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**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE TOWN BOARD  
TOWN OF RICHLAND  
1 BRIDGE STREET, PULASKI, NY**

**DATE:** October 23, 2018

**KIND OF MEETING:** Special Meeting - Public Hearing for the 2019 Budget

**PLACE:** Grand Jury Room, H. Douglas Barclay Courthouse Pulaski, NY

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:** Supervisor Dan Krupke  
Councilman Kern Yerdon  
Councilman Allen Goodsell  
Councilwoman Sue Haynes  
Councilwoman Donna Gilson

**OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:** Robert North, Special Projects Coordinator & Budget Officer  
Highway Superintendent John Fox  
Town Clerk, Millie Newcomb

**CALL TO ORDER:** The meeting was called to order at 6:05 p.m. with Supervisor Krupke leading in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**PUBLIC HEARING FOR THE 2019 TOWN BUDGET:** The Public Hearing was opened for the 2019 Town Budget. Discussion about the different funds and how clerical moneys factor into the budget for the Highway and Assessors. With no more to discuss, a motion to close the Public Hearing was made by Councilman Yerdon and seconded by Councilman Goodsell. *In a roll call vote, all were in favor with a vote of "AYE".* 6:13pm. Councilman Yerdon had questions about the Water Districts. Water District 2 pumps most of the water for Water District 1. He is confused about water district 2 pumping 70% of the water for water district #1. Supervisor Krupke explained that that because Water District 1 is the largest and was used as the infrastructure for the entire system. After a long discussion it was suggested to call the Auditors to try to answer some of the questions that some of the Board member have. Also, Mr. North would like to run everything by Laird Petrie from the Comptroller's Office. Supervisor Krupke told the Board that he has a spreadsheet in his Office that former Town Supervisor Crandall did that is really helpful to him when working on the budget. All board members are welcome to stop in to look at it. Supervisor Krupke also wants the Board to know, when looking at the Water Districts this year, the town has factored in \$12,000 for a new software program,

\$16,000 for Insurances that were taken out of the "A" fund that are now being distributed in the Water Districts and tank washing which is going to be between \$16-17,000. This is being built into all the Water Districts because of fund balances and the EDU's are staying the same and no increase. NYSERDA will be coming to the Offices for training on the Sexual Harassment policy that all Government Offices will have to implement. With no further discussion about the Budget, *A motion to adopt the Budget for 2019 was made by Councilwoman Gilson and seconded by Councilwoman Haynes. In a roll call vote, all were in favor with a vote of "AYE".* The Board would like to Thank Budget Officer Robert North for all his hard work this year. It's a responsible budget with an increase of 1.96%.

Next the Bids that were submitted and opened on October 11th. for the Highway Garage Repair/Replacement. Superintendent Fox shared some ideas about what is next for the Highway Building. Its agreed among the Board that the Highway needs a new Building, but in the meantime the roof at the existing building needs some attention. One of the Highway workers was a local contractor before joining the Highway Department. He has looked over 3 of the worst spots in the roof and at the rate of pay he is making now, will do the repairs that are needed and hopefully get them through the next few years. Prices for materials will be about \$5000-\$8000 to do the needed repairs. Superintendent Fox would like to get going on the repairs. First a motion to reject/refuse all bids on the new garage roof was made by Councilman Goodsell and seconded by Councilwoman Gilson. *In a roll call vote, all were in favor with a vote of "AYE".* A motion by Councilman Goodsell to authorize Superintendent Fox to make all necessary repairs to the existing roof. This motion was seconded by Councilwoman Gilson. *In a roll call vote, all were in favor with a vote of "AYE".*

For the boards review were conceptional draft for Zoning changes from the Comprehensive Board. Next a RFP for soliciting bids for Legal Services for a Town Attorney. Solicitations will be sent in a 35 mile radius. A motion was made by Councilwoman Haynes and seconded by Councilwoman Gilson. *In a roll call vote, all were in favor with a vote of "AYE".* These RFP's will be sent by mail, put on the Towns Website, and Facebook Page. Councilwoman Haynes would like to bring up an issue about barking dogs. A resident complained that when he is out in his yard, the neighbors dogs bark constantly. Councilwoman Haynes would like to know if a letter could be sent. Town Clerk Newcomb advised that a copy of the Dog law was sent out to the resident and the section about the barking dogs was highlighted.

