

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

DATE: February 8, 2022

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
Councilman Robert North

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE: Deputy Highway/B&G Supervisor Kevin Balcom, Water Supervisor, Ron Novak, County Legislatures Herb Yerdon and Ed Gilson, Attorney Graham Seiter, Town of Richland Highway workers, Matt LaPoint, Doug Haynes, Sheldon Higby, Town resident, Robert Jeffery, B&L representatives, Dustin Clark, Brett McVoy, 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 FOR SEQRS: The Public Hearing for Grant Improvement SEQRS(2) There were 2 Negative Declarations. One for the Fireman's Pond and the Playground. No one in the audience was here to speak on behalf of the public hearing. ***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".***

PUBLIC COMMENT: Part-time Highway worker Doug Haynes would like to address the board about issues at the Highway garage regarding part-time pay rates for seasonal workers. Mr. Haynes has worked at the Highway Department for the winter months for 11-12 yrs. In the last few weeks there have been changes in the way the pay has been figured. He states that in the last few years he has been a full time seasonal worker. He then talked to Superintendent Fox and told him that he didn't want to work full time, that in the slow time, when he wasn't

busy, he would just go home. So he decided that he would be "on call", come in to plow and sand and go home. Many times they get called in at 3:30 am. He gets up at 2:30 am, he would go in and do 1 run in the plow. It takes about 2 1/2 to do. So maybe get back about 6-6:30. Mr Haynes would sign out and go home. Even if he has to stay and do another run, he would work from 3:30 am to 6:00, he would get over time just like everyone else. Then everyone goes back at 6:00am. The full time and seasonal people would work until 2:30, a regular shift. He may leave at 6:30 or 10:30 or work the whole day. It didn't matter to him. Now, if he goes in at 3:30am and works until 6:00am that is 2 1/2 hours of overtime. At 6:00 he would sign out over time and go into regular time. So I am going in at 3:30am for straight time pay, the other 9 guys are getting time and a half pay, I'm getting straight time. That is during the week. Now with the call-ins, I don't get call in's anymore in my case. If they tell me that they plan on coming in today at 3:30 because it's storming out, I come in at 3:30 and I get zero call in pay, along with the rest of the guys. This is the way the contract is set up. But I get zero call in, zero overtime, and I go in for 2 1/2 hours, getting up at 2:30 start at 3:30am, making \$16.50 per hour. I'm there for 2 1/2 hours of overtime for \$ 41.00 and they probably take out \$3.00 for taxes. I make \$38.00. He would like to ask the Board or anyone here if they would get up at 2:30am for that kind of money?. Mr. Haynes has never turned down time when he is called. He thinks it's wrong that this is happening. He feels that he is doing the Town a favor for coming in when needed and going home when he's not. If this continues, he is going to make his decision whether or not he will stay working for the Town. Kevin Balcom, acting Highway Superintendent spoke on behalf of the seasonal workers. In his opinion if he has workers that he can use to work and send them home when he is done with them works well for him and the Town as far as he is concerned. Matt LaPoint and Sheldon Higby are seasonal workers who also feel the same way as Mr. Haynes. Per Mr. Balcom, he would be pretty hard pressed if we lost 3 workers at this time. Discussion turned to comp time with Mr LaPoint and how he uses this for extra paychecks at the end of plow season. These checks cover his bills until unemployment kicks in.

ZONING AND CODE REPORTS: CEO/ZEO Howland is not here tonight. His report has been presented to the Board.

LEGISLATIVE REPORT: Covid is still here but on the decline. For home tests, there are protocols to follow for positive results. Storing the tests, please remember to store them between 36-86 degrees. The county has purchased testing kits and will be giving them out in the near future at the Sandy Creek firehall. There is an increase in rabies from bats. There will be a hiring event at the Oswego County opportunities on February 17th. The State announced automatic renewals for Senior and Enhanced Star applications. A resolution will have to be passed for Towns to grant the exemption renewal. Legislature Gilson is next. The is going to be a Towing Ordinance/Resolution that the county will look at. A public hearing will be held probably 6 weeks from now. What this is about is for non-consensual towing. Rates will be sent. If there is an abandoned car or can't get a hold of the owner you will have to have this county permit to tow and be in agreement to do this for a reasonable amount. Some towing agencies have been

taking advantage of prices of impoundments. Goal workshops have started. A new Goal will be starting the Office for Strategic Initiatives . Dave Turner has agreed to oversee this project. This will help manage the ARPA Funds. Mr. Turner will gather information and present it to a special task force. This task force is composed of legislatures and people from the public. Mr. Gilson has been appointed to this group. There is \$22 million dollars in funding. There are 2 years to allocate the money and 4 years to spend it. One of the projects will be expanding broadband throughout the county. There will be a lot more information coming on this in the future.

