

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

DATE: May 9, 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
Councilwoman Sue Haynes (Absent)
Councilman Robert North

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE: Town Residents, Charlene Braden and Eric Pappa, Maribeth and Richard Kuehner, Planning Board Member Swiat Kazmar, Water Board member, Robert Jeffery Zoning Board Alternate, Tim Crouch, Legislator, Herb Yerdon, Comp Board Chairperson, Dawn Holyinski, Mike Boccuzzi from Rural Development, CEO/ZEO John Howland, Highway Superintendent John Fox, B&G Supervisor Kevin Balcom, 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: At 6:02 Supervisor Yerdon opened the Public Hearing on the purchase of land on Peck Road from Oswego County IDA. Mr Kuehner asked how much the property was. The cost of the 14.25 acres is \$50,000. The Town is purchasing the property in hopes of Building a new Highway Facility in the future. ***With no comments from the audience, a motion to close the Public Hearing was made by Councilman Goodsell and seconded by Councilwoman Gilson. In a roll call vote, all were in favor with a vote of "AYE". 6:05pm.***

PUBLIC COMMENT: Comprehensive Board Chairperson Dawn Holyinski would like to address the Board. Councilwoman Gilson and Mrs. Holyinski attended the Community Resource Fair that was held at the American League. The people that stopped at the table that Mrs. Holyinski and Mrs Gilson set up were most interested in Solar and the Water Project. Mrs. Holyinski

thought that the person that started the whole water project was former Town Supervisor James Atkinson. He had a hard time trying to convince residents about the benefits of a public water system. She thinks that it would be a nice gesture to hang a plaque in his honor at the Water Control Building on County Route 41. The Board agreed and will look into doing that.

LEGISLATIVE REPORT: Legislator Herb Yerdon is here to give his report. Three years ago the Friends of Camp Hollis launched a campaign to raise money for the construction of a new playground on the nearly -century old campgrounds on the shores of Lake Ontario. Thanks to the generosity of foundations, businesses, groups and individuals we were able to successfully raise the money to purchase and install equipment. We are kicking off the 2023 Camp Hollis season by holding a ribbon -cutting. Refreshments and camp-friendly activities including camp courts will be provided. Camp Zerbe will be holding day camp Monday-Friday from 9am to 4pm. The cost is only \$25 per week. For more information and to register, visit https://youthbureau.oswegocounty.com/parks_recreation/camp_zerbe/summer_camp.php or call 315-349-3450. Kids annual Yard Sale at Breitbeck Park June 17th 9-3pm. Food is available for purchase. Oswego County Career Summit at the Oswego County Fairgrounds Wednesday May 17th 2023. Attention 8th graders. Join us in learning about potential Future career options through demonstrations and hands-on workshops. Come learn about a variety of Local programs and opportunities available to you. "We're Hiring". Want an awesome opportunity for the summer? Join Americorps! Summer Ed and living allowance amounts Education award \$1374 Living Allowance \$2823. Message Christopher Metz at Christopher.Metz@oswegocounty.co, and 315-349-3402. The COVID 19 pandemic has been a challenging time for all. We are grateful for your patience and understanding as everyone navigated this unprecedented situation. **The public health emergency is set to end May 11,2023.** Proposals for Engineering and Architectural Services for a Bathhouse at Camp Zerbe Deadline for questions are Monday May 15 2023 by 3:00pm. Email purchasing@oswegocounty.com Camp Zerbe is currently hiring counselors for its 2023 summer day camp program. Summer camp counselors serve at Camp Zerbe through the Oswego Americorps Program . To fill out an application go to <https://youthbureau.oswegocounty.com> and click on Apply for AmeriCorps today. May is Mental Health Awareness Month. Toll free helpline is 866-327-2400. Deadline for Oswego County ARPA Applications is May 5.

