

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

DATE: October 26, 2021

KIND OF MEETING: Special 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
Councilwoman Donna Gilson

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE: Supervisor Clerk Tammie Whaley, Town Clerk Millie Newcomb, Arriving at 11:30 Chuck Borrell Arriving at 12:00 Union Representative, Mark May, and Town Highway Union Steward, Kory Pierson

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 10:15 a.m. with Supervisor Krupke leading in the Pledge of Allegiance.

The Preliminary Budget was presented . Supervisor Krupke advised the Board even with the unknowns of the Union Contract and the budget being inflated to reflect that fact, the Budget still came in under the Tax Cap of 2%. The total to be raised by taxes including the Fire Districts is \$44,093 , or an increase of 1.66%. By state standards, you subtract the Fire Districts out of the total to be raised by taxes is \$2,230,000 or 1.57% increase. Considering wages, insurance, the increased cost and everything on top of that. Supervisor Krupke factored in a 3% increase in wages. It's not landed on but it is factored in the budget. It did reflect a 7% increase into the non-bargaining unit insurance. It doesn't reflect any changes into the Teamsters Contract factored in , the same increase based on last year's prior year contract. Last year's contract had a 3% increase, here is the Insurance program, and that is what was used for this year's budget. In the Contingency, the A fund, we place \$70,000 in there. When we did the first budget we only put \$50,000 in but then they started looking at the percent increase so it was decided to add another \$20,000 and still be respectable with a 1.57% increase. So the \$20,000 added into the contingency, it could be used for an audit for Bonadio which is about \$18,000. It could be

used to put toward the new dozer. Because it's in the A fund and highway equipment comes out of the DA fund, money can be transferred to DA with no problem. The extra contingency can go toward any of the "unknowns" that we have going into the Teamsters Contract. Whether they wind up with more money, more insurance, whatever it may be, we have to keep in mind that we are doing the exploration into finding a new sand pit and there will be some additional costs with that. Supervisor Krupke explains it's good to have the contingency fund there. It's a buffer and if it's not used, it goes into the fund balance. Fifty thousand dollars was placed into the equipment reserves for a new /used bulldozer for next year. A good new/ used dozer will run about \$100,000, maybe better next year because things may level out. The new dozer is on a 2 year plan to budget that money out. The Town maintained Summer Recreation and budgeted a slight increase to cover wages for minimum wage. Increased Parks and Recreation for the Hamlet of Richland in the B fund. The Town does have money in that fund to spend. There is a big balance in the B fund so we expect to overspend in the DB fund so we can take money from the B fund to offset the shortage. The Town cannot decrease the fund balance in the B fund meaning you would have to go to the state legislature to get that approved, so this is sort of, the only way we can according to Tammie Whaley, Clerk to the Supervisor explains is to have 2-3 years where we only use Fund balance in B and DB. It's sort of a backdoor way to use up some of the B fund. It was done last year and again this year. You can take money from the B fund and put it into the DB fund. It's one of the only ways to get money from that account. There has to be a certain amount of sales tax dollars into the B fund and we have reduced that. Usually when the Sales Tax money comes in, they make sure what goes into the B fund is only what is budgeted, so all the rest of the Sales Tax goes into DB. So long as we can cover what we budget they can make the exception of all the rest that can go into DB. They are working very hard to reduce the B fund as much as they can. There are just not a lot of expenses that come out of that fund, because it pertains to outside the Village. Councilman Yerdon asked if this is something that maybe Assemblyman Barclay can help with?. This is something that has been tried before? Supervisor Krupke and Mrs. Whaley explained that this comes straight from the Comptroller's Office. Maybe bring it to his attention?. It's a question that can certainly be asked. No taxes have had to be raised for the B funds in years.

At this time the budget for the Richland Fire Department has not been received. Town Clerk Newcomb and Supervisor Clerk Whaley have reached out to the Fire Commissioners, one in particular, Cora Wood. She advised she will see what is going on and get back with us.

