

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

DATE: September 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
Councilman Robert North

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE: Town Resident Robert Jeffery, Richland Fire Dept Representatives, Cora Wood and Kris Webb, Legislatures Ed Gilson and Herb Yerdon, CEO/ZEO John Howland, Buildings and Grounds Supervisor, Kevin Balcom, Water Supervisor Ron Novak, Supervisor Clerk Tammie Whaley, Deputy Town Clerk Julie Peterson, Attorney Graham Seiter, and Town Clerk Millie Newcomb

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.m. with Supervisor Yerdon leading in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Assessor Warren Wheeler is here to explain to the Board about the new exemptions for people over the age of 65 and new exemptions for people with disabilities. There has been discussion the last several years about the Income Limit for Senior Citizens. They haven't been adjusted since 2007. The County decided since the state hadn't done anything, the County did. In the meantime, the State finally did the same thing. Since there are some areas in the southern part of the state that the \$37400 is no longer a viable option for seniors with the cost of living there. So they finally passed it . What Mr Wheeler is doing now is asking the Board to adopt the same scale that the county has adopted. It caps off at \$37,400. Currently the cap is \$24,425. So the hope is that this exemption is there for the people that really need it. For a husband and wife that is in their 70's, \$37,400 doesn't go very far. We all know the burden that property tax can play and this exemption is one of the reasons they can stay and enjoy their home. The one difference the county did, they are including unreimbursed medical expenses. This is a very

wide range category so Mr. Wheeler is waiting to see how creative people can get. So it's \$37,400 and allows for the unreimbursed medical expenses. Why is he asking the Board to pass this? It's 2 simple reasons. One for a PR standpoint, It's good for the Town. and the 2nd for transparency and openness and being able to explain to an aging population that really don't understand what's going on. They only deal with this once a year. If the Town Passes this, it will not affect the Town and County Taxes until the 2024 Town and County Tax roll, which means the Town has to budget for that. The one thing Mr. Wheeler doesn't understand is how to quantify the loss of taxable value. For every dollar that we give in the exemption for 65 and older, that dollar is now being spread over to everyone that doesn't enjoy that benefit. So the county went in and they did something where it was very negligible but Mr Wheeler doesn't understand how they figured that. Over the last several years he has denied about a dozen people because their income was too high. He doesn't know how much of an outreach they are going to do, they really don't have to, but to make sure everyone that is eligible comes in and applies. That's where we are at. Mr Wheeler told the board that he has given the Board the law that the County passed and just suggests that the Town just tailors it around the Town of Richland . There will be an increase in traffic in the office. The median income in Oswego County is in the mid 40's. They all have to come and apply in the Assessors office and they all have to prove their income especially when they don't file income tax. Every Senior has a file in the office. The Disability 459C . The county adopted this exemption, but the Towns did not. It's up to the Town if they want to adopt it. Attorney Seiter will write up the Local Law and schedule the Public Hearing for the November Town Board Meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT: No public comment.

ZONING AND CODES REPORT: The Board has a copy of Mr. Howlands Building and Zoning Report. Junk letters were sent out for the month. Today was the compliance date for the Administrative Hearing. We had 3 that were supposed to come into compliance. The Board will need to schedule an Administrative Hearing for the properties. Mr Howland has not heard from Anthony Delaroods, the Gibbs property, Mrs Cox spoke to the Town Clerk and told her they are waiting on a dumpster. Tom Brosnan rents his property and is trying to get the renters out. Proof may be needed from him to see if the eviction process has started. Alena Sabastianelli property on State Route 3, Howland has not heard from her either. She still has 3 campers on the property. The Ralph Morse Estate on Co Rt 2, Julie Bensen is their daughter, she is the one that is getting the property and has not been feeling well from what he understands. The Bond for the Route 3 project, the bond agency isn't doing it anymore but there is another one that is so Supervisor Yerdon has to sign and it's the same amount of \$281,057. Nothing has changed, just a new bond holder. The 2 sheds on Lehigh Road, the owner moved the sheds back and will not do anything until the spring. They want to put in a campground but are going to wait until next year. Councilwoman Haynes told CEO/ZEO Howland that someone has been staying in the sheds. Mr Howland told the Board that he told them they could not stay until the permits were

approved. The property on Co Rt 2 with the shed. They got a permit for the shed but will not be living in it. The owner is in Florida so Mr Howland has been dealing with his brother. The owner is supposed to be coming up to assess the situation. The Planning Board next week 2 storage Buildings on State Route 13. Deputy Clerk Julie Peterson is working on typing the Zoning Book that came with changes from the Attorney the Town hired. Councilwoman Gilson said that Chairperson Dawn Holynski is still very interested in upgrading the Zoning Ordinance to have more of a presence of the Comprehensive Plan. They know it's in there but she knows that she would like to see more of it. Mr Howland explained that the zoning changes are there to accommodate the Comp Plan. Some of the changes that they put in there, the biggest thing is the VRBO 's , they have never been addressed.

