

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

DATE: July 11, 2023

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 (absent)
Councilwoman Sue Haynes
Councilman Robert North

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE: Town Residents, Larry Atkinson, Robert Jeffery, Tim Thayer, Eli Swartzentruber, Ezra Hershberger, Eric Pappa, Jeff Edick, Tim Crouch B&G Supervisor, Kevin Balcom, Comp Board Chair Dawn Holyinski, Town Historian Shawn Doyle, CEO/ZEO John Howland, Water Supervisor Ron Novak, County Legislators, Herb Yerdon and Ed Gilson, 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: Supervisor Yerdon opened the Public Hearing for Local Law #3 Establishing a Moratorium and applications and /or construction of Recreational Vehicle Developments and Campgrounds in the Town of Richland. Mr Yerdon proceeded to read section 1 Authority and section 2 Intent and Purpose. This will be included with these minutes. This will put a hold on all campgrounds for the period of 12 months once the Town Board votes. Councilman North added that this does not include any campgrounds that are presently in the process of getting approved. CEO/ZEO Howland told the Board there are no new applications right now. ***A motion was made by Councilwoman Haynes and seconded by Councilman North to adopt this Local Law. In a roll call vote, all were in favor with a vote of "AYE".***

PUBLIC HEARING : Supervisor Yerdon again opened the Public Hearing on Water Service Area #5 Extension #1, ***A motion to open this Public Hearing was made by Councilwoman Gilson and seconded by Councilwoman Haynes. In a roll call vote, all were in favor with a vote of "AYE".***

Councilwoman Gilson read the Resolution into the minutes. A copy of this resolution will be part of these minutes. A gentleman who is in District #6 had some questions. The Board advised that this particular Public Hearing was for WD#5, extension 1 residents which consists of 2 parcels. Town Historian and Town Resident Shawn Doyle would like to thank Attorney Seiter's Office for all their help with paperwork that was needed. With no discussion, ***a motion to close the Public Hearing was made by Councilwoman Gilson and seconded by Councilwoman Haynes. In a roll call vote, all were in favor with a vote of "AYE".***

PUBLIC COMMENT: A gentleman from the hamlet of Richland that resides on County Route 48 has a question on Water District # 6. The survey that he received in the mail and the increase in taxes should this new district go through was alarming. Water Supervisor Novak explained that the survey went out to 530 parcels in the district as an interest survey to see how many of those 530 parcels would be interested in receiving Town Water. The survey price went out with an expected annual fee on your taxes depending on what available funding they are able to get to build the project, between \$750-\$1100 per year. This is the EDU or Equivalent Dwelling unit cost that will go on your taxes. Outside of that, the water that you would actually use, comes on a separate water bill. The minimum bill is \$76.00 per 6 months for 20,000 gallons. Once it's determined that there is interest in a new water district, then develop a map, plan, and report, there is a lot more information. Mr Doyle told the Board that there are many people on County Route 48 that have water and he thinks that not many will respond to the survey. Mr Swartzentruber stated that he has a spring that runs 24-7 and told the Board that he doesn't need Town water. He doesn't want anyone going thirsty but at this time he doesn't need it. He understands the need and importance of the surveys. Mr. Yerdon told the audience that the Board tries to do what the people want and not force people to do otherwise. Sometimes, people get water that they don't want, but others want it. As a whole, about 90% of the Town of Richland will have water after WD #5 is finished. He thinks this is a huge percentage of people that want water and have water. In most cases if you have water running in front of your house, you would get a discount on fire insurance. Our water is set up by generators in the well fields. If the power goes out, you still have water for your sink, for fire protection, or to feed your cows. As representatives of the Town, we try to do what the majority of the people want. Mr Thayer added the importance of fire hydrants could mean someone surviving a fire or not surviving a fire. Mr. Swartzentruber asked about the Amish school on County Route 48. He is on the Board and asked if the taxes would increase if the Water went through. The answer would be yes because the water would run by and it would be charged an EDU.

A motion to adopt the Resolution and order Extending Water Service Area #5 in the Town of Richland to include tax map # 102.00-01-07 and 061.01-01-18 was made by Councilwoman Haynes and seconded by Councilwoman Gilson. In a roll call vote, all members present voted "AYE".

