

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

DATE: December 13,2022

KIND OF MEETING: Regular Town Board Meeting

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

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Supervisor Kern Yerdon
Councilwoman Donna Gilson
Councilman Allen Goodsell
Councilwoman Sue Haynes(arrived 6:23)
Councilman Robert North

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE: County Legislature, Ed Gilson, Deputy Highway Superintendent/
B&G Supervisor Kevin Balcom, CEO/ZEO John Howland, Town Residents, Robert Jeffery, Tina
Lane, Swiat Kaczmer, Carl Falk, and Town Clerk Millie Newcomb

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

PUBLIC COMMENT: Town Resident Robert Jeffery would like to make the Town Highway aware
of a bad Box culvert on North Fernwood Road. The state has programs right now to assist towns
with repairs. Also, he advises that some heavy riprap should be put in along the culvert for
erosion control so the road isn't affected. Superintendent Fox is aware and advised that it's on
the list. The Towns machine will not reach it so they will have to contract the project out. The
name of the program is Bridge NY. Mr Jefferys can get Mr Fox the information on the grant. Tina
Lane of South Rainbow Shores Road would like to complement the Towns Office Staff for always
getting back in a timely manner whenever she has asked for information

ZONING AND CODE REPORTS: It's been a busy year. Over 100 permits for the year. Zoning
Books is done with the updates. A joint Zoning and Planning Board meeting will be held Monday
night. The Tug Hill meeting is at Turning Stone again on April 6th. Most of the debris at the Ella
Gibbs property in Richland is picked up and one car has been removed. There is an issue on

Sharon Drive with a right-of-way. Attorney Seiter talked to her. The owner would like an easement so she will have her Attorney draw one up. The corner of Lehigh Road and St Rt 13 is next. One shed will be turned into a camp which is allowed and a permit has been issued. And the owners will apply for a campground in the spring. Currently there is no power or water.

LEGISLATIVE REPORT : Legislator Ed Gilson is here tonight to update the Board on County business. There are a lot of financial things going on in the County at this time. This coming Thursday is a Legislature Meeting at 2:00pm at the Oswego Office Building. Then at 7:00 there will be a Public Hearing on the tentative Budget. This month will be proposing a Public Hearing for Local Law to adopt the CPace Energy Program. C-Pace is a Clean Energy Program. Its financing will be made available to anyone that wishes to seek out sustainable clean energy type projects. Typically these are fairly significant projects. What this does is, it's administered by a company called Epic. Which you are required to use in NYS. Onondaga County has adopted this and Oswego County has been looking at adopting it also. The owner of Tailwater has approached the County to adopt this sooner or later. This has to be adopted by a municipality that has tax lien authority. So it has to be done at the County level. It can be used by any township once it's passed by the County. One more financial tool to be used. The payment schedule is tailored to financial capabilities and ability to pay it back. This program stays with the Property. The only downside is foreclosure but typically these big projects don't go bankrupt. Mr Gilson would like to review the ARPA Contract that the Town has with the County. The reason is that it's not supposed to cause a hardship for the towns to implement with a lot of detailed red tape. You should not have to, the paperwork associated with this should be easily handled within the confines of the town office. The Board gave Mr Gilson permission to look over the contract. Mr Gilson did not want to do it without their permission.

WATER REPORT: The Board would like to discuss the turning off of water. Councilwoman Gilson strongly objects to this. Mr Novak clarified the position that he would like to see the Town of Richland adopt a policy for shutting water off based on dollar figures or and time. Shutting water off in place of placing the overdue bill on the property taxes. In the current year, there are 91 people that have not paid their water bill for a total of \$41,000. The town will see that money around April of 2023. This move is to stop the repeat offenders from doing it year after year. Attorney Seiter will do some research on this subject and get back with the Board. Discussion about raising the call out for non-emergency calls from \$50 to \$100. Per Mr. Novak, B&L has valued the Town of Richlands water system at \$70 million. That figure includes the towers, pipe, hydrants, valves all factoring in. The system as a whole at \$70 million. This figure can be backed up in the final engineering and the value is also in the insurance. Currently there are more users in the Town of Sandy Creek than in the Town of Richland. The Town has 1100 users at this time. There is an Extension letter sent out to 30 customers that are eligible. 29 of them would be for water district 5, one extension for water district 2. Of the 30 letters, we have received one positive and we expect 2 more. The other 27 would be no. 2 undeliverable. Our expectations would be 3 yes. The second is a 2 page letter to go out to the entire town of

Richland that is currently not hooked up. There are about 300 that do not have water. There is a crazy amount of money out there of State money to help with water systems. This will go away in 5 years.

A motion to go back into Executive Session to discuss water rates was made by Councilwoman Haynes and seconded by Councilman Goodsell. In a roll call vote, all were in favor with a vote of "AYE".7:42pm.

A motion to come out of Executive Session was made by Councilman North and seconded by Councilwoman Haynes. In a roll call vote, all were in favor with a vote of "AYE". 8:40pm.

