

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

DATE: December 12,2023

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

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE: Town residents, Tim Crouch, Larry Atkinson, Jeff Edick, Village resident Carl Falk, Town Historian, Shawn Doyle, Legislator, Herb Yerdon, Water Supervisor Ron Novak Deputy Highway Superintendent & B&G Supervisor Kevin Balcom, CEO/ZEO John Howland,Attorney 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 HEARING: *A motion to open the Public Hearing for Local Law #8 2023 Senior Income Calculation. This motion was made by Councilman Goodsell and seconded by Councilwoman Haynes. In a roll call vote, all were in favor with a vote of "AYE".* Attorney Seiter explained that this is just an adjustment in the way they are calculating income. The Town is just following what the County has already passed. *With no discussion, a motion to close the Public Hearing was made by Councilwoman Haynes and seconded by Councilwoman Gilson. In a roll call vote all were in favor with a vote of "AYE". 6:03pm. A motion to pass this Local Law #8 was made by Councilwoman Gilson and seconded by Councilman Goodsell. In a roll call vote, all were in favor with a vote of "AYE".*

PUBLIC COMMENT: No Public Comment.

LEGISLATIVE REPORT: Legislator Yerdon wanted to Thank Councilman Goodsell for his service and also best wishes to Town Supervisor Kern Yerdon for his years of dedication to the Town. Mr. Yerdon spoke about the Equalization Rates for the Towns in Oswego County. Next, tax rate comparisons. Youth night at the College on January 5th the women's game is at 5:30pm Mens at 7:30 pm. Autographs will be after the game. You can buy tickets at the door. Kids Christmas party on December 16th. Schoellers put on the new machine and invited the Legislators for a demonstration. The additional cost was \$22billion dollars. Maybe 30 new employees will be hired.

ZONING AND CODES: The Board received the list of Permits and Zoning permits. Over 100 permits were issued. That is a bit more than usual. Yesterday was the last day for the unsafe structure on Valley Road. The owner called today. We will figure it out with Graham. Mr Howland has sent her 2 letters and Graham has sent her 2 letters. Graham will speak to her to see if we can get any movement. Attorney Seiter was given the green light to move forward with the Lacelle property on Phillips St in Richland. As far as the Planning Board and Zoning Board, there is a variance for the ZBA on Co Rt 5 where someone wants to put a shed that doesn't meet the set back. The Planning Board, the old tackle shop across from Newcomb's gas station, the new owner wants to have a liquor store and a 3 unit motel. Mr Howland also wished Supervisor Yerdon and Councilman Goodsell, Good Luck in the future. Talk turned to a Campground on Towne Road. Issues with the DEC and questions about the water line.

HIGHWAY REPORT: Seems when the Winter started you look over everything over, nothing is broken and everything looks good. Then the snow started and everything went crazy. Truck 17, the floor was rotted. The guys cut it apart and it's all fixed. The guys did a great job. Truck 10, the front and back cable got changed. Truck 13, new lines and cutting edge, Truck 18, the sander couldn't get tighter. They took a link out of the chain. They fixed the door latch, the nose point broke so that is now fixed. Truck 22, New sander on all the hydraulic lines and ladder. That is back up and running again. Truck 96 Extended the ladder on the sander. Had to buy a new salt spreader for truck # 2 . DEC issue, We got 2 new spill pallets. Looks good. Mr Balcom says he is proud of the guys for what they did in the last storm. It was a struggle. They did a great job and it shows. Village resident asked about Bella Drive. Mr Balcom told Mr. Falk that the Town has nothing to do with plowing that area. The Town Board said that when they met with the owners before it was built, that it was a private road and it would be handled by the owners.

BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS: Mr Balcom put up a 56"Industrial Fan up. Insulated 3 windows out near where the wood shed used to be at the shop. He spoke to Tom Trump about when he thought he would start the roof at the Haldane Center. The Hockey Association said they wanted the roof higher. Mr Balcom said that he will see what they want to do. He will tell them if they want to pay for it, he will take it to the Haldane committee. They want to be able to lift the box of the zamboni up. He doesn't think they know how much it's going to cost to do that.

It's going to cost a lot of money. The Hockey Association wants to build a wind break wall to try to stop the wind from catching the door.

COMPREHENSIVE PLANNING BOARD: Councilwoman Gilson was unable to attend the meeting, but Councilman-elect Larry Atkinson did attend. He advised that the Board was going to start reviewing the Plan. They also talked about the Fernwood Community Center and some of the ideas they had. Also the NY Forward Grant.

WATER REPORT: Meeting minutes were presented. The minutes from the previous minutes had some errors on them. There was a discrepancy between the contract price per year vs what the Town had agreed with Verizon. The agreement was for \$1500 per month or \$18,000 per year. Councilwoman Gilson would like to table the Water Board Minutes until the next Town Board Meeting. Well #21 the check valve that failed. The part will be on January 25th. That well is down until it's repaired. Bob and Ron have been working trying to get the remaining transmitters hooked up. National Grid called on Richland Water Operators for an Emergency Locate in the Town of Orwell. The Town Board tabled the Osmosis Contract until Mr Seiter looked it over. Mr Seiter advised that this language was standard language for contracts like this. Osmosis advised that this project once approved will be completed by April 15. The only other issue was this contract is governed by Georgia Law mostly because the company is based in that state. It's a pretty standard contract. They will work on the Language and bring it back to the next meeting. Several meetings back the Town gave permission for Attorney Seiter to look into the 3 parcels in Richland where the water line crosses. Mr Seiter advised that it is still being worked on. No more information is available. Mr Novak will be working with Verizon for the permitting from the Town .

