

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

DATE: December 10, 2024

KIND OF MEETING: Regular Town Board Meeting

PLACE: Grand Jury Room, H. Douglas Barclay Courthouse Pulaski, NY

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Supervisor Robert North
Councilwoman Donna Gilson
Councilman Larry Atkinson
Councilwoman Sue Haynes
Councilman Eric Pappa(absent)

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE: Town residents, Robert Jeffery, Ben Tousant, Tim Crouch, Jeff Edick, Swiat Kaczmar, CEO/ZEO John Howland (arrived 6:17) Chief Water Operator, Bob Hicks, Highway Superintendent Kevin Balcom, Attorney Graham Seiter and Town Clerk Millie Newcomb.

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

BLESSING: Blessing was done by Councilman Atkinson.

PUBLIC COMMENT: No public comment

WATER REPORT: See Water report attached to these minutes. Scriba Electric is back working at the well fields.

LEGISLATIVE REPORT: No Legislators were present, however Legislator Yerdon stopped in the Clerk's Office this afternoon and dropped off information on disposing of rechargeable batteries and Salmon River Fishing Maps.

ZONING AND CODES: Supervisor North told the Board that Mr Howland has submitted his resignation effective December 31st. He said he would be available to help out with his

replacement if needed. Next is William Garvins property on Lehigh Road. Attorney Seiter sent Mr Garvin a settlement proposal shortly after our last meeting to try to settle this problem with him cleaning up his property. If he didn't he would allow the Town to go in and clean the property up. As of today, Mr Seiter hasn't heard from Mr Garvin. Mr Seiter can start those proceedings with the State Supreme Court. We are in the middle of the Dischave matter which is in full negotiations at this point and taking up a lot of his time but he can get the new complaint and get things going. ***A motion to start proceedings on the Garvin matter. It is known that the Town of Richland town Board has previously found that there is a violation of the Towns junk law and that the Board is authorizing Attorney Seiter to pursue a Court Order to help get the property cleaned up. This motion was made by Councilman Atkinson and seconded by Councilwoman Haynes. With no more discussion, and in a roll call vote, all members were in favor with a vote of "AYE".*** In the Dischiave matter, Mr Seiter sent his complaint into the Court. The Court indicated that they were going to hear the matter on submission of papers only. Which means there is no appearance of Attorneys is necessary. Dates were given on December 6th as a deadline. At 5:45 on December 5th, Attorney Seiter received from Attorney Caracolli the attorney for the Dischiaves, answering our papers and filing counterclaims against all of our Local Laws that they are illegal. Attorney Seiter's answers were due today. He has filed them and the court will be hearing the matter on Thursday. In his opinion the Town is completely legal and justified to clean up the property. Attorney Seiter told the Court that the Town tried to work with the Dischiaves with no success.

Supervisor North would like to have a motion to accept CEO/ZEO John Howlands resignation effective December 31, 2024. This motion was made by Councilwoman Haynes and seconded by Councilman Atkinson. In a roll call vote, all were in favor with a vote of "AYE".

Also, a motion to accept a resignation of Tom King from the Planning Board effective December 31, 2024 was made by Councilwoman Haynes and seconded by Councilman Atkinson. Roll call vote, all were in favor with a vote of "AYE".

Next is discussion about the Campground Moratorium. Attorney Seiter explained to the Board that he is going to use the same Local Law that was previously used with the same language just changing the dates with the Boards approval. Discussion to put the Moratorium in place, get the new laws in place then lift the moratorium. All members were in agreement with this plan. ***A motion to schedule a Public Hearing for the Campground Moratorium for January 14, 2025 Town Board Meeting was made by Councilwoman Haynes and seconded by Councilwoman Gilson. With no more discussion and in a roll call vote, all members present voted "AYE".*** Mr. Howland arrived and gave the Board his report and reported on the upcoming meetings of the Planning and Zoning Boards agendas. Fairways and Dreams applied for a permit to add cabins and pavilions for outside events and a driving range.