LEGISLATIVE REPORT: Legislator Gilson will fill in for Legislator Yerdon this evening. The county keeps improving the Emergency preparedness and recently had an incident involving a missing

person in the Town of Hannibal. A drone operator arrived on site and found the missing individual within 15 mins of his arrival. Many things came out of the State as far as safety news. Water preparedness, heat stroke , extension cord safety. Last month they dedicated the Oswego Motor Vehicles to a long time Clerk and County Legislator, George Williams. It was a great dedication and well attended. It was a very nice tribute to Mr. Williams. The warnings that went out over the air safety with the fires that are still burning in Canada. The Oswego County Office of the Aging is having a Senior picnic, free to seniors age 60 years and older. It will be held in Mexico on August 16th at the Mexico VFW. Lastly, we are coming to a close with the American Rescue Plan. The ARPA funds. The next legislative session on Thursday, will be passing the next large block of money. This will bring up to over 100 applications and over \$10,000,000. Mr Gilson is proud to say that with help, they have brought over \$2,000,000 to Oswego County. Mr Howland asked Mr Gilson if the County is still planning on closing off the road by the Selkirk Lighthouse, County Route 5. Mr. Gilson answered that the County is not. That is private property and the County only has a right of way. The only way to support the Ready Project was to build that wall along the river. The owner of the property would like to shut that off. There have been many plans over the years such as a park at the end of the road, but the county could not negotiate with the owner and come to common ground. The county owns County Route 5 which goes straight into the river. As it starts to turn toward the lighthouse, the county does not own that part of the road. They have maintained that road for many years but they do not own it. The Lighthouse owner would like everyone to use the road behind the lighthouse to turn around. The County has abandoned the idea of a park at the end of the road. Shawn Doyle would like to commend Mr Gilson for his effort in trying to get some ARPA money for the Rural Migrant Ministry. They are looking to build a barn for storage of medical equipment. The County is not helping DSS like they used to. Three businesses that were approved for ARPA funds have decided they no longer need the money so \$240,000 has gone back into the fund. There are no projects that don't have a chance of funding. There are rules that have to be followed. Businesses have until 2026 to spend the money.

ZONING & CODE REPORTS: The Board has copies of all reports from Mr Howland. It's been pretty busy. The agenda for Monday night is in the packet. There will be a joint Planning and Zoning meeting on July 17th. There was a lot of misinformation last month about the Selkirk Lighthouse meeting. There were a lot of people that showed up for that and many questions were asked. Many of the questions were misinformation and rumors by many in the area. Just received another application for a commercial solar farm, a 3.5 megawatts on Route 11 behind the old Trust Nursery. It's about 700 feet off the road. It will be a few months for this to be approved due to a long form SEQR has to be completed. One campground that was approved last month has some DEC issues. That is getting straightened out. The Richland Hotel wants to add a new Garage.

COMPREHENSIVE PLANNING BOARD MINUTES/UPDATES: Councilwoman Gilson told the Board that the Comprehensive Board had a good and productive meeting. There were a few

PickleBall Leagues that came to the meeting. She will let the Chairperson tell the Board about it. Chairperson Dawn Holyinski is here to give a report from July 6th. She has the updated goals from the committee that they recommend to both the Town and Village. Those goals, there was talk about updating additional events. She has learned while talking to residents in the community that PickleBall is a growing interest activity. It's an indoor or an outdoor activity. This game is like tennis but only uses a ¼ of the space. Two members of the Pulaski/Sandy Creek organization attended the Comp Board Meeting. They told the Board that there are about 44 members and it's growing. It is affiliated with the USA Pickleball Association. Mayor Tighe told the Board that the Village is looking for courts to be built at Dunbar Field. The standard size of the court is 44' x 20' . There should be 8' on each end and 4 ' on each side of the court. The group is currently using Sandy Creek and Pulaski School gymnasiums and working with the Pulaski Schools about building additional courts at the elementary school. Councilwoman Gilson will talk to grant writer Kristy LaManche, who is working on the Towns CFA Grants, about mentioning Pickleball as an activity to be introduced into the grant. Questioning about putting a few pickleball courts near the park in Richland. This may have to be worked into a second CFA Grant. Mrs. Holyinski told the Board that there are many residents that don't go to a warmer climate in the Winter. As the amount of people show interest in playing pickleball, we are going to need an indoor one. We have done right by our children by having the Haldane Center, Richland Park, she thinks it would be nice to have something for the Senior Citizens as well. It falls into the Comp plan and it would be a joint project for the Town and Village, she asks that the Town work with the Mayor on seeing this vision through. Pickleball grew 159% in the last year. The Village voted to approve the Climate Action Plan. They continue to discuss the Conservation Subdivision design. This is important to get to new and old developers' plans. Discussion on charging stations in the hamlet of Richland. At this time, there doesn't seem to be a lot of interest in Electric cars at the moment.

