

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

**DATE:** June 14,2022

**KIND OF MEETING:** Regular Town Board Meeting w/ guest speaker Gary Knapp (start time 5:00)

**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:** Water Board Chairperson, Donna Gilson, Legislators, Herb Yerdon and Ed Gilson, Town Residents, Janet Osuchowski, Eileen Yager, Highway Superintendent, John Fox, Water Supervisor Ron Novak, CEO/ZEO John Howland, Swiatoslav Kaczmar, Attorney Graham Seiter, and Town Clerk Millie Newcomb

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

Guest Speaker Gary Knapp is here for a presentation to the Town of Richland Board about the Federal Opportunity Zone Program and what it could provide for economic opportunities and benefits for the Town of Richland. The Federal infrastructure investment program appropriation bill was enacted and signed into law on November 15, 2021. Shortly after the Onibus 1.5 trillion consolidation was signed into law on March 15, 2022. Congress is considering an engrossing legislation, which is known as the America Competes act. It's \$350 billion dollars to provide emerging technology preferences to compete for semiconductors and technology. There is an extraordinary , once in a lifetime , amount of capital incentive put in front of a significant project execution. Where appropriate scale can be programmed and planned. This is a once in a lifetime supply of money with an uncertain future of where the economy is going. For the moment this is a summary. Mr. Knapp came and met with Supervisor Krupke several times to update him in the spring of 2021 with their assessment of what they think is the opportunity when it was related to the Canadian National plans to acquire the CSX /

Montreal secondary RR line. This was a contract that was entered into and approved by the surface transportation Board on April 6, 2020. Conditional approval, certain language was not approved by CSX, they petitioned for reconsideration and a seconded order was entered into on February 24, 2021, Affirming the prior owner for approval but requiring the anti competitive language be removed from the purchase. This approval is still sitting in front of the Transportation Board for approval. The only spot on the reach of the Montreal secondary line between Montreal and Syracuse that presents at an interstate exit location is at exit 35, Co Route 28, Tinker Tavern Road. The Town Board collaborating with thought leaders got 2000 acres of that real estate bases put into the Federal Opportunity Zone. The Town, again on thought leadership, has put public water in the ground in the reach of that interchange as it would come back to Pulaski. The potential for development between exits 36-35. The company comes at this with a lot of experience of doing large significant economic development projects. This firm has done Destiny and large master plan communities. This is their forte. If the public is interested, a copy of the plan is available for review in the Town Clerk's Office here at the Courthouse.

**PUBLIC COMMENT: 6:18** Janet Osuchowski from Dunlap Road is here to ask about progress in lowering the speed limit on Dunlap Road. The board advised Ms. Osuchowski that it is a process to get the speed lowered. Highway Superintendent Fox advised the only way to change the speed is to start with a petition of the property owners on the road. The home owners will turn those petitions over to the Town , the town will turn those over to the County. This procedure is just like what the property owners did on Lehigh Road. NYS will then look over the situation and make the decision.

**ZONING AND CODE REPORTS:** The Board has received the building permits for the month of May. 16 permits were issued. Junk Letters are going out. Mr. Howland has been working on the south end of the Township this week looking at habitual violators. The Town can do administrative hearings in August and September if needed. Mr Pavia has been working on the Zoning for the Comprehensive plan. The Town Board has approved up to \$10,000 for him to look over and make changes to the current plan. Mr Howland has been advised that for Mr. Pavia to complete the changes it will cost the Town of Richland another \$5000. ***A motion to pay the extra \$5000 for Mr. Pavia from Harris Beach to complete the changes to the Zoning was made by Councilman Yerdon and seconded by Councilwoman Haynes. In a roll call vote, all were in favor with a vote of "AYE".***

A public hearing for the Comprehensive Board for changes is to be set for the July Board Meeting. ***A motion to schedule a Public Hearing on the changes to the Comprehensive Plan was made by Councilwoman Haynes and seconded by Councilman Goodsell. In a roll call vote, all were in favor with a vote of "AYE".***