HIGHWAY DEPT REPORT: Superintendent Fox was unable to attend tonight's meeting. There was a quote for a new uniform service. Supervisor Yerdon suggested that this item be tabled until October's meeting.

RICHLAND FIRE DEPARTMENT: Cora Wood and Kris Webb are here tonight from the Richland Fire Department. The concern is the Water Tower in Richland that belongs to the Fire Department is in desperate need of repairs or removal. The structure was erected in 1928. Mr Webb tells the Board that the Water Tower is a landmark in Richland. He explains that the residents do not want it removed but may be repaired. Fire Commissioner Cora Wood explains that the Fire Department does not have the money to have the Tower taken down. They have 2 estimates of \$90,000. Ms Wood also has a bid to repair the legs by a local contractor in excess of \$28,500. The repair of the legs may not be the only problem with the Tower. If the structure is declared unsafe there is a lot of money out there for something like this. Councilwoman Gilson will try to get with the Towns Grant Writer Kristy LaMache to see if there are any grants for Historical Structures and get back with the Fire Commissioners.

WATER REPORT: Supervisor Novak had a pump repair person come to the well site in Fernwood well #1. He removed the pump motor and entire assembly and also video camera the well and screen. Those 2 wells are only 20' apart, both are 18yrs old and both were put in with galvanized drop tubes which are nothing but a ball of rust. There isn't much left of them. Neither well can run at 100% because they trip out. The reason is these are natural act gravel screens and what happens is that the area between the gravel rock is now covered with sand and there are mineral deposits on the metal screens . Water can't get into the well quick enough for the pump to operate so that is why they can't run at full speed because they trip out. And the wells are tired, the pumps are running at 63% of capacity. Sandy Creek is the lead agency. There is roughly \$200,000 left over of which \$140,000 is Sandy Creek and \$60,000 would be for Richland. Sandy Creek is agreeable to spending money out of the remaining money and jointly paying for repairs to well #27 to be replaced and rehabbed. This is the main well that feeds Sandy Creek. That is the second largest well in the well field and one of the two hooked to our generator. Everyone, B&L, Sandy Creek, and myself everyone has identified that

is the one they have to do something with. The issue is anything you do with the remaining money you can't go out to do, it has to be specific to the project and needs to meet a bunch of parameters and be approved by Rural Development. The problem is B&L can do the write up and it will definitely meet all the criteria. What they said today is there is a bunch of new staff at Rural Development. This could take a week to approve or it could take 3 months to approve. No one knows. In the meantime we are sitting in limbo. One question is can the Town go ahead and front the money and go ahead and do the work well will the Town be able to get reimbursed from the money left at Rural Development through the contract. They don't have an answer for that. They believed it was but they could not be definitive. The cost for the well in Richland is \$22,420. Well 27. This is the contractor that has been utilized to work on #7 23 and 21. He is the go to guy by everyone. He is the one that has taken everything apart and examined it and video everything. The Fernwood wells are \$39,906.00 for both wells. The total bill for all 3 wells is \$62,326.00. If someone was looking and keeping track of the data, we would have known these wells were going bad years ago. This is something that has been happening for a long time, it didn't just happen. This is a lack of knowledge and education. Sandy Creek, who is the lead agency in this project, has said several times they have no interest in helping with the Fernwood wells. That is understandable. But there are areas in the Town of Richland that are in Water District 5 that are serviced by the Fernwood wells. You could make a legitimate argument. Well 27 primarily services Sandy Creek, Fernwood doesn't do anything to help Sandy Creek. I cannot get water to Sandy Creek from Fernwood. Mr. Novak believes that he can get well #27 covered by the contract. He believes if we don't front the money, it could be 1-3, 2-4 months before we can replace that pump. Trying to do a well rehab in pump replacement in the middle of January or February, the cost will go up. These parts, all of the parts as of 3 weeks ago are available within a 3 week lead time. We don't have a specific lead time for the pumps, big issues are the pumps and variable frequency drive check valves. These are the 2 big ones and tough pieces. Operating without these wells is not an option. Depending on certain break scenarios, Mr. Novak said he could not supply water to that side of Town and also we basically need those wells to help the overall control of the chlorine. If Sandy Creek is willing to go in 50% for well 27, Mr. Novak says it sounds like it, but he doesn't think they are willing to take it from their funds now but will take it from District 5 project money. Which puts us in the 2-4 month. He doesn't think Sandy Creek will front any money for well 27 replacement. Councilwoman Gilson asked if Mr. Novak had talked to Laird about taking it from reserves. The only place you could get the money is from the capital reserves. Fernwood is WD #1 Rehabbing this well is exactly what the capital reserve fund is for. This fund has \$249,000 as of yesterday. We don't want it to run down in case we have something catastrophic that happens. Councilwoman Gilson spoke to Dustin Clark with B&L. We are applicable to this CWSRF, it's a drinking water State revolving fund. He is willing to meet with us because we need engineering to apply for the grant. It's a fund but Mrs Gilson thinks it turns into a grant. Also Kristy followed up and said what Dustin said we need an engineering report done. We need to apply. It's not going to happen right away but she thinks the way we are going to have to rebuild part of the system, she thinks it worth the effort to apply. Mrs Gilson wants Mr. Novak to

