



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

Minutes Of The Monthly Town Board Meeting April 11, 2012 - 7:00 PM

THIS IS A DRAFT

Board members present:

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

Others Present:

Town Clerk Sandra Oliver, Doris Hamm Ed Martin, Bruce Young, Richard Jarvis Derrick Romeo, Geneva Romeo

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. PUBLIC COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS:

RICHARD JARVIS, member of the Board of the Kate Mountain Community Recreation Association, requested changes to the March 12, 2012 minutes and stated the KMCRA is an independent grassroots not for profit charitable organization, with a small dedicated group of individuals expecting to grow in members and service. It strives to provide multiple purposes of community service and community recreation and is centered at Kate Mountain where it envisions projects within the Town of Franklin and surrounding area. Since 2012 KMCRA has provided service time and financial assistance in contributions of \$100 in support of the Town's summer youth program, contributed \$500+ to repair electrical service at the Rec Park, raised over \$750 for medical expenses for 2 community residents, and assisted with two visits by Santa for over 50 children and has sponsored two music festivals and two dinners which brought hundreds of area residents together. He added that the Association wishes to grow and contribute to the community by fostering 2 way information exchange between it and the people, organizations and local officials in the area, by collaborating to build working partnerships with organization sharing

common goals and increasing its membership and to be of service for the changing needs of families and to enhance recreation facilities and programs at Kate Mtn. Park. Mr. Jarvis continued that the KMCRA was surprised to be designated as the Town's celebration committee without prior notice and disturbed that at the March 14, 2012 minutes may have contributed to the public's misunderstanding of the Association. (Mr. Romeo distributed copies of Mr. Jarvis' statement and proposed amendment to the March 14, 2012 minutes.) He concluded that the KMCRA wants to continue and improve its relations with the Town Board and wish to meet with Supv. Willman soon.

BRUCE YOUNG, also a member of the KMCRA Board clarified that the KMCRA wishes to work with the Town not for the Town.

Supv. Willman replied that the March 14th minutes were a record of Councilman Smalley's report and had already been amended. The revision submitted by KMCRA did not reflect the discussion. Further, he, too, wanted to improve communication and cooperation with the Association. He indicated the Town would take responsibility for the celebration committee.

Coun. Berg stated that the original goal of KMCRA was that the group was established to improve the conditions at Kate Mountain Recreation Park.

Coun. Smalley noted there was no further misunderstanding as to KMCRA's goals and that they had clarified their position. The Town needs a dedicated group of volunteers to focus on the Park. Therefore, it appears as though the Town will have to develop another group.

Coun. Merrill commended the KMCRA for its work and efforts.

3. BUDGET AMENDMENTS: 2012 GENERAL FUND BUDGET AMENDMENT #1.

Supv. Willman requested a resolution authorizing the transfer of funds representing the payment to Glatfelter of extension of 2011 coverage for officers liability. Motion (C.Smalley-A.Berg m/s/p) ALL AYE.

RESOLUTION NO. 22: 2012 GENERAL FUND BUDGET AMENDMENT NO. 1 WHEREAS, maintenance of a balanced 2012 budget in the General Fund is necessary; NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the transfer of \$4,200.00 from Account A1990.4 Contingent to A1910.4 General Insurance is hereby authorized.

Those voting aye:

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

Those Voting nay:

None

Those Absent:

None

Those Abstaining:

Councilman Bradley Merrill

4. AUDIT OF CLAIMS

The following claims were submitted for approval and payment on Abstract 4 of 2012:

General Fund	Vouchers 54 - 71	\$5,625.35
Highway Fund	Vouchers 27 - 60	\$21,159.62
Prepay General	Vouchers 11 - 14	\$1,693.84

Coun. Merrill disagreed with the payment of \$55 for a portion of Hwy Supt DeMar's personal cell phone bill, submitted without documentation. Supv. Willman indicated Supt. DeMars uses his personal cell phone for Town purposes, and funds were set aside in the Supt's expense account for this purpose during the budget workshops last fall. Coun. Hamm stated the Board had a lengthy discussion during the Highway Fund budget workshop concerning this matter. Supv. Willman continued, stating he had been researching calling plans offered by various cell phone providers, and a business cell rate is close to \$70 per month. At this rate, \$55 per month is a bargain.