**LEGISLATIVE REPORT** Legislature Yerdon has to leave so Legislature Gilson will give the report. Sandy Island Beach was recently named one of the top Beaches in NYS. Paddle Fest is coming back to Oswego. COVID vaccines are still available. Oswego County Legislature passed a sales tax relief on gasoline sales up to \$3.00. This supposedly lower gas \$.33 per gallon. The county will lose some revenue and they didn't budget for it but they are making up for internet sales. The last county meeting passed a new law for non consensual tows. When owners were not present, there was some gauging going on. A deputy director of Tourism and Planning was named. This position was open when Dave Turner left. The first round of ARPA initiative requests were approved. The process was the applications were sent into Dave Turner's Office. Then they went to the specific jurisdictions that had control over the particular request. For example, if it was Health related it went to the Health Department, if it was business related it went to Economic and Planning if it was Public Safety it went to Public Safety. In all of those, 21 went to the Jurisdictions, from there they went to finance and personnel, they are the last ones that have a say over the money. There were 4 of the 21 that were referred back to the committee for additional information. The Town of Richlands application made it through and was approved for the Water improvements. It was a good application and it met the requirements of the initiative. Mr Gilson isn't sure when the Town will get the money but he advised to keep good records and use it for what it was asked for. The Town had applied for \$ 260,000 and was awarded the full amount. The Village of Pulaski had a few applications, and went back for some additional information. It's not dead, just need more information.

**DOG REPORT:** No report

**HIGHWAY REPORT:** First thing is the agreement to spend Highway Funds. We do this every year. The agreement is from Oswego County. This is for the road that they want to pave this year. It will be  $\frac{3}{4}$  of Lehigh Road. State money is here and they are ready to go. Hansen Paving held to the bid they gave the Town in May. The Chip seal was done. Last year 9.6 miles of road were done and this year it was knocked down to 4.6 miles due to the price. It's all due to the cost of oil. The new snow plow that was ordered over 1 year ago. The company also held to the price. The cost of steel has gone up by 15%. Last years plow season from November to April, the town spent \$49,000 on diesel fuel. He wants to prepare the Board for the cost of fuel for budget time. Mr. Fox is hoping for an easy fall. Councilwoman Haynes asked if the Highway is still planning on using wood to heat the building this year. Mr Fox does not plan on using wood this year. The highway garage recently had the Garage insulated with spray foam insulation. Mr Fox will be hiring a new full time worker for the coming year. He is still 1 man short and due to the retirement of Alan Kling in April of 2023. Alan is the mechanic for the shop. Jeremy Smith is a DOT mechanic and is sick of driving to Watertown. He is a very good mechanic. For the summer, Mr Fox is keeping Zach Masuicca on the Co-op program. He now has a second intern, Jake Samson. He is fully insured through the County including pay. Both these young men will be mowing the cemeteries for the summer under the supervision of one of the Highway personnel. They will also mow the water buildings. Mr Fox would also like to put the 1997

truck on Auctions International. The Town Highway has used them in the past and it's been very successful. Councilman Yerdon would like Superintendent Fox to offer the truck to one of the neighboring Towns first. One truck is broken down at the moment. 2015 Western Star. Diesel fluid lights are on. Mr. Fox reported to the Board about the headstone damage on Co rt 28 and Lehigh Road. ***A motion to list the 1997 Plow truck on Auctions International and a second motion to expend Highway Funds was made by Councilwoman Haynes and seconded by Councilman North. In a roll call vote, all were in favor with a vote of "AYE". Each Councilperson will sign the Agreement with Oswego County to Expend Highway Funds. This record is available in the Town Clerk's Office.***

**BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS & RICHLAND PARKS:** Kevin Balcom tore the shed down that was at the Haldane Center. 80 tons of stone were also dropped off. The stone was set with the grader 6' apart to keep cars from going places they shouldn't be going. Councilwoman Haynes it looks so much better. The other half of the highway Building insulation will be finished tomorrow. A request to renew Kristy LaMache contract. ***A motion to renew her Contract was made by Councilwoman Haynes and seconded by Councilman North. In a roll call vote, all were in favor with a vote of "AYE".*** Councilwoman Haynes had a few questions about the surveys for the parks. Attorney Seiter advised that he had just delivered them to the Town Clerk Newcomb. The contract with New York State for the parks was the next question. Attorney Seiter told Councilwoman Haynes that everything was in the works or sent on to Kristy last week. Everything was finally complete. The Haldane meeting was informative. They were talking about doing a report on who is using the building and or grounds so they don't get into the mess they were in before. The Board looked over the Building Report sheet and agreed its needed and liked the form. It's a good start. Kevin Balcom will get a hold of the storage sheds in Sandy Creek for a 12x16 building. He thinks he can get them to donate one by letting them put a sign on it for advertising and if they do it will look better than what is there.