get a list of things together that would help support the funding /grant project. She thinks that is part of the engineering report needs. The first thing that worries Mr Novak is the cost of the project is \$40,000. You have to get a figure from Dustin but Mr Novak thinks that the engineering will be around \$10,000. Councilwoman Gilson knows there is an urgency but because we are in a quagmire in water district 1, which is a lot of money, we want to take the right road and let Laird guide us. Councilman Goodsell added, the problem we have is that there was never money spent on Water District 1, it was used in different places. There were never any major breakdowns in district 1 to use the money. Mr Novak pointed out that District 1 had a budgetary issue from the start. There was only \$28,000 budgeted for it this year. That is the budget you use for parts. All of District 1 negativity is from buying parts, A-we didn't have any and B-the price of those parts skyrocketed but you have to have parts on hand to sell to the people. A large percentage of that expenditure for district 1 was for the 73 plus household set ups and or meter pit setups that were purchased. It's because district 1 is being utilized as the bank is why we are here. Of the 4 districts, it is district 1 that has the significant capital reserve. Councilwoman Gilson pointed out that after speaking to Laird, his suggestion is to stop the spending right up to the new budget. The way he described to me is that it's not illegal, but it's not appropriate to have spent money that we didn't have. It's like taking your credit card and spending knowing you don't have the money to pay the bill. The Town set the district up with only \$28,000 and you built out District 5 and used District 1 to buy the parts. The Town spent easily \$50,000 maybe more just in household parts for the people that you're trying to hook up to the system, it was going to fail from the start. We have to figure out how to move forward, without taxing the budget. Everyone has a budget that they have to follow. It's the way it is. Supervisor Yerdon, you have the budget, but then well # 27 that pumps the water to Sandy Creek. That means by contract language we have to supply water to Sandy Creek. So if well #27 is going down and that is the one that is responsible for sending water up there, we have to find the money somewhere. We don't have an option, we have to make sure the water goes to Sandy Creek. That is why everyone is brainstorming to find the money. It appeared to Mr Yerdon that there are grants out there to help repair water systems. That may be a lifesaver. We are looking into that right now. But if we can get a grant out there to do just what we are doing, and we can pay that back slowly, it may be the thing that saves us. Councilman North asked if there were fund balances correct? He didn't say anything about setting up due to and due from? The specific payback period and taking the money from the fund balance? Or the other ones or a portion of it. Councilwoman Gilson said he didn't bring it up but Tammie did. She can't remember what his answer was to that question. Councilwoman Gilson continued, with the fund balances, some of them are just gone. And not in District 2 because she asked that question. Not district 1, there is nothing. She thinks this is why she thinks he wants us to slow down on the spending. We have to catch up. In the meantime we have these 3 wells that have to supply water and so the question is how to get to where we are going with him doing it in a legal sense. You just can't take money from other places, it has to come out of the proper place. So we are waiting for Laird to guide us. We are looking at \$62,326.00 for the 3 wells. Mr Novak added, \$39,906 is district 1 and \$22,420 is district 2. If you're going to pull out of the Capital

