

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

DATE: April 12,2022

KIND OF MEETING: Regular Town Board Meeting

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 (Absent)
Councilman Robert North

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE: Village Resident Carl Falk, Legislator Herb Yerdon, Highway Superintendent John Fox, ZEO/CEO John Howland, Town Attorney Graham Seiter, and Town Clerk Millie Newcomb

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. with Supervisor Krupke leading in the Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC COMMENT: No Public Comment

LEGISLATIVE REPORT Mr. Yerdon is here to give his report. First, Rabies Clinics around Oswego County. Appointments are required and a donation of \$7.00 is appreciated. Check the Oswego County website or Local Clerks Offices for details. A report of the contributions of agriculture to the Northern New York Economy. This report explains the revenue that Agriculture brings to the Northern NY area. Covid is on the rise in Oswego County. Residents are encouraged to get vaccinated now. Oswego County Americorps is looking for members to provide youth with nutrition information and physical activity to make the summer fun. They have 8-12 week positions available email youthbureau.oswegocounty/amicorps or Christopher.Metz@oswegocounty.com. Oswego County announced a School based Mental Health Clinic. There are 3 OMH licensed outpatient mental health clinic providers serving

children and adolescents. 3 primary clinics are in Fulton and Oswego. Additional community-based satellites are in Oswego and Mexico (opening 2022) plans for 2022-2023 include 4 new sites (Mexico, Phoenix, Sandy Creek) 3 schools increasing capacity at 2 existing sites (APW, Mexico). TBD are 2 Central Square Elementary Schools 2 Oswego City Elementary Schools and the CITI Mexico Campus

ZONING AND CODE REPORTS: Lists of permits were given to the Board. Training in Syracuse has been completed. There was a problem with a silt fence at Brennan's Beach. Contractors working near it knocked it down and it allowed dirt in the drains. The DEC was supposed to be on site to watch but in any case, the solar field people will fix it and make it right. Also there was supposed to be a tree line around the project. Reminder, The Tug Hill Training is on April 19th at the Turning Stone Casino. The Board received an application from Swiatiskav Kaczmar for consideration for the Zoning Board of Appeals. Supervisor Krupke asked Mr Howland to contact him to see if he could meet with him sometime in the coming week. The Board had tabled hiring Frank Pavia last month. Mr. Howland told the Board that his fee was put into the budget so the money is up to \$10,000. Mr. Pavia is a Land use professional and could help with the subdivision law and to "tweak" some of the zoning laws also. ***A motion to hire Frank Pavia was made by Councilman Yerdon and seconded by Councilman Goodsell. In a roll call vote, all were in favor with a vote of "AYE".*** Councilman North asked Mr. Howland about the house and "tent" that someone was living in on Co Rt 2. He advised the Board that the owner has been cited. He will go check it out and let the Board know. Also, Dave Conn property on US RT 11 north of Pulaski. ZEO/CEO Howland told the Board that he has cited him again. He is allowed to have up to 20 vehicles per his permit. If he would just organize things it would look much better. He has been fined by the Court so the Board is looking to take another step to make him keep the property picked up. A junk list has been started and will be addressed at the next meeting.

COMPREHENSIVE PLANNING BOARD MINUTES/UPDATES: Attorney Seiter read off the questions about the SEQR. Based on the findings of Parts 1 and part 2 of this SEQR, Attorney Seiter would recommend that this Board make a negative declaration as to the SEQR findings. ***A motion to accept Attorney Seiter's findings was made by Councilman Yerdon and seconded by Councilman North. In a roll call vote, all were in favor with a vote of "AYE".*** Also in the packet is a letter from Comp Board Chair Dawn Holyniski. We have had this letter for a month or so. It is the board's recommendation that the Board accept the suggestions that are highlighted in yellow and reviewed by Mr. Turner. Supervisor Krupke would like a motion to accept this and move forward. ***A motion was made by Councilman Goodsell and seconded by Councilman North. With no discussion, Supervisor Krupke would like to Thank the Comprehensive Planning Committee for all the work and dedication. In a roll call vote, all members were in agreement with a vote of "AYE".***

