

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE TOWN BOARD TOWN OF RICHLAND

DATE: February 10, 2026

KIND OF MEETING: Town Board Meeting

PLACE: Grand Jury Room, H. Douglas Barclay Courthouse Pulaski, NY

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Supervisor Robert North
Councilwoman Donna Gilson
Councilman Larry Atkinson
Councilwoman Sue Haynes
Councilman Eric Pappa

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE: Town residents, Christine Linguanti, Tim Crouch, Dawn Holynski, Glen Stratton, Jeff Edick, Swiat Kaczmar, Robert Grant, County Legislator Ed Gilson, Brennans Bay representative Robert Mastro, CEO/ZEO Jimmy Sprague, Chief Water Operator Bob Hicks, Tug Hill representative Emily Johnson, Attorney Graham Seiter and Town Clerk Millie Newcomb.

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

BLESSING OF THE TOWN: Performed by Councilman Atkinson

PUBLIC HEARING - CAMPGROUND MORATORIUM: The Public Hearing was open for the Campground Moratorium. Councilman Atkinson advised the Board that the Campground Committee has laid out the regulations about the campgrounds. He feels the only thing to add was an addendum for set backs. A 75' minimum set back from the center of the road, then privacy screening, it has to be a minimum of 5 acres, minimum ½ acre per site, a minimum of 2 sites and a maximum of 5 sites. Anything over this has to go to the county anyways. Each site has to have water, sewer and electricity, a road wide enough for emergency vehicles. Mr Atkinson feels we can end the moratorium and go forward to put these requirements into place. The biggest issues have been set backs and screening. We do have a few people that would like to proceed with a campground permit but were just waiting for the Town to lift the moratorium.

Councilwoman Haynes feels that since this is the first time she is hearing this, she would like some time to look things over before she agrees to end the moratorium. She would like to hear what other members think. Councilman Pappa agrees, he likes the sound of what he heard but would like to talk to others about the plan. Councilman Pappa would like to know about the screening, like what would it be? The screening could be a fence or trees. The Board would like to meet to discuss the plan. A meeting is planned for Wednesday February 18th at 10:00am in the Grand Jury Room of the Courthouse. Attorney Seiter told the board that at the moment there is no moratorium in place until they have a final decision. It's his opinion to put the moratorium in place, do their editing then lift the moratorium once there is a final product. ***A motion was made by Councilman Pappa to put the moratorium in place. This motion was seconded by Councilwoman Haynes. In a roll call vote, all were in favor with a vote of "AYE".*** With nothing more to discuss, ***a motion to close the Public Hearing was made by Councilwoman Gilson and seconded by Councilwoman Haynes. Town Resident Swiat Kaczmar wanted to let the board know that he is very much in favor of the Moratorium being put in place. In a roll call vote, all were in favor with a vote of "AYE".***

PUBLIC COMMENT: Councilman Atkinson told the board that he recently spoke to Jeff Edick and he would like to propose to build a road across town property on the Dry Bridge Road site. We have an access road there now. He is proposing to bring that road up the town standards so he will have access to his property on the back side of that so he can develop it. He would like to build a couple of houses for his family and build high end or high value homes back on that site. It will generate more tax value properties, EDUs for water and everything that goes with it. He looked up under town law; he is able to do that by legislative law. The Board can give him permission to build the road, built up to town standards and once it is he can turn it over to the town for maintenance. This is what he has proposed. Supervisor North asked from which road was the new road coming in from?. Councilman Atkinson told the board that if it comes off of Dry Bridge Road heading west, you would turn left onto town property. He does have an access road off of Valley Road but it is only 15' wide and you can't get equipment in there and if there is a home there it's not wide enough for an emergency vehicle back in there. Superintendent Balcom is not at this meeting tonight to answer questions due to being ill. Attorney Seiter asked if the land where the road is being built is owned by the town or Mr Edick. The property is owned by the Town. Attorney Seiter said that is the problem. With the dedication, he owns the land, he owns the road then he dedicates the road to the Town. Mr Atkinson looked up law 200. Mr Seiter will look up the legality of this. He maintains the Town can just not gift him the land. Councilwoman Haynes remembers something like this in the past and with the cost of everything the property owner backed off because it was just too expensive. Councilman Pappa feels it will be at least \$200,000 to get water back to those lots.