**WATER REPORT:** Last month Mr Novak advised the board that the Fire Hydrants around the town were not insured if they were damaged by a vehicle, and the vehicle did not stop. Since that time hydrant #180 was stolen on County Route 28. It was reported by a homeowner. Mr Novak did report it to the State Police. They happen to be in the area because someone had stolen copper and brass out of the cemetery on County Route 41. South Richland Cemetery. Eileen Yager advised that the individual had been arrested after he tried to sell the stolen items to an American Legion member. Supervisor Novak filed a report with the insurance company for the hydrant. The cost to replace it is just short of \$3700. The insurance company advised that the hydrant was not covered under the Towns insurance. Since then he has gotten an estimate of how much covering all the hydrants in the town would cost. The quote is from Easternshore Associates for all 720 hydrants. If we insure them for only parts cost, it would be \$4166.00 per year. If we insure all 720 hydrants for parts labor and installation, the cost would be \$7884.00. 80-90% of damages to hydrants are from Motor Vehicles. If it's reported the Town can collect from the Vehicles insurance company. If it's stolen or hit by a non insured

vehicle or the vehicle takes off, then the Town is liable. The town will look into this at budget time. The Water Department recently replaced a compound meter at Brennans. They went through over 1.5 million gallons of unmetered water, so Mr Novak will prepare a bill for that. This morning the Water Crew repaired Well #2 at Fernwood. It's the first time it's been up and operational in 8 months. To the best of his knowledge, all the hydrants in the Town have one of the newer type flags. He is working with the fire department to place the Sturtz Valves. The Town ordered 82 of them and has 35 left. The Water Department has put them around the County Building, Schoeller Paper, Fulton Boiler Works, the entire Port and is now working on putting them on North and South Ramona Beach , Grandview and highly concentrated areas around the Lake. The Water Department has recently become aware of a private water line that goes behind Fulton Boiler works that was installed in 2010. It is a 6" main that connects Peck Road around the backside of the boiler works and connects on County Route 2. Mr Novak has gone up and located the valves. He has gotten pictures from B&L of the tap. He has talked to the County and they are not aware of it . No one seems to be aware of this project or find any documentation from anyone. It does exist and it supports 2 hydrants behind Fulton Boiler Works that were needed to support Fire control by the IDA as part of the project to build Fulton Boiler Works. Fulton has expressed an interest in having their lawyers look into it because they believe they own it. They are also going to eventually look into turning it over to the Town. That would involve easements for the pipe and everything else. It's a private line hooked to our main in 2 locations. It forms a loop that we don't own. There doesn't seem to be any paperwork for this line anywhere. Not in the Supervisors Office or Water Office. Those hydrants have never been serviced in 12 years. Since it's private, the Town can't even touch them. The valves are open on Peck Road and 2A. It's a 6" main tapped into a 10" main. If it breaks we will be the first to know. Fulton Company will come back to the Town once the Legal Department looks into the issue. Mr. Novak will keep the Board up to date.

Basic household parts have a 7 month lead. The Water Dept has 73 on order. They also have 28 basement hookups, 24-25 meter pit hook ups. More are on order. Mr. Novak has no idea when the parts will come in. Supervisor Novak has had no information from the Town of Orwell on when they would like to haul water from the Towns Hydrant hookup. The County just added another layer for a complete set of plans from B&L for a Hydrant hook up because of the backflow preventer. If Orwell said that they need water tomorrow, Mr Novak says that he is 6-8 weeks minimum before he is prepared for them to haul bulk water off our hydrant in the well fields. They are not making any decisions. They may just have to use the Water Salesman on County Route 41. The Health Department is in charge now. Until Orwell makes a decision everything is at a stand still.

The cabin project at the old Trust nursery is a directional drill under Route 11. Its going to be a 3" service with a vault, with a backflow preventer. Estimates will have to be received from Malone and North Country . It's going to be expensive. It may be \$10,000-\$15000 water hook up before they are done. At 7:00 am Thursday Scriba Electric will be at the Well Field to work on the generator.

