

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

DATE: July 14, 2020

KIND OF MEETING: Regular 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: CEO/ZEO John Howland
Highway Superintendent John Fox
Town Attorney Graham Seiter
Town Clerk, Millie Newcomb
County Legislators Herb Yerdon and Ed Gilson
Town Residents , Deborah Smith

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. with Supervisor Krupke leading in the Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Deborah Smith from the hamlet of Fernwood asked the Board if anything was going to be done about the situation with Mr. Goodsell that was discussed at the last Board Meeting. Supervisor Krupke advised that a letter was sent to her within the last few days to explain the Boards findings. Ms. Smith will check her mail.

Supervisor Krupke advised the Board that a Public Hearing about approving spending for the New water meters was supposed to take place tonight but instead it will be held at the next Board Meeting on August 11, 2020. The issue was in the wording of the resolution. A motion to schedule the Public Hearing for August 11th at 6:00, to approve spending for the new water

meters was made by Councilman Yerdon and seconded by Councilwoman Haynes. In a roll call vote, all were in favor with a vote of "AYE".

DOG REPORT: DCO Dunn is here to give her report. "It's been busy." Trying to catch up with some dog owners to give tickets.

ZONING AND CODE REPORTS: Mr Howland presented his report to the board. Planning has a hearing on a Variance for a Solar Application for the Gray property on NYS 3 and also in the mail today, 2 more solar projects on the Atkinson Property on Co Rt 41. Councilman Yerdon wants to know if the Town has specific language on a Decommissioning Plan. CEO/ZEO Howland explained to the board that it is required by New York State and Federal Government that solar companies have a decommissioning plan in order to apply for grant money. Attorney Seiter said that all of the Solar agreements he has seen have that language in the contract. Treelines are a part of the site plan but with no particular trees. The Planning Board was adamant that large trees will be planted along the road. Grays Solar plan has a visual site plan. It is about 1000 feet from Brennan's Beach property line. This solar project will have 13,278 panels and be a 3.7 mega watt commercial solar farm. Conversation turned to various problems with junk cars, hot tubs and an old tractor trailer body at the old Trust Nursery. Mr. Howland will investigate these issues.

LEGISLATIVE REPORT: Legislator Ed Gilson is up next with the Legislative report. The July 9th meeting was the second live meeting with the legislature. The Rabies Clinics are to resume. Pet owners must call for an appointment August 6th is the Oswego County Auction. A total of 23 homes were spared from the auction block by the Legislature for various reasons. The Land Bank was interested in 19 homes around the county but only were allowed to get 5. They are located in Constantia, Granby, Schroepel and Oswego City. The Courts are beginning to come back into session. The legislature also passed a resolution to help with rent assistance. There was about \$360,000 left out of \$600,000. There is also a continuation of a purchasing freeze. Legislator Herb Yerdon followed up with the latest news on COVID19 statistics. There is a Seniors Farmers Market coupon available for people over 60 yrs old. This is the first time you have to go in person to pick up the coupon. Masks are required. It is taking place on July 16th in the Romney Parking lot. Conversation turned to the upcoming County Auction. Town Clerk Newcomb advised the Board that the Town Clerk's Office has the auction property books in her office. This is the first time that the property owner can bid on their own property. Mr Yerdon advised anyone bidding really should have Legal Counsel look over the paperwork before the Auction. Conversations have been about sales tax. The county is \$1.5 million behind what was projected and could be short about \$3million. Mr. Gilson's goal is to look into the redistribution of sales tax. Many Legislators were on board but have stalled since it was first introduced.

HAGER DRIVE UPDATES: Attorney Seiter would like to go into the **Executive Session** to discuss Hager Drive. A motion to go into Executive Session was made by Councilman Yerdon and

seconded by Councilwoman Haynes. In a roll call vote, all were in favor with a vote of "AYE" 6:30pm. A motion to come back into regular session was made by Councilwoman Haynes and seconded by Councilwoman Gilson. In a roll call vote, all were in favor with a vote of "AYE" 6:40pm. No decision was discussed.

