

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

**DATE:** Tuesday, October 13, 2020

**KIND OF MEETING:** Regular Scheduled 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:** Craig Sternberg, Herb Yerdon, Tania Budge, John Fox, Graham Seiter, Julie Peterson

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

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** No public comment.

**ZONING AND CODE REPORTS:** Mr. Howland received an application today for a cell phone tower to be placed on the corner of County Route 28 and Towne Rd. John asked the board for permission to hire Julie Peterson as clerk for the Zoning and Planning boards. Mr. Krupke states that this will allow her to learn other areas and for her to get a few extra hours a month but will still be below the 30 hour a week threshold. ***A motion was made by Councilwoman Haynes and seconded by Councilman Goodsell for Julie Peterson to be the Clerk for the Zoning and Planning Boards. In a roll call vote, all were in favor with a vote of "AYE."*** Mr. Howland informed the board that in speaking with a solar company recently, he learned that the Town of Richland is close to being maxed out. There can only be so much power put onto a grid in an area, due to the substations.

**LEGISLATIVE REPORT:** Legislator Herb Yerdon informed the board that the Census is almost over, they extended into October. As of September 11<sup>th</sup>, 62% of Oswego County has completed their questionnaire. Every person that does not get counted, the County stands to lose approximately \$21,000 per person. He gave the latest update on COVID in the County.

Councilwoman Gilson questioned the legislator on what the County can do to assist families that are trying to visit their loved ones in the Nursing Homes. The Governor is requiring a COVID test within 7 days of a visit. One gentleman was tested, after 8 days did not have the results, then had to start over again so he could see his wife. Her concern is who is paying for the testing, some people cannot afford it. The elderly is suffering because of this. Mr. Yerdon says that there is nothing the County can do; it is a State mandate. Legislator Gilson states that monies were set aside for COVID when the pandemic started. He will bring up this concern at the next meeting and suggest setting aside more funds to possibly assist with this issue. Legislator Yerdon thanked the many organizations and people that have helped with the food giveaway during this pandemic. Legislator Gilson informed the board about the extension of hunting season for one week for Southern tier to regulate the deer population. Mr. Gilson thanked Mr. Fox for delivering the sandbags so quickly to help the water drainage issue on Lake St. He states that there has been a considerable amount of COVID complaint calls. He is concerned about the livelihood of the businesses that have unfounded complaints filed against them and risk losing their liquor licenses. Mr. Gilson has requested to receive notification from the Department of Health if there is a business in the Town of Richland that has a serious accusation, and he will address it with the owner to help mitigate.

**BONADIO PRESENTATION:** Tonia Budge, with The Bonadio Group, distributed a copy of the independent audit results to all board members. She then reviewed the findings of the audit. The Town is in good shape and there were no areas of major concern.

**WATER REPORT:** There is still a vacancy on the water board. They have received 2 applications; one does not live in the township. Mr. Sternberg received quotes for the roof replacement in Fernwood. His recommendation is to proceed with Oscar Roofing. ***A motion was made by Councilwoman Gilson and seconded by Councilman Goodsell to proceed with Oscar Roofing to replace the roof at the Fernwood location for \$4,100. In a roll call vote, all were in favor with a vote of "AYE."*** The motor starter in the village connection vault needs to be replaced, they are constantly receiving alarms on it. The purpose of the motor is to assist the village with water pressure in the event of a major fire. The board unanimously agrees that this needs to be fixed. The IMA for that connection will be pulled and reviewed to establish who is financially responsible for this repair. The parts to repair this will cost approximately \$3,500 for the materials and would be ordered from Aqua Logics, the total cost is unknown. Mr. Sternberg informed the board that as of November 1<sup>st</sup> there is a new federally mandated test that will be required quarterly. It tests for PFA's, which is dissolved plastics in water. He is confident that the Town will pass these tests, but the test is expensive. The cost will be \$3-4,000 per quarter, they are \$750 each and all wells must get tested individually. He has reached out to the Health Department to see if our wells can be completed as groups after we pass a few initial tests. Councilwoman Haynes asked about the possible decommissioning of the Windmill. Mr. Sternberg shared with the board that the monitoring contract for the windmill costs \$3,200 per year. The cost to maintain the windmill is more than the savings of