HIGHWAY REPORT: Superintendent Kevin Balcom read his report to the Board. His report will be a part of these minutes. Superintendent Balcom won some items from a grant that was at a meeting that he attended. Mr Balcom won these items which included, 6 road signs and stands, 20 cones, safety vests, flags and other items. It was called a Work Zone Equipment Grant.

These items won't come until January. The Gradall is coming in the morning. While they were there they found a double drum vibrating roller CR271 36" wide. He would like to purchase this roller for \$8000. They will also deliver this with the gradall. He has the money in his budget to purchase this roller. ***Councilwoman Haynes made the motion to approve the purchase of this CR271 Roller. Councilman Atkinson second the motion. In a roll call vote, all were in favor with a vote of "AYE". The Board needs to approve a waiver for seasonal employee RJ Smith to work for the town highway department. This motion was made by Supervisor North and seconded by Councilwoman Gilson. In a roll call vote all were in favor with a vote of "AYE". A motion to approve the purchase of the Gradall for the sum of \$23,000 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: This report is included with the Highway report.

RICHLAND PARKS: Nothing to report. No meetings

COMPREHENSIVE PLANNING BOARD: Meeting will be held on Thursday.

DOG REPORT: ***A motion to accept the Dog report as presented was made by Councilwoman Gilson and seconded by Councilwoman Haynes. With a roll call vote, all were in favor with a vote of "AYE".***

SUPERVISOR REPORT: Supervisors report for November. ***With no discussion, a motion to accept was made by Councilwoman Gilson and seconded by Councilwoman Haynes. Roll call vote, all were in favor with a vote of "AYE".***

JUSTICE REPORTS: Justice reports for October and November for Judge Conger and November report for Judge Ridgeway. With no discussion, ***a motion was made by Councilman Atkinson to accept the Justice reports. This motion was seconded by Councilwoman Gilson. In a roll call vote, all were in favor with a vote of "AYE".***

WARRANT OF BILLS: Abstract #12 is next. No discussion. ***A motion made by Councilwoman Gilson to accept the warrant, and was seconded by Councilwoman Haynes. In a roll call vote, all were in favor with a vote of "AYE".***

TOWN BOARD MINUTES: Town Board Minutes for October 17, October 21, November 4, and November 12, 2024 are next. ***A motion to accept all minutes as presented was made by Councilwoman Haynes and seconded by Councilwoman Gilson. 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 Gilson and seconded by Councilwoman Haynes. In a roll call vote, all were in favor with a vote of "AYE".*

CEMETERY UPDATES: Superintendent Balcom is trying to keep all gates of the cemeteries open until after Christmas.

TOWN HISTORIAN REPORT: Town Historian Shawn Doyle sent in a Year End Historian Report. *A motion to accept this report was made by Councilwoman Gilson and seconded by Councilwoman Haynes. A roll call vote result was all in favor with a vote of "AYE".*

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS: First, the Village MOU for the Court security. Supervisor Clerk Tammie Whaley had worked up a new agreement with the Village Clerk and Mayor. After a brief discussion *a motion was made by Councilwoman Gilson and seconded by Councilman Atkinson. Roll call vote, all were in favor with a vote of "AYE".* Next is the County ARPA. On the contract, we made a change to the site plan, the board needed to get back with Dave Turner to make the change. He did accept the changes made. The balance of \$187,000 will be used for repairs to one of our Water Towers. *A motion to spend the remaining ARPA money that was approved by Dave Turner, for repairs to one of the water tanks 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 North read the letter from NYS DOT about the speed reduction on Towne Road in the Town of Richland. This most likely will not be completed until next spring. Tug Hill commission discussion. Richland has already been accepted. Next are Budget transfers. These transfers will be added to these minutes. After a brief discussion, *a motion to approve the transfers as presented was made by Supervisor North and seconded by Councilwoman Gilson. All members present were in agreement with a vote of "AYE".* Next are Year End reserve transfers. With no discussion, *a motion was made by Councilwoman Haynes to accept these transfers as presented. This motion was seconded by Supervisor North. In a roll call vote, all were in favor with a vote of "AYE".*

The Year End Meeting will be held on December 31, at 10:00am.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Town resident Jeff Edick would like to revisit the Dry Bridge Road property. Councilman Atkinson explained that the Town is looking to have someone come in and remove the trees and figure out how much sand is there for the Town instead of going outside the Town to purchase sand. Superintendent Balcom told the Board that he still hasn't gotten the permit back from the DEC for the Pollic Property. A question regarding the violations and if there was a decision made about the storage of the boats, was it going to be continued?