HIGHWAY REPORT: Paving is to start on Monday. Paving 3.5 miles of roads in the Town. Paving Dunlap and Centerville Roads. Should be done in 2 days. Mr Fox put 4 items on Auction International. A total of \$22,290. Sold were 1 snow plow, 1 small 6 wheeled truck, the old sander and an old rake. The new truck is finally in and the New Plow truck is in Harrisville. Mr. Fox doesn't think the Town will see that until November. Covid 19 has really messed up delivery of these items. It's scheduled to be delivered in November. The Town of Sandy Creek and Richland would like to enter into an agreement for a shared service for a screener. It's a piece of equipment that the Town Highway uses to screen sand and gravel. We do have one now that we can get a good deal on. It's brand new and we would like to go in halves with the Town of Sandy Creek. The Town of Richlands half would be \$60,000. Superintendent Fox does have the money in reserves. Mr. Fox did talk with Mike Kasler, Sandy Creeks Highway Superintendent about some sand and possibly working together with them purchasing some land up next to Sandy Creeks pit from Coffin and putting the screener there. The Town of Richland is running short of sand. Councilman Goodsell agrees that both Highway Departments have worked together in the past. Councilman Yerdon says it's good to share the same sand pit and keep the screener in one spot. Mr. Fox tells the board that he has \$177,623 in Equipment reserves, \$50,000 left in the equipment fund for this year and with the sale of the vehicle and equipment recently of \$22,200, which goes into the reserves also. That leaves \$249,000, take out the \$48,000 for the new truck so that leaves \$201,219 left, then take out the \$60,000 Towns Share for the screener that leaves \$141,900 in the reserves. Emerald Power Screen will come up and train everyone on how to use the screener. Mr Fox says that is part of the purchase. With no further discussion, a motion to purchase the screener was made by Councilman Goodsell and seconded by Councilwoman Gilson. Supervisor Krupke would like to hold off to see if this could be under the Shared service agreement. There would be a chance that the Town could get maybe half the money back. Supervisor Krupke has a all into Phil Church at this time and did not hear back. Once Mr. Krupke finds this information out, the Town will go ahead with the agreement with Sandy Creek and purchase the screener. Superintendent Fox will get the information to Attorney Seiter about this agreement. Mr. Fox also told the Board that he has followed up with CEO/ZEO Howland about the property on Main Street in Richland. The surveyors could not get in the County Offices to check the deeds to get the proper measurements so everything at this time is on hold. It is unlawful to remove surveyors stakes from properties and at this time it looks like the markers are missing. There are several junk vehicles, the addition to the trailer on town property along a swimming pool.

SUPERVISOR REPORT: Supervisors Report for the months of February and March was presented to the Board. With no discussion, a motion to accept the reports was made by Councilwoman Haynes and seconded by Councilman Goodsell. In a roll call vote, all were in favor with a vote of "AYE".

RICHLAND TOWN PARKS: Councilwoman Haynes told the board that a volunteer had damaged a part on the zipline that needs to be replaced plus another part that was not included in the original quote. The 2 parts will cost \$1254.40. There is a grant through the EFC program and NYS Parks. Supervisor Krupke will speak to Kristy LaManche about the grant. Superintendent Fox advised the Board that there has been damage to the park in Richland and the new building at the Haldane Center. To put cameras on the Buildings, some kind of internet will have to be installed. Mr. Krupke has an application for a Soccer Program at the Haldane Center. The program will have to adhere to social distancing and bring all their own equipment. A motion to pay the parts bill for \$1254.40 to Kompan was made by Councilwoman Haynes and seconded by Councilwoman Gilson. In a roll call vote, all were in favor with a vote of "AYE".

COMPREHENSIVE PLANNING BOARD MINUTES/UPDATES: Jamie Foster has mentioned to Supervisor Krupke that he is going to resign. The Town Clerk or Supervisor has not yet received his resignation. The Village has reappointed Shawn Doyle to the Comp Board. Dawn Holynski is very pleased with the reappointment of Mr. Doyle

JUSTICE REPORTS: Justice reports for Judge Ridgeway for the months of May and June and from Justice Conger, report for May were presented. With no discussion, A motion to accept the reports 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 accept Abstract #7 was made by Councilman Yerdon and seconded by Councilman Goodsell. With no discussion, and in a roll call vote, all were in favor with a vote of "AYE".

