

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

DATE: November 14,2023

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 (arrived 7:08pm)
Councilwoman Sue Haynes
Councilman Robert North

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE: Town residents, Tim Crouch, Robert Jeffery, Larry Atkinson, CEO/ZEO John Howland, Legislators, Herb Yerdon and Ed Gilson, 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 HEARING: *A Motion to open the Public Hearing on the Sale of Town owned Land on Dry Bridge Road. 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". 6:01 pm* Town resident Larry Atkinson wanted to make sure that the property in question is not the parcel that had the old Town dump on it. Per state law, this land cannot be sold and must stay in the Town of Richland possession. Per Superintendent John Fox, this parcel is not the piece that the Town wants to sell. The parcel is across the road from the one that Mr. Atkinson is questioning. *With no other feedback from the audience, a motion was made by Councilwoman Haynes to close the Public Hearing. This motion was seconded by Councilwoman Gilson. In a roll call vote, all were in favor with a vote of "AYE". 6:03pm.*

PUBLIC COMMENT: No comments

LEGISLATIVE REPORT: Legislator Yerdon is here to give his report. In his handouts, the County Snow Removal per mile rate comparisons. The average among upstate counties is \$7103. Oswego County has the highest at \$8500 with an escalator based on fuel price thresholds. NOAA holds the National Sanctuary Advisory Council Summit in Oswego. The Advisory council representatives from across the sanctuary system gathered along the shoreline of the proposed Lane Ontario National Marine Sanctuary for the event. Oswego County issued an emergency order and state of emergency proclamation on Monday related to the ongoing statewide housing crisis and its effect on local communities. The order temporarily bans the acceptance of rental or other vouchers from New York City without prior written approval from Oswego County Legislature Chairman James Weatherup. The National Weather Service has designated Oswego County as Storm Ready. The National Weather Service has re-certified Oswego County as a Storm Ready Community in a program that recognizes local efforts to enhance response plans as well as monitor and distribute weather information. Oswego County Department of Mobility Management announces updates to its Oswego Public Transit (OPT) bus route number 14. The revised route adds Selkirk Landing in Pulaski as a stop and removes the permanently closed Little Lukes Preschool and Childcare Center in Pulaski. The Oswego County Veterans Services Agency provides a variety of services to veterans, including assistance with filing their compensation claims. The VSA advises those veterans that the federal Veterans Administration (VA) often requires them to attend a compensation and pension examination. They have received a number of calls from veterans wondering if this is a legitimate requirement, said Eric Boozer, Director of the Oswego County Veterans Services Agency. "It is." The VA often requires C&P examinations for veterans filing their claims and will assign an exam contractor to them as part of the process. Oswego County will join other counties across the state in Operation Green light, a mission to show support for military veterans. The nationwide campaign recognizes the challenges of military service, the transition back to civilian life and every honorable contribution and sacrifice in between.

Legislator Ed Gilson is next. Mr. Gilson started with a Thank you to everyone that got out to vote. The Legislators have been busy working on the 2024 County Budget. All of the Legislators take great pride in trying to keep the tax rate low. It was a difficult task this year as NYS took advantage of Federal money. The Public Hearing for the public for the "Draft" copy of the County Budget is December 14th. The budget is \$248,967,000 which is \$25,000,000 over last year's budget. Despite this the money that the State is holding back, the County has managed to lower the tax rate per 1000 this year close to \$5.55 from \$6.19 per \$1000. We were fortunate this year. The total assessed evaluation of Oswego County went up over 1 billion dollars. From properties changing hands, new buildings built and new taxes coming on board. The amount we have to levy to make up those taxes is \$46,900,000. Some of the revenues we lost are \$2.8 million in Medicaid that Governor Hokel intercepted from the Federal Government. We have to make up that \$2.8 million this year. The NYS Retirement, their investments didn't do well. We

have to make up \$1.8 million this year that is in addition to what we already contribute. Foster Care and Adoption Services: This was a mandatory increase from the state. That is going to be \$3,600,000 more than last year. The sale of delinquent properties. The County used to be able to keep all of that. This year the Governor passed an Executive Order where all we can keep now is the money that was due to the County for taxes. With the shortage of healthcare workers, the county has been mandated to take care of prisoners and those costs went up \$1.7 million. We are fortunate that the tax base went up this year. Sales tax continues to rise. On December 14th at 3:00pm they will vote on the budget and everyone is welcome to attend. With nothing more to tell the Board, Supervisor Yerdon would like to thank the Legislators for coming to the meetings and updating everyone that is going on in the county.