COMPREHENSIVE PLANNING BOARD UPDATES: This will come back to our next meeting. Dawn Holynski asked for it to come back in March.

BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS & RICHLAND PARKS: Main building. Insurance guy came. A lot of things failed. New wiring has been installed to alleviate the problem. The refrigerator, coffee maker and microwave now have their own gfi. A new 12-2 wire was run from the breaker so now they all have their own GFI. A 30 amp breaker for the compressor shorted out is now fixed. Bad ground on the soda machine is now replaced. The modine in the shop is now fixed in the break room. Thermostats in the break room and southside of the building are now fixed. A new ladder rack was built for truck #20. The Haldane ceiling is leaking from ice build up. New OSB was installed . Ceiling at the Water Building was checked for insulation. R38 is in the ceiling . Fixed a light that was falling down. Bolted down the line that filled the offices at the Water Building with water, a home made bracket was made to help hold it down. Isaac Heating has finished the heat in the Building also.

DOG REPORT: No report. Report from Ag and Markets inspection report was in the Boards packet for review.

HIGHWAY REPORT: Acting Highway Superintendent Kevin Balcom is here for the Highway report. Superintendent Fox really didn't have anything . Just an update on his surgery, He looks tired but he is doing exercises and thinks he will be back soon. Truck #96 clutch fan went out. A bunch of men worked on it and it's back up and working. The mower the rolling bearings went and new blades were installed on it but it's repaired and will be ready for mowing when needed. The spare truck #23. The sander bottom was ripped out of it. This is now repaired. Truck #22 , put a new exhaust on it. Plow edge on the small pick up #20, which is used at the Haldane Center, was repaired. Trucks 10 and 96 had push arms rebuilt and then truck #96 blew hydraulic lines . What no one ever sees is 3 guys laying on the ground with hydraulic oil and they had that truck fixed within 1 hour. No one complained, they just went to work to fix it. Two seasonal guys fixed it and those are 2 that work for not much money. A lot of projects are coming up to keep everyone busy.

B&L: Feasibility study. Mary Yerdon had compiled a list of people that had expressed interest in getting water. Some of them are already in a district so it was just a matter of getting them a new service. Most of them were not in the district. So how do you go about getting them in as an outside user within the town but not in a district. It's a challenge. It's not a one size fits all for each property. Like one property next to the end of the line or next to the district and you can pretty easily put a service in. A new service on an existing main and that is the case an extension to the water district is a really convenient and fast, cheap way to get them connected. That doesn't go for everyone. If you go too far and start putting pipes in the mix with an extension it becomes very difficult and it's very expensive to ask up front to pay the cost of that and the cost of the district. So that's where another option is a new service area or district. Whatever that might be. And with that comes another potential like we have done with the last 2 districts, joint projects. The Town of Sandy Creek is looking again for water in their town. We have made the connections with the two towns with the exception of Co rt 48. You have Albion to the east, Sandy Creek to the North and possibly Orwell. There is a lot of potential to get water out there. Councilman Goodsell suggested that maybe a meeting between the towns that are looking to get water from Richland. Mr. Clark said it's a good idea to speak to everyone that is interested. One of the reasons he is here is because the Town of Orwell is looking at their project and possibly getting the water from Richland. This study basically leads into discussions with other possibilities. Water Board Chairperson, Donna Gilson thinks this is a good idea to get going. Mr Clark feels there is enough discussion to get going. Once a pipe is in the ground is when it gets hard for people to come up with \$1000. Extensions usually take 6 months from start to finish. There is a lot of infrastructure money coming out but it moves slowly coming from New York State. The sooner we get started the better. Build the case and move slowly. The Town of Ellisburg is interested but has just started with them. Mrs. Gilson said there was good conversation with the Water Board to move ahead. No one knows without the feasibility study being done. Will this study tell us how many extensions there may be and the cost? Getting a plan for the extension is the plan. Water Supervisor Novak is in agreement to move ahead with the study. ***A motion to move ahead with the study was made by Councilman Goodsell and seconded by Councilwoman Haynes. In a roll call vote, all were in favor with a vote of "AYE".*** The other item is the rate at which the Town wants to sell water. Special circumstances, it's a joint project with the Town of Sandy Creek. Dustin's recommendation is that the Town separate the inside user rate and the outside user rate for someone that comes to the Town, such as Alford Farms. It's not fair for users in the district to pay the same rate as an outside user. With that being said, the Town has a phenomenal water source in quantity and quality and it's an unbelievable asset. I have always been an advocate to be a good neighbor and share resources. But it's the Towns choice. At the end of the day, the town of Orwell will be wanting to connect to Richland. B&L is the engineer for that project. Richland will get a formal letter from Orwell. Councilman Yerdon feels the two Towns should meet to discuss this project. At the moment the town gets \$2.50 per 1000 gallons. It's suggested that the Town goes to \$3.00 per 1000 gallons. The Town of Orwell uses roughly 20,000 per day. Revenue to the Town will be about \$32,000. It's not a snap decision, there is a lot of discussion to be had.