the energy production. There was some discussion regarding possibly selling the windmill. Craig is going to reach out to the service company to get their opinion on decommissioning it, the cost of decommissioning it, and a perspective value. Mr. Sternberg presented the quotes that he received for the plow for the water truck. He was under the impression that new quotes needed to be obtained as the low bid that was approved at the last meeting did not happen as the bidder realized that he misquoted the amount. The original quote from Dicks Auto was \$5,600 and he came back with a quote of \$5,900 for the correct plow. Mr. Fox informed the board that he started the process of the plow purchase and wanted to follow through. He went to Dicks after the board approved the purchase, it was then that Mr. Krebs realized that his manufacturer had quoted him the wrong price. He did not know the price that was quoted by others and said he understood if we did not want to get it through him. After that, Mr. Fox brought it the board and took the price down to Craig at the Haldane and was under the impression they were on the same page, and he ordered the plow from Dick's Auto. He also stated that this plow is under \$10,000, a bid is not required, and that they only needed to obtain 3 quotes. Effective January 1, 2021 water rates will be going up. The purchase of the equipment trailer is going to be held off until after the first of the year. The motor at the intermunicipal connection may have to wait until then as well, depending on the budget and the IMA review.

**RICHLAND TOWN PARKS:** The reformation of the boards for the parks are going well. The Richland Park has received forms back from Alycia Smith, Julie Peterson, and Sue Haynes. Mr. Goodsell did not receive the email; he would like to continue to be on the board. There is one member that has not responded, we may have an opening on the board. The hockey association is planning to make ice for hockey season. Currently, they do not plan to open for public skating. Councilwoman Haynes told Mr. Sternberg that she appreciated the report that he provides each month. However, she was under the understanding that the board would be provided a detailed report tracking his time like the water mechanics provide. She would like something from him showing where his time is spent and on what, as his report does not explain that, if someone asks her, she would like to have answers. Mr. Sternberg gave the board a rundown of what his typical day consists of and what he has been working on with the Haldane, Water Department, and the Richland Park. Mrs. Haynes was pleased with his presentation and said that an hour by hour statement is not required if he could give a detailed report, as he just did, each month.

***A motion was made by Councilman Yerdon and seconded by Councilwoman Haynes to enter executive session at 7:53 p.m. to discuss the wording in the IMA with the Village of Pulaski on the Haldane Lease. In a roll call vote, all were in favor with a vote of "AYE." A motion was made by Councilwoman Gilson and seconded by Councilman Goodsell to exit executive session at 8:25 p.m. In a roll call vote, all were in favor with a vote of "AYE."***

**DOG REPORT:** August and September dog reports were submitted to the board for review.

**COMPREHENSIVE PLANNING BOARD MINUTES/UPDATES:** A copy of the Comprehensive Planning Board minutes was presented to the board for review.

**HIGHWAY REPORT:** The highway department has been cleaning things up at the highway building. A scrap metal sales report was given to the board. Attorney Seiter updated the board on the status of the Shoulder Machine IMA and wanted to clarify the townships involved. It is an agreement between several Towns: Richland, Orwell, Mexico, Boylston, Sandy Creek, Amboy, Redfield, and Williamstown. The machine is already purchased, there was some questions regarding the wording of the agreement, Mr. Seiter will get it completed as soon as possible. The bids for the sand screener will be opened tomorrow night at the Town of Sandy Creek board meeting. Their Town attorney has a draft of the IMA for the screener, they are just waiting on the bids. This IMA agreement is only between the Town of Sandy Creek and the Town of Richland. John states that all the CHIPS money has been received. The highway department is working on the plows and sanders getting everything ready for winter. They are finishing up the rest of the summer projects. The 2014 loader is currently at 5 Star Equipment with some motor issues and is getting fixed, the cost will be approximately \$7,500. They have the roadside mower back and it is working again.

