

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

**DATE:** May 11, 2021

**KIND OF MEETING:** Regular Town Board Meeting

**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:** Highway Superintendent, John Fox, Water, Parks & Rec Supervisor, Craig Sternberg, County Legislatures, Herb Yerdon and Ed Gilson, NYSDOT Rep Loren Gosselin, ZEO/CEO John Howland, Attorney Graham Seiter and Town Clerk, Millie Newcomb

**CALL TO ORDER:** The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. with Supervisor Krupke leading in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**PUBLIC HEARING:** Immediately after the Pledge of Allegiance, Supervisor Krupke opened the Public Hearing for the Moratorium on Solar Panel Installation in the Town of Richland. With no comments from the audience, ***a motion to close the Public Hearing was made by Councilman Yerdon and seconded by Councilwoman Haynes. In a roll call vote, all were in favor with a vote of "AYE". 6:03pm.***

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** No Public Comment at this time.

**LEGISLATIVE REPORT:** Legislature Herb Yerdon is here to give his report. Dolly Parton is sponsoring a reading program for 0-5 yr olds called "Inspire a Love for Reading ". This program is in conjunction with the Literacy Coalition of Oswego County. You may sign your children up by going to [www.imaginationlibrary.com](http://www.imaginationlibrary.com), or by stopping in the Town Clerk's Office for brochures. Applications for Veteran of the Year are also available in the Town Clerk's Office and

the Town of Richland's Facebook page. Anyone can take part in it. Hazard Waste opens on May 1st. It will be open 8-11 on Saturdays, Wednesday 8-2, at the Volney landfill facility. The facility will remain open until September 30th. Mr. Yerdon also gave the Town Board an update on the Covid 19 in Oswego County. NYS will have a Q&A on the new Cannabis Law on June 1st. The Q&A will be online and will answer questions about taxation and licensing. Nurses Week is going on now through May 12th. Rabies Clinic on May 19th is in Parish. A \$7.00 fee is requested and you must call for an appointment. All County Offices will start their summer office hours on June 1st. Those hours are 8:30-4:00 and will continue through August 30th. There will be a Job Fair in Fulton on May 12th across from Mimi's Restaurant, In Oswego at the Pier will have the annual waterfront open house. Legislature Ed Gilson is here to add to Mr. Yerdons comments. He gave the Board a copy of Towns in Oswego County that have Zoning. This does not include Towns with Comprehensive Plans. The DMV will be opening for walk-in Appointments on Tuesdays and Thursdays and by appointment Monday, Wednesdays and Fridays. Next discussion about tipping fees at the Transfer Stations. If provisions are made for Municipalities, to bring demotion materials, the towns get 50% off and also 50% off if Towns do town wide pickup of debris the transfer station would honor the 50% discount, but the debris would have to be taken to the Bristol Hill station in Volney. Back to the demolition, it has to be Town owned property. Supervisor Krupke added that that doesn't really serve the Towns purpose. A specific situation may be considered.

**ZONING AND CODE REPORTS:** Mr. Howland presented the Board with a list of permits. 30 Junk Letters have been sent out. As requested a spreadsheet was included. The Morse property in Richland on Co Rt 2 before Richland. The property has a lot of garbage around the property around it. Betsy Knapp at the Office of Real Property advised Mr Howland that the Higby, Hatfield property on Valley Road, the Poole and Granger properties will be going on the tax auction this year. Structures , Bears Sleepy Hollow, the owner hasn't touched the property even after he said he would. And the DEC property on Route 3 with the house that is in disrepair, The DEC doesn't have to follow the law so maybe Mr Seiter can write a letter to our Senator or Assemblyman. Discussion about what to do with properties that are in desperate need of cleaning up. Mr. Seiter agrees that an Administrative hearing may be the best step at this time. It's unfortunate that the LandLord is going to get stuck with the clean up bill. Mr Seiter will update the Board on the Bakula Property on US Rt 11 at next month's meeting. Mr Howland questioned whether the Moratorium on Solar Panels was a Local Law . Mr Seiter advised that at this time, it is not in effect because it has to be filed with New York State then after 20 days, it will become law. This law may not pertain to roof top panels. Mr Howland explained that another application was received by his office for a solar field on the Nicholson Property on County Route 28. This solar field would be completely hidden from view of the road. It's a 5 megawatt system A map of the location was shown to the Board. The application was submitted to Mr Howlands office. If the application has been submitted, Mr. Seiter would have to check to see if the application is grandfathered in because it's only an application. There will be a Public Hearing in June. The question is, does that entail them to the Grandfather status