Supervisor North thought it was answered because they were all owned by the same owner. Another question about the constant burning in Richland. Many complaints have been filed and

the property is in violation. The DEC has been notified and the property has been cited for those violations. The Board agrees that we have to get the Zoning Laws up to date. Mr Edick would like to know where the Board stands on selling the property on Dry Bridge Road. Councilwoman Gilson reminded Mr Edick that the Board voted many months ago to keep the town property at this time.

NEXT TOWN BOARD MEETING: Year end meeting is December 31 at 10:00am in the Grand Jury Room of the Barclay Courthouse.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: *Councilwoman Haynes made a motion to go into Executive Session to discuss a personal issue and invite Superintendent Balcom to join the Board. This motion was seconded by Councilwoman Gilson. In a roll call vote, all were in favor with a vote of "AYE" 7:16pm. At 8:10 pm a motion to come out of Executive Session and back into regular session was made by Councilman Atkinson and seconded by Councilwoman Haynes. In a roll call vote, all were in favor with a vote of "AYE". The result of the executive session was no decision made. With nothing more to bring before the Board, a motion to adjourn was made by Councilwoman Gilson and seconded by Councilman Atkinson. In a roll call vote, all were in favor with a vote of "AYE". 8:13pm.*

MEETING ADJOURNED: 8:13pm

Respectfully submitted by

Millie Newcomb
Town Clerk

WATER BOARD
Tuesday December 10, 2024

#1: Water Pumped

Total water pumped for November 2024 was 8,743,150 gallons. The previous year was 8,037,100 gallons. There was a decrease of 706,050 gallons.

#2: Replacement pole at the well site

Scriba Electric is still working on changing out electric pole. They are waiting on a part from National Grid.

#3: Hydrants

Working on finishing up fall flushing.

#4: Snow Removal

Working on snow removal at the well sites.

#5: Current Issues

There are No current leaks or other water issues.

Respectfully submitted:

Robert Hicks
Chief Water Operator

Superintendent Report for 11/1/2024

Truck #96 had a broken rear suspension. We got it fixed a back able to plow snow.

Worked on #22 #10s lights.

Cut tree hangers from Dayville and Hager dr. with the bucket truck.

I did snowplow training with Will,Zac,Matt.

Brought Dozer back to shop cleaned a put in storage.

Found nice gradall 2007 4100xl \$23500.00.

Worked on mower cleaned it and put it in storage.

Fixed Guide Rail on Wart Road cleaned up shoulders at the same time.

Filled holes on Bishop with crush stone.

Cutting firewood whenever we can.

Fighting with Beaver

Installed 20' of 12" pipe. At the water vault on Lehigh Road.

Plowed and Sanded 5357 miles of road.

Building and Grounds Report

Poured concrete where we cut out for water line.

2024 Year End Reserve Account Transfers			
A FUND			
FROM:	AMOUNT	TO:	EXPLANATION
DB		CR	
A1355.4R Assessment Revaluation	\$25,000.00	A235 Assessment Reserve	New Assessment Revaluation
A235 Assessment Reserve	\$25,000.00	A201 Money Market	Budget
A917	\$25,000.00	A899	
A231 Capital Reserve	\$25,000.00	A0962.2 Building Reserve	Building Reserve/Budget
A917	\$25,000.00	A878	
A233 Haldane Reserve	\$10,000.00	A0962.1 Haldane Reserve	Haldane Reserve/Budget
A917	\$10,000.00	A882	
DA FUND			
DA2665R Sale of Equipment	\$21,755.00	DA231 Capital Reserve	Sale of Equipment
DA231 Equipment Reserve	\$21,755.00	DA201 Money Market	
DA915	\$21,755.00	DA878	
DA231 Machinery Reserve	\$75,000.00	A0962.2 Machinery Reserve	Machinery Reserve/Budget
DA231 Equipment Reserve	\$75,000.00	DA201 Money Market	
DA915	\$75,000.00	DA878	