Coun. Merrill disagreed with the payment of clothing allowance for Supt. DeMars. Supv. Willman replied Supt. DeMars' expense account is his expense account and it is within his purview to use it. He indicated it was his understanding that previous Highway Superintendents had larger expense accounts and used them up completely.

Coun. Berg asked about the invoice from Gorman Bros., and Supv. Willman replied it was for cold patch.

Motion to pay claims (C.Smalley-D.Hamm m/s/p) ALL AYE

5. MINUTES

The minutes of the March 14, 2012 meeting were amended as follows:

"C. RECREATION. Couns. Berg and Smalley spoke with Derrick Romeo of the Kate Mountain Community Recreation Association. There was an agreement that a dispute has arisen between the Town of Franklin and the Association. The KMCRA is clarifying its by-laws and broadening its scope of interests. Supv. Willman indicated he would like to see some kind of fund-raising for the Town's recreation activities and expressed disappointment at the lack of

communication. Coun. Smalley indicated the KMCRA is an independent organization, and the Town should not depend on it for fund-raising, even though it was initially created for this purpose. He also expressed disappointment that the KMCRA still has "Recreation" in its name, as he felt it was misleading. Supv. Willman stated that Town should assume the responsibility for celebrations once again. A meeting between Supv. Willman and the KMCRA Board will be scheduled." (change per April 11, 2012 meeting)

The minutes of the March 22, 2012 workshop and special board meeting were accepted as presented.

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

6. SUPERVISOR'S REPORT.

Balances as of March 1, 2012

General Fund	Checking	\$254,213.66
	Savings	2,091.82
	CLASS	107,302.96
	Historian	3,037.17
Highway Fund	Checking	91,007.37
	Savings	977,556.26
	CLASS	188,269.80
	Cap. Proj. Hwy.	46,515.28
Landfill	Checking	1,070.06
	CLASS	44,053.59
Fire Protection	Checking	16,682.35
	CLASS	685.30
Capital Project Building		5,437.85

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

7. TOWN CLERK:

For the for the month of March 2012

3 dog licenses	\$35.00
2 Building permits	\$77.83
Vitals - 1 copy	\$11.00
FOIL - 1 via email	\$1.00

Total	\$123.83
<hr/>	
Paid to Supervisor	\$113.83
Paid to NYS Ag&Mkts (dogs)	\$10.00

Total	\$123.83

8. TAX COLLECTION REPORT:

Tax collection is now completed. Local collection garnered with total receipts of \$1,554,756.27. \$55,347.11 was remitted to the County Treasurer. The collection percentage was 84%. Many property owners were unable to pay their taxes, and the collector urged anyone who had knowledge of someone having difficulty paying taxes to advise them to take advantage of the partial payment option. Motion (A.Berg-C.Smalley m/s/p) ALL AYE.

Motion accept Clerk/Collector reports (B.Merrill-D.Hamm m/s/p) ALL AYE

9. CODES

Robert R. Drosdowich, Codes Enforcement Officer for the Town, submitted a written report informing that 2 building permits were issued in March totaling \$77.83, and 8 inspections were made. Supv. Willman noted that Mr. Drosdowich has office hours from 4-6PM on Tuesdays and that he is always available via his cell phone (524-6209).

10. HIGHWAY REPORT

A. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT. Hwy Supt. DeMars is currently on vacation but he submitted a written report covering the March 15 to April 11, 2012 period:

- Posted roads but may start removing signs next week, except dirt roads
- Roller will be delivered April 13th; following the 1,000 mile (hour?) maintenance being performed this week
- Cold patch ordered and potholes will be filled when weather permits

- Used grader on Plank Road to smooth sections of crusher run affected by Hurricane Irene
- Department employees cut trees and cleaned ditches
- Equipment maintenance performed on all equipment, but primarily on chipper and tow-behind sweeper
- 284 agreement partially complete and attached.

