

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

**DATE:** March 3, 2022

**KIND OF MEETING:** Special Board Meeting with Town of Orwell

**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:** Dustin Clark , Davis Power, and Anthony Young from B&L, Orwell Town Supervisor Bill Potter, Town of Sandy Creek/Orwell Water Operator, Eric Pappa, Water Board Chairwoman, Donna Gilson, Water Supervisor, Ron Novak, Village resident, Carl Falk and Town Clerk Millie Newcomb.

**CALL TO ORDER:** The meeting was called to order at 10:08 a.m. with Supervisor Krupke leading in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Dustin Clark started off the meeting with the concept of the Town of Richland supplying water to the Town of Orwell started in 2014 . The funding didn't work out but now the urgency is there. Recently, one of the primary wells in the Town has exceeded the New York State levels of nitrate that have now pushed this project to something that needs to happen . So B&L reached out to the Town of Richland, this is something that has been talked about for a while. Most of the people in this room were aware of the situation and approved the concept, approved supplying the water a few times and supported funding applications and engineering reports. That is nice to have but now it is coming to fruition. The purpose of this meeting is to get the two towns together and start talking about some of the specifics and get the ball rolling. Ultimately the outcome here would be for Richlands sake something like what we ended up with the Town of Sandy Creek, an intermunicipal agreement that outlines the arrangements with how this is going to work from the Town of Richlands standpoint and the Town of Orwells standpoint. That arrangement is an intermunicipal agreement that will have a whole lot of stuff

in it and in my opinion, the most important aspect is defining roles and responsibilities and where they change. Where it goes for the Town of Richland and where it goes for the Town of Orwell. The Town of Orwells system is, elevation wise, is over 300 ft in elevation above the Schoeller well site. What that means is the water has to be pumped from the Town of Richland to the Town of Orwell. It can be pumped one time up to the Town of Orwells tank and then distributed from there. The Town of Orwell has Eric Pappa as their Water Operator and the concept would be that, that would continue. Eric's role will be much different. Instead of operating a water supply/ water distribution system in the Town of Orwell it's going to be maintaining a distribution system much like what you do for Sandy Creek. Mr. Clark brought some maps, to show the whole stretch that goes from Stowell Drive in the well site up into including the Orwell system. The smaller map zooms in on the area from the well site to just across the townline. This goes to Mr. Clark's first point of identifying where a pump station and meter would be. The intermunicipal agreement, the water supply, the agreement of the liniation is with Richlands responsibilities and Orwells responsibility all equally important, if more important the cost. We need to make sure everyone agrees on the cost to supply this water in a bulk rate , dollars per 1000 gallons. The Town of Richland has an arrangement with the Town of Sandy Creek through an intermunicipal agreement . Those were a result of joint projects. This is the first time in his knowledge that the Town of Richland is supplying an outside entity like this. So, those are the things that Mr. Clarks wants to talk about today. Supervisor Potter feels that Mr. Clark has covered just about everything. He will have to take this back to his board. He explains that he has members on both sides of the fence. He has the public screaming from both sides, some that want to hook up with the Town of Richland and some that are totally against it. Mr Papa would like to add that it's not a big problem to the Town of Richland, but he is aware that it's a major problem to him. The nitrates keep climbing. We are down to 1 well and he is 100% confident that the well will not support the town in the summer with 1 well. He was told by Mr. Hafner, from the health dept, that he wants a truck coming off the Richland Hydrant and pay the Town for the bulk water to fill the tank. Mr. Papa is in the process of trying to find someone that will transport that water. He doesn't know of anyone around with the exception of Sugar Shack, and he really doesn't want to go that route. The Orwell Supervisor agrees with Mr. Papa another 3-4 months if they are lucky, they will be in trouble. In the past, the town of Orwell has used Sugar Shack and he would come in and fill it using Sandy Creek's water without a meter and then billing the Town an astronomical price. He was advised not to go over the overflow as discussed. Mr Papa would leave then stop back and he was there again putting water into the overflow. It's not someone they want to do business with after that. The Town Supervisor thinks he was charging the Town \$800 per load. This is a lot of money to water the field next to the tank. As far as the project, Mr Krupke asked how far along the Town of Orwell is in the financing of the project. Supervisor Potter explains they are not very far in. Dustin Clarks knows how long it takes for something like this project to get going especially with the financing. It takes years and the Town of Orwell doesn't have years. The Town does have an application in with the Water infrastructure improvement act grant . Those have not been announced yet. Mr. Clark feels the Town has a good case for it but you just don't

