

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

DATE: July 12,2022

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
Councilman Robert North

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE: ZBA member Swiatoslav Kaczmar, Legislatures Herb Yerdon and Ed Gilson, Buildings and Grounds Supervisor, Kevin Balcom, Dog Control Officer , Elisa Dunn, CEO/ZEO John Howland, Water Supervisor Ron Novak, Highway Superintendent John Fox, Attorney Graham Seiter 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 HEARING FOR UPDATES ON THE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN: Supervisor Yerdon opened the Public Hearing at 6:01 pm. Councilwoman Gilson updated the audience with the big strides that the Comprehensive Committee has been making with the plan. It's a live document with continual upgrades. It happens to be the upgrade to the plan. Councilwoman Gilson spoke to the Chairperson of the Committee, Dawn Holynski, and she would like to express the board has worked very hard on this plan over the last several years and she wanted everyone to know that she appreciates everyone's support. With no comments from the audience, ***a motion to close the Public Hearing was made by Councilwoman Haynes and seconded by Councilman Goodsell. In a roll call vote, all members were in agreement with a vote of "AYE". 6:03pm.***

PUBLIC COMMENT: No Public Comment

LEGISLATIVE REPORT: Legislature Herb Yerdon would like to Congratulate Supervisor Yerdon on his recent appointment to Town Supervisor of the Town of Richland. The Oswego County Motor Vehicle Department will be offering evening hours on Wednesdays starting July 13th. These hours will be only at the Oswego Office only. The office will only be open until 6:45pm. The Office of the Aging will have applications available for assistance and other programs. The office will be traveling to different locations around the county. They will be in Parish, Central Square, Phoenix and Sandy Creek Town Halls on the 4th Wednesday of the month from 10:00am until 12:00. The Town Clerk will post this notice on the Facebook page for the Town of Richland. NYS and Oswego County are monitoring the silo fire that is ongoing at the old Miller Brewery site in Fulton. The County, State, and DEC are monitoring the air quality and advise there is no danger to the residents. The Oswego County Health Director has retired and has been replaced by Vera Dunsmoor. A reminder to order the at home COVID test kits. It's still a problem in the county. As of this date, 200 Oswego County residents have died of this virus. The County Health Department has vaccine clinics which include the COVID vaccines for children 6 months to 4 years old. Legislature Gilson is next. He would also like to congratulate Supervisor Yerdon on his recent appointment to Town Supervisor and Donna Gilson to her appointment to the Town Board. Mr. Gilson advised that he reached out to the DOT to see where we stand with Lehigh Road as to the reduction of the speed limit. Superintendent Fox advised that the new speed limit signs are up. The Town Clerk received a letter from the NYSDOT that the speed reduction had been approved and that the new speed limit on Lehigh Road from Co. Rt 28 to St Rt 13 is now 45mph. The Legislature will be voting on a resolution to approve the County Auction date to August 18th. There are 105 parcels. One property in the Town of Richland, Village of Pulaski, was purchased by the Land bank. It is 4004 Port St. This property is a 2 family home and the plan is to turn it back into a 1 family home. Mr Gilson thinks there are 7-9 properties that the Land Bank has purchased to rehab.

ZONING AND CODE REPORTS: The list of permits was submitted to the Board for review. More follow up letters for junk are going out. The house/shed that someone is living in on County Route 2, Attorney Seiter is going to send them one more letter. If there is no response, the Board can decide what they want to do at the next meeting. The other property that was sent to the administrative hearing last fall on County Route 2 is starting to get junky again. He is going to send them a letter and hopefully have an answer before the next meeting. It still hasn't gone through probate so there is not an owner. It's still in the deceased owner's name. We need to talk about an Administrative Warrant. Attorney Seiter explained to the Board that what would need to happen is it would be a Public Administration. More likely than not we would have the County Treasurer named as the Administrator of the Estate. Once that happens we then do the work to find out who the heirs of the property are. Then, once we have those names, then we can start getting down to business by getting them before this board or going after them in Supreme Court to get the property cleaned up. It's very costly to do. Mr Howland feels that if he can find out who the tenants are there now, maybe Mr. Seiter can send them a letter with an explanation of what will happen, even though we can't come after the

