

TOWN OF RICHLAND

Joint Meeting with the Village of Pulaski Village Board

TBM08242018 - Town/Village Board Meeting

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August 24, 2018

The Town of Richland Town Board and the Village of Pulaski Village Board held a joint special meeting to discuss the Haldane Contract and review the letter sent to the Village Board by Supervisor Krupke earlier this week. This meeting was held in the Floyd Carpenter Board room on Thursday evening, August 24th, 2018 which is in the Snow Memorial Building on Jefferson Street in Pulaski, New York.

Town Board members in attendance included Councilwomen Donna Gilson and Sue Haynes, Councilmen Kern Yerdon and Allen Goodsell, and Supervisor Daniel Krupke. Special Projects Coordinator Bob North was also in attendance acting as clerk for this meeting. Village Board members in attendance were Trustees Jan Tighe and Robin Ford and Mayor Louis Rodriquez. Absent from this meeting were Trustees Alan Engelbrekt and Robert Dye.

This meeting was brought to order by Town of Richland Supervisor Daniel Krupke at 7:51 p.m...

Supervisor Krupke opened the line of communication by informing all in attendance of the contents of the letter sent to the Village on August 16, 2018. Mr. Krupke said the main topic in the letter was the possibilities for the termination of the IMA for the Haldane Building use along with all other aspects of the complex. At this time, Supervisor Krupke surrendered comments to Pulaski Village Mayor Rodriquez. The Mayor said he was taken back with the receipt and the tone of this letter. The Mayor also stated said he thought that a new regime would initiate a fresh new relationship. Mayor Rodriquez and Trustee Robin Ford informed the Richland Town Board that they should remember that much of the ideas and actions of the prior administration are either unknown or not the opinions of the current Village Board.

Next, Town Councilwoman Sue Haynes said after the last meeting with the Village, when the Haldane IMA was discussed, comments from Trustee Engelbrekt reflected a negative tone on this agreement. It was mentioned several times that the Town should remember that this is the Village's asset and the Town was just leasing it from the Village. The Village is still the owner of the property.

Councilwoman Gilson said this is a vague and unfounded statement. These comments prompted Mrs. Gilson's statement asking who really benefits from the lease and lease agreement. Mrs. Gilson said "It sounds like you (meaning Village Board) would like to take back full responsibilities of the day to day activities and operations of this Haldane Building in particular and the entire complex in general". Councilwoman Gilson advised that she has never seen the actual contract that was executed over twenty years ago. Councilwoman Gilson asked Village board members "What does the Village want to do with this asset, and what is the Village's long term plan for this asset"?

Mayor Rodriguez commented to his audience that when he took office, the "Haldane was a big issue". At that time, it was a tradeoff option where the Village would consider trading the Town's highway barn for the Haldane center/complex. The mayor commented that many agreements or conversations made between the prior Village administration and Town are not the opinions of or the knowledge of the current Village Administration. The Mayor informed the Town Board members that he just recently forwarded this information to their attorney for review.

Councilman Yerdon interjected that way back when the Village originally wanted the Town to lease the building and complex, the reason they approached the Town was because that actually said that "The Village of Pulaski can not afford to make the improvements to improve the fields, repair the roofs, build new facilities, install bathrooms and properly maintain and improve the infrastructure at this facility." Mr. Yerdon also commented that the Town must have an updated lease if the Town is to continue to participate in any improvements.

Supervisor Krupke reminded the Village Board of the grants that have been secured over the years and the many repairs done to the grounds and the building. Mr. Krupke also stated that other Towns have helped with projects by hauling sand, gravel, and stone. Mr. Krupke named the many projects and expenses over the last 20 years. Supervisor Krupke also informed the audience that a town lighting district has been set up just for the Haldane facility. It was noted that over the last two years, the Town has picked up insurance costs that were once the Village's cost. This lease is over 20 years old and needs to be revisited and re-written.

Mayor Rodriguez asked what the Town was looking for. The Mayor said the way I now understand it is the Town would like us to void and rewrite the current lease agreement or take the complex back over by running the day to day responsibilities and be responsible for the entire expenses assumed by the complex. Councilman Yerdon felt that situations and times have changed so much that the old contract is almost ineffective. Mr. Yerdon said it makes more sense to have our attorneys review and assist in re-writing a new contract. Mr. Yerdon said that over the last 20 years, the town has collected funds to install and improve the paths, walking trails and ball fields. These improvements alone cost over a ½ million dollars. Kern said that he was taken back many years ago when the Village quit our joint recreation program, without paying their share of the program. Mr. Yerdon stated that the percentage of the Village cost share was always based on total population, therefore, when sharing was in existence, the Village would pay 30% and the Town would pay 70%. The Town's Special Projects manager advised that there is some confusion between population-based reimbursements and actual population usages. Mr. North advised that as far back as he can remember, the majority of those attending the joint recreation program were closer to 25% from the Town and 75% from the Village. Trustee Tighe said the Village pays for Town wide Taxes on their Town and County tax bill, and they also pay for the same on their Village tax bill. Mrs. Tighe said that both governments should be striving for the "Betterment for the one Community" that we all live in. Town Supervisor Krupke said he thinks that the Town has always felt and done things for the "Betterment of one Community". Mr. Krupke advised that this year alone the Town has had over \$350,000. in expenses for the Haldane Complex. Dan wanted the Village to know that the Town had secured a \$100,000.00 grant for a new chiller a few month's ago.

