



# The Town of Franklin

P.O. Box 209, Route 3, Vermontville, NY 12989 • 518-891-2189 • Fax: 518-891-6389 • [www.townoffranklin.com](http://www.townoffranklin.com)



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## Town of Franklin Board Meetings

### Minutes of the Regular Town Board Meeting March 10, 2010 - 7:00 pm

#### Board members present:

Supervisor Arthur P. Willman, Jr.  
Councilman Allen Berg  
Councilman Clifford Smalley  
Councilman Donald Hamm  
Councilman Bradley Merrill

#### Others Present:

Timothy Burpoe - Franklin County Legislature, Town Clerk Sandra Oliver, Vince Catlin, Karen Smalley, Dick Jarvis, Donald Goff, Sandy Hayes, Donald Symonds, Doris Hamm, Ed Martin, Derek Romeo, Les Parker, Rick Gonyea

#### 1. CALL TO ORDER

Supervisor Arthur P. Willman, Jr. called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited, the Town Clerk called the roll and introduced guests and declared the full board was present.

#### 2. 15-MINUTE COMMENT AND QUESTION SESSION.

Q/C Congratulations to Bill Demong, Olympic Gold Medal Winner, and thanks to the Town Board for participating in the March 5th parade and ceremony honoring all the local Olympians.

Q/C Congratulations to Billy Demong and thanks for putting up the signs in front of the Town Hall before, during and after the Olympics.

APPLAUSE

Richard Jarvis submitted the following for inclusion in the record:

"I thank the board for its efforts to date to support and acknowledge town resident Bill Demong on his Olympic achievements. As I followed 'Iron Bill' in the press and on the television, I saw not only a remarkable athlete who won two Olympic medals in the Nordic combined event never achieved by a US athlete in the 68 years of competition, we also saw a young man with tremendous determination to achieve a goal. We

witnessed a young man from our community who expressed thanks to all who supported him and his wish that more young athletes pursue their dreams. Bill Demong is a modest role model that is rare. I suggest that the town recreation and celebration committees and the town historian work with Bill to develop an appropriate permanent inspiration story of his sports achievements that will be told to the town's youth and visitors: perhaps development and/or dedication of a sports facility at Kate Mountain Park in his honor.

The Town Board's recent efforts to initiate the process to repeal the major subdivision control law appears misguided. What happened to the campaign promise that there would first be consideration to review and revise the law? What will be included in the "land use inventory" and when will there be a report on that inventory? It would have been more logical that the inventory would have been initiated and completed before jumping to a repeal and SEQR process. The town subdivision law had six stated purposes and provisions to help achieve those worthy town public interests. When the board considers potential actions on the subdivision law, it should consider how those public interests will be provided for. As the board already knows, it must undertake the SEQR process to also consider the environmental consequences of changes to or repeal of the subdivision law. The previous town board SEQR work identified many natural resources in the town, including surface ground water resources. The board should consider how the town resources will be protected if the town major subdivision control law is repealed and when state regulations do not apply. Significant examples are the three hamlet areas of the town; each of those areas are in close proximity to valuable surface waters (Vermontville - Lyon Brook; Onchiota - Oregon Pond; Loon Lake - Loon Lake)."

Q/C Billy Demong was always a great kid.

Q/C Rick Gonyea presented the Town of Franklin with his photographic collage of the 2010 Winter Olympics and subsequent parade and celebration.

APPLAUSE.

The Board expressed gratitude for Mr. Gonyea's generosity; the lovely, framed collage will be displayed prominently in the Town Hall.

Supv. Willman stated at the ceremony following the March 5th parade honoring our local Olympians, the following was presented to Bill Demong:

#### **"P R O C L A M A T I O N**

WHEREAS, the Town of Franklin, nestled quietly in the majestic Adirondack Mountains, has long been home to tough, hardworking and independent individuals; and

WHEREAS, Bill Demong is a native son of the Town of Franklin whose toughness, dedication and unparalleled work ethic epitomizes these values; and

WHEREAS, Bill Demong, through his perseverance, diligent practice, dedication and skill has won both a Silver Medal and a Gold Medal at the 2010 Winter Olympics;

NOW, THEREFORE, the Town of Franklin hereby proclaims and recognizes the virtues demonstrated by Bill Demong and enthusiastically applauds his achievement and honors him and all local Olympians.