HIGHWAY REPORT: Deputy Highway Superintendent, Kevin Balcom is here to give the Highway Report. With the rain that we received, we had 2 roads that were underwater. The crews went out and repaired any washouts that they could find. Supervisor Yerdon noted a resignation that was received in the packet from Jason LaVere.

BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS & RICHLAND PARKS: Security cameras are up and operating. There will be another camera installed at the Water Building on County Route 41. The Water Department has them on their phones. B&G Superintendent told the Board that there was damage done to the Haldane Pavillion. This time the cameras did catch the vandals. They have been identified. It's up to the Town how they want to proceed with charges or restitution and community service. Tim Thayer of Pop Warner would like to see them do 20 hours of community service along with paying for the damage that was done. Mr Balcom also worked on the Main Doors going into the Haldane Center. He had to break the wall and rebuild the frame of the doors. They are working well right now. The Pulaski Police Department would like access

to the cameras at the Haldane Center. After a brief discussion, ***the Board agreed and with a motion made by Councilwoman Haynes and seconded by Councilman North, the Pulaski Village Police will have access to the cameras at the Haldane Center. In a roll call vote, all were in favor with a vote of "AYE".***

WATER DEPARTMENT: The Board has a copy of the Water Board Minutes. The joint project between Sandy Creek and Richland is winding down. Engineers have asked for a "wish list" of parts for the remaining money from the project, following all or Rural Developments requirements. Mr Novak submitted his wish list, which is expected to be about \$100,000. This number is flexible at the moment since they are waiting on the final bills to come in. So based on the 70/30 that will be about \$30,000. Mr Novak submitted his wish list of a little over \$41,000. This is based on whatever money will be available. The issue is the warranty from the contractor ends on August 23rd. Anything after that date becomes the responsibility of both Richland and Sandy Creek. We currently have no repair parts for the 12" water main. If there is a failure after the 23rd, it's an automatic call out to contractors because of no parts. Sandy Creek is in the same boat as Richland. No parts available. It's important to get parts ordered. Recent discussion with Bill Havner, the Town of Orwell signed a new bi-lateral compliance agreement. Up until the new agreement was signed, Orwell was under agreement to install water by October 1, 2023 that has been extended until October 31, 2024. This will have an effect on the Town of Richlands 2023 Budget. He wanted to make the Board aware of this change so they could get the information to Financial Consultant Laird Petrie because this was factored into the budget. There was supposed to be a \$75,000 hook up fee from Orwell that was supposed to go to the Generator project for wells # 7 and #23. A check is not expected now in 2023. These line items that were dedicated to this project are likely going to be on hold, unless they went to an area that we use Capital Reserve funds to fund it and then once the check comes in, it goes back to Capital Reserves. This is a Laird question. This agreement changes the budget for 2023. Per Eric Pappa, the pump house property has to be secured before you can start the project. There was an incident on July 3-4 in which our radio system went down at the Fernwood Tower. This system sends communications to the Bishop Road tower and Sandy Creeks tower. That wouldn't be an alarm that our automatic dialer would notify us of an upset in operating conditions outside the normal parameters on our system. Mr Novak receives these alarms. He received no alarm. The following morning he received a call that 2 of the Towns tanks were just about empty. He suspected a problem with the phone line. He had Bob Hicks check the phone line by plugging another phone into it. There was no dial tone and no service. This caused no alarms to be received. They started taking appropriate actions to get the tanks filled back up. They were less than 1 hour from having the tanks completely empty and having no pressure in the system. We were down to ½ ft in the Bishop Road Tower and 1.2 feet in the Sandy Creek Tower. Because of this situation Supervisor Novak has purchased a second dialer that will go into the County Route 41 office. That dialer will be hooked to a Spectrum voice over the internet phone line. The first dialer was hooked to a Frontier Phone line. This will give us repetition in our alarm notification, this will also eliminate