Morris' because they are deceased. The Planning Board needs an Alternate since Donna Gilson has been named to the Town Board. Mr. Howland received a letter from Comp Board Chairwoman Holynski about scheduling another meeting about the subdivision of some farm land on Atkinson Road. Waiting on the changes from Mr. Pavia that the Town approved last month to do. This includes what the Planning Board has talked about for years. Once we get the changes then they will plan to have a couple of sit down meetings with the Planning and Zoning Boards to go over it. After that the Town Board will get a copy. Councilwoman Gilson has a few questions about accessory dwelling buildings and about an article that she recently read in the Association of Towns magazine. NYS law that is coming out about living in an accessory building on one deeded lot. So if you have a one family home and want to make an inlaw type thing, NYS is pushing it because people can't find housing either because they can't find housing or can't afford it. It's a good magazine article. Her question is the 2 things that she is concerned with is accessory building and conservation design. Will it have a presence under maybe a section in the new law. An accessory building in the Towns definition is a shed or storage building. Per Attorney Seiter, It's taking a storage building or garage and making it livable and the state is encouraging it. Barnaminians are not far-fetched Mr. Howland said. That the Town of Sandy Creek has a couple of them being built right now. They are a pole barn in the bottom and living area in the top. Richland has a law that you are allowed one building per lot, if you want an inlaw apartment you can connect it to it so you can have a 2 family dwelling or an addition to a one family home. Or you can connect them by adding a porch. Mrs. Gilson isn't sure if they have to connect it according to the article is her question to Mr Howland. Supervisor Yerdon thought that our law says they have to connect it. Attorney Seiter explained that the Town can be more strict, not less strict than the NYS law. The Town law originally said that you can put 2 homes on the lot you just have to be blood related. If someone did it 10 years ago, 10 years from now who is going to know whether that is "Kerns" family still living there. That's why they got rid of it. But there are 2 options, A. if someone wants to do that, the Town can make them split the property. If they can't split the property because it makes it a non conforming lot, they can apply for a variance from the Zoning Board if they show good faith that their property doesn't meet criteria if they split it, then the Planning Board can approve the second house on the lot. Even when we had it where they could have 2 dwellings on the lot, except for the Amish, there we probably 5 in all the years Mr. Howland has been doing it. There really hasn't been a lot, maybe now with the way things are going. Councilwoman Gilson is interested in where this is going because if you have a single family dwelling, NYS is saying you can put up one of those dwellings. CEO/ZEO Howland says, let them. So what, it means more tax money. It's just a thought as the new upgrades are coming up. On August 3rd, Jeanne Glizner will be coming up for the Comp Board meeting. CEO/ZEO Howland asked the members of the Board if they were in favor of going back to allowing 2 dwellings on a lot? The Board will have to discuss this in the future when more is known about the Law.

BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS The insulation at the shop is completed. Before it could be finished, the 1 ½ " foam that was in the ceiling areas had to be pressure washed. It took 4 days to complete. It had 40 years of diesel soot on it. It had to be washed for the spray insulation to stick. The fence has been removed from the Haldane Center. Superintendent Fox had large rocks brought in and all the Board members that have visited agreed it looks very nice. The blue storage building has been removed. A new light and switch was installed where the mowers are stored. Met with Town of Richland IT consultant Noah Schelton about the cameras at the Haldane Complex. A new roof will be installed at the Watershed on County Route 41, Fernwood site. Kevin and a few men will put the roof on instead of hiring it out. He recently had a meeting with the Richland Park Board at the Pond in Richland. A lot of ideas were flowing and Mr Balcom had a few ideas. He just has to get some measurements. The Richland water tower is in bad shape. He has been working with the Richland Fireman on getting that tower down. Supervisor Clerk Tammie Whaley advised at the board meeting in April it was mentioned about doing the spray foam insulation for the ceiling at the highway garage. It was never voted on to take the monies from the Building reserves. Supervisor Yerdon and the other Board members remember discussing this issue. To rectify this issue, ***A motion to pay \$26800 to Kyle & Sons and to take the money from the Building Reserves Fund. This motion was made by Councilwoman Haynes and seconded by Councilman Goodsell. In a roll call vote, all were in favor with a vote of "AYE".***