#### **BY ORDER OF THE TOWN BOARD**

By Arthur P. Willman, Jr., Supervisor S E A L"

Supv. Willman noted that a sign had been donated and placed under the Fletcher Farm Road sign designating it home of Billy Demong, Gold and Silver Medal Winner at 2010 Winter Olympic Games.

Coun. Hamm commented that channel WPTZ devoted 1 minute of coverage for New York Olympians, but 10 minutes to Vermont and New Hampshire athletes.

### **3. AUDIT OF CLAIMS**

The following claims were submitted on Abstract #3 of 2010:

General Fund	Claims 33 - 55	\$8,475.09
Highway Fund	Claims 30 - 46	10,784.76
Prepay General	Claims 6 - 7	1,220.32

The following claim was submitted on Abstract #2 of 2010:

Fire Protection	Claim 2	30,475.36
Motion to pay claims (B.Merrill-A.Berg m/s/p) ALL AYE		

### **4. MINUTES.**

The minutes of the February 17th workshop and special meeting were amended as follows:

1. Coun. Merrill inquired why he just didn't bring everyone up to 100% using the 58% factor, and Mr. Tichenor replied that tax bills contain a statement that "assessor says full market value of your property is \$dollar amount". If you paid \$200,000 for your house and fair market value is higher then the tax will rise. 100% is best choice because it's easier to explain.
2. Mr. Tichenor recounted that in 1990 Santa Clara performed its first assessment valuation. They decided to go to 10%. Property owners got the same shift as if the valuation were at 100%. The next update went at 100%. However, if he followed Mr. Merrill's advice, using the 58% factor and increasing all to 100% it would cause more problems than not. He preferred doing as market determines, as it is more equitable. (change per 3/10/10 meeting.)

The minutes of the February 8th public hearing and February 10, 2010 Board meeting were accepted as presented. The minutes of the February 17, 2010 workshop and special board meeting were accepted as amended.

Motion to accept minutes (C.Smalley-A.Berg m/s/p) ALL AYE

## 5. SUPERVISOR'S REPORT.

Balances as of February 1, 2010

General Fund	Checking	\$44,912.51
	Savings	283,184.30
	CLASS	37,001.95
	Historian	3,031.05
Highway Fund	Checking	27,690.99
	Savings	385,043.59
	CLASS	47,497.37
	Cap. Proj. Hwy.	36,429.10
Landfill	Checking	24,238.75
	CLASS	28,972.57
Fire Protection	Checking	67,381.13
	CLASS	685.30
Capital Project Building		434.84

Motion to accept Supervisor's Report (B.Merrill-D.Hamm m/s/p) ALL AYE

## 6. HIGHWAY MATTERS

### A. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Highway Superintendent Jacques DeMars presented the following report of activities of the Department:

- 1) Plowed and sanded when necessary
- 2) Pushed back banks on Norman Ridge
- 3) Cut and/or pushed back banks on most roads
- 4) Assisted Bob Besaw with grader repairs
- 5) Received 1/28/10 letter from Assm. Janet Duprey that proposed budget for CHPS will remain same as last year.
- 6) VEHICLES. Unit 9 to M.A. Jerry for 2 issues, the first a recent oils sample showed high levels of copper which may indicate problem with oil cooler or thrust washer, the second was noise in front end of unit. While vehicle being repaired, also requested investigation into diesel fumes in cab. The oil sample was evaluated by a laboratory but no specific reason could be found re high levels of copper. The front end noise was corrected by replacing a wheel seal and the exhaust leak, by tightening a clamp.

**B. HIGHWAY COMMITTEE.** Supt. DeMars submitted monthly fuel and mileage reports to the Highway Committee.

### C. QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS

Q/C The roads are so well kept this year. Thank you to the Highway Department.

