

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

**DATE:** February 7, 2023 ( Rescheduled from February 14,2023)

**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  
Councilman Robert North

**OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:** Town residents, Robert Jeffery, Larry Atkinson, Robert DArgenio, Legislators Ed Gilson, Herb Yerdon, B&G Superintendent, Kevin Balcom, Highway Superintendent, John Fox, Water Supervisor Ron Novak, 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 COMMENT:** Ron Novak of the Town of Richland would like to bring to the attention of the Town Board about the Procurement Policy that was adopted by the Town Board at the January Meeting, in particular the Public Service Contract portion. Mr. Novak asked the board to bring it back and look it over. ***A motion was made by Councilwoman Haynes and seconded by Councilman Goodsell to review the procurement policy. All members were in favor with a vote of "AYE".*** Next, Robert D'Argenio would like to address the Board about Scharoun Drive in Port Ontario. The Town used to push the snow down the road into the right of way/easement but since the neighbor put up pillars at the end of his driveway, it's become impossible to do that. B&G Supervisor and Highway snow plow driver Kevin Balcom advised that he plows that road and now has to back down Scharoun Drive with the plow because he cannot push the snow down the road now. Mr D'Argenio is concerned because he has his 93 yr old Grandfather living with him now and has had to have the ambulance there several times, and it's near

impossible for the ambulance to get by the mound of snow that is left at the end of the road. The chain is now longer there since they took the tree down. Superintendent Fox says they can pull in all the way up to where the pillars are and then back out. Mr. Balcom said that he wished he could turn around but he just can't. Mr. Fox said that whatever Kevin can't get he can go down with the pick up and clean it up.

**ZONING AND CODE REPORTS:** No report

**LEGISLATIVE REPORT:** The state is doing this Watershed Management Plan. They held a meeting in Sandy Creek and now they will hold meetings in the southern part of the county, where most of the water goes into Oneida Lake. It's just another part of the plan to show where the water goes. The Office of the Ageing is holding a Medicare 101. It's to help people turning 65 navigate through medicare and the options. They are holding these meetings/classes online. There was one in January and the next is February 22 and 23rd. List of all the committees the legislatures are on. It breaks it down by district. The Oswego County Highway workers were commended for the response to Buffalo during the recent storms. The Office of the Aging will bring back the caregiver class again. The Oswego County Traffic Board announced new members of the Traffic Board. There are some familiar faces from the Pulaski area. Soil and Water has the annual tree sale going on. Mr Yerdon has a few lists of trees that he will leave with the Town Clerk. Phil Church will be working on the Museum that will be made for the National Museum. There are only 16 in the whole world. The National Oceanic and atmospheric admin is working forward with the destination of the Lake Ontario National Marine Sanctuary which is proposed and has been worked on since 2015. There are only 16 such designation areas in the World. It covers 4 counties around Lake Ontario for a total of 1700 square miles. Mr Gilson is next. The State has been entertaining Windmills on Lake Ontario. At this time, they are not going to pursue any project right now. ARPA projects are moving forward. The Farmers Market did put in a proposal and it was approved and will be moving forward at Thursday Meeting. In addition to Thursday's meeting, we will go through Local Law #1 of 2023 approving CPAC Energy Laws. The County does not have to administer it but I will allow Towns and Villages in Oswego County to have people apply for Commercial Energy Grants. It's low interest and organized so the loans and payment fit the individual situations. It is only for energy projects, New and upgrades. This will help projects in the Village such at Salina Street. They are large loans and it stays with the property not the owner.

**BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS & RICHLAND PARKS:** He repaired lights in the bay. Replaced a ballis. Recently ordered a new Modine Heater for the Garage since getting rid of the woodstove, they needed it. In the meantime, one of the modines went down so they are down to 1. They mounted the new one and it was set to go, but the on and off valve with 2 ½ inch gas line, leaks so they couldn't fire it up yet so as soon as they get time where they don't need heat, they will turn off the gas and fix the valve and get it going. The bad modine was replaced with a

new one and will put this up soon. The bleachers are in for Haldane. Next is the tower in Richland. Mr Balcom said he doesn't know how Mr Howland made out talking to the firemen about the Water Tower. Supervisor Yerdon explained that he knows he went to speak with them and took pictures and he believes that they had an engineers study done and the recommendation was to have the tower taken down. Last meeting Mr Howland was going to try to get the firemen to make a decision. Attorney Seiter told the Board that he spoke to the firemen and to the Will Barclays Office. Will Barclay thinks he can get them some money to put towards it. The question is do we keep the Tower and repair it or take it down. Many people in the Hamlet want to keep the tower because of the historical aspect but the question is, is it worth putting a bunch of money into it and is it safe especially with the playground next to it. Mr Watson was under the impression that the Town was going to look for a grant to repair it. The Fire Company does not have the money to do anything with the Tower. Mr Seiter thinks we can get the money. Mr Barclay needs the Engineers report and whatever information the fireman can get to him. The engineers report and the estimate of what it will cost to take the Tower down is most important. The Town really can't do much with the Park with the Tower there. After the conversation with the Fire Department, Mr Seiter doesn't think the Fire Department agrees with the Board. He thinks they want to save it. Mr Seiter advised the fire department that the money is there, let's get it down. Mr Balcom advised that he thinks that the board is split. Some would like to see it saved and others want to see it come down. The sooner Mr Seiter can get the information the sooner he can present it to Will Barclays Office. The Richland Town park committee will meet on Thursday morning so Councilwoman Haynes will update the Board after.

**WATER REPORT:** The Board should have received a draft copy of the Water Board minutes in their packet. There was a power outage at the well field and the generator wouldn't start. Mr Novak had to get help up there to help. The generator has a blown head gasket, it has 3 cylinders that have low compression and the motor is junk. It is unhooked from electricity and propane, unhooked completely and lifted out with a crane and put on boards next to the enclosure. Some estimates that it could take 2 months to get a long block and a cost from this contractor to rebuild it is \$12,030. It has a leaky radiator which the town could try to fix but it had to replace the radiator which costs \$4200. The bottom line is that the generator is obsolete. It's tough to get parts for it. If it was running the value would be about \$8,000. The town is looking to put between \$12,000-\$16,000 into it. Mr Novak recommends not to do anything with it other than to put the unit up on Auctions International, sell it as is. The motor is a 1997 Ford 460 motor so parts may be available but the electronics may not be. In place we have a mobile generator that was towed in last night and wired in this morning. The cost of renting this piece of equipment for 13 weeks from February 6 -May 8, 2023 at the rate of \$600 per week. The after hours emergency delivery was \$1500, so the contact is for \$9300. This generator has been completely operational. It has a 200 gallon diesel belly tank; it's a double wall tank. He has told Glider that he will need fuel. To give the board an idea, it's a 200 gallon