this as a problem. Both dialers are jointly used by Richland and Sandy Creek. Neither Town had notifications that there was a problem. Chief Operator Bob Hicks and Mr. Novak worked 24-7 until that phone line was fixed on July 6th. The cost of the dialer was \$4159.61. It's been ordered but not installed. Supervisor Yerdon complimented Supervisor Novak and Chief Operator Hicks for their hard work on covering this emergency. Eric Pappa told the Board on July 17th, Sandy Creek will have a new set up in their buildings so no alarms will be coming through Richland's Water buildings for Sandy Creek. However, when they get an alarm saying they have a low tank, that is Richlands problem and they will be able to contact Richland to let them know. The whole problem was that the communications were down. It couldn't send it out that there was a problem. Both Towns are extremely lucky because there would have been a boil water advisory. A new meter had been ordered for Scholler paper. That meter is in this week. Mr. Novak will coordinate with the plant manager for the install. The Aqua Store tank is due for its 5 year inspection. The inspection was done on June 22nd. Overall the tank is in good condition. It has a few minor repairs that can be taken care of. The anodes are low before they are considered a failure, they are the electro chemistry for corrosion control, rust protection. They are internal to the tank. The anodes themselves are \$3000-\$4000. Technically there are 2 options. They would have to completely empty the tank and replace them or send a diver into confined space into the tank, someone that is used to this kind of work to replace the anodes. It has to be done and the cost will be in the area of \$6000-\$7000 between parts and labor. Parts come from one company and a speciality diver would come from somewhere else. He does not have an exact quote but does have an estimate from the tank inspectors. Questions about draining the tank vs. sending a diver into the tank. If the tank is lowered down, are there other things that can be done? Mr Novak feels that there isn't really a choice. This tank serves a part of Richland and is the primary water source for Sandy Creek. This is a very specialized field to have divers dive into a confined space such as a confined water tower. Councilwoman Gilson asked how low the tank has to go to do the repairs. Mr. Novak advised the tank has to be emptied completely. Mr Novak doesn't see emptying the tank from an operational perspective, as a viable option. Supervisor Yerdon asked what is the normal thing to do in this situation. Mr Novak told the Board, divers would be the way to proceed. He will get estimates. This inspection is a requirement of the tank's manufacturer. This tank is located in the Richland well fields. It's the round tank not elevated. It is 42' high. The parts, part of it is the easy part. On July 17th the Village of Pulaski informed the Town that they will be emptying their water tank. They have an issue with rust in the tank. They will empty and clean it. They let the Town know in case the Emergency Connect may be needed. The last thing is a proposal from Scriba Electric to replace an Entrance Pole in the Richland Well Field. This is an ARPA project. When it was submitted it had an estimate of \$30,000. The proposal is for \$31,214. This will come out of the ARPA money from the County \$260,000 part of the funds. This comes in line with what we expected, that pole has aged. It was installed in 1961 and with 1961 hardware. The current hardware on that pole doesn't comply with any of the current codes and standards. It will involve multiple periods of time between 2-4 hours that power will be disconnected from the well fields. Pumps will have to run on the generators. There will be a lot of cooperation between Scriba

Electric, the Town and National Grid. After a long discussion about the Procurement Policy, the contract between Scriba Electric and The Town of Richland was tabled until the next meeting. ***A motion to table Scriba Electrics proposal until the next meeting was made by Councilwoman Gilson and seconded by Councilwoman Haynes. In a roll call vote, Councilwoman Haynes, Yes, Councilwoman Gilson, Yes, Councilman North, Yes, and Supervisor Yerdon, No. The motion was carried with a vote of 3 Yes and 1 No.***

DOG REPORT: Next, Dog Control Report for the month of June 2023. ***With no discussion a motion to accept the Dog Report was made by Councilwoman Haynes and seconded by Councilman North. In a roll call vote, all were in favor with a vote of "AYE".***

SUPERVISOR REPORT: No report.