1. Roller Delivery and Payment. Supv. Willman stated that Abele will perform the 1,000 mile (hour?) maintenance and repair certain items prior to delivery of the roller next week. He requested authorization from the Board to pay Abele for the equipment as soon as it is delivered. (Abele will deliver to the Goldsmith Road so work can be done on that road immediately.) Motion (C.Smalley-A.Berg m/s/p) ALL AYE.

RESOLUTION NO. 23: AUTHORIZE PAYMENT FOR ROLLER UPON DELIVERY WHEREAS, RFP was published and bids received and reviewed; and WHEREAS Abele Equipment was awarded the bid; and WHEREAS, delivery date is projected for April 13, 2012; NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Supervisor is authorized to sign a check in payment of the roller immediately upon delivery.

Those voting aye:

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

Those Voting nay:

None

Those Absent:

None

Those Abstaining:

None

2. 284 Agreement. The 284 Agreement for 2012 was submitted partially complete as Supt. DeMars is waiting for the County to award contracts for blacktop and crusher run. In the meantime, the Plank Road repairs, starting at the Black Brook line and leading past the Roseman intersection (due to Spring 2011 flooding and Hurricane Irene damage) partially reimbursed by FEMA. Supv. Willman requested a resolution accepting the partial 284 agreement.

RESOLUTION NO.24: ACCEPT PARTIAL AGREEMENT TO EXPEND HIGHWAY FUNDS (SECTION 284) AGREEMENT WHEREAS, the Section 284 Agreement to Expend Highway Funds between the Town Board and the Highway Superintendent is partially complete; and WHEREAS, prices for materials such as asphalt and stone have not yet been established; and WHEREAS, work can be commenced on the first part of the agreement; NOW, THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED, the Franklin Town Board hereby accepts and agrees to the first part of the 284 agreement regarding FEMA-reimbursed repairs to the Plank Road .4 mi from the Black Brook town line past Roseman Lane.

Those voting aye:

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

Those Voting nay:

None

Those Absent:

None

Those Abstaining:

None

3. Goldsmith Road Bridge. John Hutchins, Franklin County Highway Superintendent, has negotiated with the NYS Dept. of Environmental Conservation to permit widening of the Goldsmith Road bridge to 14 feet, wide enough for Town plows and even logging trucks.

Motion accept Highway Report (C.Smalley-B.Merrill m/s/p) ALL AYE

B. HIGHWAY COMMITTEE.

1. Alternative to salt and sand. Coun. Berg suggested the Town investigate the use of brine, as Vermont does, instead of expensive salt and sand and spread the brine using the water truck. Supv. Willman opined that Vermont brine spreaders do not use a spray system with nozzles, but rather wicks, although the idea is worth researching. Coun. Berg indicated he would investigate prices.

C. QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS.

Richard Jarvis complimented the Highway Department on its rapid response to a clogged culvert on Norman Ridge Road which was resulted in excessive water pooling at the Fletcher Farm Road intersection. The Department did an

excellent job. Supv. Willman mentioned that the crew was scheduled to work on the Norman Ridge Road this week.