tank so it will need to be filled every day and a half of operation. So if he has a true emergency, it will cost about \$600-\$700 a day to run this generator. It will be extremely expensive to operate and rent. He would like Board approval for the contract but at this point he doesn't want the Board to sign the contract but instead. He is going to work with Oswego Co, NYS Emergency Services, and NYS Division of HomeLand Security to see if through government contacts to see if he can get a "borrowed" generator. He is going to need a generator for at least 3 m months. It's going to be a big ask. He also has a feeler out to another company that has a 100kw generator and what that cost maybe. The generator up there now is 200kw. It was the only one that they could find. The one that blew up is 80kw. Superintendent Fox advised the Board that thought \$600 per day seems like a lot of money, but at \$5.50 per gallon for diesel fuel it costs the Highway \$600 per day per plow per day. The plow trucks get about 3.5 miles per gallon of diesel. The normal rental rate for the generator is \$800 per day. Because it's going to be a long rental the company gave the Town a break on the fee at \$600 per day. It boils down to when both sources were down, National Grid and our Generator, you have to have reliable generators there to make sure people have water and there will be water for fire protection. **A motion to pay \$600 per day until we can get something different. This motion was made by Councilman Goodsell and seconded by Councilwoman Haynes. In a roll call vote, all members were in agreement with a vote of "AYE".** Town resident Larry Atkinson used to repair pumps for a city. He said that when they lost a pump they would piggy back off the system with a Fire Truck pumper to feed the other tank. The issue is supplying electricity to the well pumps and then the tank they have to fill is 314,000 gallons. The pumps are at 80-85 feet deep. The lesson is you can't wait until something happens to repair. We are beyond time for the wells in Fernwood. They are on borrowed time. Mr Novak would like to submit an application for ARPA money in the amount of \$40,000 to get the wells in Fernwood taken care of. Letters were sent out for extensions. 30 letters were sent and they had 2 responses. The Rural Migrant Ministry and the Kurtz's on Town Road. B&L have prepared a contract for those 2 at the cost of \$2000. They need Board approval to add the two interested parties to Water District 5. **A motion to approve the map plan and report to add the 2 interested parties into Water District 5. This motion was made by Councilwoman Haynes and seconded by Councilwoman Gilson. In a roll call vote, all were in favor with a vote of "AYE".** A question about how many household may be in WD#6. The explanation was there are 530 properties not all of those are residents. The number is closer to 300-320. You are obligated to send it to all properties. The Board authorized purchasing security cameras for the Water Properties in the sum of \$600. Mr Balcom ran all the wires. There is an underground conduit running up the side of the driveway in Fernwood. Supervisor Yerdon was in the understanding that security cameras were to be installed at the Water Control Building. Then there was a problem with the internet at the Fernwood Building. Councilwoman Gilson is concerned about the Budget this early on in the year. She would like to speak to Budget Officer Tammie Whaley before proceeding. She is concerned about the security of the buildings but she doesn't want a repeat of the budget issues that happened last year. The cost of the cameras was \$600 at the Water Building. The total cost would be around \$1000. **Councilwoman Haynes would like to make the motion to**

**continue on with the Security upgrades for the well sites. This motion was seconded by Councilman Goodsell . In a roll call vote, all members were in agreement with a vote of "AYE".** At the last Board Meeting, the Water Board made a recommendation, the charge for water shut off is currently \$25 during business hours and \$50 after work hours. We are legally liable for all repairs up to the curb stop. Operators get 3 hours call out overtime everytime they are called outside work hours. After hours, it can cost the town up to \$180. After discussion the Chairman of the Water Board, Doug Schwalm made a motion to recommend the after hours charge be increased from \$50 to \$100. Based on what it costs the Town for labor. Most of these things that occur are resident issues. The service calls during work hours stays the same. **A motion to raise the after hours rate from \$50 to \$100 was made by Councilwoman Gilson and seconded by Councilman North. With no more discussion and in a roll call vote, all were in agreement with a vote of "AYE".** The water department is required by law to test water at their office, R&R One Stop on the first Monday of the month and the county transfer station on the third Monday. These are designated by the County. The test result at the water building came back contaminated. This triggered a water test at every well. Samples were collected and driven to Watertown for testing. He continued that 95-98% failures are due to sample methodology. R&R samples were retested and found to have no contamination. Mr Novak is working with Rural Water to set up an In Line flushing of the Water System. This consists of emptying all 3 water tanks and inch foot miles of main that the town has on an annual basis. This is a requirement from the County and State. They want the Town to get a plan together. It hasn't been implemented. At the moment the Water Department flush 43 deadends 2 times a year. Mr Novak flushes every April and October. He has every flushing record. It's costly and time consuming. Because the Water System has gotten so big, there is a mandatory requirement in state law we have to put in continuous Chlorine monitors, it's in the works. The estimate is around \$11,000, it's going to be covered by the contract. If one of them fails, we have to test every 4 hours for five days straight, continuous nights, holidays and weekends. He has already been told that some water districts have tried to get out of it and the State Health Department will not budge. The labor costs alone will be crazy.