HIGHWAY REPORT: Highway report is next. Superintendent Fox told the Board that he doesn't have much to report. At the moment, he has 2 workers out with COVID, hopefully it doesn't go any further. All guys are keeping their distance. All safety precautions are being taken. All roads have been posted to a 6 ton limit. Workers are on 4- 10 hour days now. All seasonal workers have been laid off. Thursday of this week the men will be attending MSHA training for mine safety, a class in Scriba so they can work in the gravel pit. They will get a certificate when it's completed. Been fixing plow damage on trucks that was damaged during the winter. All intersections have been swept. Started taking a few of the plows apart. Councilman Yerdon asked how Mr. Fox was making out with the County Snow Plowing Contract. Mr. Fox told the board that the Superintendents had a meeting recently and they formed a committee of 5 Superintendents to go to the County and the head of that committee. They have a plan of which to go to the County with. The Superintendents have already been told, twice, that the County doesn't want to give them a raise. They want to keep everything the same. The superintendents are looking to get a 25% raise. One of the Superintendents was trying to get a hold of the County to get a meeting set up. The county keeps trying to put the Superintendents off. Councilman Yerdon asked if the Superintendents have everything broken down, especially now with fuel costs pushing \$5.00 per gallon. Superintendent Fox advised that they have been talking about putting on a fuel surcharge. Everything that comes in has had a fuel surcharge on it. So these towns are tossing that option around. The Superintendents have to stick together on this because they find out if they are sticking together, the County doesn't have the manpower or money to hire out to plow 500 miles of county roads. Both sides know that. The county is getting \$22,000 to plow state roads while paying the towns \$8,000. Councilman Yerdon will talk with the Pollic Family about the lease of the Sand Pit on that property.

B&G Supervisor Kevin Balcom is not in attendance but Superintendent Fox spoke to him earlier and advised that one bid has been received for the Haldane Roof. Mr Balcom has met with 5 Contractors that are either too busy or the job is too big for them. The Bid that was received is still in the Supervisor's Office unopened. The Board has decided to wait a bit longer to see if any other bids come in. The trailer is finished for the water department. All the wiring and shelving is complete. Spring inspections for the playgrounds are complete. The roof work on the Highway building is moving along. Per Mr. Fox, they are doing a good job.

WATER REPORT: Minutes from April 5th. A resignation of a water board member Doug Haynes. The Board does have several applications from members of the community that would like to be on the Board. The recommendations will be tabled until the next meeting. The Town received one(1) sealed bid for the Generator for the Well Site in Richland. ***Attorney Seiter suggested that the Board go into Executive Session to discuss the issue with the Generator. A motion was made by Councilman Yerdon and seconded by Councilman Goodsell. In a roll call vote, all were in favor with a vote of "AYE". 6:45. At 7:19 a motion to exit executive session and come back into regular session was made by Councilman Goodsell and seconded by Councilman Yerdon. In a roll call vote, all were in favor with a vote of "AYE". A motion to accept the one sealed bid from Scriba Electric for the new 80kw generator per the Town's specifications in the***

amount of \$ 38577 was made by Councilman Yerdon and seconded by Councilman Goodsell. In a roll call vote all were in favor with a vote of "AYE". A letter was written to Oswego County asking for a share of the ARPA. Supervisor Krupke first put in a request for \$100,000, but have upped the amount to where the town would contribute up to \$150,000 if the County could go up to \$150,000 or possibly more. Mr. Novak had written up the priorities and the items that he would like to spend the money on. It was well received as far as Mr Krupke knows and Mr Turner at the County suggested that the Town do this, and Ed Gilson as well. Hopefully some news will come of this in the next few months. Then the town can move forward getting some of these things corrected. Supervisor Krupke then got Water Supervisor Ron Novack on the telephone. Supervisor Krupke then went over Mr. Novak's list. We currently have parts for water hook ups. We have 8 units for basement hook ups on hand. 28 meter pits on hand. Based on the number of EDU's in Water District 5 which is over 200, we feel we are very short. We have, on hand, 48 additional basement hookups on order and the question is how many more should we order. After a conversation, it was decided to order another 25 home hookups and another 12 meter pits. Roughly the cost of hookups in basements is \$435.22 and a meter pit hook up is \$1115.87. If we ordered 25 household hookups and 12 more meter pit hook ups, the total cost would be \$24,270.94. **A motion to place the order for those hookups with a cost up to \$25,000 This motion was made by Councilman Goodsell and seconded by Councilman Yerdon. In a roll call vote, all were in favor with a vote of "AYE".** It is expected that the price for these hookups will only increase. The costs are going up and worse than that is the availability of them. We are currently looking at a 4 month wait. Mr Novak is ordering an additional 150 flags for the fire hydrants. That cost will be about \$5000. The initial 150 flags have been installed. The trailer shelving has been completed. The floor is the only thing that has to be done. Currently the men are flushing all the dead ends. Over the last few weeks the men have installed about 100 transmitters. The stock is down to about 180. An order has been placed for an additional 300 more under the special account for meter replacement. At this time, there is no delivery date. Everything they are working on has delivery and receiving delays. Supervisor Novak would like the board to know that he passed the Operator A & B course. He is now certified in the B & C operator course. He has to have 1 yr of experience before the Town can submit a letter to Bill Heavner.

BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS & RICHLAND PARKS: Nothing more to add.

DOG REPORT: Dog Control report for March was up next.

SUPERVISOR REPORT: Year End Supervisors Report was submitted to the board for review. This is the close out version. Also the AUD report is in the packet. A motion to accept the Supervisors report as presented. **The motion was made by Councilman Yerdon and seconded by Councilman North. Supervisor Krupke would like to Thank Clerk Tammie Whaley for all her**

hard work. It's very stressful and she had minimal assistance from Bonadio. In a roll call vote, all were in agreement with a vote of "AYE".