HIGHWAY REPORT: Not a whole lot going on. The County Superintendents have been working with the County Snow Plow agreement. The Superintendents had a meeting with them in April, May and the June meeting was canceled. Contract starts in September. Waiting for that meeting to be rescheduled. The Superintendents want an increase due to the rising cost of Fuel, steel and labor. The Towns want a raise and the County isn't budging. The Towns also haven't heard back from them. Supervisor Yerdon advised that he would like to be involved in those negotiations. Mr. Fox reports that they have had a truck down for the last 2 months due to a def fluid issue. The bill for the repairs will be about \$ 3000, which wasn't as bad as they thought. Finished up the paving. 3.2 miles have been completed. Wart Road is completely done, Lehigh Road has 2 miles done. The shoulders will be done within the next few days. New speed limit signs have been installed on Lehigh Road. The Town Clerk will put a notice on the Towns website and facebook to advise residents of the change in speed. The Sheriff's Department will be patrolling and warning speeders of the change. The crews have cut another 10 miles of shoulders since the last meeting. Legislature Gilson asked if Lehigh Road will be striped. Mr Fox advised that there are pros and cons to striping. 1. It's expensive and once you start marking them you have to keep it up. Woods Road near the High School. Just that small piece was over \$300. The Highway Superintendents Conference is in the Fall. Mr. Fox would like to go and have the Board approval to attend. The date is September 20-23. Superintendent Fox

told the Board that NYS has changed the way drivers get their CDL licenses. When Mr. Fox started working with the Highway Department, you could train while working for your CDL. Then when you are ready, go and get your license. Starting last February, the state passed a new law that you must go to a NYS certified driving school for the cost of \$5000. So down the road, 4-5 years there will be a shortage of CDL drivers. As a Highway committee, they are going to approach some of the State Representatives. Mr Fox feels that local Highway Departments are going to be the first to feel the effects of this new law. Central Square is the closest Central Square. ***A motion to okay Superintendent Fox to attend Highway School in September was made by Councilwoman Haynes and seconded by Councilwoman Gilson. In a roll call vote, all were in favor with a vote for "AYE".***

WATER REPORT: The Water Dept is continuing discussing the issue with the 2 water lines and hydrants with Fulton Boiler. Supervisor Novak is working with Bill Heavner at the County and is in agreement that this is an illegal line. The county has no testing plans, nothing as far as the county is concerned. They did find some engineering plans that were done. The time lines show that the lines were installed about the time Water District 2 was underway, and the Town of Richland didn't own the line at the time when it was connected at both ends. It was still in the possession of WD#2's contractor at the time was WD Malone. The Town has been unable to find any information as to when these lines were installed. Fulton Companies has asked the Town for information on the lines. At this point, Fulton Boiler Works believe they own the line. Meetings must be set up with them to determine/resolve their private 6" water line connected in 2 locations to our water main. Councilwoman Haynes asked how did they (Fulton Companies) come to a point now that they were not concerned with it before? They brought it up and no one ever heard about it. According to Supervisor Novak, he found out about it 3-4 weeks ago. He asked what this line was and that it wasn't on anyone's engineering drawings, he knew nothing about it. If this line blows out or leaks, it's the last past anyone would ever look for because it's not supposed to be there. B&L doesn't have anything on this line. There were notes in Eric Pond's file but that is it. Fulton Boiler wants to turn it over to the Town. That line is nothing but a liability to the Town. The Town gains nothing from it. He feels that the Town should not touch it. Supervisor Yerdon says it's remarkable that the engineering company has no records of this line being put in. You usually don't see this happening. No information at all. There is no idea what the quality control was. To the best of our knowledge there are 2 hydrants that can be seen at the back of the building. That line is a fire control line. The Barber Corporation was the one that installed this line. Attorney Seiter asked if anyone had checked with them. Supervisor Yerdon advised that Fulton Company was going to do that but hasn't had any word back. Dustin Clark from B&L has talked to Eric Pond and according to Mr. Novak the only other person that may have any information would be former Supervisor Ron Crandall. Continuing meetings are ongoing about Water rates. Two flammable storage lockers and paint lockers and gas cans which are required by NYS, OSHA and PESH, had been ordered and received. The bill was \$3623.25. It's in the abstract. The money to pay for these needs to be

