



# 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 Monthly Town Board Meeting April 13, 2011 - 7:00 PM

#### Board members present:

Supervisor Arthur P. Willman, Jr.  
Councilman Allen Berg  
Councilman Donald Hamm

#### Board members absent:

Councilman Bradley Merrill  
Councilman Clifford Smalley

#### Others Present:

Town Clerk Sandra Oliver, Doris Hamm, Derrick Romeo, Donald Goff, Richard Jarvis

#### 1. CALL TO ORDER

Supv. Willman called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited, the Town Clerk called the roll, introduced guests, and declared a quorum was present.

#### 2. PUBLIC COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS

Richard Jarvis commented on the proposed invasive species law and reported he had spoken with Hilary Smith (Keene Valley) who indicated laws of this type had been adopted by Santa Clara, Lake Placid, Harrietstown and Brighton. It is hoped that by municipalities adopting such laws, that the State of New York will take heed and do the same. There are five bodies of water in the Town of Franklin but the invasive species inventories are out of date. These plants are a nuisance.

As to the 284 Agreement Mr. Jarvis expressed hope that the Town would look to Fletcher Farm Road which needs more work as drainage is an issue.

#### 3. BUDGET AMENDMENTS. None

**4. AUDIT OF CLAIMS**

The following claims were submitted for approval and payment on Abstract 4 of 2011:

General Fund	Vouchers 69 - 73	\$11,754.61
Highway Fund	Vouchers 39 - 54	19,649.15
Prepay General	Vouchers 10 - 11	1,126.60

Motion to accept and pay claims (A.Berg-D.Hamm m/s/p) ALL AYE.

Supv. Willman recommended that the monthly Graphic Connections invoice be classified as a "Prepay General" claim as the amount is the same each month. Couns. Berg and Hamm concurred. Motion (D.Hamm-A.Berg m/s/p) ALL AYE

**RESOLUTION NO. 26: GRAPHIC CONNECTIONS INVOICE A PREPAY** WHEREAS, Graphic Connections invoice arrives each month a day following the monthly Town Board meeting; and WHEREAS, said invoice is in the same amount each month; and WHEREAS, it covers the Town's website access; NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, Graphic Connections will be considered a Prepay.

Those voting aye:

Supervisor Arthur P. Willman, Jr.  
Councilman Allen Berg  
Councilman Donald Hamm

Those Voting nay:

None

Those Absent:

Councilman Clifford Smalley  
Councilman Bradley Merrill

Those Abstaining:

None

**5. MINUTES.**

The minutes of the February 9, February 23 and March 7, 2011 meetings were accepted as presented. Motion (A.Berg-D.Hamm m/s/p) ALL AYE.

**6. SUPERVISOR'S REPORT.**

Balances as of March 31, 2011

General Fund	Checking	\$76,220.36
	Savings	127,026.22
	CLASS	107,283.33
	Historian	3,034.84
Highway Fund	Checking	44,699.43
	Savings	544,414.26
	CLASS	188,235.25
	Cap. Proj. Hwy.	46,506.76
Landfill	Checking	6,310.18
	CLASS	44,045.61
Fire Protection	Checking	10,448.03
	CLASS	685.30
Capital Project Building		5,436.85

Motion to accept Supervisor's report (A.Berg-D.Hamm m/s/p) ALL AYE

**7. TOWN CLERK'S REPORT.**

Balances For the month of March 2011

16 dog licenses	\$68.50
2 Building permits	\$205.50
Vital Records	\$92.00
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	\$365.50
Paid to Supervisor	\$347.50
Paid to NYS Ag&Mkts (dogs)	\$18.00
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\$365.50

Motion to accept Town Clerk Report (A.Berg-D.Hamm m/s/p) ALL AYE.

## 8. TAX COLLECTION REPORT.

The amount of the 2011 warrant is \$2,264,464.87; the amount to be paid to the Town is \$1,088,501.00; the amount to be paid to the County Treasurer is \$1,175,963.19. During the period of March 7 thru March 31, 2011, \$71,682.22 was collected. \$65,000.00 was paid to the County Treasurer (for a total of \$285,000.00) and \$1,123.82 in interest was paid to the Supervisor (for a total of \$2,364.29). On April 8, 2011 reconciliation with the County Treasurer took place, and \$49,098.14 was paid over. The tax account will be zeroed out at the end of June and any balance remaining will be paid over to the Town Supervisor. Motion to accept Tax Collection Report (A.Berg-D.Hamm m/s/p) ALL AYE.