Superintendent Fox advises that he put a 2006 Ford Diesel Pickup with a plow on Auctions International and it brought more money than originally thought, \$8200. He needs the Board approve the sale of the Truck. A 1986 sander that was retrofitted to fit a newer plow truck is shot. Mr. Fox has 2 bids. One from Henderson and the other from Tracey Equipment. He would like to purchase a new sander on County Bid. . These sanders ride on the back of the plow trucks. The sanders are not speed controlled. Those controls are in the truck it self. Mr Fox would like to go with the sander from Tracey Equipment which is \$600 more, but its 304 grade steel and not 201 like the Henderson Equipment. Mr. Fox will put the old sander on the Auction Site. A motion for Superintendent Fox to spend \$14,600 from Tracey Equipment for a new

sander was made by Councilman Goodsell and seconded by Councilwoman Haynes. *In a roll call vote, all were in favor with a vote of "AYE"*. A motion to accept the sale of the 2006 Ford Diesel Truck on Auctions International for \$8200 was made by Councilwoman Gilson and seconded by Councilwoman Haynes. *In a roll call vote, all were in favor with a vote of "AYE"*. The Highway is getting ready for the Winter. Mr. Fox has 3 trucks ready to go.

Water District 5 is getting ready to go. Councilwoman Haynes is concerned about the residents not knowing about the EDU (Equivalent Dwelling Unit) cost which at the moment is around \$500. The Water Department along with Barton and Loguidice is getting a letter together to let the residents know what to expect on the Property Tax bill coming out in January.

Kevin Caracolli contacted Supervisor Krupke about Hager Drive. The Judge is asking for more information, of which he has already received and Mr. Caracolli feels the Judge is being too cautious in this matter. The Variance for the Norfleets fence was approved by the Zoning Board for 6'. It now goes back to Planning for site plan approval. Mr. Krupke is trying to get a hold of Sheriff-elect Don Hilton to set up a meeting. The Town is having a hard time getting the County Sheriff's to help with serving subpoenas for various cases involving Dogs, Planning and Zoning. With a new Sheriff in Office, it may make sense having a conversation with him, Town Board Members and the Judges. Another option is hiring a Sheriff to serve subpoenas. Having administrative hearings, Mr. Howland feels are the best way to get property owners to comply or come into compliance with Local Zoning Laws. The Town will most likely start this route in the future. Another meeting with the Village will be set up in the soon. A few proposals were talked about. Mr. Krupke would like to speak to our new Legislature Ed Gilson about putting clean up of Town residents property on Tax bills. Councilman Goodsell said that some Towns have been using BOCES heavy Equipment students to take down collapsed home and clean up properties. Councilman Yerdon would like to talk about what is going on in Lowville with the Wind Turbines. The company is trying to get assessments reduced on properties with the Turbines. The Resolution in support of taxation of wind equipment in New York State as Real Property will be attached to these minutes.

**NEXT TOWN BOARD MEETING:** November 15 2018 at 6:00pm.

**MEETING ADJOURNED:** A motion to adjourn was made by Councilman Yerdon and seconded by Councilwoman Haynes. *In a roll call vote, all were in favor with a vote of "AYE". 7:34pm*

Respectfully submitted by  
Millie Newcomb  
Town Clerk

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Respectfully submitted by  
Millie Newcomb  
Town Clerk

At a regular meeting of the Town Board for the Town of Richland held the 13<sup>th</sup> day of November 2018 at the Richland Town Hall, 1 Bridge Street, Richland, New York.

**RESOLUTION**

**WHEREAS**, the owners of Maple Ridge Wind Farm are seeking to have the assessments on the project's Lewis County properties reduced by hundreds of millions of dollars; and

**WHEREAS**, Flat Rock Windpower, LLC and Flat Rock Windpower II LLC have filed tax certiorari actions in State Supreme Court challenging the assessments on its nearly 200 wind turbines and associated transmission lines spread across the Towns of Martinsburg, Harrisburg, Lowville and Watson; and

**WHEREAS**, the companies maintain that none of the component parts of the "wind energy system" on each parcel constitutes real property, "and to the extent that the value of such was included in the final assessments of the Property, such assessments are illegal; and

**WHEREAS**, projects that cost hundreds of millions of dollars to build and will yield, over time, hundreds of millions of dollars in revenue will be assessed at a tiny fraction of their costs if the court grants the relief requested; and

**WHEREAS**, if the lawsuit is successful, it will have a significant impact statewide on the assessments of current and proposed wind energy projects; and


**WHEREAS**, the Town Board of the Town of Richland supports the taxation of wind energy equipment as real property and as a member of the New York State Association of Towns, is requesting that the association file an amicus curie brief supporting the taxation of wind equipment in New York State as real property; and

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Town of Richland supports the taxation of wind energy equipment as real property and does hereby request the New York State Association of Towns file an amicus brief supporting the taxation of wind farm equipment as real property in New York State.

**MOTION UNANIMOUSLY ADOPTED** by those members present.

DANIEL KRUPKE  
KERN YERDON  
SUE HAYNES  
DONNA GILSON  
ALAN GOODSSELL

AYE   NAY  
 AYE   NAY  
 AYE   NAY  
 AYE   NAY  
 AYE   NAY

  
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Millie Newcomb, Town Clerk