Reserve fund, it has to come from the appropriate fund and district. Maybe get an Anticipation Note to pay over time. To borrow money doesn't sit well with Councilwoman Gilson because we do have money in reserves. She just thinks we have to give Laird some time to work on a plan. If we need to get funds, we have to be prepared to have funds to keep this moving forward. We can get into it and see if we can use it to get out of the hole we are in. Councilman Goodsell thinks we will be okay once the new fees take hold, it's just moving things around to make it work. When the town started the Water System, it was never the intention that the Town of Richland would provide water for outside users. The wear and tear on the system isn't just from Richland residents it's probably caused by the strain of outside users also. When we hooked up Sandy Creek something should have woke us up and said we need a repair reserve. It never happened. In 2021 the Town pumped roughly 6 million gallons and pumped over 18 million gallons in the same month 1 year later, because of the current build up. Currently about 41% of the water goes to Sandy Creek. It's a lot of wear and tear. Everyone recognizes the importance of well 27 from the standpoint of the pump's output, but what you have to understand is we only have one generator up there that is hooked to 2 wells. No one knows what the hold up is in the ARPA money. The Generator is one of the 6 items that is tied to that project. The generator is ordered. It's due in February. Hopefully we don't have any power outages because we will be babysitting that generator. It doesn't like to start but once it starts, it runs well. Brass parts are getting really hard to get. According to the reps, it's going to get worse. We have to get an Emergency Preparedness plan in order. We have to get it done. We are obligated to provide water.

At the last meeting, Mr Novak asked what are we doing as a town about the Windmill that everyone says we are not going to utilize. It's an asset and it's paid for, it has value. Why not try to put it on Auctions International and sell it. What is the town's plan with the windmill that we aren't going to use? We have tried to sell it. They wouldn't give us any money for it. I was going to cost them \$20,000 to take it down and clear the area. It's in good shape. Part of the problem with it was it wasn't put in the right spot. The Board will let Mr. Novak look into selling the Windmill. There will be a reserve put on it and put on that it is the responsibility of the purchaser to do the complete removal and to have a \$1 million liability bond for injury. There may not be anyone in the area that wants it. ***A motion to let Mr Novak look into the possible sale of the Windmill. This motion 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 up are the hydrants in WD #3 have never been serviced since they were installed. The caps are not coming off. We cannot get them off. The issue is they have seals under them that if you heat them up you can destroy the seal. It's pretty serious. Especially for fire control in that district. The water department is getting to install the Storz Valves, but it's been a slow process because of the caps. The Water Department has done 26 hydrates so far on Rt 11 north, Springbrook, Canning Factory, we are working on Clark, Maltby, Hinman, County Route 62. After that we will do Route 3, from Brandy's to Rainbow Shores Road, and then South Rainbow Shores Road. Then they will back track and pick up part of Co Rt 28, part of Centerville Road because there are parts of WD3 out there. The point is maintenance is not getting done

and it's starting to hurt us now because it will affect fire control in the town. Supervisor Yerdon suggested that maybe the Water Dept do every other hydrant putting the Storz valves on. Mr Novak advised that is what they have been doing. He is hoping that when the firemen see the Storz valve on the hydrant they know that it's been serviced. They are getting to them but they are in meter reading time so it's taking a bit to finish them. Speaking of meters, they had 245 installed that went to sleep and Zenner doesn't know why. We may or may not go back to everyone in those houses and wake them up. A Zenner rep is flying up from Texas on the 19th of September. The Town has to have 2 sites in the Town with internet so the meters can communicate with each other. One of the sites is on County Route 41, the Water Control Building. This is known as collector number 1. Collector number 2 is likely going to go in Fernwood, so that means the internet is into the tower off the road. He doesn't think that Spectrum is on the road. The signal bounces from meter to meter but somewhere in between you have to have the antennas to pick them up which have to be powered by a/c and you have to have the collection system that collects all signals then sends you the signal over the internet. When Mary clicks the button on her computer, it's coming from those collectors via the internet. We will probably have several thousand dollars to put the internet in Fernwood. Mr Yerdon says that he doesn't recall any of that coming out when they were discussing going to this system. The contract at the moment cannot be found, not a signed one. Mr Novak is working on it but doesn't have an answer for the board yet. Next, Mr Novak is looking to get \$75,000 out of the Capital Reserves in WD #2 in advance of the \$75,000 that is coming from Orwell. It's a dollar for dollar trade, but he needs it in order to put out for bid, to put the generator in well 7 & 23 which will probably add a one year plus lead time to get the generator. I know it's not a good subject and one is coming, but if we wait until then. It's not a good subject, but we will get Laird Petrie in here to see if it's something we can do. It's basically borrowing and putting it back but we want to see if we can legally do that. He should know that. All Mr Novak is trying to do is get the order in place for the generator. Supervisor Yerdon understands that and it's not a bad idea but we have to make sure we can legally do that. And if Laird said we can, we will do it. Mr Novak would like to go into Executive Session to discuss contract issues in regard to Schoeller Paper. Before the Board goes into Executive Session, Supervisor Yerdon wants to discuss the NYS Low income Household Water Assistant program. What it is, it's a program for people of low income that can't pay their water bill. Water Clerk Mary Yerdon it wouldn't be that many people that would fall into that but it would make sure that they would get the money from this program and their water would not get shut off. So Mr Yerdon thinks it's a good idea. Councilman Goodsell thinks that this group is growing the way the Economy is going. ***A motion to adopt this Temporary Disability Insurance NYS low Income Household Water Assistance Program Vendor Agreement was made by Councilwoman Haynes and seconded by Councilman North. In a roll call vote, all were in favor with a vote of "AYE".*** Water Clerk Mary Yerdon would be the one that would be doing most of the work but the Board agrees it will be worth it.

BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS & RICHLAND PARKS: Supervisor of B&G Kevin Balcom is here to update the Board. Work was done up at the Richland Park behind the fence, and found the Railroad survey stake is. It's right on the fence line so there is no leeway. Mr Balcom told the Board that he changed both door locks at the Haldane Pavilion concession stand. He replaced the ones with the keypad. He tried it a few times at home so the doors would unlock one time but not the next. The ladies room knob won't lock, so he replaced that one too. Also, one of the toilets wasn't working well. Got that fixed. Mr Balcom asked the Board to approve the invoice from Whites Lumber in the amount of \$2,483.87 for work on the football tower. ***A motion to approve the estimate for repairs to the tower at the Haldane was made by Councilwoman Haynes and seconded by Councilwoman Gilson. In a roll call vote, all were in favor with a vote of "AYE". Councilwoman Haynes made a motion to fill a vacancy left by Shawn Stern and fill it with Tim Thayer for the Haldane Committee. This motion was seconded by Councilman North. With no more discussion and in a roll call vote, all were in favor with a vote of "AYE".*** The goal posts are done and reinstalled. The Hockey Association planted a tree in the memory of Kerry Gardner and Mark Paye. Supervisors Clerk Tammie Whaley has a request from the Salmon River Hockey Association has a request to the Town. They are asking to be reimbursed for the Internet over the summer months (3) in the amount of \$240. The Town does use the internet for the cameras at the building and the surrounding area. ***A motion to pay the internet bill for the Salmon River Hockey Association was made by Councilwoman Gilson and seconded by Councilwoman Haynes. In a roll call vote, all were in favor with a vote of "AYE".***

LEGISLATIVE REPORTS: Legislator Yerdon is first up . On August 30 a horse with Triple E virus died in Mexico. A donkey in the Town of Albion also died of that disease on September 9th. Aerial spraying in Mexico, Palermo, Hastings, and Toad Harbor has begun. That covered over 9,000 acres. The New York State and Oswego County Health Department Is keeping an eye on the Towns of Mexico and Albion. The Office of the Aging along with NY Connect is offering applications for assistant programs for people that need it. If they can't make it to the Office, the Office of the Aging along with NY Connect will visit different areas around the county. They will be visiting locations such as Central Square, Phoenix, Sandy Creek, Mexico, and Hannibal. Brochures for the 2022-2023 Nine Mile Emergency plans are available by calling 1-800-220-2159. This is published by Constellation Energy. Oswego County invites the Job Seekers for a Job Fair on September 21 at the Fulton War Memorial from 3-6:00 pm. Oswego County Health Department has a leadership change. Food Banks are low and encourage residents to help out. There are over 21 food banks in the county. Legislature Gilson is up next. Resolution honoring George Williams by naming the new DMV in his honor. Finalizing the tax foreclosures. The auction was very successful. The county is starting the Budget process. Oswego County is among the highest in the Nation in overall taxes. The county is 5th in the nation. The Department of Social Services is in bad shape. The average case worker makes \$24 per hour. Supervisors \$32-\$38 per hour. It's important to hold the line as much as we can. A meeting with Dave Turner and he explained the importance of the Towns holding out %10 of