TOWN BOARD MINUTES: Town Board Minutes for June 9, 2020 are next. A motion to accept the minutes as presented was made by Councilwoman Haynes and seconded by Councilman Yerdon. In a roll call vote, all were in favor with a vote of "AYE".

TOWN CLERK REPORT: Town Clerks Report for June 2020 was presented to the Board. With no discussion, a motion to accept the report was made by Councilwoman Gilson and seconded by Councilman Goodsell. In a roll call vote, all were in favor with a vote of "AYE".

CEMETERY UPDATES: No updates at this time

TOWN HISTORIAN REPORT: No report at this time.

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS: Rescheduled the Public Hearing for August 11, 2020 at 6:00pm. County sales tax paper is in the packet. Mr Krupke thinks the Town is still in pretty good shape. The Town of Richland had budgeted \$160,000. A letter was received from a resident of the Town to Supervisor Krupke who was asked to read a letter aloud, to address a Confederate Flag that is now on a property in the Hamlet of Fernwood. Councilman Yerdon would like to recommend that this letter get forwarded to the County Legislature for their opinion on the matter. Maybe it could be a county wide matter. Supervisor Krupke says it's a very sensitive issue at the moment. Councilwoman Gilson says she doesn't think it's a Towns issue personally speaking, it should be handled either by law enforcement or perhaps by a neighborhood petition. It is definitely a 1st Amendment issue. Attorney Seiter feels that the Town did what the letter writer wanted and had read it into the record. He also feels that it's not a Town matter. Councilman Yerdon would still like it sent to the County. Update on the Teamsters Contract. The Union agreed to a 2% increase and to a 1 year extension. The new Union Steward for the Highway is Alan Kling. Supervisor Krupke has accepted the position of President of the Oswego County Supervisors Association. At this time, Supervisor Krupke would like to bring up the position of Water Supervisor again for discussion. Mr Krupke and Councilman Yerdon have already spoken to Superintendent Fox about the matter. After the first of the year, Mr Fox's affiliation with the Water Operators will end. There was concern from Board members that this position should be put out for bid. This position would also be for Buildings and Grounds as well as Supervisor for the Water. This position per Supervisor Krupke is a full time position Councilwoman Gilson would like to know what this new position does in the winter months. Supervisor Krupke said he is sure the new person would be doing planning, repairs. Inventories, for all the buildings and projects they would be involved with. Councilwoman Haynes asked where the office would be located for the new Supervisor. Supervisor Krupke said he really thinks this supervisor should be at the Water Building. It was asked if this new Supervisor would be full time and still have his business on the side. Councilman Yerdon stated that this is a full time position. It's unknown if he would be giving up his business. Part of the requirements of the position is that the supervisor must get his water license to fill in on vacation. The Board was handed a rough copy of what his duties would be. This new Supervisor would be the liaison between the Water Clerk and Water Operators. The Town of Richland has a multi million dollar water system and not that it's old, but at 15 yrs we may start seeing things happen. Councilwoman Gilson would like the new Supervisor to know that as time goes on, he may be asked or have added duties to his responsibility. The salary for this full time position will be \$46,000 with benefits. Mileage will be included since he will be using his own vehicle. The payroll for the Water Operators will be done by the new Supervisor. Also, he will be responsible for booking all the parks. Supervisor Clerk Tammie Wilson will still give out the applications. This Supervisor will also have to attend the monthly board meetings for the Water updates, Haldane Center and Richland Park meetings as well. ***A motion was made by Councilman Yerdon and seconded by Councilman Goodsell to hire Craig Sternberg for the***

position of Water, Parks and Recreation Supervisor for the salary of \$46,000 with benefits. With no further discussion, and in a roll call vote, all were in favor with a vote of "AYE".

NEXT TOWN BOARD MEETING: August 11, 2020

MEETING ADJOURNED: With no other business to discuss, a motion to adjourn was made by Councilman Yerdon and seconded by Councilwoman Haynes. In a roll call vote, all were in favor with a vote of "AYE". 7:55pm

Respectfully submitted by

Millie Newcomb
Town Clerk