**NOCA CONTRACT:** *A motion was made by Councilman Yerdon and seconded by Councilwoman Haynes to enter into the agreement with NOCA. In a roll call vote, all were in favor with a vote of "AYE."*

**SUPERVISOR REPORT:** *A motion was made by Councilwoman Gilson and seconded by Councilwoman Haynes to approve the June and July Supervisor Report as presented. In a roll call vote, all were in favor with a vote of "AYE."*

**JUSTICE REPORTS:** *A motion was made by Councilwoman Gilson and seconded by Councilman Goodsell to accept the August Justice Reports as presented. In a roll call vote, all were in favor with a vote of "AYE."*

**WARRANT OF BILLS:** *A motion was made by Councilwoman Haynes and seconded by Councilman Yerdon to accept Abstract #10 of 2020 as presented. In a roll call vote, all were in favor with a vote of "AYE."*

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

**TOWN CLERK REPORT:** *A motion was made by Councilwoman Gilson and seconded by Councilwoman Haynes to accept the August and September Town Clerk reports as presented. In a roll call vote, all were in favor with a vote of "AYE."*

**TOWN HISTORIAN REPORT:** A historian report was submitted to the board for review.

**MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS:** A copy of the 2019 Energy Use Data report was given to the board for review. Mr. Krupke informed the board that as of last month the solar panels at the water building have produced over 24,000 KW of energy. There is currently a credit balance of 15,000 KW on that facility. After a year, we can allocate that credit balance to another facility owned by the Town. Councilman Yerdon and John Howland are working on the wording for a Solar Law. Board members have not had a chance to finish reviewing the Teamsters contract. No decisions will be made on it at this meeting. Supervisor Krupke updated the board on the preliminary budget. Mr. Fox's salary was adjusted as discussed, funds were taken out of contingency to offset that, the waterboard chairman position was removed, and the state retirement and social security were also adjusted accordingly. There was discussion about the funds needed for a future assessment revaluation. The cost of the re-eval and when it will be done is unknown. The Town has set money aside for the last 2 years for the re-eval, at the end of 2020, there will be \$40,000 in reserves. There is another \$20,000 in the budget for next year, \$10,000 will go into contingency and \$10,000 into reserves, sometimes the state will assist with the expense. Assessor Warren Wheeler will perform the re-eval, with assistance for commercial properties. Justice Conger notified Supervisor Krupke that the justice department does not wish to have an increase in pay for 2020, however, they would like an increase for the Constables. She would like to increase them from \$18.85 an hour to \$20, other townships are paying \$25, and we are having difficulty getting them to come. Judge Conger is applying for a grant of \$2,200 to allow video conferencing along with reimbursement for additional supplies that the Town had to purchase due to COVID. The board appreciates their offer but feels they deserve a raise just like everyone else. Mr. Krupke informed the board that the nonunion insurance rate has increased by 4.5%, which is less than what they budgeted for, the state retirement is a little higher, so no changes were made to the budget. ***A motion was made by Councilman Yerdon and seconded by Councilman Goodsell to change the constable pay in the preliminary budget from \$18.85 an hour to \$20 an hour. In a roll call vote, all were in favor with a vote of "AYE."*** The board discussed the cost of the office that the Town Historian rents in the courthouse. Councilman Yerdon and Councilwoman Gilson recalled the prior conversation the board had regarding the Town renting a room at the Halfshire for his office and giving him an increase in pay. Mr. Krupke stated that he discussed this with Mr. Doyle, and he appreciates having the office and does use it. He has not used it in a while since he does not have a key to the building. Mr. Doyle, as Town Historian, only makes \$798.36/year. The Town is currently budgeting \$1,780 a year for rent. He may, eventually, have to give up the office due to the County Court system taking it over. He will discuss this further with Mr. Doyle. There will be a public hearing at the November meeting for the budget.

**NEXT TOWN BOARD MEETING:** The next town board meeting will be Tuesday, November 10, 2020 at 6 p.m.

**MEETING ADJOURNED:** *A motion was made by Councilwoman Gilson and seconded by Councilwoman Haynes to adjourn the meeting at 9:23 p.m. In a roll call vote, all were in favor with a vote of "AYE."*

Respectfully submitted by  
Julie Peterson  
Deputy Town Clerk