10. NEW BUSINESS

A. JAWS OF LIFE FOR BLOOMINGDALE VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPT. John Houghton, representing the Bloomingdale VFD, distributed copies of an estimate from Garrison Fire & Rescue Corp., Palenville, NY for a unit used as a demonstrator in sum of \$19,995.00. The original idea was to split the cost of the equipment between the Towns of Franklin and St. Armand and the Bloomingdale VFD. In addition to the equipment, however, one of the fire department vehicles will require retrofitting. To that end Mr. Houghton distributed copies of a quote from Wilde Fire Equipment Co., Mayfield, NY for the cost of retrofitting the truck, in sum of \$21,365. These amounts total \$41,300.00. These expenditures must be approved by the membership of the Bloomingdale VFD, the Town of St. Armand and the Town of Franklin. Coun. Smalley stated he was prepared to expend 1/3 of \$27,376 or \$9,125.33, for the equipment but was unaware a vehicle would have to be altered. 1/3 of \$48,741 is \$16,274.00. The St. Armand Town Board is meeting this same night, and no word on their decision is yet known. Supv. Willman stated the Town of Franklin has \$16,000 in the fire protection budget and will check with the State Comptroller to see if funds can be transferred from contingency into fire protection for the purpose of purchasing the equipment and assisting with the vehicle retrofit. He opined that the Bloomingdale VFD might cover the cost of retrofitting and the two towns could purchase the equipment. Coun. Hamm inquired if the membership of BVFD is agreeable to purchasing using the equipment, and Mr. Houghton replied the department is satisfied with this used equipment from a reputable dealer. Coun. Hamm asked about the warranty/guaranty, and Mr. Houghton indicated Garrison has several different plans. Coun. Smalley asked about Garrison's service plan, and Mr. Houghton replied it would cost about \$500 per year. Coun. Hamm then asked how much use this used equipment had, and Mr. Houghton responded it had been used by two towns but that it had a new pump. Coun. Hamm indicated he was not a big fan of refurbished equipment. Coun. Berg inquired whether the department had researched grants, and Mr. Houghton responded they had applied for one, but it had not succeeded. Coun. Hamm asked whether Garrison provided financing, and Mr. Houghton explained there was one, but not many end-users avail themselves of it. When Coun. Hamm asked if the BVFD would be willing to obtain a bank loan, Supv. Willman replied that loans for this kind of equipment carry a high interest rate. Coun. Merrill indicated purchase of the equipment would be very worthwhile. Couns. Berg and Hamm asked about private donations, and Mr. Houghton indicated the department planned to do a mailing soon. Supv. Willman then requested a resolution in support of the Jaws of Life equipment purchase in conjunction with the Town of St. Armand, with equal shares coming from both towns and the BVFD. Motion (B.Merrill-A.Berg m/s/p) ALL AYE.

RESOLUTION NO. 25: Support for 1/2 of purchase price of Jaws of Life equipment for Bloomingdale Volunteer Fire Dept WHEREAS, a proposal has been made to purchase "Jaws of Life" equipment in one-half shares split between the Town of Franklin, the Town of St. Armand and the Bloomingdale Volunteer Fire Department; and WHEREAS, the purchase of such equipment would enable faster extraction of victims of fire and vehicle accidents; and WHEREAS, the Town would incur no further charges from the Village of Saranac Lake for rescue services; NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Franklin Town Board hereby supports the purchase of Jaws of Life equipment for the Bloomingdale Volunteer Fire Department.

Those voting aye:

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

Those Voting nay:

None

Those Absent:

None

Those Abstaining:

None

B. APPOINT LESTER G. PARKER, JR. AS LIAISON TO COUNTY SENIOR CITIZENS BOARD. Earlier this year, Gene Goff submitted his resignation to Supv. Willman as the Town's 55+ Club liaison to the Association of Senior Citizens, Inc. Board of Directors. Mr. Parker is amenable to the appointment and will represent the interests of the Town's senior citizens to the Board of Directors. Supv. Willman requested a motion accepting the appointment. Motion (A.Berg-C.Smalley m/s/p) ALL AYE.

RESOLUTION NO. 26: APPOINT LESTER G. PARKER, JR. AS LIAISON TO ASSOCIATION OF SENIOR CITIZENS IN FRANKLIN COUNTY, INC. WHEREAS, Gene Goff submitted his resignation from the position of liaison to the above Association Supervisor Willman earlier this year; and WHEREAS, Lester G. Parker, Jr. is qualified to perform such duties and is willing to serve in such capacity; NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Franklin Town Board hereby accepts the appointment of Lester G. Parker, Jr. to serve as the Town of Franklin 55-Plus Club liaison with the Board of the Association of Senior Citizens in Franklin County, Inc.

Those voting aye:

Supervisor Arthur P. Willman, Jr.
Councilman Allen Berg

Councilman Bradley Merrill
 Councilman Donald Hamm
 Councilman Clifford Smalley

Those Voting nay:

None

Those Absent:

None

Those Abstaining:

None

C. POLLING SITE AGREEMENT. Each year the Franklin County Board of Elections requests the Town to execute an agreement permitting BOE to use the Town's polling site. Supv. Willman requested a resolution accepting the agreement. Motion (C.Smalley-B.Merrill m/s/p) ALL AYE.

