fire & Rescue department and contracting towns (Brighton, Franklin, Harrietstown, North Elba, St. Armand and Santa Clara). Each town will be represented by 2 individuals, a voting representative and an alternate. The Fire Advisory Board will coordinate negotiations with the Village and will pursue matters concerning the basis of fees charged by the Village. Coun. Gene Goff volunteered to continue representing the Town on the Fire Advisory Board and suggested Supv. Keith be named as alternate representative.

Motion for resolution (J.Ordway-T.Goff m/s/p) ALL AYE

RESOLUTION NO. 8: APPOINT GENE F. GOFF AND MARY ELLEN KEITH AS REPRESENTATIVES TO SARANAC LAKE REGIONAL FIRE ADVISORY BOARD WHEREAS, the Town of Franklin contracts with the Village of Saranac Lake for Fire/Rescue service; and WHEREAS, the current contract with the Village of Saranac Lake stipulates that a regional fire advisory board be created and two representatives of each contracting community be named to same; and WHEREAS, Councilman Gene F. Goff has represented the Town during the negotiations and is familiar with the subject, WHEREAS, Supervisor Mary Ellen Keith is familiar with the terms of the contract and negotiations; NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that Councilman Gene F. Goff be named Voting Representative to the Saranac Lake Regional Fire Advisory Board; and BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Supervisor Mary Ellen Keith be named Alternate Representative to the above Fire Advisory Board; and BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that representatives to the Saranac Lake Regional Fire Advisory Board be named each January at the Town Board's organizational meeting.

Those voting aye:

Councilperson Janet Ordway
Councilman Walt Kretser
Councilman Tim Goff

Those Abstaining:

Supervisor Mary Ellen Keith
Councilman Gene Goff

Those Voting nay:

None

b. **NYS SENATE BILL S2341, ASSEMBLY BILL A2644.** Coun. Gene Goff continued his report, stating he had received communication from the Town of Brighton that State Senator Betty Little and Assemblyman Peter Canistrari had introduced bills in their respective houses which would allow local fire departments with EMS service to bill insurance companies for their services. Coun. G.Goff requested the Town adopt a resolution in support of the proposed

bills and forward with a letter to Franklin and Essex Board of Legislators and State representatives. If passed, these bills would allow the Saranac Lake Fire/Rescue Dept. to bill insurance companies for ambulance and rescue service, thus reducing the cost burden of these services to the taxpayers. Motion for resolution (W.Kretser-G.Goff m/s/p) ALL AYE

RESOLUTION NO. 9: SUPPORT FOR SENATE BILL S2341 AND ASSEMBLY BILL A2644 ALLOWING FIRE DEPTS WITH EMS TO BILL FOR THEIR SERVICES WHEREAS, the Town contracts with the Village of Saranac Lake for rescue service; and WHEREAS, the cost of this service increases; and WHEREAS, the burden of the cost for ambulance service falls on the taxpayers; and WHEREAS, fire departments with ambulance service are precluded by State law from billing for their service; and WHEREAS, State Senator Betty Little has introduced Senate Bill S2341 and Assemblyman Peter Canistrari has introduced Assembly Bill A2644 which would allow fire departments with EMS service to bill for services rendered, thus reducing the cost burden to taxpayers; NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Board of the Town of Franklin does hereby support and endorse NYS Senate Bill S2341 and Assembly Bill A2644. FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Town Clerk shall send certified copies of this resolution to Essex County Board of Supervisors, Essex County Emergency Preparedness Director, Franklin County Board of Legislators, Franklin County Emergency Preparedness Director, State Senators and Assemblymen and NYS Department of Health, as follows:

"Dear _____:

The Town of Franklin supports passage of legislation which would permit the Saranac Lake Volunteer Fire Department to bill for EMS service provided to residents and visitors of our Town. Thank you for your sponsorship of S2341/A2644, a bill which would allow fire departments providing EMS service to bill for that service. The Town sees this bill as an important way to reduce property tax pressures on our residents. It also provides a method to help fund a tax-supported function which is used not only by our residents but also by people visiting the area. Under the provisions of this bill our local fire departments would be able to recover a portion of the costs of serving our visitors. Most importantly, this bill is a matter of equity, permitting fire department EMS units to bill patients, as independent EMS agencies can. For these reasons we look forward to successful passage of this bill and appreciate your help and support in making that possible.

Sincerely, Mary Ellen Keith, Supervisor"

Those voting aye:

Supervisor Mary Ellen Keith
Councilman Gene Goff
Councilperson Janet Ordway
Councilman Tim Goff
Councilman Walt Kretser

Those Voting nay:

None

c. TUPPER LAKE RESCUE SERVICE.

The Town of Brighton invited representative(s) of the Town of Franklin to join them in discussions with the Village of Tupper Lake concerning contracting with it for rescue service. The meeting was scheduled so the contracting towns with the Village of Saranac Lake might have a back-up for rescue service if negotiations with the Village of Saranac Lake do not prove fruitful.