ZONING AND CODES: CEO/ZEO Howland is up next. A list of Building and Zoning permits were presented to the Board along with a list of violations. The Planning Board this month is the old Metlers store in Port Ontario. It used to be a Bait store and a 3 unit motel. It's been sold and the new owner wants to open it back up. The ZBA has one variance for a shed on Co Rt 5. Permits for Oct were at 96. We are over 100 now. The house on Valley Road. John still hasn't heard from the owner. Attorney Seiter had sent her a letter on December 12th. The Sheriff's Department served papers to the occupant of the shed on Phillips St in Richland. Mr Howland has sent him letters and Attorney Seiter has sent him letters, it's up to the Board how they want to proceed. The decommissioning plan for Richland Solar. It's the one on Co rt 41. The decommission plan is the same that the Board Approved a year and 1 half ago. Attorney Seiter really didn't have a chance to look at it today, but will and get back with the board. Howland has been working with Mike Monnat from the County. He gave him a list of the Solar Farms in Sandy Creek and Richland. There are 9 Solar Farms between the 2 towns. There is only 1 with Battery storage on Lehigh and Route 81. The other is a National Grid Substation on Woods Road. The County and State will be doing training and this way all the Fire Departments know which ones have battery storage.

HIGHWAY REPORT: All routes are marked and working on trucks. The Highway Superintendent asked about 911 numbers and if there was a county law about them being on homes. He remembers that 911 numbers were supposed to be affixed to mailboxes when 911 came through. Legislator Gilson will check at the county level. At the last Town Board meeting, Deputy Superintendent Balcom advised the Board that the cost of a new plow for truck #8, 2023 Ford Truck was \$8000. He also told the Board that this was the lowest of the 3 bids that were received. The Bids were not accepted or awarded. ***With that, a motion to accept the 3 bids as presented to the Board. This motion was made 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 award the plow bid to the low bid to Whitesboro Plow in the amount of \$8000 was made by Councilwoman Gilson and seconded by Councilwoman Haynes. In a roll call vote, all were in favor with a vote of "AYE".***

BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS: At the Haldane, there are a few things that need to get done or purchased for the DASNY Grant. The backstop, bases and the fence. Part of this is not covered due to a higher price for some of the other projects that were completed. Price increases. Councilwoman Haynes explained that after speaking to Supervisor Clerk Tammie Whaley, that the A fund, we haven't put anything into the Haldane. About \$6600 is needed to finish the projects so the Town can be reimbursed. Per Mrs Whaley, there is about \$2400 left so they would need about \$4000. To finish up the project the money would be taken from contingency or other line items if available by the end of the year, if not there is money in the reserves. ***A motion by Councilwoman Gilson to take money from the contingency if available to finish up the Haldane project. This was seconded by Councilman North. In a roll call vote, all were in favor with a vote of "AYE".*** Mrs. Whaley would like to add that a food wagon called the Sugary would like to have her truck parked at the Haldane Center to sell her goods. The Board along with Attorney Seiter agreed to let her park at the Haldane so long as her permits were up to date. B&G Superintendent Balcom will contact Alpine Fence to see if they are willing to put up the fence. He has contacted 2 other companies that would not touch fencing this time of year.

RICHLAND PARKS: Nothing on the Richland Pond yet. Waiting on DEC

COMPREHENSIVE PLANNING BOARD: The Board met last week. There is a Heat Pump program going on that the Mayor has encouraged people on. There will be a brochure in the Clerk's Office for information. On December 6th there will be a meeting in the Library. Information is on the Towns Website and Facebook page.

