

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

DATE: October 10,2023

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, Larry Atkinson, Eric Pappa, Tim Crouch, Robert Jeffery, Jeff Edick, Ringgold Fire District representative, Christopher Grosvent Legislators, Ed Gilson and Herb Yerdon, CEO/ZEO John Howland, Water Supervisor Ron Novak, Deputy Highway and 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: *A motion to open the Public Hearing for Local Law #7 Of 2023 Volunteer Exemption for Volunteer Firefighters and Volunteer Ambulance Workers was made by Councilman Goodsell and seconded by Councilwoman Haynes . In a roll call vote, all were in favor with a vote of "AYE". 6:02pm.* Supervisor Yerdon read the proposed Local Law to the Board. It's a maximum of 10% discount on Property Taxes. Christopher Grosvent of the Ringgold Fire District spoke on behalf of the Exemption. He explained at the moment only 12 members of the Fire District qualify for this discount. You have to be in "active status" The exemption requires the recipient to live within the District it serves and live on the property with the exemption. You have to belong to the Fire Department at least 2 years. There will also be an exemption available for School and Village taxes as well. Both County Legislators spoke on behalf of the exemption. With no questions, *a motion to close the Public Hearing 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 motion to Adopt Local Law #7 of 2023 Exemption for Volunteer Firemen was made by Councilwoman Haynes and seconded by Councilman Goodsell. In a roll call vote, all were in favor with a vote of "AYE".

PUBLIC COMMENT: Councilman North would like to ask if the term "Engineer" has been removed from the Employee Handbook under contracted employee. Supervisor Yerdon advised that it was voted on to be removed and will be when the handbook is updated.

LEGISLATIVE REPORT: Legislator Herb Yerdon is here to give his report. Remember that early voting starts on October 28th here at the Courthouse. It will go through Sunday November 5th. Next there is a report of the Oswego County Fire Coordinators Office. The Oswego County EMS is grateful for the passing of S1446A/A250 with unanimous support of the NYS Legislature and ask that you please sign this vitally important bill into law. This bill will allow the Insurance companies to receive payment directly from the insurance company instead of from the patient. A report for the 9-1-1 Center for July 2023. This report listed all the activity around the county and the response times. Youth Night with the SUNY Lakers Hockey Team! Friday November 3rd at 7pm. Kids get in Free with Parent Admission. Now Open! The Landing Social Club and Cafe Located at Selkirk Landing 96 Bella Road in Pulaski. Open for lunch every Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday 11:00am-1:00pm . Reservations are required. Please call 315-532-8512 or 315-598-4712. Fall Family Wellness Weekends at the Oswego YMCA Youth Center & Skate Park 201 East 6th st-Oswego from 2-4 pm or in Fulton Saturday November 4th at the Catholic Charities CYO 808 West Broadway- Fulton 2-4pm. Christmas Craft and Vendor show will be held on Saturday November 18th from 10;00am-3:00pm at the Oswego Elks Lodge 132 W 5th St, Oswego, NY Any questions please email JLOSURDO@OSWEGONY.ORG.

Americorps at the Oswego City -County Youth Bureau has many job opportunities. at 70 Bunner Street Oswego, NY . For more information call Jennifer Jones at 315-349-3408. Need help with Transportation? Meet with Our Oswego County Director of Mobility Management Heather Sno at one of our open information sessions. Walk-ins are welcome 9am-4:00pm They will be at Selkirk Landing 96 Bella Road Pulaski on 10/16 - 12/18 and 2/19/24 also at Citi BOCES Literacy Zone, 104 Cayuga St. Fulton, NY on 11/20 - 1/16 - 3/18/2024. Last is a new Animal Rules coming in January 2025. Mr Yerdon feels that this is going to be a big expense for Local Dog Control Officers.

Next is Legislator Ed Gilson. A resolution that the Legislature will be taking up this week. It's a resolution allowing Letting homeless and evicted persons to relocate to Upstate NY. NYC Mayor Eric Adams immediately expanded access housing for homeless individuals currently residing in NYC by allowing these individuals to move across the state while receiving housing vouchers and rental assistance. Over 10,000 have applied for this already. The Adams Administration declared that there are approximately 10,000 individuals and families currently residing in NYC taking advantage of the city's program. It is estimated 20% or 2,000 of these households may look to relocate outside NYC. The program is a 5yr program where NYC will reimburse the