because it came in before the law or is it the actual permit approval. Mr. Seiter believes its the permit approval. Mr Seiter believes the Law is in place because the Solar Group hasn't gotten the approval yet. It was asked if the Town Board could override the moratorium. ? The question is they made an application and they are in process and grandfathered in can the Board interpret it because it was in motion. Attorney Seiter advises" that pursuant to this moratorium, complications have been submitted to the Town through the Planning Board, the Zoning Officer/ Code enforcement Office , shall continue to the process for free standing solar panels nor shall it grant any preliminary or final approval for any site plan or special use permit which included a free standing solar panel installation as part of the application." All agree it's very contradicting. Mr Seiter agrees that the intent was not to be. Anything that was submitted and not approved should be put on hold. The moratorium's whole objective is to stop anything that has not been approved yet. Mr. Seiter thinks that they can still go through the Zoning Board of Appeals to argue why they should be allowed to proceed. In section B you have to show that there is extraordinary hardship if the project does not proceed. The Board agrees that the language needs to be corrected to read that the ZEO/CEO "shall not"process any free standing solar panels. The idea of the moratorium was to get the Solar Law done. The Board is very close in finishing the law. The permit was applied for on Thursday and done over the weekend. Attorney Seiter feels that the application can still go through the process but the permit will not be issued. The Board does not have a problem with the location. The public notice was published before the company applied for the permit. The company always files for the permit, not the property owner. It was not a goal of the Moratorium to discourage property owners to put in projects like this; the idea was to give it time to get the Solar Law done. Once a local law is passed you can't pick and choose what project goes and what one doesn't. An application is not a permit to start a project. The Moratorium, in Mr Seiter's opinion, stops everything that a moratorium does. The permit process can continue, but no permit can be issued.

**NEW YORK STATE DEPT TRANSPORTATION:** Loren Goslin from NYS Dept of Transportation is here to give a presentation on the NYS REDI Program, the Wall at the end of County Route 5 at the Selkirk Lighthouse.

**COMPREHENSIVE PLAN:** The SEQR part one is complete. The next step is mailing it out to all the agencies to ask for lead agency status. Once we don't hear back or get a response then Attorney Seiter will complete part 2 and it should be complete. He does need however, needs the new updates to the Comp Plan to send. This plan needs to be sent to 12 different agencies.

**DOG REPORT:** No report was received. Dog Enumeration will begin on June 1,2021. Postcards are going to be in mailboxes for all Town of Richland residents.

**HIGHWAY REPORT:** The paving of the roads was put up for bid. The town has received 2 bids. One bid from Hansen and Barrett. Last year NYS held back 20% of CHIPS money, Emergency Winter recovery and Pave New York from the Town. Superintendent Fox learned that the State has reinstated that money for this year and gave almost 30% raise in these monies, which comes to an increase in Chips money to \$41,000, Winter recovery \$14,000, Pave NY \$16,000. So that gives the Town \$186,800 in Chips money, Extreme winter recovery \$41,900, Pave NY \$49,600 for a total of \$278,392.00 then the 20% holdback money in the amount of \$61,000 for a grand total of \$339,500. Mr. Fox will have more solid figures when the email comes from New York State.

Tonight Superintendent Fox has 2 Paving Bids that were advertised for some roads in the Town of Richland. He broke the bids down into different proposal #1 and 2. He wasn't sure when the money would come through and with the cost of asphalt on the rise he thought it would work out better. The Bids are as follows: Hanson: \$399,661.51.