the ARPA monies that the Town received from the county, to put toward Broadband in the county. The Legislature met many times to review what they thought were important projects to spend money on around the county. There was a lot of back and forth with the Federal Government and finally got a ruling to allocate \$10 million dollars for government services and put the other \$12 million to spend in the private sector non for profit organizations to help them with some rescue funds. Applications are still coming in. The county wanted to leverage as much as possible to allocate money for broadband throughout the county. The cost will be about \$40 million. What the county wanted or decided to do was to set aside \$4 million out of the counties \$12million and leverage that with money from the different Townships. So each Township was asked to join this coalition and provide the county with 10% of their ARPA funds. So each community got different amounts so however they figured. The county was hoping to put that money with their \$4 million and try to leverage that to get more money, showing them that this was a shared services consolidation . The Town alone would not be able to provide fiber optic cable for \$30,000 but if the money was with the coalition to get a bigger grant from the federal government that would put more fiber optic cable in for more people. So if Towns or villages don't become a part of this, they could get stepped over when the areas are looked at for cable. The county did not make this contribution mandatory. The county is just asking for it .

Supervisor Clerk Tammie Whaley is here to report on her meeting with Financial Consultant Laird Petrie. After the meeting with Dave Turner she and Laird worked on what was received in 2021, what was spent in 2021, what we received in 2022 and what have expensed out and it's all gone to water was \$82,044.24 plus last year the only thing expensed out was Bonadio with all the help with filing our first annual report to the government. We earmarked \$150,000 for the ARPA county match, once again for Water. We earmarked from the ARPA funds, the parks grant for \$77,808.00. The balance that we have today is \$31,142.88, 10% of what we received if we were to do the Broad Band is \$34,184.51. If the Board wants to jump on and do the Broad Band project, we are done spending and give this last bit back to the County for Broadband.

Councilwoman Gilson would like to make a motion that the remainder of the ARPA money be used for Broadband. This is part of the Comprehensive Plan, the Village is going to do it, and it's needed. This motion was seconded by Councilwoman Haynes. It's pretty close to 9%. Laird and Tammie worked on the figures yesterday, so if we are going to do it, it's time to do it and get it earmarked. With a motion on the floor and no discussion, all members were in agreement with a vote of "AYE".

DOG REPORT: Dog report for August 2022 was presented to the Board. With no discussion, ***a motion to accept the Dog 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"***

SUPERVISOR REPORT: Budget Amendments, Supervisor Clerk Tammie Whaley advised the Board that the 1st, is to record the ARPA Funds that we have already expensed out into the Water District. We have to amend the revenue, amend the expenditure, it's a wash, it's not going to change anything, it's just a matter of taking it from our General Fund and putting it in Water. The 2nd one is a transfer from Fund Balance into our Water Expenditure account just in water District 1 at this point, 8320.4 of \$57,000. At the end of August you will see on the August report just that one line item is -\$51,000 . When the Board approves the Abstract today there will be more expenditures that are coming out of there so we just guessed it. Laird wanted to get the negative out of there. It doesn't look good to carry a negative. The fund balance is going to be a different story because there isn't enough of a fund balance there which down the road it will probably come from. The 3rd item is a budget transfer like we normally do at the end of every year when certain line items go into the negative. We had a budget error in the A fund and it is not known how it happened but, when the Board approved the last set of raises last year at the last meeting and only Tammie's salary ended up on it, but not the Supervisors salary or the Deputy Supervisors salary. She thinks it was supposed to be \$49,000 and not \$19,000 so Laird takes it from the contingency account which had \$70,000 so it's there now and needs to be approved by the Board. A motion to approve the Budget Amendments and Transfer was made by Councilwoman Gilson and seconded by Councilwoman Haynes. With no more discussion, and in a roll call vote, all members voted with "AYE". ***A motion to accept the Supervisors Report as presented for the months of July and August of 2022, was made by councilwoman Gilson and seconded by Councilman North. With no discussion and in a roll call vote, all members were in agreement with a vote of "AYE".*** The Financial Policy adoption will be tabled until the October meeting.

