

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

DATE: August 8, 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(absent)

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE: Town residents, Tim Crouch, Robert Jeffery, Eric Pappa, Larry Atkinson, Jeff Edick, Legislator, Herb Yerdon, CEO/ZEO John Howland, 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 COMMENT: No comments

LEGISLATIVE REPORT Legislator Yerdon is here to give his report. The Oswego County Health Department is working with the Wildlife Services program of the US Department of Agriculture to distribute oral rabies vaccine baits for wildlife across a large portion of the county. Distribution is tentatively planned for Thursday Aug 10, through Tuesday Aug. 15. Weather permitting. Rabies vaccine bait packets will be distributed by air with low-flying aircraft and by hand in more specific areas.

The Oswego County Health Department partners with the Food Bank of CNY to host multiple mobile food pantries throughout the county in August. Anyone in need of food assistance can attend a mobile food pantry to receive a free box of food. No income requirements for recipients. Boxes are limited to 1 per family. For more information call 315-349-3545 or visit health.oswegocounty.com

Oswego County is reminding summer is here and public health officials are reminding residents to “fight the bite” and prevent mosquito-borne illnesses. Drain: Empty water containers at least once a week to prevent standing water that invites mosquitos. Dress: Wear long sleeves, long pants, and light-colored, loose fitting clothing. Defend: Properly apply an EPA-registered repellent such as DEET, picaridin, IR3535 or oil of lemon -eucalyptus.

The Oswego County Office for the Aging (OFA) partners with the United Way of Greater Oswego County once again to host the fifth annual Senior Picnic for older residents. The luncheon runs from 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Wednesday, August 16 at the Mexico VFW, 5930 Scenic Ave. The event is open to any Oswego County Senior aged 60 or older.

The staff at Oswego County Office of the Aging (OFA) and NY Connects will visit several communities in Oswego County to offer program information and assistance with applications to those who are unable to visit the Oswego Office. “Lack of transportation” is an issue for many people in the county. For more information contact the Office for the Aging weekdays at 315-349-3484

As the nation's “baby Boomers” become eligible for Medicare, and the many who are already on Medicare review their coverage they all face a confusing assortment of health care options. The Oswego County Office of the Aging (OFA) sponsors virtual Medicare 101 classes to help. The next session will be held on July 27th and September 28th. For more information or to reserve a space please call the OFA at 315-349-8238.

The United States Mint has revealed the design for the Dr. Mary Walker quarter as part of the 2024 American Quarters Program. It was announced in February that Walker would be one of the five women to be honored in the program for her many accomplishments and contributions to the nation. Walker was an Oswego Town native, Civil War Surgeon, women's rights activist and abolitionist. She remains the only woman to have been awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor.

ZONING AND CODE REPORTS: The Board has a copy of all permits. It's been pretty busy. Violation notices have been sent out. The Planning Board has been working on Selkirk Lighthouse and the Smoke Shop's Solar Field is about 800 ft off the road. It does not have battery storage. The Board asked about the Storage Batteries on the Solar Farms within the Town. Mr. Howland advised the Board that the only Solar field with this capability is the one on Lehigh Road. New York State is going to come up and do some presentations on fire safety, mainly because 90% of firemen do not know what to do incase of a fire at a battery storage solar facility. The other Solar projects that have been approved in the Town of Richland do not have battery storage. The Lehigh/Tinker Tavern one is the only one. Supervisor Yerdon asked about mowing at these Solar fields. Mr Howland advised that the Solar property is supposed to be mowed at least 3 times per year. He has noticed that this particular Solar farm has not been mowed. He will get in contact with the current owner to make sure they get done. Councilwoman Gilson asked about policy about residential mowing of property. She has noticed recently that many properties in the Town of Richland have not been getting mowed.

Mr Howland said that part of the Property Maintenance code says that lawns higher than 9 inches need to be maintained in the immediate area of the residence. Is the immediate area 2, 5, 50 feet. He doesn't know. Councilwoman Gilson thinks Mr Howland took a ride around he would see for himself. A resident in the audience asked about the roadside. He said it used to get mowed at least one time a year and it hasn't gotten done yet this year. Supervisor Yerdon told the gentleman that he would check on it.