landlords up to 70% of the rent for an apartment while the remaining 30% is the responsibility of the homeless. While the city's program will reimburse the landlord directly, the program does not provide other social services assistance programs that are required by this population. The counties that receive these households will be responsible for cash assistance, aging assistance, mental health, substance abuse programs, and daycare. Even though NYC action will place unaffordable burdens on Upstate Counties, and add pressure on their already over-stressed human services cases, New York City did not consult with upstate counties before taking this action. Oswego County has no available capacity to house an additional homeless population, it is already housing its own homeless residents. The program will further accelerate an over-stressed housing market across the state. The program provides HUD approved maximum rental assistance. Homeless leaving New York City will be able to secure market rate housing across New York State. Relocation of these families, and individuals will push our local rents higher and higher. Whereas the NYC Legislature is taking these actions solely for the purpose of moving the homeless population out of the city to make room for immigrants invited by the mayor himself into the sanctuary city, and where these actions might violate the New York State Social Service Law, which makes it a crime to send or bring or cause to be sent any person to a public welfare district without making him a charge of Public welfare directly or with the purpose of avoiding the responsibility of assistance or care of a Public Welfare district. In other words, if they can't support themselves or work, it is illegal and against the Social Security Law to just plant them in another county. They are doing this because the immigrants can't work without a green card. The homeless are citizens, they are able to work. They are trying to pull the wool over our eyes. The Federal Government has failed to adopt effective immigration policies and regulations which would have prevented the current situation. The Oswego County Legislature will be supporting this resolution to try to stop this before it gets out of hand. We can't support NYC without them sending money. The County is starting the Budget process. They pride themselves in being financially responsible. They have an extra challenge this year. The Governor has intercepted 1.2 million dollars of medicare money that comes from the Federal Government to keep for their use in NYC. So over the next 3 years we have 3.2 million dollars to make up for. She has also raised the Public Defender costs. The county has put in place a Public Defenders Office. We will have our own Attorneys. As of right now, if you make \$65,000 you can apply and have the state or the County to pay for your attorney. Just about anyone in the Town of Richland can have a Public Defender. The Legislature will do their best to hold the line on the Taxes. Supervisor Yerdon would like to Thank both Legislators for coming to the meetings every month and giving their report. He wants them to know that the Town Board appreciates both of them.

ZONING AND CODE REPORTS: CEO/ZEO John Howland is here to give his report. The list of permits was presented to the Board along with the Violation Notices also. Attorney Seiter hasn't heard from Christian LaSelle after a letter was sent and Mr Howland hasn't heard from him in almost 2 yrs. It's the Board's decision to take him to the State Supreme Court. A few other ones are home on Valley Road. It's the Hatfields property that he has since found out that

the Bank owned the home since 2016. Someone had purchased it at the County Auction, but nothing has been done to the property since it was purchased. Mr Howland sent a final letter to bring the property into compliance. The owner lives in Central Square. ***A motion to send Christian LaSelle to State Supreme Court was made by Councilwoman haynes and seconded by Councilman North. In a roll call vote, all were in favor with a vote of "AYE".***

COMPREHENSIVE PLANNING BOARD MINUTES/UPDATES: No meeting

HIGHWAY REPORT: Deputy Superintendent Kevin Balcom is here to give the Highway Report. He has the Snow Plowing agreement with the County to Plow the Road. The County will give \$8500 per mile which is \$500 less than last year and 1 month shorter(April), 1 year contract and fuel reimbursement for over \$4.50. Mr Balcom believes the rest of the language stays the same. In the negotiations, the contract started out being a 3 year contract. Based on the conversation Mr Yerdon had with Highway Superintendent John Fox, he would like the Board to approve the contract. ***A motion to accept the Snow Plow Agreement 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".*** Next, Mr Fox got 4 prices for a new snow plow for the pickup. Truck #8 Whitesboro plow was the cheapest at \$8000. No vote was taken. Mr Fox will bring the quotes to the Town Clerk. In other news, they are screening gravel and getting trucks ready for winter.

BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS & RICHLAND PARKS: B&G Kevin Balcom told the board that he has finally gotten rid of all the bad or illegal bleachers. Installed a new Hot Water on Demand so the fuel oil hot water tank is no longer needed. Took all the piping down and repaired the hole in the wall. At the main shop, he repaired and finished repairs around the garage door frames. The wall between the fuel tanks rotted so he removed it and will repair it before winter. Made a new man door on the front of the shop. Fixed a 6x6 that was rotted and he is afraid what he is going to find moving forward. Mr Balcom went to Superintendents school. The keynote speaker was very good. He taught how to deal with the public, how to get pride back to the job and the team. He really inspired him. Got a lot of good information on the Chips Program. They had a round table conversation. He really enjoyed the class and got a lot of information.