## 9. HIGHWAY MATTERS

### A. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT.

Submitted by Highway Supt Jacques DeMars:

#### Road work

- Plowed and sanded as necessary
- Backhoe and loader used to move snow from intersections and driveway entrances
- Significant water problem near 797 Fletcher Farm Rd.. Water running from hill towards road, overwhelming the culvert. Gravel transported to the area, driveway and road shoulder repaired
- Washout on Goldsmith Road addressed
- Slight damage to Intersection of Co. Rt 26 and Leo Collins Road. County Highway Supt. notified and he inspected the site, not finding significant damage. The site was flagged with cones, and barrel with flashing light. The County then patched the road.

#### Equipment

- 
- 2011 International had problems with the plow equipment, as a pin for the front wing tower fell out. Rt 11 Truck Sales notified and photos were sent via cell phone. Subsequently new parts were sent to reimburse for parts used.
- 2007 International damage to wing tower when truck caught the edge of the black top near intersection of Co. Rt. 26 and Leo Collins Road. Damage to the truck repaired internally.

#### Supplies

- Cold patch picked up, and when time and weather permits, Department will begin patching potholes on the Town roads.

### B. HIGHWAY COMMITTEE.

**1) 2011 SUMMER ROAD WORK.** With respect to the 284 Agreement and contemplated summer road work, Couns. Berg and Hamm will tour Town roads this coming Saturday. Coun. Hamm indicated the Town wants to repair certain roads before complete deterioration. He prioritized the work: First, Franklin Falls hill requires ditching; Second, the "Y" at Cold Brook and Fletcher Farm Roads is badly cracked - if the Town addresses the problem now, the road can be saved; Third, Cold Brook Road in the area of the bridge near Lou Myers' residence is bad, but the problem can be corrected. As far as Fletcher Farm Road is concerned, it will require ditching and road grinding and then placing a foot of material on top. However, Fletcher Farm Road is slated for work in 2012. It takes so much to bring a road back to optimum; however, the Town will do what it can with the funds it has.

**2) PURCHASE OF ROLLER OR REPLACEMENT FOR PICK UP.** Couns. Berg and Hamm discussed the merits of the possible purchase of a roller for summer road work. Coun. Hamm stated use of a roller is necessary for road work, and Coun. Berg suggested the Town continue to borrow the rollers from either the County or the Town of Saranac or possibly rent one. Coun. Hamm indicated he had seen a used roller for sale at \$35,000. The cost of rental is \$20,000. The problem with borrowing equipment is that road work must wait until the owner of the equipment is not using it. Coun. Berg then concurred, indicating a pickup replacement was not as critical as the purchase of a roller.

**3) ROAD SAND.** Coun. Hamm suggested the Town obtain sand from the closed landfill in Onchiota. The Highway Dept. could rent a large screen and as long as the cap over the landfill is not disturbed, the Town might harvest nearly \$100,000 worth of sand. He wondered, however, if the Town would require a mining permit from the State.

**4) OIL/WATER SEPARATOR.** This is being developed at the Garage, but completion of project is awaiting parts.

**C. QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS ON HIGHWAY MATTERS.** None

## 10. NEW BUSINESS

**A. REVIEW COMPENSATION FOR ELECTED OFFICIALS.** Because two Board members were absent, this matter was Tabled until the May meeting. Motion (D.Hamm-A.Berg m/s/p) ALL AYE

**B. INVASIVE SPECIES PROPOSED LOCAL LAW.** Supv. Willman requested a motion for a resolution to refer the matter to the attorney for the town, James Martineau, and to request him to draft the local law. Motion (D.Hamm-A.Berg m/s/p) ALL AYE.

### RESOLUTION NO. 27: REFER ANTI-INVASIVE SPECIES LEGISLATION TO ATTORNEY FOR TOWN

WHEREAS, several neighboring municipalities have enacted local laws prohibiting the spread of invasive species in their waters; and WHEREAS, the Rainbow Lake Association has recommended the Town of Franklin also adopt such

legislation; NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Town Board hereby authorizes the Supervisor to request the attorney for the Town to draft a local law. BE IT RESOLVED, Graphic Connections will be considered a Prepay.