## 7. NEW BUSINESS

**A. TIMOTHY BURPOE, FRANKLIN COUNTY LEGISLATURE.** Mr. Burpoe reported the County of Franklin is seeking support in its application for grant funding to determine whether to form a County Planning Board. The grant is through NYS Dept. of State Local Government Efficiency. The goal of the research is to study the feasibility of a county wide planning facility. If formed, the county planning board could assist towns with grant writing and administration, develop comprehensive plans, and could provide online GIS mapping services, each map with layers showing tax maps, utilities, wetlands, and census data. He noted that "planning" is not defined as "land use regulations". He handed a questionnaire with sample resolution to the clerk and requested the Board complete the questionnaire and adopt the resolution supporting the County's grant application which is due March 17th. He continued, that if a county planning board is found necessary, the County would staff it and although he felt the villages of Malone, Harrietstown and Tupper Lake would make most use of it, the adjoining towns would also benefit.

Supv. Willman queried, if the Town of Franklin adopts the resolution supporting the grant application, would the Town of Franklin be required to fund a program it wouldn't use. Mr. Burpoe replied the villages would make most use of it, but an improvement in the villages would certainly help the adjoining communities.

Supv. Willman commented that the County website already offers GIS, and Mr. Burpoe concurred, adding it only displays tax maps. The additional layers of location of utilities, wetlands, utilities, and population data would certainly assist potential developers. If towns do not already have an existing building/development or a footprint, commercial enterprises historically do not want to establish in the municipality. The potential county planning board might be benefit and create opportunities for us.

Coun. Hamm noted that APA and the State of New York are encouraging every municipality and county to adopt a comprehensive plan and inquired whether APA is sponsoring the grant funding.

Coun. Merrill asked whether the proposed county planning board intention will be to keep purchase dollars in Franklin County rather than Clinton County. Mr. Burpoe concurred that keeping sales tax dollars in Franklin County is beneficial.

The board thanked Mr. Burpoe for his presentation.

**B. APPOINTMENT TO ETHICS COMMITTEE.** Thomas Bartiss' letter of application and resume was distributed to the Board. The position on the committee has been vacant since October 1, 2009. Supv. Willman requested a motion for a resolution to appoint Mr. Bartiss.

Motion for resolution (A.Berg-C.Smalley m/s/p) ALL AYE

**RESOLUTION NO. 24: APPOINT THOMAS BARTISS TO BOARD OF ETHICS** WHEREAS, a vacancy on the Town of Franklin Board of Ethics occurred on October 1, 2009; and WHEREAS, publication of a request for applications was made in January 2010; and WHEREAS, Thomas Bartiss is willing to serve and has submitted an application; NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, Thomas Bartiss is appointed to serve as a member of the Town of Franklin Board of Ethics, without fee, term to commence March 10, 2010 and end September 30, 2012.

Those voting aye:

Supervisor Arthur P. Willman, Jr.  
Councilman Allen Berg  
Councilman Clifford Smalley  
Councilman Donald Hamm  
Councilman Bradley Merrill

Those Absent:

None

Those Abstaining:

None

Those Voting nay:

None

**C. POLLING SITE AGREEMENT.** The Franklin County Board of Elections submitted a Polling Site Agreement between it and the Town for the November 2010 Primary and General Elections. The Board received copies of same, and Supv. Willman requested a motion for a resolution accepting the agreement and authorizing him to sign.

Motion for resolution (C.Smalley-D.Hamm m/s/p) ALL AYE

**RESOLUTION NO. 25: ACCEPT POLLING SITE AGREEMENT** WHEREAS, the Franklin County Board of Elections requests use of the Franklin Town Hall as a polling site for the 2010 primary and general elections; and WHEREAS, the Town is willing for its facility to be used as such; NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Franklin Town Board hereby accepts the 2010 Polling Site Agreement with the Franklin County Board of Elections; and BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Supervisor is authorized to execute same.

Those voting aye:

Supervisor Arthur P. Willman, Jr.  
Councilman Allen Berg  
Councilman Clifford Smalley  
Councilman Donald Hamm  
Councilman Bradley Merrill

Those Absent:

None

Those Abstaining:

None

Those Voting nay:

None

**D. AMEND TEAMSTERS AGREEMENT RE ACCRUAL OF SICK TIME.** Supv. Willman reported the agreement signed with the Teamsters Union contained inconsistencies with respect to the accrual of sick time being accrued for vacation. He discussed the discrepancy with the Shop Steward and the Union and they agreed to the amendment. Supv. Willman requested a motion for a resolution.