WATER DEPARTMENT: The Town of Orwell is having a Public Hearing tonight at their Board Meeting. Mr Novak thinks that there will be a Project Bond resolution to be done tonight. Bids will be going out also. There could be questions at their meeting. There is a point of connection at the end of Stowell Drive which is where they will connect to our system. From there the pipe will go toward Orwell on Oliver's property and the corner where the pump house is going to go, 20' before the pump house is the Master Meter. That is referred to as the point of delivery. Orwell is responsible for repair maintenance and operation from the point of delivery to the Town line and their entire system. We, the Town of Richland, would be responsible from the point of connection to the point of delivery. There is a 12" pipe there, they will connect with an

8" ductile iron. Their entire system will be run through the ductile iron pipe. This was agreed upon and it's all spelled out in the IMA between Orwell and the Town of Richland. If we have a major break or repair, anything in that 500' Mr Novak would like to know where that money is coming from for the repairs. There is language in that agreement that the Town has the right to tap into the line on the Town of Richland side if anyone wants to get water. We would have to have a Map, Plan and Report if that were to happen and form a district. We are selling water to Orwell. Supervisor Yerdon thinks that any money coming from the sale of water to Orwell, the money should sit in an account somewhere for issues like repairs. Budget Office Tammie Whaley suggests that when we start getting money from Orwell that the Town of Richland sets up a Reserve account and the income goes into that reserve for that section. She will talk to Laird about that. Tammie Whaley said that when the Town was supposed to get \$75,000 from Orwell, and we were supposed to expense out \$65,000 for whatever we were to use it for like the Generator for wells #7 and #23 and it was all done in water district #1. We earmarked that in Water District #1. This was done because we actually didn't have a Water District. Because nothing was going to happen this year but will happen next year so we turned around and put it back into the budget in the same place. The Board feels it should be in Water District 2. Mrs. Whaley will talk to Laird to see if it can be moved.

Discussion over ads for Bids for Engineering. Mr Novak has been working with Dave Turner and Kyle Bolton. They reviewed the Towns application and the only discussion in the application for the 6 items relative to the professional engineering was the review of the electrical inspection report by a certified electrical person for the well field. So the county has made a determination that we are not allowed to use any of the \$260,000 of ARPA money for professional engineering at all. This is just one of the things. They also said that the contract between the Town and County requires the town to comply with all state and federal laws. One of those was the Davis Bacon Act which is a federal law that requires the Town to use prevailing wages. There is also a provision in there that regardless of the Towns procurement policy anything over \$10,000 has to be put up for bid. Dave Turner and Kyle will be happy to meet with the Board. The Board is concerned that Mr Novak is just letting them know about these provisions. Per Mr Novak, someone had to do it so he has been working on it since he didn't think anyone else had been doing any of the research. Mrs. Whaley explained that the Town has been paying Mr Novak to act as the administrator. This \$14,000 wasn't just for the engineering of the ARPA funds, it was to act as the administrator also. Mr Novak disagreed and said that the administrator was only under the Budget Officers requirement. As Mr Novak has told the Board, the \$150,000 that the Town received and the \$260,000 for the Water Department has significantly different rules. They all need completely different accounting. If you violate anything on the Federal side. Mrs Whaley advised Mr. Novak that she has completely separate line items for the County and the Towns. Mrs Whaley's suggestion is that if we have to find out about all the regulations, maybe we should just put everything on hold until we find out? Legislator Gilson was asked what he knew about what Mr Novak was talking about. He advised that everything should be in the contract that the Town has with the County. Mr. Novak told the Board that the Contract was accepted as there is no reference for engineering therefore you can't use any of the money for

that purpose. The money has to be appropriated by the end of 2024. Mr Gilson will check on the timelines. This is probably a good time to get with Dave Turner and schedule a meeting. Councilwoman Gilson thinks that the Town should come up with a plan, a 3 year plan moving forward.

Ads have been put in the newspaper for a Non-Licensed Water Operator. The applications have to be sent to the Town Clerk by October 31st.

Mr Novak has been working with the County to rehire Gabby Waite for the winter. She could work 12 hrs per week with Mary. Under the program, she will be fully funded by the county. Its for 13 weeks, 3 hours a day from 8am to 11:00 am. She may be interested in doing her community service with the Water Dept.

Zach Macciucca's last day with the Water Department on Friday October 13,2023. He will be going back to the Highway Department.