COMPREHENSIVE PLANNING BOARD MINUTES/UPDATES: Councilwoman Gilson was out of town for the meeting but was briefed by Chairperson, Dawn Holynski. They discussed the Climate Action Plan. NYS is really pushing electric school buses. The starting cost of a bus is \$283,000 so the school buses will go nuts. What you're not getting for that cost is a charging station, no infrastructure for the charging stations. There are a lot of unanswered questions before something like this can even be done. She will meet with Mrs. Holynski and brief the Town Board in October.

DOG REPORT: ***A motion to accept the Dog Report was made by Councilwoman Haynes and seconded by Councilman Goodsell. With no discussion and in a roll call vote, all members were in agreement with a vote of "AYE".***

JUSTICE REPORTS: Justice Reports are next from Justice's Conger and Ridgeway for July and August. With no discussion, ***a motion to accept the reports as presented was made by Councilwoman Haynes and seconded by Councilman North. In a roll vote, all were in favor with a vote of "AYE".***

WARRANT OF BILLS: *A motion to accept and pay Abstract #9 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 BOARD MINUTES: Town Board minutes for August 9, 2022 were presented for review. With no discussion *a motion was made by Councilman Goodsell and seconded by Councilwoman Haynes. 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 the month of August 2022 was made by Councilwoman Gilson and seconded by Councilwoman Haynes. In a roll call vote, all were in favor with a vote of "AYE".*

CEMETERY UPDATES: Another large tree has come down in the Cemetery. Mr Fox told Mr Novak but it was unclear which cemetery. Town Clerk Newcomb will get in contact with Mr Fox in the morning.

TOWN HISTORIAN REPORT: No report.

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS: Right now with the Solar Panels generating power at the Water Building Site. At one time the Town was going to Build the Highway Garage on that site. Because the Vote failed with a public referendum, the Town now has over 40,000 kilowatts that have been generated and not used. If we stay with the current incentive, that we have which is site net metering. Site net metering, whatever electricity the water building uses, that's what they use, whatever they don't just keeps rolling over and we are never going to use it. As we talked about at the last meeting, Julie would like the Board to allow her to allocate any excess production to the Richland/Orwell Road Well site so that way we are doing something with those excess kilowatts. A little bump is that National Grid said that if we changed incentives, they said if we don't use it we will lose it. They would not/could not do anything with banked credits and that we are going to lose them. Last week Julie met with Supervisor Yerdon, Nate Bureau from Paradise Energy, Robin McGuam from National Grid. Chriss Carrick, from Regional Planning tried to get on but couldn't.. The reason Robin McGuam denied the application the first time is because they had a lot of places come back to them and say "You didn't tell us this and that". Once she understood that we actually knew what we were talking about and that we did want to change incentives. By changing those incentives, right now our usage is about \$.09 per kilowatt which is nice that we are getting that at the Water Building but by changing incentives, the amount we are selling, we are getting 3-4 cents per kilowatt instead of the .09cents. Robin McGuam went to the regulatory Commission and told them that because we have tried to apply for it twice, they grandfathered us in and allowed us to credit those 40,000 stored kilowatts toward the Richland/Orwell Road. We won't lose them. The incentive is less but we can use whatever we produce, and it's on the allocation sheet that 25% goes to

the Water Building and the other 75% sent to Richland/Orwell road. We can change them month to month if we find the percentages are not right. The Water Building is covered. There is just one more form to sign and Supervisor Yerdon wanted Julie to come to the meeting to explain it. Julie is the only one with access to the account if that is okay with everyone. The last thing is that we have to get an inverter at the cost of \$600. Julie has worked very hard for this and argued a lot for it. ***A motion to make Julie the contact person for this project was made by Councilwoman Haynes and seconded by Councilwoman Gilson. Water Supervisor Novak asked where the money is coming from to pay for the inverter. Deputy Clerk Peterson said she thinks that it should come from the Water Districts since it's benefiting the Water Districts. Mr. Novak agreed. National Grid will set up the inverter per Julie. The motion is on the table, and with no more discussion and in a roll call vote, all Board members were in agreement with a vote of "AYE".*** Amendment of the Procurement Policy is next. Mrs Whaley explained to the Board that Laird caught that the one that we have the amounts are not correct. He would like the policy amended . The problem was with the limits. We had \$20,000. It's now \$35,000 and \$10,000 is \$20,000 now. He wanted to make sure it was amended. None of our figures changed, what our rules as a Town are but the laws have changed. ***A motion was made to amend the procurement policy as explained was made by Councilman North and seconded by Councilman Goodsell. In a roll call vote, all were in favor with a vote of "AYE".*** Next is to Establish repair reserves resolutions for Water Districts 1,2,3 & 5 and a Capital Reserve for Water District #5. Attorney Seiter looked them over and did not have any issues with them. The Board just has to approve and move forward. Laird and Tammie have worked hard and would like to commend them. ***A motion to approve all the resolutions was made by Councilwoman Gilson and seconded by Councilman North. In a roll call vote all were in favor with a vote of "AYE".***