Councilwoman Haynes said the Advisory Board for the Haldane Center has the right to cancel the agreement at any time. Mrs. Haynes said she would like to run some ideas by each board member. Sue, as well as the Village Mayor, said neither party should take this letter and confrontation personally.

Supervisor Krupke asked the Village Board to consider opening this current contract up for re-negotiation. Village Trustee Robin Ford said she too thought that the Town's DPW building and the Village's Haldane Complex were linked in an effort for the Town to obtain the Haldane as their own asset. Robin said it is only human nature for "Momma Bear to Protect her own." Supervisor Krupke said, " During the time that the Town was considering voting on building a new Highway Facility, they were also looking for another way to improve the current Town Barn, the construction of their previously purchased Salt Shed and place to mix the salt and sand for use on this year's roadways. "

Councilman Yerdon and Supervisor Krupke informed the Village Board of the visit from Chuck Johnson on Thursday morning that referenced the new New York State Fire Law adopted in Albany. This new law requires all volunteer Fire companies to carry Disability Insurance on interior fire fighters as soon as January 1, 2019, and the possibility of all firefighters in the next year. All firefighters will have to have cancer screenings before they can-do interior firefighting. Also, firefighters will have to have their fire fighting gear washed and dried each time that they are used on interior fires. Chuck Johnson said that the costs to comply with the new laws can cost as much as \$50,000. to \$60,000. It was noted that the independent fire companies have to hold to the 2% CAP that is required by the Office of the State Comptroller. Mr. Johnson wanted the Town to be aware of this because it is the Town that must collect the taxes for the Independent Fire Companies on the Town Tax bill which collects for Special Districts.

This new law will break the banks of many of the NYS small volunteer companies. These small districts will have no other option than to look for ways of more shared services or consolidate with other fire districts.

Trustee Ford wanted to take a minute to thank the Highway Department for its quick response and the professionalism shown during last week's deluge of rain creating so many flooding situations throughout the Town. She asked the Town Board to recognize these actions and send "Kudos" to the Town Highway Department personnel. Town Councilman Allen Goodsell said we are very fortunate to have the employees and supervision who take their jobs so serious.

Allen Goodsell said he has noticed a surge in growth this year in the Town and Village. Trustees Jan Tighe and Robin Ford said this can and will continue as long as the Town and Village become and stay "healthy partners" in the growth of our community.

Councilwoman Gilson asked what was going on regarding all the negativity that she has heard regarding "Fast-Track" and signage. Trustee Tighe answered this question by stating that when they applied for the original permit, they were permitted a certain amount of on premise signage. Fast Track said that this is not sales signage, but instead is considered marketing signage. This request of additional signage should have been on the original site plan when applying for the original building permit. The reason for restrictions on signage is to be able to control the amount of "visual clutter" that distracts drivers when driving. Trustee Tighe advised her audience that permit holders know what they are asking for and what they are allowed when they apply. In this case, Fast Track did not supply all of the proper information to the Planning Board when they applied. Therefore, Fast Track must apply for a variance.

Councilwoman Gilson said the village is discouraging businesses to locate in our area by being too strict on businesses that are trying to locate in the area. We didn't lower our standards from the 1970's when all the new business surge was developing, and we shouldn't now. Trustee Tighe said we

should strive for growth like that of Sacketts Harbor, N. Y... We are centrally located between Syracuse and Watertown and should be able to expect a healthy growth like that of Sacketts Harbor. Jan said that we (politicians of the area) do not sell ourselves to prospective business that would like to move into our area. Mrs. Tighe said, "We simply do not blow our horn enough."

In a directive statement to Trustee Tighe, Councilwoman Gilson told her that she should voice her opinions to her Village Planning Board, Village Zoning Board, or the Village's Board of Appeals but **should not** share those opinions at a Comprehensive Planning Board meeting as she did at last month's CPB meeting. Councilwoman Gilson was taken back by comments that she made to the members of the Comprehensive Plan Committee members. Mrs. Gilson said both Town and Village Governments should be making it easier to locate in the area and not harder. We need to be friendlier with the potential influx of businesses to our community.

Town Supervisor Dan Krupke said he would like to see the Village Board and Town Board meet in a day long seminar to develop a 5 Year and a 10 Year Shared Vision Plan for our Community. Mr. Krupke asked Mayor Rodriguez to get back in touch with him to set a scheduled meeting plan to discuss our "SHARED VISION PLAN" for the future.

Supervisor Krupke asked Trustee Tighe what she has heard from the grant for the sidewalk to the Pulaski Junior-Senior High School. Mrs. Tighe answered that she plans on receiving a notification by the end of October.

Before closing, Supervisor Krupke asked Mayor Rodriguez to contact the Village' attorney as soon as possible so the Town can contact their attorney to set up meeting dates to re-write the Haldane Contract. At the same time, both agreed to come up with a mutual date to discuss and review a 5 year and a 10-year Shared Vision Plan for each government.

With no other business to discuss, Councilwoman Gilson made a motion to close this meeting at 8:53p.m... This motion was seconded by Councilwoman Haynes.

This meeting was adjourned at 8:54 p.m....

Respectfully submitted;

Robert L. North
(Clerk)
Special Projects Coordinator