A one time connection fee may be established . The town of Orwell would pay a one time connection fee to hook into Richlands water. The pump on Richlands side would be pushing the water to Orwell. There are a lot of different ways to do it. Dustin to coordinate a meeting with Orwell in the near future. The Town Board is available to meet during the day if needed. The water project is down at the moment due to weather.

WATER REPORT: Water Supervisor Ron Novak is up next . He has a list of 18 items but will make it brief. The chloratic system has been repaired. The dollar bill exchanger at the water building has been installed and is operational. Switched the fuel tank at the water building on Co rt 41 over to Glider and had a 500 gallon tank installed. The Town is now receiving fuel at the state contract rate. Set up a diesel account to have diesel delivered to the generator at Fernwood. The tank inspection has been done. The heat at co rt 41 is working very nicely. All recall work on Joe's truck has been completed. There was a water main break on South Ramona Beach Road. WE lost about 100,000 gallons. The 2" main pulled out of the coupling. It's our property and repairs. The backhoe that was on the scene could not penetrate the frost so they will have to go back in the spring for repairs. They discovered a leak in the Maltby Road Vault today. One of the lines, the pilot valve. It was repaired. Also in the Atkinson Road vault, there is a leak in a 6" line next to a valve. Parts have been ordered and will be repaired on Thursday. Buildings and Grounds Superintendent Kevin Balcom has started working on the Utility Trailer. The trailer has been backed into the Garage at the Water Building. Blair that supplies parts for the Water Dept. tells Mr Novak that parts are going up. Pressure valves are about a month out and are getting hard to get. Meter Pits are over 3 months to get. They have 11 meter pits in inventory now and have 12 on order. He only has 6 ¾" set ups, 1 1 inch set up , with the month lead up time, Mr Novak has asked for a quote for 24 ¾ set ups and they are necessary parts so there would be parts for the 23 valve pits and that quote is \$10,532.16. We sell to everyone and mark it up 10% so the money is going back but the prices are going up so fast. At a minimum Mr Novak would like to order at least 24 sets or the \$10,532.16 to buy these parts. The water dept has 11 sets in inventory 12 on order already from Blair. The longer we wait the more the price increases and the availability becomes more difficult. ***A motion to approve 48 assemblies was made by Councilman Yerdon and seconded by Councilman North. In a roll call vote, all were in favor with a vote of "AYE".*** We have two different brands of chemical feed pumps. BMI in Richland and another kind in Fernwood it's the nature of the beast when you build a water system based on several water districts. We have 3 different brands of hydrants, and when you have the different brands you have to have those parts on the shelf to fix them. The pumps in Richland are about 14 years old. WE have rebuilt them once. One of the two back up chemical pumps broke down and the parts are going to be \$507.95 to repair the pump. Mr Novak has already ordered the parts. If we want to convert over the pumps to what we have in Fernwood, it will be about \$3000.00. Right now in good faith, I say to that right now buy them, we can maybe think about it later on down the road. Sleeves for the 10" ductile iron cost is \$534.00. Mr Novak has already ordered the sleeves and would like the authorization for that order to