2024 Year End Budget Transfers			
	<u>DEBIT</u>		<u>CREDIT</u>
<u>A FUND</u>			
FROM:		TO:	
A8810.48 Cemetery Riverside Fuel	79.24	A8810.47 Cemetery Riverside Other	79.24
A8810.1 Cemetery Payroll	1475.00	A8810.49 Cemetery McCellan Other	1475.00
<u>B FUND</u>			
B8020.42 Planning Legal Fees	338.23	B8020.4 Planning Other	338.23
<u>DA FUND</u>			
DA9785.7 Debt Principal	1917.77	DA9785.7 Debt Interest	1917.77
<u>DB FUND</u>			
DB9010.8 State Retirement	408.73	DB9050.8 Unemployment Ins	408.73

Shawn Patrick Doyle
Richland Town Historian/Pulaski Village Historian
85 Lake Street Pulaski, New York 13142 spdinpul@gmail.com

Year end report, 2024

General Activity

Since my last report it has been a steady busy year, meeting people at cemeteries, working on family trees, working with school reunions and scanning photos and updating our databases.

Current Projects

Cemetery work: I continue to work with Julie Litts Robst cemetery books for the town updated. We continue to find additional people to add, often unmarked graves. Julie Robst continues to read the Pulaski Democrat from cover to cover online, to glean more information to add. She is up to 1925.

I touch base with Julie Peterson at the town, and the ladies in the Village office on burials to add to our books. ***I still need names and dates of 2020-24 burials for Pulaski Village Cemetery.***

Veterans: Local author Natalie Woodell of Oswego continues to work with me on the biographies of the Civil War soldiers. This year we have had some wonderful information come in, A descendant of the Maltby family who lives in Canada was here in October and met with Pulaski historical society and me, sharing photos and documents from the family who served. Half-Shire has two Snow Foundation Scholars on a three-year rotation, Olivia LaRock and Izzy Eklund worked on this during the summer and will again in summer 2025.

The Sons of the American Revolution and Daughters of the American Revolution (SAR and DAR) meet at Half-Shire regularly, On November 16, we hosted a joint luncheon for the two groups and were honored by the the New York State Sons of the American Revolution President and Past President as well as the NYS DAR Vice Regent being in attendance.

I serve on the Alumni Wall of Distinction committee and the first honorees were recognized this past Memorial Day. They were Pulaski graduates who died in WWI, WWII, Korea and Vietnam. I researched and prepared the 18-page program for this event.

Alumni Records: I continue to work on Pulaski Alumni biographies from 1854-present. Our two girls on the Snow Scholar program alternate between this and the Civil War research—some overlap. The Alumni records scanning project has been the focus of the last four years.

Family Records: I continue to work on family files and correspond with many people throughout the year. At Half Shire Historical we have a thorough database on our early families and their descendants that I add to almost daily. The family files are kept at Half-Shire Historical Society in the new Pomeroy Research room. Specific files related to early Richland families are copied and brought to the courthouse office.

In July, Oxford Professor Barrie Trinder visited again. As you may recall from last year's report Barrie came in 2023 to research the family of John George (died 1845) who with his family immigrated from Anyho, England. As the research unwound, we found over 40 other persons in the early censuses that immigrated from Anyho to Albion, Richland and Ellisburg. Barrie and I co-wrote an Article for an English Literary Review Cake and Cockhouse, which was published in May 2024. The cover of this prestigious periodical featured a picture of the Salmon River. Extensive research put together this compelling story which we will rerun in the *Tug Hill Literary Review* this winter.

Scanning Projects: Using my own computer and scanners I work with families to scan photos from their past. We have worked with many Richland families in the past couple years and have a growing collection. This year we assisted in several class reunions for Pulaski and several family reunions. The family reunions I worked on were Fray, Gibbs and Salisbury.