Other comments from Jeff Edick was that he thinks it was a terrible decision not to reappoint Swiat Kaczmar to the Planning board. Robert Mastro representing Brennans Bay about the water going to the RV park. This will be discussed but Richland will approve Sandy Creek to sell

water to Brennans Bay. There was something said that it has to be a district in a previous meeting. The Town of Ellisburg is not interested in getting water due to the cost but this will be a private matter between Sandy Creek and Brennans Bay. They have to go through the hoops with the County and the Health Department. ***A motion to allow the Town of Sandy Creek to supply Brennans Bay with water was made by Councilman Pappa and seconded by Councilwoman Haynes. In a roll call vote, all were in favor with a vote of "AYE".*** Emily Johnson is here from the Tug Hill Commission. She is here representing Heidi who is attending other town Board meetings this evening. The Salmon River Commission is meeting in Pulaski on February 25 at 6:30 at the Snow Building and the Tug Hill Conference on April 20-21 at the Turning Stone.

WATER REPORT: Chief Operator Bob Hicks is here with his report. The report will be part of the minutes. Made it through the cold snap with no breaks. The sanitary survey is next. It's pretty standard that the Town has to do it every year. Inspection reports on the tanks were done in 2023 and 2024. Inspections were done and sent to the County. Lots of good compliments to the Water and Highway Departments during the recent fires in the Town.

Councilman Pappa would like to clear up a few misconceptions about the agreement with the Town of Orwell. A verbal agreement with Orwell to reduce their water rate from \$5.00 to \$4.50 per thousand gallons was formalized, resulting in a revenue loss of about \$3,102 last year. It was learned that there was a signed agreement with Orwell. The rate change was defended as fair, aligning Orwell with other outside users like Sandy Creek. Orwell previously paid for significant infrastructure (a transmission line and a pump station), which benefits the town. The water rate for Brennans Beach is increasing from \$1.62 to \$4.00, projected to raise annual revenue from approximately \$24,870 to \$77,468.

Past water rate increases were attributed to a former supervisor's high salary and excessive spending, including a \$250,000+ vehicle purchase. The current board aims to lower rates.

The board is standardizing outside-user water rates to ensure fairness and correcting financial discrepancies from the prior administration.

LEGISLATIVE REPORT: Legislator Gilson is here with his report from the county.

The county has reserved original ARPA funds to assist townships, with a small amount (\$2,000–\$3,000) potentially available upon application to help with some of the Boards in particular Comp Boards. Pulaski and Richland have always been ahead in the planning of the Comp plan.

Capital projects were approved to upgrade the 911 center's communications equipment and renovate the 29-year-old facility. A \$ 1.7 million renovation is being planned.

The county Public Safety Committee affirmed cooperation with federal agencies like ICE upon request but will not independently enforce immigration laws. The Child Care Assistance

Program has been temporarily paused due to new federal rules requiring reapplication. An 80-hour-per-month work requirement (including employment, volunteering, or training) is being implemented for able-bodied assistance recipients.

Legislator Yerdon dropped off information to the Town Clerk to put on the town's facebook page, Town of Richland.

ZONING AND CODES: Reviewed permits include: a permit extension on Grandview, a new home and septic permit on Hinman, and demolition permits on Salisbury Road and Clark Road.

Demolished materials may not be buried on-site per DEC regulations.

Mr Sprague reported success working with residents and landlords to resolve issues without issuing violations. Working on Fire Inspections. Mr Sprague would like to attend Codes School that will take place in April. The cost is \$413. He has asked each Town and or Village that he works with to split the cost with the Town of Richland. ***A motion was made by Councilwoman Gilson to allow Mr Sprague to attend the Zoning and Code school. This motion was seconded by Councilwoman Haynes. In a roll call vote, all members present voted "AYE".***

HIGHWAY REPORT: Superintendent Kevin Balcom is out sick for tonight's meeting so Councilman Atkinson will try to fill in for him. The past month has been more plowing, sanding and repairing equipment. Everyone has been doing a good job keeping up, putting in some long hours and just trying to keep equipment repaired.

BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS & HALDANE: The Haldane Committee will hold a meeting next Monday night on February 16th.

SALT SHED UPDATE: The town is awaiting the state's finalization of the salt shed grant contract (approximately \$164,000). The project must meet specific DEC codes, which supersede state codes, for the grant to be awarded.

The Water tanks have to be inspected every 5 years. One tank needs a lot of work to the tune of \$208,000. We have it all paid for through ARPA with the exception of \$8,000. It was tagged as a \$500,000 project 4years ago and we got it done for \$8000.