Supervisor Clerk Tammie Whaley is requesting to amend one line item in the Budget, a recommendation, that on Water District #5 came in at a rate of \$921.05 for reasons of the project almost complete, the debt service payment went up \$103,000 and we don't have enough users hooked up to it to bring in the revenue and therefore she would like to make a suggestion to amend our budget for Water District #5 by allocating \$35,000 from our fund balance to lower that tax rate in Water District 5 to \$762.99. Per the tax map agreement, residents were told that it would be about \$660.00 and an additional fee to bring it up to \$735.00 . ***A motion to to approve the budget amendment of \$35,000 from fund balance to lower the rate in Water District #5. The motion was made by Councilman Goodsell and seconded by Councilwoman Gilson. In a roll call vote, all members were in favor with a vote of "AYE". Mrs. Whaley will get the change to the County in the morning.***

Water Supervisor Novak received a letter from the County Health Department over concerns , it mandates continuous chlorine monitors at the Fernwood site and the Richland site asap. The issue is when B&L designed water district 5 the additional users triggered the NYS threshold of 3300 users in the system and you are mandated at that point to have continuous Chlorine residual monitors which are connected to your scada alarm system. They will notify the Water Department when the residuals go down. The cost is \$16,098 to stall those 2 systems, one at each location. Conversation with B&L, Mr Novak told them it was an oversight on B&L's part and it should be covered under this contract. It will take 4-6 weeks to get the parts. There is a slim possibility that we may have to foot the bill until we can get the money back. Last night the Water Department was called out for a valve failure. Bob Hicks was being called every 4 hours. A new Radio System may have to be ordered at the cost of \$2000.

BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS & RICHLAND PARKS: Kevin Balcom is here to give his report. The windows have been repaired at the water building. He was able to use the sash to fix the other window that was broken. The wires for the cameras have been run at the Haldane . The water bottle dispenser is in and working. Changed out 10-12 4' bulbs and fixtures. He has placed plywood over the windows in the football tower . Lights in the shop come on at light now. Built a 4x8 shelf for the DEF fluid on.

Supervisor Yerdon would like to make a motion to go into Executive Session for Employee issues. ***This motion was made by Councilman Goodsell and seconded by Councilwoman Gilson. In a roll call vote, all were in favor with a vote of "AYE". 6:23pm***
A motion to exit Executive Session was made by Councilwoman Haynes 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 North and seconded by Councilwoman Haynes to back into regular session. In a roll call vote, all were in favor with a vote of "AYE". 7:00pm. No action was taken.

Next, a progress letter from K&L Consulting. Superintendent Fox told Supervisor Yerdon that while attending a meeting last and a Representative from a Salt Shed company claims that NYS has opened up State Grants to purchase Salt Sheds. He was told that they just changed it from a 50-50 split to something much better. She told the group to reach out to the Towns Grant writer to have them look into it. Deputy Clerk Julie Peterson will reach out to Kristy La Manche.

DOG REPORT: Dog Report was presented to the Board. With no comment, ***a motion to accept the Dog Control Report was made by Councilwoman Gilson and seconded by Councilwoman Haynes. In a roll call vote, all were in favor with a vote of "AYE".***

HIGHWAY REPORT: Operating with a Full Crew days and nights, working 8 hours a day. All the plowing routes are marked. Watching his budget. Costs are catching up with everything. Mr. Fox advised the Board that he has a price for a new 2023 PU. The price has increased significantly. The new truck price is listed at \$60,800 but the municipal price is \$55,684 The 33% discount is no more. The Highway is looking for a newer dozer. The current one is a 1989 and there are no parts available. Mr Fox has gotten a price for a 2014 with 3000 hours for \$99,369. Superintendent Fox has money in his budget for the Truck and Dozer. Supervisor Yerdon would like to have Mr. Fox bring this back at the December 29th meeting.

SUPERVISOR REPORT: The Supervisors Report is next. With no discussion, ***a motion to accept the report as presented was made by Councilwoman Gilson and seconded by Councilman North. In a roll call vote, all were in favor with a vote of "AYE".***

COMPREHENSIVE PLANNING BOARD MINUTES/UPDATES: No report.

JUSTICE REPORTS: ***A motion to accept the October Justice reports for Justice's Conger and Ridgeway was made by Councilman Goodsell and Councilwoman Haynes. With no discussion and in a roll call vote, all were in favor with a vote of "AYE"***

WARRANT OF BILLS: ***A motion to accept and pay Abstract # 12 was made by Councilwoman Gilson and seconded by Councilwoman Haynes. In a roll call vote, all were in favor with a vote of "AYE".***

TOWN BOARD MINUTES: Town Board Minutes for September 29, October 21, October 25, and November 8, and November 15, were presented to the Board. With no comments or discussion, ***a motion to accept the Minutes as presented was made by Councilwoman Haynes and seconded by Councilman Goodsell. 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 November 2022 was made by Councilman North and seconded by Councilwoman Haynes. In a roll call vote, all were in favor with a vote of "AYE".***

CEMETERY UPDATES: No updates Councilman North inquired about the antennas at the Cemetery on County Route 28. Mr Novak advised that these are antennas for the Zenner meters.

TOWN HISTORIAN REPORT: No report.

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS: A Public Hearing will be scheduled for the January Meeting for Local Law #1 of 2023. Attorney Seiter advised the Board that the IDA is asking for a Purchase agreement for the property on Peck Road . The Town will take care of surveys and closing costs, and Attorney Seiter will draw the offer up. ***A motion was made to cover all expenses such as surveys, abstract. This motion was made by Councilman North and seconded by Councilwoman Haynes. In a roll call vote, all were in favor with a vote of "AYE".***

NEXT TOWN BOARD MEETING: Year End Meeting December 29 and Regular Town Board Meeting, January 10, 2023

MEETING ADJOURNED: Nothing more to bring before the Board ***a motion to adjourn was made by Councilman North and seconded by Councilwoman Haynes. In a roll call vote, all were in agreement with a vote of "AYE". 9:09pm.***

Respectfully submitted by

Millie Newcomb
Town Clerk