

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

DATE: October 6, 2020

KIND OF MEETING: Budget 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: Highway Superintendent John Fox
Town Clerk Millie Newcomb

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. with Supervisor Krupke leading in the Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: No public comments at this time.

BANK TRANSFER: A motion to approve the transfer of our Tax Revenue savings account at Pathfinder Bank for Funds A DB & SW5 (Account #234) to our operating Money Market account to close out that Tax Reserve account was made by Councilwoman Haynes and seconded by Councilwoman Gilson. In a roll call vote, all were in favor with a vote of "AYE".

HALDANE ADVISORY COMMITTEE: Supervisor Krupke, Deputy Supervisor Yerdon and Councilwoman Haynes met last week with Bill Wood and Craig Sternberg to discuss the Haldane Advisory Committee. Based on the agreement with the Village last year, we need to make appointments to the Haldane Advisory Committee. It was suggested, at that meeting last week, that letters be obtained from people that may still be interested in serving on that board. Previous members would be asked first. The individuals that have shown interest to be on the Board are as follows, Bill Wood, Ed Gilson, Alan Englebrect, Sue Haynes, Sean Stern and Kern Yerdon. There are 5 seats and 6 people that are interested. With this, a vote is needed to decide who will serve the Committee. Mr. Yerdon wanted to know what was decided as the Chairman. Since Craig Sternberg is the Supervisor for Buildings and Grounds, he would assume the position of Chairman since he has to attend the meetings representing the Town. He will not be a voting member, he would be the Chairman without voting privileges. With this, the committee would maintain a 5 member committee for voting purposes. A decision has to be made on the 5th committee person. Sean Stern has been involved with the Hockey Association

and has been for many years. He played youth hockey and would be honored to be on this committee. Councilwoman Haynes would like to continue to be on this board. Alan Englebrekt has been involved with the Haldane and Hockey Association for many years. Bill Wood has also been involved for many years. Ed Gilson is a more recent appointee. Mr. Yerdon is interested in coming on for many of the same reasons. He helped in creating the language in case anyone has a problem, he would be there to help. He was involved for over 20 yrs. The breakdown in the terms is as follows. 2 members for 2 years, 2 members for 3 years and 1 member for 4 years. This was set up so all the terms would not expire at the same time. With some discussion, Mr. Yerdon asked to have his application withdrawn. With the withdrawal of Mr. Yerdon's application, the committee is as follows, Bill Wood for a 4 year term, Ed Gilson for a 3 year term, Alan Engelbrekt for a 2 year term, Councilwoman Haynes for a 3 year term and Sean Stern for a 2 year term. Discussion followed as to how the staggered terms of office work. All the committee meetings are open to the public, so everyone is welcome to attend at any time. A motion was made to set the Haldane committee as discussed. ***The motion 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 appoint Craig Sternberg as the Chairman of the Haldane Committee was made by Councilwoman Haynes and seconded by Councilman Goodsell. In a roll call vote, all were in favor with a vote of "AYE".

Discussion to the Haldane Contract with the Village of Pulaski. Questions as to what version the Town and Village actually voted on and approved. After a long discussion it was decided to have the Village resign the contract just to make sure everything is in order. The contract will be brought back to the next meeting to vote on it again.