know. There is also a Community Development Block Grant, Orwell qualifies . These are all pending applications as we sit today. These are all grants. Talk turned to low interest loans and if they can be used with the pending grants. Mr Clark explains that the WIIA grant has a 2 year look back on it. The CDBG grant, any money spent before its award, would void the grant. Orwell is in an Environmental justice area so that is a possibility they may get a hardship award for that. There is a bond resolution against that but getting the money in a loan or getting the money in a grant are 2 different things. It's a very small system. There are only 108 users. The initial assessment, cost wise to do a tie in is , the project cost is about \$3 million dollars. This also includes some improvements or upgrades, such as meters, a new tank similar to what the town of Richland has at the well site. The tank that is at the site now needs about \$80,000 worth of restorations. If Orwell connected to the Town of Richland, would Orwell continue to use their storage tank? The tank is needed for fire and to maintain pressure so you would pump from the Richland system up to the Orwell system into that tank. That would allow for the pump to cycle and then it would gravity down to the system. Councilman Yerdon asked Dustin Clark to explain what is meant by needing the tank for fire codes. The piping and the pressures between Richland and Orwell, you have , you lose pressure as you go along the pump that you have friction loss is what its called, in the pipe, so the further away you get from the pump the more friction loss you have and the harder time you have meeting the state minimum requirements 500 gallons per minute at 20lbs of pressure throughout the system. That is the minimum required fire flow. To do that for a sustained period of time, you use the tower as a closed connection to provide that as opposed to trying to pump that. There are storage requirements and 10 state standards and fire flow requirements that is the design "bible", that leans to using a tank like that in this circumstance to pump to and the tank feed the system for fire flow and as well as power outages back up, cycling. There is a great benefit to using a tank. Supervisor Krupke asked what the length of the transmission pipe will be. Per B&L it's about 11,000 lineal feet in length. Mr. Krupke also asked if the Town would be looking at any new users. The reply was there is nothing new proposed but whatever happens with this arrangement there is a high probability in the future. The tank right now is capable of taking care of how many people? Mr Papa thinks between 150-200 homes. Right now the consensus in the Town of Orwell residents going out of County Route 22 for the water is a lot of no's . The only hand full right now is from the Town line to the system. All along County Route 2. That is all that the Supervisor of Orwell sees at the moment. Unity Acres is a good possibility. When the Town of Richland started the first district, there were a lot of no's . Once people started hearing how good the water was, those no's turned to yes. The residents of the Town of Orwell really don't have a choice. The Town isn't able to provide safe drinking water. It's a bad situation but you can't expect residents to pay several thousands of dollars a year for it. An emergency situation can make the wheels turn a bit faster. They are very good to push you and to let you know what kind of programs are out there and suggest you apply and will support the town anyway they can. They don't move mountains but they will support you and give you a nudge. With the existing pressure from the Town of Richland and without a pump, Councilman Goodsell asked if the water would make it up to Orwell. Mr. Clark answered No. Not even close. So the equivalent of 130-140 psi. That