JUSTICE REPORTS: Justice reports from Judge Ridgeway and Conger for the month of May 2023 were presented to the Board. ***With no discussion a motion to accept the Judges report for May 2023 was made by Councilwoman Gilson and seconded by Councilwoman Haynes. In a roll call vote, all were in favor with a vote of "AYE".***

WARRANT OF BILLS: ***A motion to approve Abstract #7 was made by Councilman North and seconded by Councilwoman Haynes. In a roll call vote, all members present were in agreement with a vote of "AYE".***

TOWN BOARD MINUTES: Town Board Minutes for June 13th are next. ***With no discussion, a motion to accept the minutes was made by Councilwoman Haynes and seconded by Councilman North. 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 June was made by Councilwoman Haynes and seconded by Councilman North. In a roll call vote, all were in favor with a vote of "AYE".***

CEMETERY UPDATES: No updates.

TOWN HISTORIAN REPORT: Shawn Doyle is here to give his report. He has 2 Snow Scholars working with him this year. Izzy Eckland and Olivia LaRock. They have been working up at Halfshire to work. They are working 3 days per week. Izzy is working on an Alumni Project for the class of 1974 and Olivia is working on the Richland Civil War Project. They are both moving along very well. The Civil War project is trying to identify everyone on the monument out front and try to figure out where they went. Richland Old Home Days will be held the weekend of August 12th. They received money from the Arts Council for music and food vendors will be there. A lot of Class reunions are going on also. Very Busy.

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS: The Town Board received an application for the Board of Assessment Review Board. The applicant is Bonnie Finnerty. She is a local business owner, retired school administrator and a long time resident of Pulaski. Councilwoman Gilson thinks she would be a good addition to the Board. ***A motion to name Ms. Finnerty to the Board of Assessment Review was made by Councilwoman Haynes and seconded by Councilman North. In a roll call vote, all were in favor with a vote of "AYE".***

Next, Attorney Seiter explained to the Board and audience the issue about the levy on unpaid water bills. The laws have changed and the Town changed trying to keep up with the Laws. But the County contacted the Town to advise that the levy that was currently in our Local Law was incorrect. So he went back to review all the prior local laws. We have to rescind Local Law #2 of 2009 and Local Law #4 or 2010 and the amend Local Law #2 of 2005. For some reason, there was an extra 15% at one point than 15% with a \$50 penalty. The County advised that this cannot be done. So it's getting changed back to a 10% levy. It's complicated but these Local Laws will take care of all the corrections in our Local Law. That is what's being proposed. You have to sometimes rescind prior laws in order to replace them with new ones. ***A motion to rescind the prior Local Law and replace it with the new Local Law was made by Councilwoman Gilson and seconded by Councilwoman Haynes. In a roll call vote, all were in favor with a vote of "AYE".*** Supervisor Yerdon would like to consult with Attorney Seiter privately along with the Board. 8:02pm. Supervisor Yerdon advised Jeff Edick that the Town was still working on the Land that he was interested in purchasing from the Town off of Dry Bridge Road. Mr Edick didn't understand what was taking so long in making a decision on the purchase. Attorney Seiter explained that the Board has to look at the property and determine that the property has no further use for the Town. If they make that determination, they can pass that resolution to put that property up for sale, but that sale is subject to a permissive resolution. The resolution can be passed but the Town has to wait out the time period to see if anyone objects to that sale of that property. Any town resident can object to the sale. The law requires the Town to do this permissive ref when selling Town owned property. ***At 9:17, the Town Board came back into regular session with Councilwoman Haynes making the motion and Councilwoman Gilson seconding. In a roll call vote, all were in favor with a vote of "AYE"***

MEETING ADJOURNED: ***With nothing more to bring before the Board, a motion to adjourn was made by Councilwoman Gilson and seconded by Councilman North. In a roll call vote, all were in favor with a vote of "AYE". 9:18pm.***

NEXT TOWN BOARD MEETING: July 11, 2023 at 6:00 pm

Respectfully submitted by

Millie Newcomb
Town Clerk