Motion for resolution (C.Smalley-A.Berg m/s/p) ALL AYE

**RESOLUTION NO. 26: ACCEPT ARTICLE OF AGREEMENT WITH TEAMSTERS UNION REGARDING SICK LEAVE ACCRUAL** WHEREAS, the Agreement signed with Teamsters Union Local 687 (January 1, 2010 to December 31, 2012) contained inconsistencies with respect to accrual of employee sick time; and WHEREAS, discussions were held with Union officials in an effort to rectify same; and WHEREAS, Union officials were in accord with the changes requested by the Town; NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Board of the Town of Franklin accepts said Article of Agreement amending Article 20: Sick Leave, section 20.1 as follows:

"ARTICLE OF AGREEMENT"

This memorandum of agreement is between the Town of Franklin and the Teamster's Union Local 687. This agreement applies to Article 20: Sick Leave, section 20.1, including in the existing contract between said parties

dated January 1, 2010 and December 31, 2012.

The new article shall read as follows:

Section 20.1: the sole purpose of this provision is to provide sick leave for those employees who suffer from a personal illness and/or injury and are unable to perform their job function except that sick leave may be utilized for a serious illness or injury in an employee's immediate family and for doctor and dental appointments for the employee. Any employee who claims sick leave under false pretenses or be absent from work for an excessive amount of time\* may be subject to immediate disciplinary action. Employees are entitled to ninety-six (96) hours of sick leave per annum based on accruing one (1) day (8 hours) per month provided the employee works at least eighty-eight (88) hours in a month, including vacation accruals, bonus day accrual and holidays. The use of sick and personal time accruals will not count toward the eighty-eight (88) hours needed. Sick leave will be posted the last pay period of the month and will be available after that time. Sick leave will accrue from the first day of employment. However, new employees will not be eligible to use sick time until they have completed 12 weeks of their probationary period.

All parties involved in this amendment agree to said changes and shall affirm this article of agreement by signing below.

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Art Willman, Supervisor, Date Wade Sullivan, Shop Steward, Date"

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Supervisor is authorized to execute same.

Those voting aye:

Supervisor Arthur P. Willman, Jr.  
Councilman Allen Berg  
Councilman Clifford Smalley  
Councilman Donald Hamm  
Councilman Bradley Merrill

Those Absent:

None

Those Abstaining:

None

Those Voting nay:

None

**E. INCREASED INSURANCE COVERAGE.** LaBarge Agency, Inc. suggested increasing coverage on the Merrillville Town Hall by \$275.66 and Merrillville Garage by \$521.00. The suggestion supposes that the replacement cost for the old garage to be \$137,000 and the Merrillville Town Hall from \$104,662 to \$191,000. The Board was disinclined to increase coverage, as Coun. Hamm opined the old garage could be replaced for \$50,000. After some discussion, the board determined to increase coverage on the old garage to \$50,000 and leave coverage on the Merrillville Town Hall at the same level.

**F. FRANKLIN COUNTY GRANT APPLICATION.** Discussion was held concerning whether the Town would support the grant application to determine whether the County should create a county planning board. Coun. Smalley considered it a good idea that it was worth investigating whether the County should have a planning board. Supv. Willman commented if the grant is awarded and they decide to go forward, it would be another layer of government, although the GIS mapping would be nice to have. Coun. Hamm noted the County does not necessarily perform up to standard when it assumes responsibility for a service, such as the landfill. Coun. Berg stated if we support the grant application, that would be it, we would not have to continue. Supv. Willman asked who would use the services - Rep. Burpoe indicated the villages would. Therefore, county planning services would be centered on Malone, Saranac Lake and Tupper Lake. Towns like Franklin, Duane and Brighton would be neglected because they would not have use for it. Why not simply put GIS mapping on the County website now without creating a county planning board. He posited if the Town of Franklin supports the grant application, whether a "can of worms" would be opened. Coun. Smalley advised getting facts about the matter, not opinions. He considers it a good idea to plan. Supv. Willman stated government is not a creator of wealth. Southern Franklin County would be paying for it. Coun. Berg commented it would be a good idea, but didn't want the Town of Franklin to be involved. Coun. Hamm stated he did not see where the Town of Franklin would benefit. Coun. Merrill stated if the Town supports the grant application and adopts the proposed resolution, it states the Town of Franklin will benefit from the county planning office. Changes were then suggested to amend the proposed resolution. Supv. Willman read it into the record:

**"RESOLUTION TO BE CO-APPLICANT ON COUNTY OF FRANKLIN'S HIGH PRIORITY PLANNING GRANT APPLICATION TO THE NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF STATE LOCAL GOVERNMENT EFFICIENCY PROGRAM**

WHEREAS, the County of Franklin is interested in facilitating improved community planning throughout the County; and WHEREAS, the County of Franklin has identified the establishment of countywide planning services as one possible way to do this; and WHEREAS, the County desires to study the feasibility, cost-effectiveness, long-term management benefits and logistics of establishing countywide planning activity; and WHEREAS, the County has authorized the submission of a grant application to the New York State Department of State's Local Government Efficiency Program to fund a study and implementation strategy for countywide planning services; and WHEREAS, the \_\_\_\_\_ supports the County's grant application and efforts to undertake said study; and WHEREAS, the \_\_\_\_\_ feels that it would benefit from the coordination of local planning efforts, technical assistance and other activities that may be undertaken by a county planning activity; and WHEREAS, the County is seeking co-applicants for its Local Government Efficiency grant application, NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the \_\_\_\_\_, being the governing body thereof, that \_\_\_\_\_

wishes to be listed as an official co-applicant in the County of Franklin's Local Government Efficiency grant application for funding to undertake a study and implementation strategy for countywide planning services."

Supv. Willman requested a motion for a resolution.

Motion for resolution NOT CARRIED

AYE: Smalley, Willman

NAY: Berg, Hamm, Merrill

## 8. OLD BUSINESS

### A. OPEN BIDS FOR NEW TOWN HALL FURNACE. The following bids were received:

Bidder/Address/Tel/Fax	Product	Price
All Trades Contracting 345 Cornelia Street, Plattsburgh, 12901 Tel 335-8521	Olsen Oil w/oil tank install Adams Oil w/oil tank install Olsen Gas no oil tank	\$3,593.50 \$6,380.06 \$3,853.50
B & E Development P O Box 54, Saranac, NY 12981 Tel 570-6703 Fax 492-7276	Ducane lowboy, oil	\$3,555.00
Greggor's P&H and Electrical P O Box 309, Bloomingdale, NY 12913 Tel 891-4249	Material cost Removal/disposal/labor	\$2,894.27 + \$2,170.00 totals: \$5,064.27
HomEnergy Services 33 Depot St, Saranac Lake, NY 12983 Tel 891-1616	Olsen oil-fired	\$4,947.00
NJP Heating P O Box 311, Keene, NY 12942 Tel 576-4291 Fax 576-2014	Williamson oil-fired	\$4,788.88
Rabideau Corp. 123 Duprey St., Saranac Lake, NY 12983 Tel 891-1541, Fax 523-6467		\$11,470.00
Stoll Mechanical P O Box 964, Tupper Lake, NY 12986 Tel 524-5856	Oil fired lowboy	\$5,940.00

Copies of the bids received will be distributed to the Board. Supv. Willman suggested a special meeting be scheduled for Wednesday, March 24, 2010 at 7:00 PM to award the bids. The Board concurred.

Supv. Willman reported that Clinton County Correctional has been approached which has an asbestos abatement crew. He has also communicated with NYS Power Authority, under which grant funding was received and is awaiting its decision on whether funds may be used to replace doors and windows at the Town Hall. The furnace at the Town Garage is newer and will last for a few more years until additional funds are available.

Coun. Smalley asked whether propane is less expensive than oil, and Supv. Willman replied that propane has 15% fewer BTU's. The propane tank must be rented from the supplier, so there are no savings. Coun. Hamm indicated that some furnaces tend to erode chimneys, even stainless steel.

**B. SUBDIVISION UPDATE.** SEQR Part I has been sent to all surrounding communities, the APA, DEC and Department of Health. Thus far, Supv. Willman has not received any objections. To answer previous comments, yes, during the campaign it was promised that the Board would review, revise and perhaps repeal the Major Subdivision Control Law. However, Supv. Willman reported, both he and Coun. Merrill reviewed the law many times in an attempt to revise it and agonized over the decision. They determined, however, that the law should be repealed, and a committee of volunteers recruited to develop an inventory of land available for development. After the inventory is completed, at that time a determination will be made what, if any, land use regulation should be drafted. Repealing the subdivision control law is the cleanest way to accomplish that goal without having the additional layer of bureaucracy. The idea is to repeal the law, do the inventory and then craft something if necessary. The available land inventory should have been done first before drafting Local Law #1 of 2009. Supv. Willman requested a motion for a resolution requesting the attorney for the town to draft proposed Local Law #2 of 2010 - repealing Local Law #1 of 2009, Major Subdivision Control Law.