3. UPDATE ON INFRASTRUCTURE, YELLOW WOOD FINAL REPORT AND FUNDING.

a. **YELLOW WOOD.** Supervisor Keith stated the February 6, 2007 special board meeting went very well and that the Board was well pleased with Yellow Wood's research, report and recommendations. She requested the Board grant her authorization to explore suggestions promulgated by Yellow Wood. Coun. Walt Kretser stated he concurred with Yellow Wood's conclusions that the Town should approach all three buildings as one large project and that the Board should forge ahead quickly with these matters. Coun. Kretser commented the estimates in YW's final report were lower than he anticipated and proceeding with LEEDS certification was a very good idea. Supervisor Keith noted she had received and distributed copies of Yellow Wood's proposal for service continuation at \$90 per hour not to exceed \$4,000, and noted Yellow Wood will provide lists of architects, contractors and suppliers that had done green technology work in the area. She requested a resolution to pursue Yellow Wood recommendations and to execute the YW contract continuation.

Motion for resolution (T.Goff-J.Ordway m/s/p) ALL AYE

RESOLUTION NO. 10: PROCEED WITH YELLOW WOOD RECOMMENDATIONS AND EXECUTE CONTINUATION AGREEMENT WHEREAS, the Town has contracted with Yellow Wood Associates, St. Albans, Vermont, concerning the Town's infrastructure needs; and WHEREAS, Yellow Wood has satisfactorily fulfilled its contract obligations by surveying the buildings and recommending solutions; and WHEREAS, the Town would like to extend its contract with Yellow Wood; NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Board of the Town of Franklin will pursue timetable and building methods

recommended by Yellow Wood; and BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Town Board authorizes the Supervisor to execute the service continuation agreement with Yellow Wood Associates.

Those voting aye:

Supervisor Mary Ellen Keith
Councilman Gene Goff
Councilperson Janet Ordway
Councilman Tim Goff
Councilman Walt Kretser

Those Voting nay:

None

b. **FUNDING SOURCES**

- i. Petroleum Excise Tax Refund. Terry Martino of Adirondack North Country Association, while in Albany, will discuss how this refund may apply to the Town of Franklin.
- ii. Grant Writer Survey. Supv. Keith received a communication from Ann Holland, the Town's grant writer, concerning future sources of funding, and her suggestion was to survey all who use the Town Hall or Rec Park so as to gather data concerning the usage of the facilities. Supv. Keith requested authorization from the Board to disseminate the survey.

Motion for resolution (W.Kretser-J.Ordway m/s/p) ALL AYE

RESOLUTION NO. 11: AUTHORIZE SUPERVISOR TO DISSEMINATE FACILITIES USAGE SURVEY

WHEREAS, the Town is seeking grant funding to upgrade, improve and construct infrastructure; and WHEREAS, such funding resources may request data concerning usage of a facility; and WHEREAS, Ann Holland, grant writer for the Town has developed a survey of facility users; NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Supervisor is hereby authorized to disseminate the survey to users of the Town's facilities.

Those voting aye:

Supervisor Mary Ellen Keith
Councilman Gene Goff
Councilperson Janet Ordway
Councilman Tim Goff
Councilman Walt Kretser

Those Voting nay:

None

4. **TIME WARNER CABLE FRANCHISE.** A public hearing will be held before the May 14, 2007 Board meeting. A representative of Time Warner will attend and will speak.

5. **UNION FALLS/STICKNEY POINT SUBDIVISION.** Supv. Keith received a draft affidavit in opposition to the Adirondack Park Agency's approval of the Stickney Point subdivision. Attorney for the Town, James Maher, reviewed the document and did not find any problems with Supv. Keith's execution and submission of same. In response to Jean Baltzly's suggestion, Supv. Keith indicated she had a telephone conversation with Mr. Hutchison, the developer, and neither felt the time was right for him to appear at a public information meeting about the subdivision.

NEW BUSINESS

1. **CONFERENCES.** Local Government Day is scheduled for the Crowne Plaza in Lake Placid on March 21 and 22, 2007. Supv. Keith and Town Clerk Oliver will attend, and any other Board member or official who wishes to do so, should apply.

Motion to approve attendance at conference (W.Kretser-T.Goff m/s/p) ALL AYE

COMMITTEES

1. **CEMETERY.** Coun. Tim Goff and Supv. Keith have plans to clean and repair stones. Private funding has been located for this.

2. **RECREATION.** A skating rink has been formed, and youngsters are using it, as well as the Rec Park. Supv. Keith and Coun. T. Goff have plans to improve and basketball court and baseball field.

3. **PLANNING.** Couns. Kretser and Ordway will meet to review prior planning efforts on Friday, February 23.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to conduct, the meeting adjourned at 8:42 pm

Respectfully submitted, Sandra J. Oliver, Town Clerk

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