Next, Supervisor Krupke is presenting the Tentative Budget for 2021. Next week at the regular meeting the Preliminary Budget will be presented, then at the November meeting the Town will have a Public Hearing on the Final Budget for 2021 unless other meetings are needed. First the approval of Salaries for elected officials. The Town has not received the salaries from the Union as of yet. The Deputy Supervisor Yerdon asked the Union to send the Town an updated contract showing the rates of pay with the 2% increase. As of this meeting, Supervisor Krupke has not received this contract. Mr Yerdon advised that he will contact the Union the next day. Every employee is getting a 2% pay increase with the exception of the Highway Superintendent who is getting a 3% increase. To understand the Budget, there are 4 major funds that are dealt with daily. They are A -Townwide that includes the Village, B is everything but the Village, DA is everything with the Village and DB is everything outside the Village. Looking at those 4 major funds, we reflect an increase of 1.4%. Looking at fund balances, which the Town relies on heavily. Fund balances for the A fund last year was \$109,000 this year it's almost \$150,000. The B Fund in 2020 we used, \$18,745.00 This year we used \$75,373.00. The B Fund is where we have the greatest amount of money with \$500,000.00. We are trying everything to figure out how to use the fund balance and reduce it. As an example, in the B fund, we increased the contingency \$50,000.00. But the DB fund, one of Superintendent Fox's accounts, was reduced by \$50,000.00. What is anticipated is that Mr. Fox will exceed his expenditures in the DB

account. Therefore, at the end of the year a Budget Transfer from B to DB. which is completely legal to do. That is the only way that we can use that B Fund money. You can go from A to DA but you can't from DB to B or A to B. The reason that fund gets so high is because Sales Tax Money that all goes into B and DB funds. Last year and again this year we have reduced the amount of Sales Tax that goes into the B fund, increased it into the DB fund. So right now we project \$160,000 in sales tax revenue for 2021, the same that we projected for 2020, it was not increased, but the Town is allocating \$40,000 into the B fund in sales tax revenue and \$120,000 for the DB fund for sales tax. In short the Town is trying to reduce the B account and with the help of Laird Petrie from the Comptroller's Office and Bob North, they are hoping this plan will work. The Town does rely heavily on the fund balances and the A fund is down to \$27,000 after using the fund balance. After going back and looking, it looks like we go back and replenish it year after year. So the Town should be okay next year but the concern is what if it isn't. It would be a heavier tax increase in the A fund, which could push the Town over the 2% tax cap threshold. The Town is well within the Tax cap this year. We are where we need to be. Supervisor Krupke would like to be a bit more conservative in our spending next year in all areas just to make sure we have the money to offset the taxpayers dollars. The Boards discussion turned to the Court System. This area is a concern of Supervisor Krupke. There was a budget of \$150,000 in revenue set for the court for 2020. With the current situation, there is no way they will hit that mark. The best bet is about \$60,000 to \$65,000. Councilman Yerdon would like to know legally if the Town can move to having only 1 judge. With the way the laws are changing in NYS with no cash bail law, the Governor keeps cutting funding and maybe this is his way of defunding the law enforcement. Plus due to Covid19, the Town continued to pay the Court Clerks and Judges for 3 months and it was mandated by the court that no one was supposed to be in the offices. Councilman Yerdon would just like to know what can a town do about possibly going down to 1 justice versus 2. The Laws regarding Town Courts are very different but Mr. Yerdon would just like to know in case the Town has to make that decision. In the DA fund, 5142.4 it was increased by \$50,000 for salt and sand. The Town usually makes that up with the County Contract in revenue of \$268,000. Superintendent Fox advised the Town Board that he has enough sand for this year and possibly 2021. The Bids for the Screener that the Town of Richland will go in halves with the Town of Sandy Creek, will be opened next week. Mr Fox will go to that bid opening. He is confident that the Town will get the screener they both want and they can screen their own and eliminate the County from screening sand and save \$16,000. This will be covered under Shared Services. The only ones on this screener will be the Town of Sandy Creek and Richland. The Town does have a few more Agreements with other Towns for equipment such as the shoulder machine, roller and sweeper. We are still waiting on the Shoulder Machine IMA which Sandy Creeks Attorney is taking care of. A new Dozer for the Highway Dept is factored into the Highway budget for 2021. There is money in reserves for that. The Town should get some money after the sale of the old dozer. The Highway has a 1988 John Deere 750 dozer at this present time. The parts are getting hard to find now. The overall Budget for 2021 is at a 1.75% increase. There will be an increase of .20 per gallon of water to the Town of Sandy Creek from the current rate of \$1.80 to \$2.00. This is the first increase in 3 years. Out of 20,000,000 gallons of water the increase is \$4000.00. Supervisor Krupke feels that the Town should continue with increases every 2 years. This increase is a little over 11%. The Water Sales stations are currently at

\$7.00 per 1000 gallons, and will be increased to \$10.00 per 1000 gallons. Mr. Krupke will relay the increase to Sandy Creek so they may adjust their figures. Both towns have agreed to keep the costs the same.