Motion for resolution (D.Hamm-B.Merrill m/s/p) MOTION CARRIED

AYE: Willman, Hamm and Merrill

NAYS: Berg and Smalley

**RESOLUTION NO. 27: AUTHORIZE ATTORNEY TO DRAFT PROPOSED LOCAL LAW #2 OF 2010 - REPEALING LOCAL LAW #1 OF 2009, MAJOR SUBDIVISION CONTROL LAW** WHEREAS, petitions were circulated and signed in 2009 opposing Local Law #1 of 2009, Major Subdivision Control Law; and WHEREAS, the results of the November 2009 election proved voters do not want Local Law #1 of 2009; NOW, THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Supervisor is authorized to direct the attorney for the town to draft proposed local law #2 of 2010 repealing Local Law #1 of 2009, Major Subdivision Control Law.

Those voting aye:

Supervisor Arthur P. Willman, Jr.  
Councilman Donald Hamm  
Councilman Bradley Merrill

Those Absent:

None

Those Abstaining:

None

Those Voting nay:

Councilman Allen Berg  
Councilman Clifford Smalley

**C. ASSESSMENT UPDATE.** Supv. Willman referred to the February 17, 2010 minutes and stated Assessor Doug Tichenor will definitely perform the assessment revaluation in 2011. It will not be delayed again. The Town of Franklin is at 58% of valuation, and Mr. Tichenor wants all the towns in the Saranac Lake Central School District to be at 100%.

**D. FIRE/RESCUE UPDATE.** Supv. Willman and Coun. Berg attended a meeting of the Village of Saranac Lake Trustees. Larry Miller, Supervisor of the Town of Harrietstown, has scheduled a meeting of the Saranac Lake Area Fire Advisory Board on March 25, 2010 at 4:30 PM. The rescue squad is now a corporation, and will soon be able to bill insurance companies for its services. Generally, a municipality will sell the rescue equipment to a new rescue squad for \$1, but the Village of Saranac Lake, because of NYS Comptroller oversight and advice, is asking for more than \$1. As reported in the press, some municipalities have not paid this year's rescue contract, and the Town of Franklin has just approved payment of the contracted amount. A draft agreement between the towns and the new rescue squad was distributed to the Board. In addition, the Advanced Life Support Certificate held by the rescue squad is in jeopardy. Supv. Willman stated the towns have been paying for a full-time EMT for 3 years and opined perhaps those funds might be used to offset equipment purchases. Coun. Hamm commented that the Village makes more money from the rescue squad than the fire department. Supv. Willman indicated he would "shop around" and research ambulance/rescue services from other communities and counties. Coun. Smalley asked how ambulance service from another county would work with the Franklin County 911 service, and Supv. Willman acknowledged it might not be possible, but it is worth researching.

## 9. COMMITTEE REPORTS

**A. CEMETERY COMMITTEE.** Coun. Merrill reported the Town of Franklin is ready to acknowledge the Franklin Falls Cemetery has been abandoned by the private corporation, and a resolution will be adopted at the special meeting on March 24th. Coun. Merrill has spoken with officials from the Town of St. Armand, which will assume ownership of two-thirds of the site, and they have requested the Town of Franklin perform maintenance services, which they will reimburse. Coun. Smalley asked if maintenance records have been kept of time and materials, and Coun. Merrill affirmed they have.

