

MINUTES OF THE TOWN STAFF CONFERENCE CALL
TOWN OF RICHLAND
1 BRIDGE STREET, PULASKI, NY

DATE: Wednesday, May 6, 2020

KIND OF MEETING: Conference Call

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Supervisor Dan Krupke
Councilman Kern Yerdon
Councilman Allen Goodsell
Councilwoman Donna Gilson
Councilwoman Sue Haynes

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE: Supervisor Clerk, Tammie Wilson
Water Clerk, Mary Yerdon
Town Clerk, Millie Newcomb
Deputy Town Clerk, Julie Peterson
Legislator, Herb Yerdon
Highway Superintendent, John Fox
CEO/ZEO, John Howland
Assessor, Warren Wheeler

CALL: The conference call took place at 9 a.m.

The meeting was opened with an update from County Legislator, Herb Yerdon regarding the opening of the campgrounds.

Millie informed everyone that Paul, with the County maintenance department, found some plexi glass sneeze guards on Amazon.com. The one that was recommended for the Town Clerk's office is 48"L x 30"H with a cutout at the bottom. She spoke with the Judges about it and they are on board, and one was ordered for Tammie's office as well. They will arrive the beginning of next week and will be installed, should we open by the end of the week.

Mary doesn't have much to report, she is working from home on the bills and payments. She still feels that the board should meet with Zenner to make sure the meters are what they say it is. Donna and Kern would like to have a physical meeting to review the estimates. Dan stated that a meeting might not be required as a unanimous recommendation was made by John, Bob, Joe, and Craig. They are the ones that will be working with the equipment. Mary asked about the rest of the water board being involved. John said that Craig was going to be discussing it with the rest of them to get everyone on the same page and obtain the support of the entire

board. John doesn't feel that there is any other way to go with it, and he left it in Craig's hands to inform the board and the water board. Donna stated that she has not received anything yet, John is going to follow up with him and make sure that he sends it to everyone. Dan said that it is a \$148,000 expenditure, he needs to look at the budget to see if the funds are available, if not, maybe there are funds in the reserve that can be used. Each district would have to pay their portion out of the reserves. No decisions will be made today, we need to see if the Town can afford it and if it is doable. There is another option of the starter package for \$13,000. This would get us started and then we would have to pay \$90/meter to add to the current meters over a period of time. John says that it would be nice if we could do the \$148,000 so everything can be changed over all at once.

John Fox asked the board their thoughts on the highway department returning to a normal work schedule after May 15th. The County said that it is the Towns' call. The County and all other Towns are back to regular shifts, with the exception of Mexico. Since the department is down to 6 guys now, he feels this can be done safely. Allen feels that it is John's call as it is his department. Dan asked if any of the department has been tested, not that he is aware of. John would like to wait for 2 more weeks, and for payroll purposes, as of now, the decision is to return to normal effective June 1st. John said that as of now, they have received no word from the higher ups regarding CHIPS money or any other funding from the State. He may cancel the bid that is currently out for paving and he is holding off on ordering any other materials until they receive word on decisions. The County is at a stand still as well. Dan would still like to see the water department stay separated, the board is in agreement on this. John hired Bardeen and Associates, that we have hired in the past, to survey a couple properties on Main St. in Richland that is owned by the Town of Richland, but is located in the Town of Albion. All survey markers and posted signs have been removed. There may be issues as the residents have put an addition on a house, a swimming pool, and trees have been cut down all on the Towns' property. After it is surveyed, the highway department will be installing permanent markers. There are approximately 40 vehicles and 3 houses on a small lot. The first step is to get the property surveyed, take pictures, contact the attorney and proceed from there.

Tammie finished the annual report with the Comptrollers and 2019 is closed out. She has started entering in items for 2020.

Dan received a call over the weekend from the Lighthouse, the parking lot and warehouse are flooded. Brennans Beach says the Deer Creek Marsh spillway is plugged up, the worst they have ever seen. An application was made on April 13th for a permit with the DEC to proceed with digging it out; they have not heard back from anyone. Dan reached out to Will Barclay, who reached out to others. The permit was issued on Monday to proceed with the digging. It is now draining, slowly, but going down.

Warren gave an update on how he plans to proceed with grievance. Over 200 assessment changes have been mailed out. It is not clear yet how to navigate with the Amish. The State issued executive orders addressing the assessment calendars and cycles. Grievance Day is

planned to happen as scheduled. Residents need to file paperwork prior to 8 p.m. on Grievance day to be presented to the Board for review. Residents that insist on a face to face review will be scheduled on some type of Zoom or virtual meeting. As of now, this is how he plans to move forward. His messages are being sent to his email on a regular basis and he has been returning all calls. There was some discussion regarding the water levels and assessments. There are a number of things to consider, watching how other communities proceed, and to follow the future of the water levels by this man made issue caused by the government.

John Howland is still issuing permits and staying busy. He is making a list to send out some junk letters. He is also going to be sending out some violation notices to follow the unsafe structure notices that were mailed out in February.

Kern received an email from the Sandy Creek Town Clerk concerning a zoom meeting that will take place today at 5 p.m. to discuss the joint water project with Barton and Loguidice. The email was sent on May 1st, Kern will forward the information to Dan.

Donna addressed the board and the County Legislator regarding who is going to police the opening for the essential vs. the non-essentials in our Town and the Village. Also, what the obligation of the Town is to the local business owners who can not afford to remain closed. She has reached out to the legislature and can not get an answer to these questions as to what will happen if they open. John Fox informed her that 2 businesses in Watertown were fined and shut down by the police department. The information that Dan has received, restaurants will be unable to open until the middle of June. Donna feels that this is a violation of constitutional law. John reminded her that it's an executive order from our governor that needs to be followed until we hear otherwise. John Howland states that the district attorney's office sent a letter to everyone in the County, from Legislator James Weatherup. It talks about the warnings for first time offenders and potential charges that people can be charged with, to him, it appears that is the responsibility of the police department to enforce it. Building and Zoning Officers received an executive order from the Governor regarding building. If someone that is non-essential is building, a warning needs to be issued, and if further complaints are received, they are to issue a stop work order. There may be some exemptions for sole proprietors. After much discussion, consensus is that it is the responsibility of law enforcement to enforce the executive orders.

NEXT CONFERENCE: The next conference call is planned to take place on Wednesday, May 20, 2020 at 9 a.m.

CALL ENDED: The call ended at 10:15 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by
Julie Peterson
Deputy Town Clerk