is how much more in elevation it is to pump. Mr. Clark agrees with the consideration of future expansion but in no way is this more important than taking care of the situation at hand. So that will be a future endeavor but it will not be included in this project and is his strong recommendation that it doesn't get included in this project. The most important thing now is to take care of the users now and work on adding on later. The line that is going in is strictly a line to the tower. No services and no taps. This is an emergency line, this has to get taken care of. Councilman Goodsell asked if there were a lot of "NO"'s along the transmission line. Supervisor Potter answered not really. There are only 7-8 homes from Unity Acres up through. Mr Clark suspects that since hydrants will be on the transmission line that some may want the water but will have no tap at the road to get it. This is not the focus at the moment. Covering the Village at the moment is the priority. There are roughly 108 units at the moment. They are using 17430 gallons of water per day. This amount has been pretty consistent. From a design aspect, the pump station rate of the pump would be much more than this 17,000 gallons per day. You want to cycle the tank so the pump will be on the order of 200-300 gallons per minute. So the pump would run for an hour and shut off for 6 hours or something like that. Not to confuse things but consumption and pumping rate are different. Operator Pappa maintains that this is certainly attainable. When they fill their tank, it's only 195 gallons per minute, it should be pretty easy. Supervisor Krupke feels the Town of Richland Board would certainly support Orwells direction in any way they go and would help the Town out in any way. Today's meeting is not the time to discuss the details. It's too early and the Town of Richland is interested in supplying Water to Orwell. Supervisor Potter appreciated the effort of everyone. Dustin Clark asked if there has been any discussion as to where the pump station would be or the limitation of responsibility would be? Supervisor Ron Novak is in favor of the pump station being on the Town of Richland's property, possibly near the location of the Yellow gate where the power is coming in and looking for a building fairly consistent of the water building on County Route 41 that would have at least one bay in it that could store a tractor with a blower to maintain the road to that site, and restrooms. We have nothing on that end of town. That site is going to need an emergency generator to run the pump and that emergency generator be placed down at the well field and look to size that to run wells #7 and 23. Which do not have any backup emergency power so he is looking to build system reliability to provide water incase of extended power outages. That generator in that spot to power pumps, in the well field as well as send water to Orwell. The Town of Richland has a generator at the well site now and we have had some issues with wind blowing over trees. Generators are very important. Mr Clark advised in the \$3 million dollar estimate pumping station is unfortunately not like Mr Novak had in mind, it is more along the lines of a wellhead. The pumps will sit in the ground and the maintenance of them is more like a well there is really no building included with that. He does worry about the cost of what Mr. Novak is thinking isn't really available and absorbed. Per Mr. We have to get some kind of consistent reliability in the field to provide water to the people that we currently have in our districts before we start taking on other projects. Recently he has been told that Schoeller Paper is going to go back into operation. We have a bunch of other things going on so he wants to be able to provide service reliability to the districts we currently have before we take on a lot

of other projects and not have the ability to provide water to them. Superintendent Potter thinks that the Town of Richland needs to improve their system down in the Town and not on the Town of Orwells dollar. It's not clear why bathrooms are needed on the pump site. It's on the Town road that the Town plows. Councilman Yerdon advised that the Town does not plow, only from the main road to the office. The Water operators plow everything back at the well site. Councilman Goodsell asked if the pump station will be something like the station that the Town has with the Village of Pulaski. Mr Clark answered yes, something just like that. Keeping it as simple as that. The number of users in the Town of Sandy Creek at the moment is about 900. Mr. Pappa isn't exactly sure but there may be about 150 more to come on line by April. Mr. Clark would like to keep the ball rolling and maybe schedule another meeting and start with a draft of what it's going to look like for everyone. The transmission line, for conversation, if we place it on alternative 2 over the Orwell line, whose responsibility for the transmission line cost for our consideration would it be our responsibility for the transmission line up to the border to maintain? Mr Novak would like to maintain anything in our town. Mr. Clarks opinion the project would pay for the Town of Orwell to pay for the facility needed to do the connection to supply them water. And wherever that line of responsibility is determined to be, maybe that line is at alternative 2 at the Town line is where that responsibility lies. And maybe it's at the valve right before the pump station. We all can decide that the Town of Orwell takes care of anything from that point on. So everything installed by the Town of Richland, the Town of Richland maintains, This is typically how these things work. The Towns want to just maintain what belongs to them. Mr Clark, there is a need to supply water to the Town of Orwell. Mr. Pappa explains that Bill Hafner suggested that the Town of Orwell pull off water from the Town of Richland hydrant near the well field. Mr Pappa trusts the Town of Richland and operators Bob Hicks and Joe Sikora. Maybe a meter will be installed at the hydrant or get a truck that we could trust for an exact what it is and the driver. The sure thing would be the meter. It's up to who the Town can trust. Mr. Pappa is looking into who could haul the water and get it up to the tank. There is a lot of room to turn around at the top. You have to know how big the truck is going to be, how it gets filled and everything around it, like traffic, maintenance for the site, getting in for filling and dumping. There will be a time where it may get over filled by accident. It may be an every other day event. He will get back to us when he has a better idea. Another meeting will be held on March 31st at 10:00am here in the H.Douglas Barclay Courthouse. ***A motion to adjourn was made by Councilwoman Haynes and seconded by Councilman Yerdon. In a roll call vote, all were in favor with a vote of "AYE".***

**MEETING ADJOURNED: 10:51**

Respectfully submitted by

Millie Newcomb  
Town Clerk