**DOG REPORT:** No report

**HIGHWAY REPORT:** Mr Fox had 2 Bids out. One bid was for the 2014 Dozer and the other for Firewood at the Highway Garage. These Bids were supposed to be open at the Town Board Meeting that was scheduled for February 14th, so a special meeting will need to be held to open those bids. The used Dozer needs to get sold so Mr. Fox is asking the Boards approval to put the old Dozer on Auctions International. **A motion to put this old dozer on Auctions International was made by Councilwoman Haynes and seconded by Councilwoman Gilson. In a call vote, all were in favor with a vote of "AYE".** Mr Fox feels the old dozer is a 1989 John Deere and hopefully will bring in about \$10,000-\$15,000. Other than this bid, the Highway has been playing with mother nature. They have to run even if there is only ½ inch of snow. There

is a lot of sand on the road. They have been doing maintenance on trucks and the roadside mower. The clutch has been acting up so they have fixed it in house.

**SUPERVISOR REPORT:** Next is the Supervisor's Report for December 2022. *A motion to accept the Supervisors report as presented was made by Councilwoman Haynes and seconded by Councilman Goodsell. In a roll call vote all were in favor with a vote of "AYE".*

**COMPREHENSIVE PLANNING BOARD MINUTES/UPDATES:** No meeting

**JUSTICE REPORTS:** The Justice report from Judge Ridgeway from December 2022 was presented to the Board. *With no comments, a motion to accept the report 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".*

**WARRANT OF BILLS:** *A motion to pay Abstract #15 was made by Councilwoman Gilson and seconded by Councilwoman Haynes. With no discussion and in a roll call vote, all were in favor with a vote of "AYE". A motion to pay Abstract #2 was made by Councilwoman Haynes and seconded by Councilwoman Gilson. In a roll call vote, all were in favor with a vote of "AYE".*

**TOWN BOARD MINUTES:** Town Board Minutes for December 13, December 29, and January 10 were next. *After a brief discussion a motion to accept the minutes as presented was made by Councilman Goodsell and seconded by Councilwoman Gilson. In a roll call vote, all were in favor with a vote of "AYE".*

**TOWN CLERKS REPORT:** Town Clerks report for January and the 2022 Annual report was presented to the Board. With no comments or questions, *a motion to accept the reports as presented was made by Councilwoman Haynes and seconded by Councilwoman Gilson. 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:** Supervisor Yerdon would like to appoint Robert Jefferies to the Water Board. *A motion to appoint Robert to the Water Board was made by Councilman Goodsell and seconded by Councilwoman Haynes. In a roll call vote, all members were in agreement with a vote of "AYE". Supervisor Yerdon would also like to recommend Robert Jeffery as an Alternate to the Planning Board. A motion to add Robert to the Planning Board as an Alternate was made by Councilwoman Haynes and seconded by Councilman Goodsell.*

***In a roll call vote, all were in favor with a vote of "AYE".*** Supervisor Yerdon would also like to appoint Timothy Crouch to the position of Alternate to the Zoning Board of Appeals. ***A motion was made by Councilman Goodsell and seconded by Councilwoman Haynes. In a roll call vote, all were in favor with a vote of "AYE".***

Tug Hill Meeting on April 16. Tammie Whaley and Town Clerk Millie Newcomb have forms if anyone is interested in going.

Councilwoman Haynes would like to go into Executive Session to discuss a Personal Matter involving an employee. ***This motion was made by Councilwoman Haynes and seconded by Councilwoman Gilson. In a roll call vote, all were in favor with a vote of "AYE". 7:34pm***  
***A motion to exit from Executive Session was made by Councilwoman Gilson and seconded by Councilman North. In a roll call vote, all were in favor with a vote of "AYE". 8:25pm. Back in Regular Session.***

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

**NEXT TOWN BOARD MEETING: March 14, 2022**

**MEETING ADJOURNED: 8:27pm**

Respectfully submitted by

Millie Newcomb  
Town Clerk