Those voting aye:

Supervisor Arthur P. Willman, Jr.  
Councilman Allen Berg  
Councilman Donald Hamm

Those Voting nay:

None

Those Absent:

Councilman Clifford Smalley  
Councilman Bradley Merrill

Those Abstaining:

None

**C. ANNOUNCE CREATION OF "PUBLIC CONVERSATION SESSIONS".** Supv. Willman announced the creation of "Conversation Sessions" to be held third Wednesday of each month. Sometimes during board meetings which are structured with many topics covered, the public does not have the opportunity to raise concerns, questions and complaints. These informal, face-to-face conversations with the Town Supervisor will provide residents an opportunity - in a less public venue - to raise issues, problems and exchange information. The first is scheduled for Wed. May 18 from 6 to 8 PM.

**D. ROADSIDE CLEANUP DAY.** Saturday, May 21st, from 8:00 am to 4:00 pm. Coffee, doughnuts and BBQ hot dogs and soda all day. All residents of the Town are encouraged to participate in cleaning up the sides of the roads.

## 11. OLD BUSINESS

**A. ASSESSMENT UPDATE.** Supv. Willman reported that Assessor Douglas Tichenor is nearly ready to mail assessment notices. As a reminder, all exemption applications and renewals are due by March 1st.

**A. HUD GRANT APPLICATION UPDATE.** Supv. Willman indicated this matter is progressing. The Friends of the North Country construction specialist is scheduling site visits, and members of the Town Board have been telephoning residents in the town to inform them of the grant application.

**B. ASSESSMENT UPDATE.** Assessor Douglas Tichenor has been meeting with property owners to review their new assessments. The tentative assessment roll will be filed and in the Town Hall by May 1st, and grievance hearings are on Tuesday, May 31 from 5:00 to 9:00 PM. Property owners are encouraged to meet with the Assessor first.

**C. LAND INVENTORY PROJECT.** Supv. Willman reported he spent hours with APA officials at the Local Government Conference learning the ARC mapping program, and he is now studying tutorials. His idea is to utilize the ARC software to develop map overlays.

**D. TAX COLLECTION AUDIT.** Supv. Willman and Coun. Berg will audit the tax collector's records on Thursday afternoon April 21st. Board acceptance of the audit procedure is Tabled to the May meeting.

### E. INFRASTRUCTURE UPDATES.

**1) Town Garage Heater Replacements.** Installed

**2) Town Hall Doors.** Douglas Snickles will install the doors later this week, depending on the hardware.

**3) Town Hall Windows.** Douglas Snickles will re-measure all windows and install during May.

**4) Town Hall Kitchen.** Supv. Willman reported the kitchen has been painted white, in conformance with NYS Dept. of Health suggestion. He wants to purchase a stainless steel sheet and relocate the stove and install a vent. He is looking around for a 3-bay sink. Once the leaks in the roof have been corrected, the kitchen will meet NYS DOH standards, and organizations using the Town Hall kitchen for fundraisers will no longer need to obtain a special certificate from DOH.

**5) Garage Roof.** Coun. Berg inquired whether Mr. Snickles will be using larger screws to secure the roof, and Supv. Willman indicated, yes, if necessary.

## 12. COMMITTEE REPORTS

**A. AUDIT COMMITTEE.** Tabled

**B. CELEBRATION.** No report

**C. CEMETERY.** No report

### D. RECREATION.

1) Derrick Romeo, President of the Kate Mountain Community Recreation Assn., suggested the Town purchase two new baby swings for the Rec Park; one would hold a toddler up to 50 pounds and the other will hold either an infant or handicapped individual up to 125 pounds.

2) Town Picnic Day is scheduled for Saturday August 20th. Mr. Romeo indicated the Association plans to start radio advertising in July, and plans to request donations from the Town's vendors to support the cost of the ads.

## 13. CORRESPONDENCE

**14. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**15. QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS.** None

**14. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to discuss or conduct, the meeting adjourned at 7:51 PM. Motion (D.Hamm-A.Berg m/s/p) ALL AYE

Respectfully submitted, Sandra J. Oliver, Town Clerk

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