come from the ARPA money just like the other repair pieces came from. Supervisor Krupke advised the Board before we approve his last request is that there are other requests for the trailer to purchase a generator and such. There is a generator at McQuade and Bannigan 6500 watt honda electric start on the floor. They only had 2 left the cost of that is \$2,749.00 The Board recommends having these parts in inventory and to spend the \$10,532.16 There are many things that Mr. Novak would like the Board to know about. First, the lack of parts and valve in case of an emergency water main or line leak. McQuade and Bannigan have a 6500 watt electric start generator on the floor. They only have 2 left. The cost of that is \$ 2749.00 They would wire a 30 amp plug into the trailer and have a cable that would plug the generator into the plug. They will have a 50 amp circuit breaker in the trailer box and have lighting. And it's good for the job site. We do have a sup pump. Councilman Yerdon agrees with Mr Novak that these items are needed. Also, the Water Department is in need of safety equipment. At the moment, all they have is 5 safety cones. They don't have safety barriers, no legal "Men Working " signs, There are a lot of different things that they are required to have, especially working on the roadsides to meet state and federal guidelines on different things and or to meet OSHA guidelines. Mr. Novak is requesting about \$2000 to purchase safety equipment. This is for public and personal safety. A recommendation from Supervisor Krupke \$5000 to come out to the ARPA monies that we already approved \$10,000, take another \$5000 to purchase safety gear, signage and the generator. That should cover everything. The generator is on hold for the Town. Mr Novak did just purchase a cut off saw at House Trucking, so now they have a saw to cut Ductile iron pipe. The Town has committed over \$100,000 of the ARPA money out of the \$170,000 plus that the Town has received. \$75,000 or so going toward the CFA Grant that we are doing for th parks and the rest that the Town has committed to the Water Department. The Town still has about \$65,000 left. The Town gets another \$175,000 in July in round 2. ***A motion to commit another \$5000 to get the tools and equipment that the Water Department needs was made by Councilman Goodsell and seconded by Councilwoman Haynes. In a roll call vote, all were in favor with a vote of "AYE".*** The last item is that the generator at the Well field has been giving everyone fits. In the last week they men have replaced a starter, alternator, and new cables. Work was done last September for some of the problems Mr. Novak thinks the cost was around \$2500. The generator will not auto start. It will start manually. Both valve covers are leaking. Waiting for spring to arrive before they attempt to repair that. The radiator is leaking now and the cost for a new one is \$4162.17 plus freight. It's leaking at the seam. Alan Kling has not had a chance to go up and look at it. It lost about ½ gallon of coolant in 6 days. It doesn't look like it would be a hard job to get the radiator off. First plan is to have the Town mechanic look at it. The Water dept is doing everything to repair it and keep it running. The backup is, after speaking to Jim Soule of Scriba Electric, he can have a trailer mounted generator at the well field within 3-4 hours and have it running within 1 hour. Mr Novak advised the Board to replace this generator the Town is looking at between \$38-46,000 to replace an 80-90 KW generator. It's recommended to stay with a propane fired generator because of the location at the well fields. The good/bad news is that we can keep it operating but have to babysit it and we do have a backup plan. To move forward we will wait to see how it goes with the

repairs. Mr. Novak would like to stay with Cat especially since they have an office/repair people close by. Lastly, Mr. Novak would like a 3rd employee. Maybe start with a part time employee and move into full time. There is an Operator B course coming up on April 4-8. With the union contract, the opportunity has to be one of the highway workers. If one is interested they have the first option to go to the water dept. Councilman Yerdon asked Supervisor Krupke if the highway employee they spoke of before was still interested in the position. Just to keep in mind to bring another person on board it's an \$80,000 expenditure. The loan for the meters has another year. It was built into the budget to have a part time person for 20 hours a week for 12 weeks. One last thing, talking about snow removal at the Richland Well field. There was a New Holland roadside mower that was sitting at the Town Barn. This would be an ideal piece of equipment to blow snow with at the well site. Mr Novak called Waldorf Equipment and an 8' blower for that piece of equipment is \$10696 and a 9' blower would be \$11,964. This is just an idea for the future. The cab is heated. Right now the Water Department is plowing the road and plowing down to the well heads that sometimes are very difficult to get to. Well #5 is a long way back. This is a piece of equipment that the Town already owns and is stored in the garage taking up space.

RICHLAND TOWN PARKS: A resolution for the SEQR findings, negative declarations was passed at the meeting that was held with Grant Writer Kristy LaManche. A motion is needed to Authorize Supervisor Krupke to sign the SEQR findings. ***A motion was made by Councilwoman Haynes and seconded by Councilman North. In a roll call vote, all were in favor with a vote of "AYE".***

HALDANE COMMITTEE REPORT: A complaint from a Village resident about the walking trail at the Haldane Center. The Town Highway Department went down and cleaned the walking trail. The committee has decided that it's too much of a liability for the Town to keep the trail clear in the Winter months. Councilwoman Haynes says it's too much for the Town Highway to maintain in the winter months due to staffing. Councilman Yerdon thinks a sign should be put up at both ends saying "closed for the winter". Councilwoman Haynes will let the resident know of the decision.