RESOLUTION NO. 27: ACCEPT POLLING SITE AGREEMENT WITH FRANKLIN COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS WHEREAS, the Board of Elections has assumed management and supervision of elections; and WHEREAS, it has requested the use of the Franklin Town Hall as a polling site; NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Franklin Town Board hereby accepts said agreement and authorizes the Supervisor to execute same.

Those voting aye:

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

Those Voting nay:

None

Those Absent:

None

Those Abstaining:

None

D. COUNTY PLANNER. Members of the Town of Malone Board sent correspondence to all Franklin County Townships requesting support for the establishment of a County Planning Office. Governor Andrew Cuomo has established Regional Councils with grant funding. The Malone group discovered that grants would only be awarded to those counties with Planning Offices. On March 9, 2011 Representatives Tim Burpoe and Tim Lashomb appeared before the Franklin Town Board requesting support for a study into the establishment of a County Planning Office. The Franklin Town Board supported the study (two members accepted the grant application with reservations). Discussion ensued during which Supv. Willman and Coun. Hamm expressed strong disapproval, and Coun. Smalley expressed support for planning in general, Supv. Willman requested a resolution in opposition to establishment of a County Planning Office. The sentiment in general was that such establishment would result in benefits to the Town and Village of Malone and not to any other communities. In addition, the office would require tax funding for office space, staff and equipment. Motion (B.Merrill-D.Hamm m/s/p) ALL AYE.

RESOLUTION NO. 28: OPPOSITION TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A COUNTY PLANNING OFFICE

WHEREAS, in March 2011 the Franklin Town Board (with some reservation) supported a study researching whether a County Planning Office would benefit all municipalities in the County of Franklin; and WHEREAS, members of the Town of Malone Town Council addressed correspondence to all Franklin County Townships urging support for establishment of such office; and WHEREAS, the majority opinion of the Franklin Town Board is that such office would place additional tax burden on residents without any benefit; NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Franklin Town Board hereby opposes establishment of a Franklin County Planning Board.

Those voting aye:

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

Those Voting nay:

None

Those Absent:

None

Those Abstaining:

None

E. SUPPORT FOR I-98 AND IMPROVEMENTS TO ROUTE 11. The St. Lawrence County Board of Legislators corresponded with all elected representatives in Franklin, Lewis, Jefferson and St. Lawrence Counties to request resolutions reinforcing support for the construction of the Interstate 98 Multi-Modal Corridor and supporting improvements to US Route 11 and to give priority to the Canton, Potsdam and Gouverneur areas, a resolution adopted by it on March 5, 2012. Following some discussion during which Coun. Hamm opined that there is adequate State funding for improving Route 11. General board support was evidenced, and Supv. Willman requested a resolution containing the language forwarded by the St. Lawrence Co. Legislature. Motion (C.Smalley-D.Hamm m/s/p) ALL AYE.