taken from the current water budget or ARPA. Supervisor Yerdon asked Attorney Seiter if the Town Board approves the money to pay for the Paint storage locker to come from Water funds, if down the road decides it wants to use ARPA money to pay for them, is it something that ARPA funds can be transferred back to the Water Department funds.? According to Attorney Seiter, he believes it can be transferred back to the Water Department budget. This has to be reflected in the minutes that this may be what happens. ***A motion to take money from ARPA to pay the McQuade and Bannigan for the Paint Storage lockers in the sum of \$3623.25 was made by Councilman Goodsell and seconded by Councilman North. In a roll call vote, all were in favor with a vote of "AYE".*** Supervisor Clerk Tammie Whaley advised the Board that the second half of the ARPA funds are in route for the month of July. Right now because the Water Districts are built, Fernwood has one kind of Chemical Pump because that is what they installed then and then, Water District 2 has another brand of pump. The brand that is in WD#2 is LMI. They are original to WD#2. In the few months since Mr Novak has been here they have put about \$700 worth of repairs into each of those pumps. They are old and original. We have no backups and no parts. He is looking to change the chemical pumps in Richland to the same brand that is in Fernwood. If he does this, we would order a backup pump, and all the pumps would be the same so he would be able to swap parts back and forth and interchangeable. His supplier is in Baldwinsville and has parts in stock and on the shelf. His ability to chlorinate the system increases dramatically. The water budget does not have the money to support this project at the moment. The bill would be \$4750.65. That would be provided through Blair. He could go to Baldwinsville to get parts. This would be for 3 new pumps. Two of these would be to replace the pumps in Richland and the other would be for backup that is interchangeable. The LMI's are getting very difficult to get parts for. Councilwoman Gilson asked if he would keep the old LMI's for back ups. Mr Novak responded, No. Mainly due to the availability to get parts. They have to be programmed for the SCADA system. Supervisor Yerdon agreed that it makes sense to keep everything the same and to keep it in mind going forward with the new districts.

RICHLAND PARKS: Councilwoman Haynes gave her report. The Advisory Board met at the Pond in Richland. The main plan is to keep it "basic" due to not having a lot of room. There is going to be a pad with stone in the front for fishing and a pavilion to sit under and make it all handicap accessible and a small parking area. Mrs. Haynes spoke to Kristy LaMache about the playground. Mrs. LaMache advised Mrs Haynes that the State will be sending the Town papers to sign and return. Julie Peterson and Alycia Smith will be meeting to pick stuff out for the playground. It will stay with the train theme. The playground is being used a lot. They did have 1 table get destroyed. Kevin Balcom will fix it. Someone had contacted the Town Clerk about putting garbage receptacles at the playground. The committee has decided that it's "garbage in garbage out". If you bring it in please take it with you. In the past, it's just something else for the kids to dump on the ground or for animals to get into. If the water tank gets removed, maybe the basketball court can be completed.

DOG REPORT: Dog Reports for April, May and June were presented to the Board. DCO Elisa Dunn is here to give her report to the Board. It's been quiet until recently. Nothing major. Had an issue with a resident with a mother dog and her puppies. The owner was able to pick up the Mother dog and her pups after 4 days at the shelter.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: *A motion to go into Executive Session to discuss employee matters was made by Councilwoman Haynes and seconded by Councilman Goodsell. In a roll call vote, all were in favor with a vote of AYE". 7:02pm A motion to exit out of Executive Session and back to regular session was made by Councilwoman Gilson and seconded by Councilwoman Haynes. In a roll call vote, all were in favor with a vote of "AYE". 7:53pm. The results of the Executive Session was the Town Boards recommendation to hire Laird Petrie for the position of Financial Consultant. This will be a contract of a monthly salary of \$1400 per month. A motion was made by Councilman Goodsell and seconded by Councilwoman Gilson. Mr Petrie will be paid per contract whether his services are used or not. Supervisor Yerdon feels the Town will need him more than they think. With no more discussion, and in a roll call vote, all members were in agreement with a vote of "AYE".*

Also a result of the Executive session is to name Supervisor Clerk Tammie Whaley to the position of Budget Officer. Her new title will be Clerk to the Supervisor /Budget Officer. Her salary for the new position will be \$2500 per year which will be added to her current pay. This motion was made by Councilman North and seconded by Councilman Goodsell. In a roll call vote, all members were in agreement with a vote of "AYE".

Deputy Clerk Julie Peterson advised the Board as to what she has been working on as far as the Solar arrays on County Route 41. There is currently over 38,000 excess kilowatts. She has been working with Chris Carrick with the Regional Planning and Development Board and Robin McGuann from National Grid to allocate the excess generation to another Town owned location to help offset electric costs. The Board agreed to allocate the excess to the Well Field electric costs. She will keep the Board informed of her progress.