Vital/Bible Records: I continue to work with Millie and Julie very well, using the Ancestry.com account as people call me or their office looking for records. We get many calls and letters looking for births/deaths/marriages for the town, and the ladies are very accommodating. Records were first required to be registered in 1880, and our town records begin in 1883. Church records, bible records and newspaper accounts sometimes can provide the information people need, so I have been trying to find what I can to build an informal vital record inventory. Half-Shire now has one of the largest collections of family bibles in the region, with over 350 sets in our database or on the shelves. Families used bibles to record births, deaths and marriages for hundreds of years, our earliest bible is from 1723. We now have several Richland based bibles at Half-Shire.

Cemetery and community tours: I did one Facebook live tour of veteran's graves in May and hope to do more next year. We had an Alumni bus tour in 2024 of the town, and also one for new staff at Pulaski School in August. I hosted a Heritage Foundation tour of historic homes and structures in Pulaski/Richland in June, followed by a reception at Half-Shire. In October Robin Philips and I hosted a ghost tour of the village that was very successful. I maintain a database on historic properties and can customize it for specific tour routes.

Court House-In May I researched the History of the Court House and gathered photos for the Architect the county has working on plans for work. Like the research I did in 2022 and 2023 for the Village mayor on the Arches, (Half-Shire has the original arches plan) I hope this work will help in repairing the Court House for the next 200 years.

Plans for 2025: I am still hoping to access the South Richland Cemetery records to update our book on the people buried there. We have been unable in the past to work with these records, and I believe now we will be allowed to work with them. Allen Goodsell serves on the board.

I continue to reach out on the internet to researchers of old families, to see what they have. I have had good success with some that come here each summer to see graves or drive the roads.

I continue to work with Dee Dee Barclay in scanning records of the Barclay family and properties as she sorts through things. The family diaries have [proved very valuable to researchers.

I work with the Bethel Community Center and the Fernwood Community center in their efforts. I was able to secure a small grant and a loan for Fernwood Center from the Heritage Foundation of Oswego County. I personally paid for the large Fernwood center mailing this summer. I wrote a state arts grant for the Bethel Center a few weeks back.

The two Snow Foundation scholars have elected to work at Half-Shire next summer as they both live near the hamlet, and it is walking distance. We normally use the Town Historian office for students and will use that in the spring for other community service workers as they contact me.

Robin Philips and I are planning to write and conduct cemetery tours in 2025, featuring unique monuments and the stories of selected people.

I appreciate the town continuing to pay for the ancestry.com and fold3 (military record) accounts which are a huge help with research. I continue to appreciate the great support I have been given by this boards Mille and Julie from the town, and the new girls in the village in all my efforts. ***Note I am using a Gmail address now as my outlook account is not always working well.***

I have a great working relationship with the neighboring historians, and participate in the county historians monthly meetings when I can. Our new county Historian, Deb Allen, is fantastic, and we hold monthly municipal meetings March through November. The County Clerk, Terry Wilbur is also a huge support.

Kevin Stewart and Julie Litts Robst of Florida are both huge assistants in all I do. Ed McGaffick helps when he can, and Betty Warren has been doing more in her time at Half-Shire on town research. Betty Jane Davies continues to assist with Find a Grave work and research.

I continue to document the Revolutionary War vets in each of our cemeteries for the eventual placement of Pomeroy Foundation signs for each that will honor the Revolutionary War vets buried there. These look like the state historical signs by Riverhouse and North Park but are deep blue and gold trimmed. There is no cost.

In 2006 I asked for monies to be set aside for a Revolutionary War monument to be placed in South Park facing the Court House. We pulled this in 2007 as I was finding many more than I thought we had that lived or died in Richland. I think I now am settled at 50 men, and Count Casimir Pulaski.

I would like to plan ahead to get a monument with all the names done by 2026 when the Nation celebrates the 250th Anniversary. I will be serving on the County 250th Committee, and Half-Shire is setting up a group to work on this for our 15 towns also.

MISC—

Anyone from Boards or staff please feel free to contact me with questions at any time. I normally work at Half-Shire 5-7 days a week, and I am in and out of the Court House at various times. Being removed from all politics and committees I do not come to meetings unless I am invited.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve both communities.

Respectfully Submitted,
Shawn Patrick Doyle, Historian for Richland and Pulaski