The 2 proposals for 3 roads Hinman Rd, Atkinson Rd and Salisbury Rd in the first proposal the second proposal is for Hinman Rd, Upper Canning Factory Rd and Cobb Rd. Proposal 1 from Barretts is \$211,722 and Proposal 2, \$360,306. ***A motion to accept the paving bids was made by Councilman Yerdon and seconded by Councilwoman Gilson. In a roll call vote all were in favor with a vote of "AYE". And a second motion to spend Highway Funds up to \$439,500 and go to the lowest bid was made by Councilwoman Gilson and seconded by Councilman Goodsell With no more discussion and in a roll call vote, all were in favor with a vote of "AYE".***

**WATER REPORT:** It's spring and things are getting busy. A new schedule of what Roads are being worked on in the Town is available if the Board is interested. Please see Mary for an updated list. The Towns property on South Main Street in Richland has been cleaned up. The Towns property will be posted by the end of the week. Mr. Sternberg has completed his water classes in Ithaca. He is now a class B & C operator.

**BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS & RICHLAND PARKS:** The Haldane mower has been down of late. The Highway has been great loaning the cemetery mower to use. The mower was repaired and has broken down again. Whites Farm Supply in Canastota has parts and will give the Town an estimate on the repairs or could be traded in. The motor has been known to have issues and with the age of the mower it may be time to purchase a new one. Mr. Sternberg has been getting estimates and looking at State Bids. The cost of fixing it could outspend the difference in buying a new one. The mower is currently out of service. The estimate on State bid is \$12,000 and an estimate of value of the old mower is \$5000-6000 if traded in. The difference is \$6000. Whites has offered to take off \$1000 if the Town purchases another mower. Whites have the parts and they also have a new mower in stock. There are 750 hours on the old mower. ***A motion to trade in the old mower and approve to spend up to \$6000 for a new one. The motion was made by Councilman Yerdon and seconded by Councilman Goodsell. In a roll call vote, all were in favor with a vote of "AYE".*** Councilwoman Haynes is concerned that Mr.

Sternberg is towing the Town owned trailer with his personal truck. Mr Sternberg advised the Board that his Vehicle has commercial vehicle insurance. Mrs Haynes is just concerned that if he was involved in an accident that everything would be covered. Mr. Sternberg says while this is not an ideal situation, she can be assured that everything would be covered with his insurance. The Town really doesn't have a policy to cover these kinds of things. The highway occasionally has a truck available for the Water Dept to use if needed. Communication has been open with the Richland Fire Dept. Maybe try to get an agreement with the Fire Dept on a lease basis for the area under the Water Tower. The Richland Playground Committee had a great meeting this month. Ideas were tossed around about making a platform for the zip line. Combination of mound and composite materials . Also a vendor event will be taking place at the Fire Department in Richland. Mr. Sternberg would like to get a port-a-john there and then move it to the Skatepark for the summer. ***A motion to accept the proposal to get the mound made for the zipline was made by Councilwoman Gilson and seconded by Councilwoman haynes. All were in favor with a vote of "AYE".*** Question as to when the Ceiling project was going to take place. The goal is to have it done within the next 30 days

**SUPERVISORS REPORT:** The Supervisors report for February and March 2021 was presented to the Board. With no discussion, ***a motion to accept the March Report was made by Councilwoman Haynes and seconded by Councilman Goodsell. In a roll call vote, all were in favor with a vote of "AYE".***

**JUSTICE REPORTS:** Justice reports for Justice Conger and Ridgeway for March 2021. ***A motion to accept the reports as submitted was made by Councilman Yerdon and seconded by Councilwoman Gilson. With no discussion, all were in favor with a vote of "AYE".***

**WARRANT OF BILLS:** Abstract #5 for 2021 is next. ***A motion to accept Abstract #5 for 2021 was made by Councilwoman Haynes and seconded by Councilman Goodsell. All members were in favor with a vote of "AYE".***

**TOWN BOARD MINUTES:** Minutes for April 11, 2021 are presented to the Board. ***With no Discussion, a motion to accept these minutes, was made by Councilman Goodsell and seconded by Councilman Yerdon. In a roll call vote, all were in favor with a vote of "AYE".***

**TOWN CLERKS REPORT:** ***A motion to accept the Town Clerks Report for April 2021 was made by Councilwoman Gilson and seconded by Councilman Goodsell. All were in favor with a vote of "AYE".***