WATER REPORT: No minutes. Currently there is \$49,465.88 will be placed in relevy. These bills must be paid by November 27, 2023 will be taken off the list. After that date, all unpaid water will be sent to Oswego to be placed on Town and County tax. Per Supervisor Yerdon, many items have been popping up and Mr. Yerdon would like to have a special meeting on November 29th at 10:00am to go over water mainly. Tonight Water Supervisor Ron Novak is asking for money to come out of Water District 2 Repair Reserve for the emergency valve, check valve, that broke on Saturday. It's going to be about \$4500 for repairs. We are too close to take it from a line item of budget transfer. He is asking to take it from the new Water District 2 Reserve. Because it's a reserve account, It's expected to be paid back, ½ the following year and the 2nd year, pay it off. ***A motion to take the money(\$4500)from the Repair Reserve to fix the emergency valve was made by Councilwoman Haynes. It was seconded by Councilwoman Gilson. In a roll call vote, Haynes, Yes, Gilson, Yes, North, Abstain, Yerdon, Yes. Motion passed 3 yes, 1 abstain.***

DOG REPORT: DCO report is next. ***With no discussion a motion to accept the Dog Control report was made by Councilwoman Haynes and seconded by Councilwoman Gilson. In a roll call vote, all were in favor with a vote of "AYE".***

SUPERVISOR REPORT: *A motion to accept the Supervisors report for September 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".*

TOWN BUDGET 2024: After last week's Budget Meeting, Laird and Tammie went in and changed figures to reflect those changes of the increase in Office personals Insurance, going with the cheaper retiree insurance. Added \$200 for advertising, add \$7500 for Chlorine. Wanted the \$27500 put back into the payroll line item, then along with that you have to add in the social security and medicare for the Towns matching part. It took Water District 5 back up, the EDU charge to \$845.92. It was thought that raising the revenue for water District 5 for metered water \$5300 to raise that to possible income, because hopefully more people will hook up next year to try to help lower the EDU. Then allocate \$12,000 from fund balance to bring the EDU rate down to \$ 764.29 which is \$2.00 more than last year. We are still \$28000 under the tax cap. If they (Sandy Creek) refinance the loan, the annual loan payment will go down and that will go into fund balance. Councilman North asked the \$25,000 that the Board put back for the Water Supervisor, he asked if it was only for the position. It was allocated for the position per Budget Officer Tammie Whaley. The money is in there, you shouldn't go over that amount. That line item is from 4 districts. If this position is eliminated, Councilwoman Gilson wants to know where that money goes. If we budgeted for \$52,500, and say it ends up being \$25,000 you don't expand it or move it to budget transfer it goes back into fund balance. ***A motion to adopt the 2024 Town of Richland Budget was made by Councilwoman Haynes and seconded by Councilman Goodsell. In a roll call vote, all were in favor with a vote of "AYE"***

JUSTICE REPORTS: Justice Reports are next. ***A motion to accept the justice reports as presented. This motion was made by Councilwoman Haynes and seconded by Councilwoman Gilson. In a roll call vote, all were in agreement with a vote of "AYE".***

WARRANT OF BILLS: ***A motion to accept Abstract #11 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 BOARD MINUTES: ***A motion to accept Town Board Minutes for September 28 October 10th and October 17 was made by Councilman Goodsell and seconded by Councilwoman Haynes. In a roll call vote, all were in favor with a vote of "AYE".***

TOWN CLERKS REPORT: The Town Clerks report was next. ***A motion to accept the Town Clerks report for October 2023 as presented was made by Councilwoman Haynes and seconded by Councilman Goodsell. With no discussion and in a roll call vote, all were in favor with a vote of "AYE".***

CEMETERY UPDATES: *A motion to accept the report on Cemeteries. This motion was made by Councilwoman Gilson and seconded by Councilman Goodsell. In a roll call vote, all were in favor with a vote of "AYE":*

TOWN HISTORIAN REPORT: No report

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS: This is to set a **Public Hearing for** Local Law #8 of 2023 this is to amend Local Law # 3 of 2023 for recalculations of incomes. *This motion to accept this Local Law #8 and schedule a Public Hearing for December 12, 2023 was made by Councilwoman Haynes and seconded by Councilman Goodsell. In a roll call vote, all were in favor with a vote of "AYE".*

NEXT TOWN BOARD MEETING: December 12,2023

MEETING ADJOURNED: With nothing more to bring before the Board, *a motion to adjourn was made by Councilwoman Haynes and seconded by Councilwoman Gilson. In a roll call vote, all were in favor with a vote of "AYE". 7:40pm*

Respectfully submitted by

Millie Newcomb
Town Clerk