**B. CELEBRATIONS.** On Friday, March 5th, a parade and ceremony was held in Saranac Lake honoring local Olympic athletes. Town officials marched and attended the ceremony. Leo Demong, father of Gold Medal Olympian Bill Demong, wrote this letter:

"Town of Franklin Board  
Roger Symonds. -

On behalf of Billy Demong, myself and all of Billy's family - I would like to thank you all for your support during Bill's recent run to the GOLD. As you know, Billy takes great pride in his Town of Franklin roots. Sincerely, Leo Demong"

**C. RECREATION.** Coun. Berg announced a new swing set will be purchased by the Recreation Committee for \$2700., raised by the Committee and garnered from proceeds of the can and bottle recycling shed behind the Town Hall. Supv. Willman stated he would like to set up a not-for-profit corporation to raise funds for the Rec Park, separate from the Town. Funds are needed for the summer youth program, which is forecast to have more children, that will require additional staff being hired. In addition, a community center should be built, with toilet facilities. Supv. Willman would like the not-for-profit to start fundraising for the building.

## 10. CORRESPONDENCE

### A. KENNETH AND CHRISTINE GUERIN

March 3, 2010  
Arthur P. Willman, Jr. . . .  
Dear Mr. Willman,

At enclosure is a copy of a letter to Mr. Jacques DeMars expressing our gratitude for the outstanding performance of the Town of Franklin Highway Department. They are to be truly commended for their continuous and tireless efforts resulting in noticeably improved maintenance of the roadways within this township. Respectfully request you provide copies of this correspondence to all Town Council Persons.  
Sincerely yours, Christine C. Guerin, Kenneth G. Guerin"

"March 3, 2010

Jacques DeMars . . . .

Dear Mr. DeMars,

My wife and I wish to convey our sincere appreciation and gratitude for the wonderful highway maintenance in our community and throughout the Town of Franklin. This is indeed a tribute to your leadership dedication and service to the citizens of the township. Equally noteworthy is the professionalism displayed by our department personnel as they perform their arduous duties on a daily basis. All persons with whom we have had contact within the highway department, from the top on down, have routinely demonstrated a level of cooperation and willingness to serve the public in a polite, courteous and knowledgeable manner.

We will be noting our twentieth year as the only full time residents on Garden Road, Loon Lake. Without doubt, we can positively state that our street has never been as well maintained as it has during your tenure as highway superintendent. Additionally, we make frequent trips to Malone by way of Route 26. During your service as superintendent, we have not been required to alter our route due to impassable road conditions. The quality and timeliness of snow removal operations on Route 26 has been superb and reflects greatly upon the outstanding performance of all members of the highway department.

Again, our sincere thanks to you and all the members of the Town of Franklin Highway Department for your faithful service, long and demanding hours and providing greatly improved public safety to all who travel the roads within the township.

Sincerely yours, Christine Guerin, Kenneth G. Guerin"

**B. GARY LEWIS, FRANKLIN COUNTY HIGHWAY SUPERINTENDENT**

March 3, 2010

Arthur P. Willman, Jr. . . . .

Re: Road Conditions

Dear Sir:

I am writing this brief letter to reaffirm you about the winter maintenance of our County Roads in your Town; we have not received any complaints in the past two years regarding plowing or sanding of these roads everything seems to be working quite well from our standpoint. Although there were some issues a few years back, things have greatly improved. And I believe your Town employees are doing a great job. If you have any concerns or questions regarding any Highway issues feel free to call anytime.

Very truly yours,

Gary Lewis, County Highway Superintendent"

**11. COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS**

Q/C This is only the third time that Tim Burpoe was here, and it was only to ask us for something. What will the County give us what we really need -- we really need two more bridges.

Q/C The majority of calls received by fire department concern ambulance or rescue. The cost of a fully-equipped ambulance is over \$150,000, so the Village, which earns more money from ambulance service rather than fire calls, must recoup the investment in the equipment.

A: Supv. Willman stated that the Town's contract contribution has been used to subsidize the fire department, with which it does not contract. Our fire protection is from Bloomingdale.

Q/C With respect to out-of-county ambulance and rescue services, these are coordinated by the area hospital, so out-of-county services are controlled by someone in Clinton County.

Q/C Regarding advanced life support, the State keeps increasing training requirements for EMT's, and unless the EMT is full-time, these are impossible to maintain.

Q/C Do rescue services bill all insurance companies at the same rate? What about the uninsured?

A: Les Parker responded that they are required to bill everyone.

**12. ADJOURNMENT.**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:18 PM.

(C.Smalley-A.Willman m/s/p) ALL AYE

Respectfully submitted, Sandra J. Oliver, Town Clerk

[Click here to see past minutes](#)

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**Town of Franklin**

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