**CEMETERY UPDATES:** No updates

**TOWN HISTORIAN REPORT:** Report by Shawn Doyle is in the packet for review.

**MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS:** The lease renewal for the Courthouse Offices had an increase of 3% this year. ***A motion to approve the contract with Oswego County for the Town Offices was made by Councilman Yerdon and seconded by Councilman Goodsell. In a roll call vote, all were in favor with a vote of "AYE".*** Quotes from ARCIT, the Towns IT support, for a new SonicWall and Antivirus software. The estimates are for a total of \$ 2200.00. In this day and time, the Board agrees it's in the best interest to get this software. The antivirus software is for all computers owned by the Town of Richland. ***A motion to purchase this software was made by Councilwoman Haynes and seconded by Councilman Goodsell. In a roll call vote, all were in favor with a vote of "AYE".*** An application was submitted by Jack Hayner to be Assistant Director for Summer Recreation. Mr. Hayner lives in Central Square. No other applications were submitted for this position and with that knowledge, ***the Board approved Mr. Hayner's application with a motion made by Councilman Yerdon and seconded by Councilman Goodsell. In a roll call vote, all were in favor with a vote of "AYE". A motion was made by Councilman Yerdon if there is no applicant for the position that the Summer Recreation program is looking for in the Town of Richland, according to the rule set in place by the Board, the Town may seek new hires outside the Township, starting with the adjoining Towns .This motion was seconded by Councilman Goodsell. In a roll call vote, all members agreed with a vote of "AYE".*** Notification from Teamsters Local #317 that Cory Pierson is now the Union Stewart. Assemblyman Will Barclay is going to hold a Town Hall here at the Courthouse on May 14th at 10:30 for anyone that would like to attend. Supervisor Krupke will reach out to Kristy LaMache about helping the Town find some grant money to maybe help with funding for a new Highway Garage or other projects. Superintendent Fox submitted a shared service purchase with the Town of Sandy Creek for a Stacker. A motion to enter into this agreement with Sandy Creek was made by Councilwoman Haynes and seconded by Councilwoman Gilson. In a roll call vote, all were in favor with a vote of "AYE". Superintendent Fox did the math on the Paving Bids and Hansens are cheaper than Barretts for options one and two. So the Bid is awarded to Hansen. Mr. Fox just received the Salt contract for 2021-2022 through Oswego County piggybacked from Onondaga County, The price went down \$11 per ton. Cemeteries are all picked up and mowed. Everything is running smoothly. The Town has received the new Tar Buggy that was approved by the Board. The Town of Sandy Creek would like to go in half with the Town. The cost was \$7000 so the Town of Sandy Creek would reimburse Richland \$3500. Sandy Creek's meeting is tomorrow night. Mr. Fox would like to purchase a stacker to go with the Screener that was purchased last year. As the screen runs, whatever falls out of it, the stacker that goes right underneath it and it's a 50' elevator that moves the material out from underneath the screener and piles it for you . It eliminated having to have a loader there to move. The price is \$25,000. Sandy Creek is asking for ½ or \$12,750. This is a shared service agreement. ***A motion to approve the purchase of the Stacker was made by Councilwoman Gilson and seconded by Councilwoman Haynes. In a roll call vote, all were in favor with a vote of "AYE".*** Supervisor

Krupke would like to update the Board a conversation that he had with Superintendent Fox about any extra money that the highway got this year and possibly using it to pave the trails at the Haldane Center. The Town is waiting for the cost. There are pros and cons to paving the trails. The Pro's would be less maintenance and easy for strollers and wheelchairs. One of the cons in Paving would make it hot to walk dogs and for the runners The board feels the pro's outweigh the cons. The Town will decide to proceed when they get the price of the asphalt. ***A motion to award the paving contract to Hansen for \$466,294.00 was made by Councilman Goodsell and seconded by Councilwoman Haynes. In a roll call vote, all were in favor with a vote of "AYE".***

**NEXT TOWN BOARD MEETING:** June 8, 2021 at 6:00 pm

**MEETING ADJOURNED:** With nothing more to bring before the Board, ***a motion to adjourn was made by Councilwoman Haynes and seconded by Councilman Goodsell. All were in favor with a vote of "AYE" at 8:45pm.***

Respectfully submitted by

Millie Newcomb  
Town Clerk