RESOLUTION NO. 29: REINFORCING SUPPORT FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE INTERSTATE 98 MULTI-MODAL CORRIDOR AND SUPPORTING IMPROVEMENTS TO US ROUTE 11 AND TO GIVE PRIORITY TO THE CANTON, POTSDAM AND GOUVERNEUR AREAS WHEREAS, the New York State Department of Transportation has spent millions of dollars over the past five decades conducting feasibility studies relative to the construction of a four-lane, limited-access highway built to interstate standards through the North Country in addition to studies relative to needed upgrades and safety improvements along US Route 11; and WHEREAS, funds spent include those used to advance, among others: the North Country Transportation Study (2002), the Northern Tier Expressway: Route 11 Corridor Study (2008) and the North Country Freight Needs Study (2010); and WHEREAS, the study published in 2002 recommended, for the purposes of economic development, the construction of a four-lane, limited access highway built to interstate standards as part of a complete corridor development strategy for the US Route 11 corridor; and WHEREAS, the study published in 2008 concluded that the construction of such bypasses and passing lanes in the Canton and Potsdam areas were not warranted because traffic flow patterns in those areas were lower than the standard established by the author; and WHEREAS, the study published in 2010 reaffirmed the recommendations of the 2002 study and further advanced the concept of developing a multi-modal corridor including rail and port upgrades and the construction of a four-lane limited access highway built to interstate standards that was specifically referred to as the Interstate 98 Project; and WHEREAS, all three of these studies and their respective recommendations were published by the same firm, Wilbur Smith Associates; and WHEREAS, federal funds in the amount of \$6.301 million were secured by Senators Schumer and Clinton and Congressman McHugh in 2005 for the purpose of advancing a tiered environmental impact review relative to the recommendations made in the study published in 2002 prior to the publication of the 2008 study, thereby establishing a clear legislative intent for the use of those funds; and WHEREAS, the NYS Department of Transportation, Region 7, is not authorized to repurpose those funds without the approval of the United States Congress; and WHEREAS, that Congressional approval has not been sought by any agency, and WHEREAS, Senator Charles Schumer, one of the original Federal Legislators who requisitioned the \$6.301 million in question, has not expressed any intention of sponsoring legislation that would repurpose those funds; and WHEREAS, the St. Lawrence County Board of Legislature and more than 550 other municipal and civic entities have adamantly supported the concept of the Interstate 98 project through resolutions and financial support on multiple occasions; and WHEREAS, upgrades and safety improvements to US Route 11 are also desperately needed and long over due; and WHEREAS, the New York State Department of Transportation allocates an annual operation and maintenance budget to its Region 7 office for the purpose of making upgrades and safety improvements such as those described in the 2008 Northern Tier Expressway: Route 11 Corridor Study; and WHEREAS, the Northern Corridor Transportation Group is advocating for the development of the multi-modal corridor that was recommended by the North Country Transportation Study and the North Country Freight Needs Study as well as necessary safety upgrades to US Route 11; NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town of Franklin Town Board in support of the St. Lawrence County Board of Legislators maintain their position that the development of a multi-modal corridor, commonly referred to as Interstate 98, must remain a local, state, and federal priority and encourage State and Federal Agencies to act with urgency in initiating the tiered environmental impact review with funds that were appropriated in 2005; and BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Town of Franklin Town Board, as well as the St. Lawrence County Board of Legislators recognize the need to upgrade and improve US Route 11, especially in the areas of Canton, Potsdam and Gouverneur, and encourages the New York State Department of Transportation to prioritize those upgrades as part of its regional operations and maintenance plan; and BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Town of Franklin Town Board and the St. Lawrence County Board of Legislators hereby urge the New York State Department of Transportation to provide meaningful opportunities for the involvement of local officials in the planning, design and implementation of both of the proposed projects; and BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that copies of this resolution be forwarded to President Barack Obama, U.S. Senator Charles Schumer, U.S. Senator Kirsten Gillibrand, Congressman William Owens, Federal Highway Administration Administrator Victor Mendez, NY Governor Andrew Cuomo, State Senator Joseph Griffo, State Senator Patty Ritchie, State Senator Elizabeth Little, Assemblywoman Addie Russell, Assemblyman Kenneth Blankenbush, Assemblywoman Janet Duprey, NYS Dept of Transportation Commissioner Joan McDonald, NYS Secretary of Transportation Karen Rae, and the NYS Deputy Secretary of Transportation Yomika Bennett.

Those voting aye:

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

Those Voting nay:

None

Those Absent:

None

Those Abstaining:

None

F. NYMIR LOSS CONTROL SURVEY. The NYMIR Loss Control Surveyor inspected each of the Town's buildings and properties. The report found nothing critical but recommended that the one of the swings behind the Town Hall be replaced and that the sand in the playground area of the Town Hall be 9" deep and extending 6'. The tot swing at the Rec Park will be replaced. We also require signs with the rules and regulations of the Park, including age and hours of operation. The surveyor recommended that a "central station" fire alarm be installed going directly from the Garage to the Fire Department. Supv. Willman added he thought the Garage should have a sprinkler system over each bay. In addition, NYMIR recommended the Town procure certificates of insurance from each vendors and institute a permit system for field use. Starting this summer each parent will be asked to sign a limited liability statement.