IMA with Orwell. There will be a meeting with the Sub-Committee to go over the cost and the committee has a contract that they are comfortable with. A contract has to be in place Councilman Yerdon thinks by July 1. Oswego County has not heard anything from Orwell.

**SUPERVISOR REPORT:** The March and April Supervisors report was presented to the Board. With no comments, *a motion to accept the reports as presented was made by Councilman Yerdon and seconded by Councilwoman Haynes. In a roll call vote, all members voted with "AYE".*

**COMPREHENSIVE PLANNING BOARD MINUTES/UPDATES:**

**JUSTICE REPORTS:** Justice reports for Judge Conger and Judge Ridgeway are next. The reports were for the months of April and May 2022. With no questions or comments, *a motion was made to accept the reports as presented by Councilman Goodsell and seconded by Councilman North. In a roll call vote, all were in favor with a vote of "AYE".*

**WARRANT OF BILLS:** *A motion to pay Abstract # 6 of 2022 was made by Councilman North and seconded by Councilwoman Haynes. With no discussion and in a roll call vote, all were in favor with a vote of "AYE".*

**TOWN BOARD MINUTES, TOWN CLERKS REPORT:** Next is the Town Board Minutes for May 10, and June 10, 2022 and the **Town Clerks report for May 2022.** With no discussion, a *motion to accept the reports as presented was made by Councilman Yerdon and seconded by Councilwoman Haynes. In a roll call vote, all were in favor with a vote of "AYE".*

**CEMETERY UPDATES:** Highway Superintendent Fox advised the Board that someone had crashed into some cemetery headstones at the McClelland Cemetery. This cemetery is located on the corner of Lehigh Road and County Route 28. Extensive damage was done to one of the headstones. Kellogg Memorials will give an estimate for the repairs. The others, Mr. Fox, advised that the highway workers may be able to repair. Town Clerk Newcomb had contacted the State Police and Trooper Cal Longley did a report on the damage. It was reported to the Police that the vehicle that did the damage was a Chrysler product, gray in color. This information was from the parts that were left at the scene.

**TOWN HISTORIAN REPORT:** No report.

**MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS:** Memorandum of Understanding with the Village of Pulaski for using Pulaski Village Police for Constables for Court nights. It's working out very well and the Chief of Police and the Mayor were very supportive. Next, Juneteenth Holiday is a Federal

Holiday. Supervisor Krupke would like the Board to consider giving the non bargaining staff the day off. The Union employees did not want this added. This will be added to the Employee Handbook. **A motion to add Juneteenth Holiday to the Non-Bargaining paid holidays. The motion was made by Councilman North and seconded by Councilwoman Haynes. In a roll call vote, all were in favor with a vote of "AYE".** Discussion turned to the parcel of land that is owned by the IDA across from the County Highway Building on Centerville Road. Councilman Yerdon would like to explore the option to obtain that parcel of land in the future for a new highway garage. Gas and Water are available on that parcel and possibly working a shared service with Oswego County for the use of the Fuel tanks. Councilman North is concerned about whether money has been budgeted for this. Water Board Chairwoman Gilson would like to know if the Board considered adding Kenneth Moonan to the Water Board. Councilman Goodsell would like to tell the Board about the unique opportunity in the Fernwood Area. The First United Methodist Church may be available . It's a Historic Building, built in 1850's There may be grants available for Historical Buildings. There is nothing in the Fernwood area for families like maybe a playground or holding meetings when there is a conflict at the Courthouse. Attorney Seiter said the Church would have to get Supreme Court permission to sell . Councilman Goodsell said that they did get permission to get rid of the church for services. Mr. Goodsell would like to explore the possibility of keeping a historic building and keeping it in the community. The Board agreed to explore the idea. A motion to go into Executive Session on a Contractual Issue was made by Councilwoman Haynes and seconded by Councilman Goodsell. In a roll call vote, all were in favor with a vote of "AYE". 7:38 pm.

***At 7:53pm 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". 7:53pm. Back in the regular session. With nothing more to bring before the Board, a motion to adjourn was made by Councilman Yerdon and seconded by Councilman Goodsell. A roll call vote, all were in favor with a vote of "AYE". 7:54pm.***

**NEXT TOWN BOARD MEETING:** July 12, 2022 at 6:00pm

**MEETING ADJOURNED: 7:53pm**

Respectfully submitted by

Millie Newcomb  
Town Clerk