SUPERVISOR REPORT: *A motion to accept the Supervisors report for the month of May 2022. This motion was made by Councilwoman Gilson and seconded by Councilwoman Haynes. With no discussion, and in a roll call vote, all were in favor with a vote of "AYE".*

JUSTICE REPORTS: No reports

WARRANT OF BILLS: *A motion to accept abstract #7 was made by Councilwoman Haynes and seconded by Councilwoman Gilson. With no discussion, and in a roll call vote, all were in favor with a vote of "AYE".*

TOWN BOARD MINUTES: Town Board Minutes for June 14th and July 1 are next. *With no discussion, a motion to accept the minutes as presented was made by Councilman Goodsell and seconded by Councilman North. In a roll call vote, all were in favor with a vote of "AYE".*

TOWN CLERKS REPORT: Town Clerks report for June is next. *A motion to accept the Town Clerks report as presented was made by Councilwoman Gilson and seconded by Councilwoman Haynes. With no discussion and 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: Appointment and Resolutions is next. Some changes had to be made due to the resignation of Daniel Krupke, he was on some of those committees. Donna Gilson was made Deputy Town Supervisor. The constable line has changed to the Village of Pulaski Police Department, line 4 for the justices. Number 13, Drug Council Representative. Kern Yerdon. Number 15, Tom King A few vacancies have not been filled as of yet. Number 30, added Allen Goodsell and Kern Yerdon. Number 31, Bob North and Donna Gilson. Number 41, Kern Yerdon and Allen Goodsell. Number 42, Donna Gilson and Bob North. Zoning is going to become more important as we go along and with Donna and Bob's backgrounds it made sense to have you both on that committee. And finally the Financial Consultant, Laird Petrie. Add Tammie Whaleys name for Budget Officer, Supervisor Clerk and Payroll clerk
Next a letter of support for the Village of Pulaski for funding application. Supervisor Yerdon signed it for support. The IRS increased the allowed amount for gas for the remaining 6 months of the year to 62.5 per mile. A live stream meeting on July 14th at 11:00 am about Cannabis. This will be live streamed. Board Members are invited to watch on the TV in the Grand Jury Room. Supervisor Yerdon handed out a packet about the Literacy Coalition that Councilwoman Curcio from the Town of New Haven, is involved with. Supervisor Yerdon said that he feels that we spend a lot of money on the Library now in the Township, and Councilwoman Haynes added the nice walkway at the Haldane Center with the reading stations. Councilwoman Gilson feels that we pay hefty taxes here in our District to teach our children how to read. They way that Mrs Gilson understands that here in NYS we are behind because of COVID. Places like Florida for example are not behind because they continued to stay in school. COVID put us in "Time Out". How do we sell this to taxpayers ? Supervisor Yerdon asked the board if they would like to table this so everyone could read it before making a decision. Everyone was in agreement to table this until the August Meeting. The United Methodist Church in Fernwood is the next topic. Councilman North reached out to the Methodist Church Conference. Mr North and Mr Goodsell spoke to the gentleman from the conference. He would like the Town to make an offer and tell how it would benefit the Town. They sound like they want to get rid of it but are not

really interested in selling it to an individual because it always winds up being not taken care of. They are very interested in working with the Town , but looking to have the Town take the “bull by the horns”and what they intend to do with the church. They told him they could use it as a church anytime and have public meetings. Councilman Goodsell was thinking that Attorney Seiter could help out with the Legal fee. Maybe have Kevin Balcom go down and give his advice. Mr Goodsell would love to see it become a community center, maybe a playground and basketball court. They are looking to the Town to buy it. The Town would not be taking it off the tax roll since the church is an exempt property. Councilwoman Gilson asked if anyone has looked into any historical grants? Maybe Kristy LaManche could find out if any grants are available. ***A motion to form a committee to look into grants for the United Methodist Church in Fernwood. This committee will include Board Members, Donna Gilson, Robert North and Allen Goodsell. The motion was made by Councilwoman Gilson and seconded by Councilman Goodsell. In a roll call vote, all were in favor with a vote of “AYE”.***

With nothing more to bring before the Board, ***a motion to adjourn was made by Councilwoman Gilson and seconded by Councilwoman Haynes. In a roll call vote all were in favor with a vote of “AYE”. 8:40 pm***

NEXT TOWN BOARD MEETING: August 9, 2022 at 6:00 pm

MEETING ADJOURNED:

Respectfully submitted by

Millie Newcomb
Town Clerk