An Amish gentleman has approached Mr Yerdon for permission to trap and fish on Town of Richland property at the Well site. The Board had previously decided not to allow any hunting or fishing on Town Property. The Town Clerk's Office will draft a letter to the Amish to let them know their decision. Fernwood Church. An update today, Mr Goodsell spoke to Mr Keegan and they would sell the Church to the Town for \$1.00 and closing costs. It has to go to the Supreme Court and according to Attorney Seiter, it's not cheap, do able but not cheap. The problem is the Board is not sure if there is asbestos in the buildings. Mr Novak said we would need 6 things, 1st, Phase 1 & 2 site investigation, an Asbestos survey, a lead paint survey, a structural analysis, and a demolition cost. The demolition cost is covered under the grant per Councilwoman Gilson. Supervisor Novak is correct about all the other things that have to be done. She is not sure if the grant but the biggest piece before we act on any of this is that we have to have these studies done. We can spend the money to have the studies done and then find out there are issues. As far as the house, it will be torn down. The question is "who is going to tear it down". Councilman Goodsell advised that when he met with B&G Supervisor Kevin Balcom, he said that the Highway could tear it down and dispose of it on the property. Councilwoman Gilson advised that you can if it's your own personal property. But if there is asbestos in the home, by law you have to do an asbestos survey and if there is asbestos in the

home you have to have an asbestos licensed contractor, it has to go out as asbestos containing materials for disposal materials and that is very costly. That cost will come out of the grant. Supervisor Yerdon says in his experience the laws around asbestos removal are pretty strict. He thinks that we have to be somewhere in the ballpark if we take the church property over as to how much it is going to cost to do all the things we want. Councilwoman Haynes added that she doesn't think this is the best time to be investing in a project like this. At the moment, we don't know how much it's going to be for fuel for the plows, we don't have enough money for the Water which we really need. She is not against the Town owning the Church but, she feels now is not the right time for it. According to the Grants that the Town and Kristy LaManche have looked at, it doesn't pay for Phase 1 and 2 but it does pay for the demolition. Mr. Novak thinks that the Town would have to pay between \$6,000-\$15,000 at the minimum for Phase 1&2. It's about priorities. There is more of a cost than the Town Board thought. ***A motion was made by Councilwoman Haynes that the Town passes up on the purchase of the Fernwood Church. The economy is not good at the moment. Councilman Goodsell thought that maybe the work could be done with grant money instead of Town money. He didn't realize that the Town would have to do Phase 1&2. A feasibility study, a survey of who would use it if it was turned into a park, there are so many things to consider. Mr Jefferys asked the Board why the Town would purchase this church if it was going to tear it down. Fernwood itself doesn't have anything like the Hamlet of Richland with a park. The village has the Haldane Center. The church itself would not be torn down. The church is the Historical part of the property. The house would be demolished due to the fact that no one has lived in it for 20 years or so. Everything would have to be verified for historical purposes. The motion on the floor NOT to purchase the church was seconded by Councilman North. In a roll call vote of the Board members voted as follows, Haynes, "Yes". Gilson, "Yes", Goodsell, "No", North "Yes" and Yerdon, "Yes".*** Councilwoman Gilson asked if it can be brought up at a later date. The answer was yes, maybe when the economy gets better. In other business, a reminder that the Sexual Harassment Class is tomorrow at 10:00am. All Town employees are to attend.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: A motion to enter into Executive Session to discuss contract negotiations was made by Councilwoman Haynes and seconded by Councilman North. In a roll call vote, all were in favor with a vote of "AYE". 8:03pm. At 8:41 pm a motion to come out of 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". Back to regular session 8:41pm. No action was taken as a result of the Executive Session.

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, members were in agreement with a vote of "AYE". 8:42pm.

BOARD MEETING: October 11, 2022 at 6:00pm.

MEETING ADJOURNED: 8:42 pm.

Respectfully submitted by

Millie Newcomb
Town Clerk