JUSTICE REPORTS: Reports for Justice Conger for February and March and Judge Ridgeway for February. ***A motion was made by Councilman North and seconded by Councilman Yerdon. In a roll call vote, all were in favor with a vote of "AYE".*** Next was the Unified Court Audit for 2021. ***A motion to accept the Unified Court Audit, and the resolution to send to the Office of Court Administration was made by Councilman Yerdon and seconded by Councilman Goodsell. Discussion: Check and balance was performed. No problems were found. Everything was in balance. No problem with either Judge. No written procedural manuals still do not exist. Bonadio suggested the court have these a few years back. The clerks advised Mr. North and Mr. Petrie they would look into this year. They have separate bail accounts. One of the Judges uses her regular account. Just little things. There is a procedural publication that the Justices should subscribe to. Policy, Laird would like to see written check and balance system policy. Have a guideline to use. Mr Petrie also suggested that they use Service Education Software that it would help. The Records are very well kept. Very easy to follow. Mr. Petrie sat with the Court personnel and told them they did a very good job. With nothing more to discuss, and in a roll call vote, all were in favor with a vote of "AYE".***

WARRANT OF BILLS: ***A motion to accept abstract #4 of 2022 was made by Councilman Yerdon and seconded by Councilman Goodsell. With no discussion and in a roll call vote all were in agreement with a vote of "AYE".***

TOWN BOARD MINUTES: Town Board minutes for February 8, March 8, March 22, March 31, March 31, April 2, and April 4th. ***A motion to accept all minutes are presented was made by Councilman Goodsell and seconded by Councilman North. In a roll call vote all were approved with a vote of "AYE".***

TOWN CLERKS REPORT: ***A motion to accept the Town Clerks report for March 2022 was made by Councilman Yerdon and seconded by Councilman Goodsell. In a roll call vote all were in favor with a vote of "AYE".***

CEMETERY UPDATES: All cemeteries are open.

TOWN HISTORIAN REPORT: No report.

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS: Supervisor Krupke asked Attorney Seiter to read a statement about the recent audit that was done at the Highway Department. Before he did so,

Councilman North asked if he would say a few words. First, Councilman North felt that Councilwoman Haynes should be in attendance before this statement is read. He also said that he hopes this statement will bring an end to the accusations that have been going on. He hopes this will stop with all the reprimands because it's not good for the morale of all Town Employees. The purpose of the statement was to let the residents of the Town know that the Town took steps to prevent something like this to happen again. With no more discussion, the following is the statement read by Attorney Seiter.

Statement Regarding Town of Richland Highway Department Audit

Over the past few months the Town of Richland has had an audit taking place with the retained services of Mr. Petrie, a retired state auditor. The primary focus of this audit was review of the labor reporting system as well as review of time cards within the Highway Department. This audit was prompted by information from workers that suggested there were discrepancies between Town policy and past payment practices in the department..

After careful review and investigation it was determined by the auditor that there had been three areas where payment policies had not been followed correctly. The three areas concerned Call out practices, Holiday pay and Overtime pay.

The Town Board has taken several steps since learning the information from the audit to ensure that the payment practices leading to the audit to be corrected

1. The Reporting Process and Time Cards have been updated with direct guidance from the auditor. The time cards are more thorough and detailed to allow for better time keeping practices.

2. All Seasonal and Full Time workers have been met with and have been made fully aware of the Town's payment policies and their timekeeping responsibilities.

3. The Town Board has had a meeting with the Town Highway Superintendent and he has been made fully aware of the prior mistakes regarding past payment practices as well as all the Town payment policies moving forward.

4. The Town Board has also updated the Town Employee Handbook to better define the difference between seasonal workers and full time workers.

5. Finally, there is now a new check and cross check system to provide better oversight of the payroll.

The Town Board believes with these measures in place, as well as cooperation between the

Town Board and the Highway Department the chance for similar payroll discrepancies can be alleviated in the future.

Supervisor Krupke was asked to write a letter of support by the Mayor of the Village of Pulaski for the WasteWater Infrastructure Improvement. The copy of this letter is in the Board Packet. Superintendent Fox shared with the Board that the new plow truck that was ordered 10 months ago is in. It's been delivered to the place to have the plow and box and sander put on. The Board said it was a good thing it was ordered so long to go. The Town has had an issue with having Constables on court nights. Councilman Yerdon has been working on this issue and has been in contact with the Oswego County Sheriffs and the Union. It is suggested that the Town meet with the Union, Sheriff, and the 2 County Legislators that represent the Town of Richland. There is another option of an armed security company in Syracuse that may be another option. This group is well known and certified.

NEXT TOWN BOARD MEETING: May 10, 2022

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

Respectfully submitted by

Millie Newcomb
Town Clerk