G TREE REMOVAL NEAR MERRILLSVILLE CEMETERY. Supv. Willman reported that Tom Bartiss, a tree expert, is working on private land abutting the Merrillsville Cemetery. He asked if the Town wanted to keep the trees (nearing the end of lifespan) as a buffer or if he could remove them (at no charge to the Town). Following a short discussion, the Board determined that the trees bordering the cemetery could be removed but not trees on Town property. Supv. Willman will notify Mr. Bartiss.

H TOWN PICNIC. A date should be scheduled for the Town Picnic. Derrick Romeo indicated the Kate Mountain Community Recreation Association will be holding a Music Festival on Saturday, August 18th. Coun. Hamm inquired why the Town Picnic and Music Festival could not be held together. Supv. Willman commented that the Village of Saranac Lake has a "Special Events Fund." He will check with the Comptroller's Office to ascertain whether the Town might establish the same kind of fund. Coun. Smalley stated that the purpose of the Town Picnic should be to raise money for improvements at the Rec Park. Supv. Willman said that hopefully a joint venture would be most desirable. Coun. Smalley suggested that more than one town-wide event could be held per summer. However, the matter was tabled until the May board meeting. Motion (A.Berg-C.Smalley m/s/p) ALL AYE.

I. MERRILLSVILLE GARAGE AND TOWN HALL. Coun. Hamm recommended the Board create a scope of work and draw up specifications for repair and upgrade of the Merrillsville Garage and Town Hall and then publish and RFP. Couns. Hamm and Berg will develop specifications. Supv. Willman requested a motion authorizing publication of RFP. Motion (C.Smalley-B.Merrill m/s/p) ALL AYE.

RESOLUTION NO. 30: PUBLISH RFP REPAIRS TO TOWN HALL AND GARAGE AT MERRILLSVILLE

WHEREAS, repairs are necessary to the door and roof at the Merrillsville Garage can be used by the Highway Department to store vehicles safely; and WHEREAS, the roof of the Merrillsville Town Hall also requires repair; NOW, THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED, the Clerk is authorized to publish a request for prices for labor (the Town to furnish materials) for this project, pending receipt of specifications.

Those voting aye:

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

Those Voting nay:

None

Those Absent:

None

Those Abstaining:

None

11. OLD BUSINESS

A. Update on bid awards:

1. 2008 Dynapac roller - will be delivered next week following servicing.
2. Lighting Replacement. Supv. Willman will telephone Ampersand Electric to schedule a start date.
3. Generak Standby Generator. Supv. Willman has requested the NY Power Authority to revise the scope of work encompassed by the 2007 grant award. He received verbal approval and anticipates the written acknowledgement shortly. Coun. Merrill asked where the generator is to be placed, and Supv. Willman replied outside the rear of the Town Hall (outside the men's room).

B. Fire/Rescue Update. There will be no new dry hydrant installation at Loon Lake for the time being.

C. FRIENDS OF NORTH COUNTRY - HUD GRANT APPLICATION Scott Campbell, Friends of the North Country asked the Town Board to update the Abbreviated Consolidated Plan, and copies of the questionnaire will be made for the Board. Members are requested to complete them. Friends of the North Country will resubmit a grant application for the Town at no charge.

12. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. AUDIT. The Tax Collector audit will be performed at noon on Monday, April 16th.

B. CELEBRATIONS. No one was willing to assume responsibility for the Celebration Committee. Supv. Willman will search for volunteers..

C. CEMETERY. Coun. Merrill requested that small trees and overgrowth be cleared. The dirt piles should be moved to the open area. Supv. Willman suggested that perhaps the Highway Dept. might assist. Coun. Merrill asked Geomatics about the timeframe for the gridding. He and Coun. Smalley will meet before the gridding begins.