Getting back to the funds. In the A fund the balance is \$223,000 going into 2022 the town will appropriate \$140,000 balance left will be \$83,000. In the B fund, we are flushed with \$532,000, we are appropriating \$106,000, the balance will still be \$425,591, and chances are it will go up again next year. The DA fund, we are in the negative which is more a paper thing. It's been going on for a few years according to Clerk Whaley. Something went wrong she thinks that the auditors had the Town do and we had already done the budget. Then the auditors came in and changed something and it completely changed the fund balance really was. We are still trying to recover from that. It was much worse last year. Everyone feels that it will correct itself after this year. The DB fund has \$318,000. We are using \$150,000 to offset the budget with a balance

left of \$168,000. It will be added next year and increase likely because we will not be over spending in our budget and if anything we will be in better shape because our sales tax is coming in better along with the mortgage tax. The Court System is even doing better so we feel that in whole, that it's going to be better going into next year.

Water Districts are next. The percentage proposals for the new year. There is not a lot of room to work with. Maybe able to trim off a few thousand dollars in district 1 but we need to trim \$20,000 off of that district budget to get it down to \$310. Water district budgets are always very tight budget wise. The meter heads are the big thing right now. We have committed \$150,000 to switch them out, a 3 yr plan so we are budgeting \$50,000 over the next 3 yrs. Once we take that out we should be in a better situation. Councilman Goodsell thinks that it's a big jump. People expect a jump but nothing very big. Question next was to where the money went for the Tractor that once belonged to the Water Department. Councilman Goodsell remembered that the tractor was sold to the Highway Department since the Water Department barely used it. Supervisor Clerk Whaley will look to see when and where the money was posted to . Councilman Yerdon feels the amount of \$17,000 was agreed to, and that the Highway would pay the Water department. The question is whether the transaction happened and how much was transferred. Mrs. Whaley will research and get back to the Board. In the water budget for 2022, a new Pickup with plow was factored into the budget. Also labor hours for 20hrs a week for 12 weeks for someone from the highway or to bring someone in to help with the installation of the new meter heads. Councilman Yerdon wants the Town to see if the part time person has to be a certified water operator to do this project/change meters. Questions to whether a part time person can be the person to help with the operators and not be certified.

The Board has the Preliminary Budget to look over. The Budget Public Hearing will be held on November 4th 2021 at 6:00pm here at the Courthouse. Water District 1 unexpended fund balance is \$43,371 for 2022 and the current year is \$ 55,663 in fund balance. The difference is \$12,000 that we are not able to allocate to District #1 because the fund balance is getting smaller. Last year we were a little over budget due to higher wages. This is what will be presented at the Public Hearing on Thursday, November 4th.

A motion to enter into Executive Session to discuss the Teamsters Contract was made by Councilman Yerdon and seconded by Councilman Goodsell. In a roll call vote, all were in favor with a vote of "AYE". 10:44am.

A motion to exit the executive session was made by Councilwoman Gilson and seconded by Councilman Goodsell. In a roll call vote, all were in favor with a vote of "AYE". 2:00PM. The results of the Teamsters contract was no decision. Back to the regular session. 2:01pm

The Board did vote on the salaries of Elected Officials. They are as follows :

Town Supervisor:	\$20,676.31
Deputy Supervisor	\$11,553.23

Town Board Members 3 at	\$5,059.88 each
Highway Superintendent	\$78,205.14
Town Clerk, Tax Collector & Registrar	\$54,260.84
Town Justices/2	\$48,328.26

A motion to accept the salaries as presented was made by Councilwoman Gilson and 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 Yerdon and seconded by Councilman Goodsell. In a roll call vote, all were in favor with a vote of "AYE". 2:10pm.***

NEXT TOWN BOARD MEETING: November 9, 2021

MEETING ADJOURNED: 2:10pm.

Respectfully submitted by

Millie Newcomb
Town Clerk