SUPERVISOR REPORT: Supervisors report for December 2021 and the Year End Budget Transfers, and the Fund to Fund transfers. The Transfers will be attached to these minutes. ***A motion to approve the Supervisors report and the transfers as presented was made by Councilman North and seconded by Councilman Goodsell. In a roll call vote, all were in favor with a vote of "AYE".***

JUSTICE REPORTS: Justice reports . Judge Conger's report for December 2021 was presented to the Board for review. A unified Court Audit must be done. Councilman Yerdon suggested having Laird Petrie do the audit.

WARRANT OF BILLS: Abstract # 15 of 2021 and Abstract #2 of 2022 was presented to the Board for review. With no discussion, ***a motion to accept the abstracts presented was made by Councilman Goodsell and seconded by Councilwoman Haynes. In a roll call vote, all were in agreement with a vote of "AYE".***

TOWN BOARD MINUTES & TOWN CLERKS REPORT: Town Board Minutes for January 11th and the Town Clerk Report for January was up next. ***With no discussion, a motion to accept both reports was made by Councilman Yerdon and seconded by Councilman North. In a roll call vote, all were in favor with a vote of "AYE".***

ASSESSORS RESOLUTION FOR SENIOR CITIZENS: A resolution to grant Senior Citizens and the Disabled Exemptions for 2022. ***A motion to accept this resolution was made by Councilman North and seconded by Councilwoman Haynes. In a roll call vote, all were in favor with a vote of "AYE".***

CANNABIS LAW: We have to change the date of the optioning out of the Cannabis Law Local Law # 4 of 2021. New York State would not accept the date of any Local Law with the 2021 date on it . Even though it was adopted by the Board in 2021 we have to change it to Local Law #1 of 2022. ***A motion to approve changing the date on the Local Law #1 of 2022 was made by Councilwoman Haynes and seconded by Councilman North. In a roll call vote, all were in favor with a vote of "AYE".***

CEMETERY UPDATES: No updates

TOWN HISTORIAN REPORT: No report.

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS: Received a letter from the DOT recognising our request for reduction in the speed limit on Lehigh Road. The investigation has started. Conversation into the Deputy Highway Superintendent pay rate.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: ***A motion to go into Executive Session to discuss the Employee Handbook was made by Councilman Goodsell and seconded by Councilwoman Haynes. In a roll call vote, all were in favor with a vote of "AYE". 8:12pm***

At 9:27 pm ***A motion to come out of Executive Session was made by Councilman Yerdon and seconded by Councilwoman Haynes. In a roll call vote, all were in favor with a vote of "AYE".*** Back to regular session 9:27pm. The results of the Executive session ***A motion to accept all of the revisions of the Employee Handbook was made by Councilman Yerdon and seconded by***

Councilwoman Haynes. In a roll call vote, all members were in agreement with a vote of "AYE". Discussion about a Highschool student from CITI BOCES working with the Highway Department as an Intern. The Board decided to change the status of the Intern into a "CO-OP" and pay him \$15 per hour. The Student must abide by all regulations put forth with the agreement. A motion to accept the terms of the "intern" to the "co-op" and by him \$15 per hour was made by Councilman Goodsell and seconded by Councilman Yerdon. In a roll call vote, all were in favor with a vote of "AYE". Next is a discussion about the Richland Parks Project. Attorney Graham Seiter suggested that he can contract an Abstract company and a Land Surveyor to get the ball rolling for the Park Project. With no objections from the Board, ***a motion to have Attorney Seiter get the Abstracts updated along with the surveys was made by Councilman Goodsell and seconded by Councilman Yerdon. In a roll call vote, all were in favor with a vote of "AYE".***

MEETING ADJOURNED: With nothing more to bring before the Board a motion to adjourn was made by Councilwoman Haynes and seconded by Councilman North. In a roll call vote, all were in favor with a vote of "AYE" 9:38pm

NEXT TOWN BOARD MEETING: March 8, 2022 at 6:00pm

Respectfully submitted by

Millie Newcomb
Town Clerk