ZONING AND CODE REPORTS: The Board has copies of the Building and Zoning Permits and the agendas for the Planning and Zoning Board meetings for May 15 & 16. Councilman North will ride along with Mr Howland for Junkyards and Fish Cleaning Permit Inspections. Fish Cleaning permits are usually the first permits to go out due to Jr's Sport Shop being the only Fish Cleaning station that is open year round. The Town is down to 4 junkyards now. Local Law #3 of 2023 to establish a Moratorium on Campgrounds is a proposal only. Attorney Seiter wants the Board to look it over and advises that this has to be in front of the Board for 10 days. Attorney Seiter's

Office will set the Public Hearing on this moratorium for next month's meeting. If the Board has any questions before next month's meeting, Mr Seiter advises just to give him a call.

COMPREHENSIVE PLANNING BOARD MINUTES/UPDATES: Mr Michael Boccuzzi, a Planner at the Central NY Regional Planning and Development Board. That is a Public agency funded by Onondaga, Oswego, Cayuga, Cortland and Madison Counties. Basically they assist smaller communities with regional planning work, energy management, environmental management and general mapping and research. The last few months he has been working with the Village of Pulaski and the Town of Richlands comprehensive planning committee on a Climate Action Plan Update. There is a hand out in everyone's packet. He has been working with the Village and Towns. In 2010 the Town and Village passed the Climate Smart Pledge. This is a DEC program that rewards communities that engage in climate related actions and actions that improve energy efficiency. The Town and Village has brought in about \$1.6 million worth of grant funding through different kinds of energy efficiency and emission reduction projects. There is the Pulaski sidewalk project, the solar array at the WaterWorks Building. This is a continuation of the Towns participation in this program; this is kinda the end result they came up with. Climate Action is a set of goals to reduce energy use and emissions and ultimately save money. It's not a legally binding document. It's not a Zoning Code or comprehensive plan, it simply offers suggestions that the town and village can engage in to reduce emissions. If anyone has any questions for Michael, they may contact him at mboccuzzi@cnyrddb.org or by phone 315-422-8276 x1204

HIGHWAY REPORT: Busy with spring cleanup, hauling stone for chip sealing, changing culvert pipes, and taking snow plows apart and repairing. We still have one plow ready to go. The official papers came through for CHIPS money. The State passed the budget as everyone knows. They did increase the highway funds by \$25,000. It comes to \$357,000 which includes the roll over money. Last meeting, Attorney Seiter brought up the Multi-Modal Project. Mr Seiter was hoping that there would be money there to help the Richland Fire Department with the removal of the Water Tower. Assembly Barclay's office advised that the project was more for infrastructure projects such as bridges, roads, water projects. Mr Fox filled out the form to have Bishop Road paved. It's always been a seasonal /limited use road but recently more and more people have been using it as a cut through to State Route 3. ***A motion to approve Mr Fox's request to submit the Multi-Modal paperwork for the sum of \$60,000 to pave Bishop Road. The motion was made by Councilman Goodsell and seconded by Councilwoman Gilson. In a roll call vote, all were in favor with a vote of "AYE".*** Highway worker/mechanic Allan Kling retired at the end of April. He was with the Town for 28 years. And Mr Fox just received an email that last year he was approved to purchase a new Pickup Truck. He has the money. Covid came and it put the brakes on everything. They are finally starting to trickle out. He placed an order last year at Caskinette Ford in Carthage, a ¾ ton Ford, crew cab. Worktruck. He has been going to Oswego a few times a week for therapy and noticed that Burrirt Chevy has a few trucks just like 2023's like the one he ordered. This truck still has the state bid pricing on it for

municipalities. Not in the 2024's, just the 2023's. He filled out the Chevy pricing sheet and the dealership just emailed him the total price of the truck is \$49,887. The Ford was \$60,000 with a \$5000 discount which brings it down to \$55,000. He is asking for Board approval even though he was approved last year for the new truck. ***A motion to approve the purchase of the 2023 Chevy Crew Cab for the price of \$49,887 was made by Councilwoman Gilson and seconded by Councilman North. In a roll call vote, all were in favor with a vote of "AYE".*** In the crazy world we live in. The Highway department ran bids for paving of 3 miles of roads and only received one bid. This bid was from the new company that brought Hansons. It's now known as Heidelberg Materials. Supervisor Yerdon opened up the one bid. The price is as follows: Cobb Road, \$86,240, Canning Factory Road, \$9,000 only a small portion, Valley Road, \$144,496 and Lehigh Road \$120,384. Black top is coming in at \$88 per ton. All finished. The Town only has to supply flagmen. ***A motion to accept the bid as presented was made by Councilman North and seconded by Councilwoman Gilson. In a roll call vote, all were in favor with a vote of "AYE"***

BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS & RICHLAND PARKS: The Water Tower is down in Richland and it's all cleaned up. Now they can get the playground stuff going. Met with Mike LaSalle at the Pond project in Richland. He is drawing up some plans for the group. He seems like he can make it compliant so there would be minimal permits. He knows what will be permissible. Once this is done they can figure out what they have left for the playground. Josh Smith will help out with the concrete for the project as his contribution for the community. As soon as softball is over Rob Coffin will begin the work on the field. They will start with the field near the concession stand first. This is the worst field. Attended the Haldane meeting. There was a sign on the door that said use another door. Kevin pulled on it and the door would not close after that. The wind caught it, he thinks. They ripped the closure out of the wall. He isn't sure what he is going to do with it at this time to fix it. The wrestling tournament is going to be a good thing. The Hockey Association is on board with it. With the new bleachers, the men may be able to move those inside to accommodate the crowd. Mr Balcom thinks this will attract a lot of people. He hasn't gotten the specs together yet on the floor for the barn. Once the wood gets out of the barn they can move stuff out so they have a better idea for the bids.

WATER DEPARTMENT: Resolution to apply late penalties for past due water bills. This went through the Water Committee. The resolution was read out loud to the Board. This resolution will be made part of the Board minutes. A question from the audience was if this is a 10% per month or one fee. He wonders if it's another 10% if you don't pay it again after a 2nd billing. Attorney Seiter advised that he would think so or if the Town Board would like to clarify it in the resolution. It's 10% everytime you don't pay it. ***A motion to pass this resolution was made by Councilman Goodsell and seconded by Councilwoman Gilson.*** Attorney Seither asked if the 10% would be exponential or is it going to be 10% of the monthly bill. The Board can put it on the record right now. By doing this your clarifying with the clerk, "this is how we are doing it." This is not going to be exponential; this is how we are doing it. You can not charge more than 10%

per the law. The law does not specify. The Board can just add on, a line that the 10% may or not be exponential per month. Which means it's another 10% if the next month doesn't get paid and it doesn't mean they don't have to pay the first 10%. That 10% can be every month and that will add up. To put it simply, your bill comes out and you don't pay, it's a 10% penalty. When the next bill comes out and you don't pay that, it's another 10% it won't add up exponentially. You are only putting 10% on the new month's bill, not the total bill. The Town bills every 6 months. The 10% will only be on that bill and in 6 months, you either pay your bill or the water gets turned off and or it goes on the Town and County Tax bill. Turning off residents' water is only a last resort. There is a hardship program out there for residents that cannot pay their water bill. ***With the motion and a second on the table. A roll call vote was taken with all members of the Board voting "AYE".***

The Water Department has an opportunity to get some summer help and get experience. Councilwoman Gilson spoke to Councilwoman Haynes about Gabrielle Waite. She and Ron Novak interviewed her. The interview went very well. Superintendent Fox spoke to Chief Water Operator Bob Hicks and he told him that she answered all the questions they had very well. The program is the same as the highway worker that Mr Fox had last year. She will be paid \$15 per hour until school gets out and then the program pays when she gets out of school. It's worked out very well for the Highway Department. ***A motion to hire Gabrielle Waite for the Water Department for the summer was made by Councilwoman Gilson and seconded by Councilman Goodsell. In a roll call vote, all members were in agreement with a vote of "AYE".***