DOG REPORT: The Dog Control Report is next. ***A motion to accept the dog control report as presented was made by Councilwoman Haynes and seconded by Councilman Goodsell. In a roll call vote, all were in favor with a vote of "AYE".***

DCO Elisa Dunn is here tonight. She wanted to explain a few things that went on this month. One was a dog bite and the other was a report of a dog being tied out without shelter. Mrs. Dunn went and checked on the Dog and they seemed to be in good shape. The owner lets the dogs out before he goes to work so it must be they are going by when the dog is out. She wanted the Board to know what was going on.

SUPERVISOR REPORT: Supervisors report for October and November 2023 we next. ***A motion to accept the reports as presented. This motion was made by Councilwoman Gilson and seconded by Councilwoman Haynes. In a roll call vote, all were in favor with a vote of "AYE".***

JUSTICE REPORTS: *A motion to accept Justice report for Judge Conger as presented was made by Councilwoman Haynes and seconded by Councilman Goodsell. In a roll call vote all were in favor with a vote of "AYE".*

WARRANT OF BILLS: *A motion to accept Abstract 12 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 BOARD MINUTES: Town Board Minutes for October 12, October 24, and November 9th were presented to the Board. *A motion was made by Councilwoman Haynes to accept as presented. This motion was seconded by Councilman Goodsell. In a roll call vote, all were in favor with a vote of "AYE".*

TOWN CLERKS REPORT: *A motion to accept the Town Clerks report 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".*

CEMETERY UPDATES: Cemeteries are closed. Deputy Highway Superintendent Balcom asked why we have to close the gate. After a conversation, the Board decided to leave it up to Mr Balcom.

TOWN HISTORIAN REPORT: Shawn Doyle is here to give his report. He just has a few things. About 2006, Shawn had asked the Town to budget some money for a Revolutionary War Monument. There were about 17 soldiers, but after doing some research, there were actually 50 soldiers from Pulaski. He would like to aim for 2026 which will be the Nations 250th Anniversary . There are Federal, State and County Commissions working on this project. He would like to see the monument in South Park facing the Courthouse. Every revolutionary war soldier had to come to this courthouse to plead their case for a pension. There are grant opportunities out there. He was going to write a grant that was due this week for markers. There are Pomroy markers around . Bill Pomroy is a member at the Halfshire and he was at a Luncheon a few weeks ago and was after Shawn about not having any markers yet. He started doing research on it, but he wanted to ask the Town first to get markers outside the cemeteries that would say "Here lies several revolutionary war members" They are all completely paid for. No cost , it goes on their map , its a tourist thing for people to look for. There is 1 soldier in the Richland Cemetery, there is 4 on Tinker Tavern Road, and 7-8 in Riverside on Route 13. These are the Town Cemeteries. ***A motion to allow Mr Doyle to get markers for the Town owned cemeteries was made by Councilwoman Gilson and seconded by Councilwoman Haynes.*** Snow scholars this year both live in Richland so they have been helping at Halfshire. There is Christmas in Richland on December 16th. Everyone is invited to attend. Crystal from the Richland Hotel has purchased gifts for the kids. Last year there were 103 kids that signed up. Some of the women in the hamlet have made stockings.

A question about whether the Amish celebrate Christmas. They do celebrate the holiday but a big one is Valentines Day. They make really elaborate Valentines. ***The vote for the Pomroy Signs for the cemetery was as follows: Haynes, AYE, Gilson, AYE, Goodsell, AYE, North , AYE, Yerdon, AYE.***

Town Clerk Millie Newcomb advised the Board that she would like to raise the Cemetery fees up \$50.00. The Board was in agreement. ***A motion to raise the cemetery rates \$50 was made by Councilwoman Haynes and seconded by Councilwoman Gilson. In a roll call vote all were in agreement with a vote of "AYE".***

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS: The Verizon Contract. Question was who pays the insurance. Attorney Seiter advised, both will have insurance. Councilwoman Gilson asked about how long the \$18,000 is good for. The contract is good for 20 yrs but renewed every 5 years. Attorney Seiter said that the Town could ask for an escalator. What she is asking is that the only time it can go up is if they ask for more land. The money that is received from this contract goes to Water District 5

NEXT TOWN BOARD MEETING: January 9, 2024 at 7:00pm Year End meeting in will be on December 28, 2023 at 10:00am

MEETING ADJOURNED: With nothing more to bring before the Board, a motion to adjourn was made by Councilwoman Haynes and seconded by Councilman North. In a roll call vote, all were in favor with a vote of "AYE". 8:11pm

Respectfully submitted by

Millie Newcomb
Town Clerk