Some Contingent monies are being used to keep the costs down for the Water Districts. The new budget, Supervisor Krupke is proposing that Water District 1 goes to \$310.00 per EDU up from \$293.00. Water District #2 \$300.00 from \$292.00, District #3 will be staying the same and District # 5, The residents were charged \$249.00 last year because of the delay in the water project. The prior year it was \$460 and this year it will be \$355 now that the project is underway. The contingency fund raised an extra \$5000 for each district with the exception of Water District 5, that was increased to \$5600. The reasoning is that there are just too many unknowns in the business in water.

A new line item, insurance has been added into water. In the past, all insurances were coming from the A fund and part of the insurances belong to the Water Districts so its been allocated that \$18,000 out of our insurance belongs to the Water Districts. District 1 continues to buy all the parts. So when the bills come in they get paid from water district 1 and when payments have been made, the payment goes back to District 1. It's been a bookkeeping nightmare so hopefully doing this it will be a bit easier. Water District 1 is funding the other districts but it's also getting paid back. It's been a challenge but everything has worked out well. Having Bob North here has been good just to have an extra set of eyes on things. The Board would like to Thank Bob for coming in and helping. A public hearing needs to be set for the Budget. ***A motion to schedule the Public Hearing on the 2021 Budget for November 10th at 6:00pm, was made by Councilman Goodsell and seconded by Councilwoman Gilson. In a roll call vote, all were in favor with a vote of "AYE".***

A motion to approve the salaries for 2021 was made by Councilwoman Haynes and seconded by Councilwoman Gilson. Before the Board voted on the salaries, Superintendent Fox asked to go into executive session to discuss the salaries. A motion was made by Councilwoman Haynes and seconded by Councilman Goodsell. In a roll call vote, all were in favor with a vote of "AYE" 8:15pm.

A motion to exit executive session was made by Councilwoman Haynes and seconded by Councilman Yerdon. In a roll call vote, all were in favor with a vote of "AYE". 8:50pm. The result of the Executive session was that Superintendent Fox will maintain his current salary of \$78205.00, for 2 years. ***A motion to accept the wages and salaries for the 2021 Budget was made by Councilman Goodsell and seconded by Councilwoman Haynes. In a roll call vote, all were in favor with a vote of "AYE".***

Superintendent Fox advised the Board that 2 months prior that he brought to the Board 3 quotes for plow for the new Water Truck. The lowest bid was from Dicks Auto at \$5635 and after the Board approved, Mr. Fox spoke to Craig Sternberg and went to Dicks to order the plow. Mr Krebs advised Mr. Fox that something was wrong with the bid and it was \$300 too low. His bid is approximately \$5900 and some change. The bid was not available at this time. Mr. Krebs said if there is an issue, withdraw his bid. At this time, his bid is still under all others that Mr Fox had received. All the Board would still like to do business local. ***A motion to accept the bid for the snow plow for the Water Dept truck in the amount of \$5900 and change and to have this bid approved by Water Supervisor Craig Sternberg was made by Councilwoman Gilson and seconded by Councilwoman Haynes. With no more discussion and in a roll***

call vote, all were in favor with a vote of "AYE". If there are any more issues, Mr. Fox will advise the Board.

With nothing else 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".***

Meeting was adjourned at 8:57pm.

Respectfully submitted:

Millie Newcomb

Town Clerk