DOG REPORT: The Dog Control report is next. With no discussion, ***a motion to accept the DCO report as presented was made by Councilman North and seconded by Councilman Goodsell. In a roll call vote, all were in favor with a vote of "AYE"***

SUPERVISOR REPORT: A motion to accept the Supervisors report as presented. ***This motion was made by Councilman North and seconded by Councilwoman Gilson. In a roll call vote, all were in favor with a vote of "AYE". A motion to accept the Audit Report for 2022 was made by Councilwoman Gilson and seconded by Councilman Goodsell. In a roll call vote, all were in favor with a vote of "AYE". A motion to accept the ARPA Compliance report as presented was made by Councilwoman Gilson and seconded by Councilman Goodsell. In a roll call vote all were in favor with a vote of "AYE".***

JUSTICE REPORTS: Justice report for Judge Conger is next. ***A motion to accept the Justice report was made by Councilwoman Gilson 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 accept Abstract #5 was made by Councilman Goodsell and seconded by Councilman North. With no discussion and with a roll call vote, all were in favor with a vote of "AYE".***

TOWN BOARD MINUTES: Town Board minutes for March 16, April 11, and April 20, were up next. With no discussion, ***a motion to approve the minutes was made by Councilman Goodsell and seconded by Councilman North. In a roll call vote, all were in favor with a vote of "AYE"***

TOWN CLERKS REPORT: ***A motion to accept the Town Clerks Report for April 2023 was made by Councilwoman Gilson 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: No report

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS: Deputy Clerk/Tax Collector Julie Peterson has written a letter to the County Legislature about the fee that they have passed to charge Towns for the printing of property tax bills. A copy of this letter will be part of the minutes. Supervisor Yerdon would like to take the time to publicly Thank Julie for going above and beyond, to take the time to write this and support the idea. Robert Goodsell has resigned his position on the Water Board. The Board would like to publicly Thank him for all his hard work. Supervisor Yerdon would like to recommend Tim Crouch be named to replace Rob Goodsell on the Water Board. Also Dave Webb had also resigned from the Board of Assessment Review last month. The Town has received an application from Chad Mowers for this position. A motion to appoint Mr. Crouch and Chad Mowers to the BAR. This motion was made by Councilman Goodsell and seconded by Councilman North. In a roll call vote, all were in agreement with a vote of "AYE". Highway worker Alan Kling has just retired after 28 years with the Town Highway Department. Mr Kling has been an exceptional worker, always there especially in the winter in the plows. The Town would like to Publicly thank him for his service. Next, Because Mr Mowers could not attend training for the Board of Assessment review and Mr Woodmancy isn't sure that he would be able to attend, Assessor Clerk Tammie Whaley is requesting a waiver for Board of Assessment Review for Chairman Robert Rodgers. Mr Rodgers has just sold his home here in the Village of Pulaski and has moved to Oswego. This waiver will only be good for this BAR session. ***A motion to approve this waiver was made by Councilwoman Gilson and seconded by Councilman North. In a roll call vote, all were in favor with a vote of "AYE".***

Before Supervisor Yerdon adjourned the meeting he asked to confer with the Town Board and the Attorney pursuant to an attorney-client relationship. Under the Civil Practice Law and Rules, communications between a governmental board and its counsel, in which counsel advises the board of the legal issue involved in a determination, are exempt from the provisions of the Open Meetings Law. Open Meeting Law's requirements for entry into executive session did not apply. 7:38pm.

At 7:37 the Board came back into session. A motion to have Attorney Seiter draft a letter to the Town of Orwell about the Water Project was made by Councilman Goodsell and seconded by Councilwoman Gilson. In a roll call vote, all were in favor with a vote of "AYE".

NEXT TOWN BOARD MEETING: June 13, 2023

MEETING ADJOURNED: With nothing more to bring before the Board, *a motion to adjourn was made by Councilwoman Gilson and seconded by Councilman Goodsell. In a roll call vote, all were in favor with a vote of "AYE". 8:27pm*

Respectfully submitted by

Millie Newcomb
Town Clerk