COMPREHENSIVE PLANNING BOARD MINUTES/UPDATES: College Students are working projects for the Board. The Village of Phoenix was awarded \$4.5 million from the NY Forward CFA grant. Mrs. Gilson isn't sure that Towns can apply for this grant so she reached out to Kristy LaManche for clarification. Chairperson Dawn Holynski would like more presents of the Comp plan in the Zoning Ordinance. Maybe there is something that Mrs Holynski can give John as an example. Mrs. Gilson suggested that Mrs Holynski call Supervisor Yerdon to discuss this.

HIGHWAY REPORT: No report.

BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS & RICHLAND PARKS: B&G Supervisor Kevin Balcom was not in attendance this evening so Councilwoman Haynes updated the Board on the Richland Parks. There were not enough members to have a meeting so the ones in attendance had a discussion. B&G Supervisor Kevin Balcom fixed the doors at the Haldane and did a great job. Discussion about Pickleball Court and maybe putting it near the Skatepark at the Haldane. The Richland Park got the "OK" from the Army Corp of Engineers but are still waiting on the DEC's approval.

WATER DEPARTMENT: Supervisor Novak is unable to be at the meeting tonight. Town Supervisor Yerdon told the Board that he attended the Water Board Meeting on August 1st. While at that meeting, Mr Yerdon told the Board that Jacob Hershberger asked to have a reduction in his water due to the fact that he raises vegetables and only used about 250 gallons for that. He was advised by Cooperative Extension to ask the Town for changes in the rate structure. Supervisor Yerdon thinks this would raise a difficult situation for all farmers in the area as well as regular residential users.

DOG REPORT: *A motion to accept the Dog Control report as presented 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: *A motion to accept the Supervisors report for the month of July 2023 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: *A motion to accept the Justice reports for Judge Conger and Ridgeway was made by Councilwoman Gilson and seconded by Councilman Goodsell. In a roll call vote, all members present agreed with a vote of "AYE".*

WARRANT OF BILLS: *A motion to approve and accept Abstract # 8 was made by Councilwoman Haynes and seconded by Councilwoman Gilson. With no discussion and in a roll call vote, all were in favor with a vote of "AYE".* Councilwoman Gilson would like to mention, on the Legal side of things, we are going to go over budget in that line item so she consulted with Laird Petrie today and since our Budget Officer is on vacation, when this happens, and you go over your line item in your budget, you have to amend the budget. In this case, you would have to go to your contingent in the budget. You should do this in a reasonable amount of time, say a day or two. The Town Clerk has made a note to let Budget Officer Tammie Whaley know when she gets back. Together they can figure out how much more money will be needed to make it through until the end of the year.

TOWN BOARD MINUTES: Town Board Minutes for June 22, June 28, and July 25th were presented to the Board. *A motion to accept the minutes 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".*

TOWN CLERKS REPORT: Town Clerk's report is next. *A motion to accept the Town Clerk's report as presented was made by Councilman Goodsell and seconded by Councilwoman Haynes. 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: The Board would like to schedule a Public Hearing for Local Law #6 for the Environmental Conservation Law. for the September meeting. *A motion to schedule this meeting was made by Councilwoman Haynes and seconded by Councilwoman Goodsell. In a roll call vote, all were in favor with a vote of "AYE".* The new Procurement Policy is finished. Councilwoman Gilson, Councilman North sat with Financial Advisor Laird Petrie to get the final figures. It's in tonight's packet. Councilman North is not at the meeting tonight and Councilwoman Gilson would like to wait to pass it until the September meeting when Councilman North is present. Supervisor Yerdon would like to consult with Attorney Seiter at this time about a few matters. *A motion was made by Councilwoman Haynes and seconded by Councilman Goodsell to consult with the Town Attorney. All members were in agreement with a vote of "AYE". 6:35pm.*

At 7:23pm a motion to come back into regular session was made by Councilwoman Gilson and seconded by Councilwoman Haynes. In a roll call vote, all were in favor with a vote of "AYE". No decisions were made as a result of the Consult with the Attorney. With nothing more to bring before the Board, A motion to adjourn was made by Councilwoman Gilson and seconded by Councilman Goodsell. In a roll call vote, all were in favor with a vote of "AYE". 7:24pm.

NEXT TOWN BOARD MEETING: September 12, 2023

MEETING ADJOURNED: 7:24pm

Respectfully submitted by

Millie Newcomb
Town Clerk