RICHLAND PARKS: During the budget process the board took a look at the town's Recreation Budget. The town's recreation budget is high in comparison with other towns. Councilwoman Gilson looked at other programs around the county then looked at the county to see if there was anything they could do to help the Town out, to better the program and help the Town out and help with the cost. The program is challenged by school capital projects limiting venue access. So, Mrs Gilson reached out to the County and spoke to Brian Chetney and offered to help the Town with some alternatives. One of things was a funding option through Americorps.

They help select the councilors and get a stipend for the counselors. The town is seeking a new Recreation Director and exploring a partnership with the county and AmeriCorps for program support and funding

COMPREHENSIVE PLANNING BOARD: The Board is continuing working on reviewing the plan. Changing some verbage. The next meeting will be on March 5th at 6:00pm at the Village Office

DOG REPORT: Dog Control report is next. *With no discussion, a motion to accept the report at presented was made by Councilwoman Gilson and seconded Councilwoman Haynes. In a roll call vote, all were in favor with a vote of "AYE".*

SUPERVISOR REPORT: No report

JUSTICE REPORTS: Justice report for Judge Conger was presented to the Board. With no discussion *a motion to accept Judge Conger's report was made by Councilwoman Gilson and seconded by Councilman Atkinson. In a roll call vote, all were in favor with a vote of "AYE".*

WARRANT OF BILLS: *A motion to accept Abstract 15 of 2025 and Abstract 2 of 2026 was made by Councilman Pappa 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 Board Minutes for January 13 and January 15 are next for the board's review. *With no discussion a motion to approve the minutes was made by Councilwoman Gilson and seconded by Councilwoman Haynes In a roll call vote, all were in favor with a vote of "AYE".*

TOWN CLERKS REPORT: Town Clerks report for January 2026 is next. With no discussion *a motion was made by Councilwoman Haynes and seconded by Councilman Atkinson. In a roll call vote, all were in favor with a vote of "AYE".*

CEMETERY UPDATES: No updates to report

TOWN HISTORIAN REPORT: No report

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS: In the packet the USDA would like to place traps for the European Cherry Fruit Fly on Town owned properties. The Town of Richland participated in this program last year also. With no objections, *a motion was made by Councilman Pappa and seconded by Councilman Atkinson. In a roll call vote, all were in favor with a vote of "AYE".* Next is Lorton Lake information for the Board to look over. Next, the Board would like to amend the IMA for the Village of Pulaski Police Department to attend Town Board meetings as well as being the constables for the Town Court. Some issues have come up where the Board members would

feel more comfortable with an Officer being in the Building during the Board Meetings. ***A motion was made by Councilwoman Gilson and seconded by Councilwoman Haynes. In a roll call vote, all were in agreement with a vote of "AYE".*** The Queen Central news has been bringing in some newspapers to the Town Clerk's Office. He would like to be the Town's newspaper. The Town currently uses the Pall Times in Oswego for all the legal notices and help wanted. Reminder about the Tug Hill Conference on April 20th.

At 6:58 a motion was made by Councilwoman Gilson to enter into Executive Session to discuss a pending contract with the Village of Pulaski. The motion was seconded by Councilman Atkinson. In a roll call vote, all were in favor with a vote of "AYE".

At 7:23 pm a motion to exit Executive Session was made by Councilman Atkinson and seconded by Councilman Pappa. In a roll call vote, all were in favor with a vote of "AYE". Back to the regular session. The results of the Executive Session was with a motion by Councilwoman Gilson to have Attorney Seiter draw up an IMA with the Village of Pulaski for water during times that the Village has an issue with their system, the Town of Richland will supply them with water through the Emergency interconnect located on State Route 13. Councilman Pappa will get together with Water Clerk Pam Lasell to draw up what the Town wants in the IMA. This motion was seconded by Councilwoman Haynes. In a roll call vote, all were in favor with a vote of "AYE".

With nothing more to bring before the Board, ***A motion to adjourn was made by Councilman Atkinson and seconded by Councilman Pappa. In a roll call vote, all were in favor with a vote of "AYE". 7:27pm***

NEXT TOWN BOARD MEETING: March 10, 2026 at 6:00pm

MEETING ADJOURNED: 7:27pm

Respectfully submitted by

Millie Newcomb

Town Clerk

WATER REPORT
Tuesday, February 10, 2026

#1: Water Pumped

The total water pumped for January 2026 was 8,114,100 gallons. The previous year was 7,982,900 gallons. There was an increase of 131,200 gallons. Year to date water pumped is 8,114,100 gallons.

Respectfully submitted:

Robert Hicks
Chief Water Operator