D. RECREATION. See Correspondence.

13. CORRESPONDENCE

The following letter was received from Shir Filler:

April 11, 2012

Dear Members of the Franklin Town Board,

I am writing to express concern about conditions at Kate Mountain Park. It has come to my attention that the wiring in the pavilion is substandard and that people - namely children at the Park's summer program - have gotten shocked when touching or going near the refrigerator during lightning storms. As you also know, the roof of the pavilion leaks badly, and there are often large puddles of water standing on the floor. This can't possibly help with the electrical situation; however, and more to the point this is an injury (and a lawsuit) waiting to happen. My daughter attends the summer program at the park, as do many other children, and I know that none of you want to see any of them injured.

The only reason I know about the electric issue is that, you know, my husband, Bruce Young, is part of the Kate Mountain Community Recreation Association (KMCRA). I know that this group and the town are in disagreement as to whose job it is to pay for park improvements are most necessary. I would submit that that directly impact the health and safety of children are most important. Given that there is money in the annual Town budget allocated to the park, I would suggest that fixing the electric wiring and the roof of the pavilion should be the number one and number two priorities.

After taking care of the safety issues, next on the docket should be a bathroom. This is a park that is heavily used in the summertime and might be used more year-round if there were safer and ore user-friendly facilities. This is where a partnership between the town and the KMCRA could bear real fruit. I look at how the Friends of Mt. Pisgah were able to work over the last several years to build a lodge and bring in a new lift, to make the recreational experience at the mountain better, while leaving it to the Village of Saranac Lake to keep the place safe and functional. A partnership between the Town of Franklin and KMCRA could make equally good things happen here. I urge you all to put your egos aside (both Board and KMCRA members) and sit down to make a real plan for how to improve the park, and consequently, the town.

Shir Filler, Cold Brook Road."

Supv. Willman noted that in July 2011 The Inspector checked the electrical system at the Park. Reference was made to The Inspector's report. On the list of items to be corrected, it was recommended the refrigerators be placed on concrete blocks, and they were. This will keep the units out of standing water, thus preventing electric shocks. Further the pavilion roof does not leak. Most of the water is blown in from the sides. The concrete floor dips and water accumulates. Cold rain hits the metal roof and lowers the temperature, and meanwhile the warmer air in the pavilion meets the cold roof and walls and condenses, thus causing condensation. The concrete overhangs the wall, and if we remove the lower the area of waferboard and add bent aluminum flashing and place it up on the walls, it would take care of the problems, except a the corners. We will try to squeegee the water out. Coun. Hamm suggested using the Highway Dept.'s pavement saw to cut a drain 1 to 1-1/2' deep. If the Kate Mountain Community Recreation Association has ideas of where to put a permanent lavatory and still have a septic system large enough to accommodate a community center, the Board will definitely pay attention. With respect to construction of permanent lavatories, Supv. Willman estimated the cost at \$30,000 to \$40,000 for appliances, heat, sinks, and toilets, all made of very study material, because when there is an enclosed public lavatory, there will be damage. The site for such a structure is problematic. Placed too near the present pavilion and tennis court will impact the nearby wetlands. Supv. Willman opined the Town and the KMCRA can work in partnership. He added that Friends of Mt. Pisgah organization has as its goal to improve Mt. Pisgah only. This apparently is not the case with KMCRA. Supv. Willman acknowledged the Town budgets for maintenance at the Park; however, as noted by the tax collector this year she only collected 84% of the warrant which means that people are having difficulty paying their taxes now. To place the burden of all improvements at the Park on the shoulders of already-overburdened taxpayers would not be fair. The Town has a very small tax base.

14. QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS. Coun. Smalley asked if any action had been taken on increasing the "free skate time" at the Civic Center. Supv. Willman acknowledged he had not spoken to anyone at the Civic Center. Coun. Merrill suggested the Town of Franklin sponsor some free skate time, and it was generally agreed it would be a good idea. The matter will be raised at next fall's budget workshops.

15. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to discuss or conduct, the meeting adjourned at 9:38 PM. Motion (C.Smalley-B.Merrill m/s/p) ALL AYE

Respectfully submitted, Sandra J. Oliver, Town Clerk

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