Wait time for Mueller brass is 53 weeks, meter pits are 33-36 weeks and any Ford Brass is 24 weeks. It's still difficult to get your hands on parts, especially brass. Blair is closing its doors in Watertown. It has been sold to Erie Materials. Our parts will be coming from Rochester assuming we keep using Blair Plumbing. Not a huge problem as long as you order ahead of time. A petition has been received by residents of Town Road. This was analyzed already by B&L in a letter dated July 26,2022. The cost is 4500 linear feet of pipe, 7 hydrants , 3 gate valves at the cost of \$675,000 in 2022. Which would have been \$85,000 per resident. The current cost is \$800,000 for that same 4500 ft of pipe, so you have 8 residents with an expected cost or \$100,000 per resident. Attorney Seiter told the Board just looking at the petition it's not a valid petition. Attorney Seiter said it doesn't sound like anything that any homeowner could afford. The only way for another resolution, it would have to include the Town of Albion

Next year the Water Tanks will require inspection. The Bishop Road tank Mr. Novak doesn't feel like it would pass. Recent estimates in other towns come out to \$300,000 to wash and \$500,000 for paint and blast. Another estimate is \$400,000 to wash and \$581,000 to paint and blast. The town must take into account that preliminary engineering could cost up to \$20,000. You have to have that to apply for grants. The estimated cost for the preliminary engineering and washing and painting of the tanks could run in upwards of \$1.2 million .The other is spending \$20-25,000 for complete Electrical Inspection report and grant money for issues in the Richland Well Field. Preliminary account that the Town purchased this property in 2008. From everything Mr Novak can find, no inspections have ever been done. It was built in 1961. The life expectancy of a power pole is 40 yrs. A majority of stuff in that field doesn't make code. You do an inspection first then a preliminary engineering report then go after grant money. One of the projects of ARPA was to move 2400 linear feet of the power grid from the east side of Trout Brook . In the winter it would be impossible.

Mr Novak sent 3 parcels for Attorney Seiter to look at deeds. One of them seems to be an old Town Road with no parcel ID#. He found there were no easements on these properties. Attorney Seiter needs the Boards permission to search these deeds. These properties were at one time, belonging to the Railroad. ***A motion to allow Attorney Seiter to research the deeds***

for the Town Board was made by Councilman Goodsell and seconded by Councilwoman Gilson. In a roll call vote, all were in favor with a vote of "AYE"

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

SUPERVISOR REPORT: Supervisors Report for August 2023 was presented to the Board. ***A motion by Councilwoman Gilson and seconded by Councilwoman Haynes. In a roll call vote, all were in favor with a vote of "AYE".***

TENTATIVE BUDGET FOR 2024: This budget is each Department Head putting in their requests. We had our first Budget Workshop a week ago. We still have a lot of Work ahead of us. The Library Budget was the same, NOCA was up about \$4200, Ringgold was up about \$5600. We have not received Richland Fire Company's budget. We still don't have revenue for Water, No pilot programs, no annual payments from Sandy Creek for districts 3&5. Right now our increase is higher than it should be to stay under the tax cap. Hopefully we can move ahead at the next meeting. Insurance went up 14%. They usually don't move it up to what they want but they did this time. ***A motion to accept the Tentative Budget was made by Councilwoman Haynes and seconded by Councilwoman Gilson. In a roll call vote all were in favor with a vote of "AYE".***

JUSTICE REPORTS: Justice Report for September for Judge Conger and August Report from Judge Ridgeway are next. With no discussion, ***a motion to accept the reports as presented was made by Councilman North and seconded by Councilwoman Haynes. In a roll call vote, all were in favor with a vote of "AYE".***

WARRANT OF BILLS: Abstract #10 is next. ***A motion to approve and accept abstract #10 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"***

TOWN BOARD MINUTES: ***A motion to accept Town Board Minutes for September 12,2023 was made by Councilwoman Haynes and seconded by Councilman Goodsell. In a roll call vote, all were in favor with a vote of "AYE".***

TOWN CLERKS REPORT: ***A motion to accept the Town Clerk's Report for September 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: *A motion to accept the Library Budget 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". A motion to accept the Ringgold Fire Districts Budget was made by Councilwoman Gilson and seconded by Councilwoman Haynes. This amount to be raised by taxes is \$289,900. In a roll call vote all were in favor with a vote of "AYE".* A workshop for the Mitigation Plan with the County. This has to be scheduled by the Board. This will be discussed by the Board at the next workshop. A resolution to sell Town Property in the Town of Richland. This parcel is located on Dry Bridge Road. The resolution will be attached to the minutes of this meeting. *A 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".* Discussion about the Procurement Policy. Water Supervisor Novak has issues with the policy and it was suggested to him by Attorney Seiter to get a list of issues and discuss it at a later time. Supervisor Yerdon would like to go into Executive Session to discuss financial or promotion of an individual. *A motion was made by Councilman Goodsell. With no second a motion to adjourn was made by Councilwoman Haynes and seconded by Councilman North. IN a roll call vote, all were in favor with a vote of "AYE". 8:27pm*

NEXT TOWN BOARD MEETING: Workshop October 12, 2023 at 1:00

MEETING ADJOURNED:

Respectfully submitted by

Millie Newcomb
Town Clerk