

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

**DATE:** February 13, 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 (Absent)  
Councilman Eric Pappa

**OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:** Town residents, Robert D'Argenio Tim Crouch, Robert Jeffery, Beth Salisbury, Jeff Edick, Swiat Kaczmar, County Legislators Ed Gilson and Herb Yerdon, Comp Board Chair, Dawn Holyinski, ZEO/CEO John Howland, Highway Superintendent Kevin Balcom, and Town Clerk, Millie Newcomb

**CALL TO ORDER:** The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. with Supervisor North leading in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** Robert D'Argenio would like to address the Board about the plowing of the road he lives on in Port Ontario. Mr. D'Argenio lives at 24 Scharoun Drive. His issue is the Town Plow is not plowing the entire road. Mr D'Argenio handed out pictures and a description of the area. He has spoken to Highway Superintendent Kevin Balcom about the issue. Mr Balcom told the Board that the issue is that the plows can no longer push the snow down the road as in the past. Where they used to push it now has tree stumps and 2 pillars and a gate that hinders the plow from pushing the snow. There is no room to push to the right. Mr Balcom advised that with the plow and the wing on the truck, the length is about 60' He is just looking for a resolution. He admits that it's pretty tight down at the end. Three of the Town Board members will ride down to Scharoun Drive with Mr Balcom to see what the issue is in the near future. Next is Beth Salisbury from Richland. She has concerns over the significant increase in the fire tax for the Hamlet of Richland Fire Department. The tax is 7 times higher than other

districts in the area. The biggest concern is "what's going to happen next year"? After the meeting with the Fire Department last evening, the Fire Board did not provide a copy of the budget. Per Attorney Seiter, it may be worth the time to seek out legal opinion from someone but you would have to get money together from the taxpayers to do so, but have a plan in mind if they are going to do something like this. Perhaps contact Ringgold and ask how Richland would get coverage in case of an emergency. As a taxpayer, they did not follow the rules. Attorney Seiter suggested that the residents speak to an Attorney that is familiar with this type of issue. Another issue that has come up in recent days is that in the past several years, the Town of Richland Highway Department has dropped crushed stone at the end of Grandview, Hager Drive, Riverview, Riveredge, Riverside, Lake Road (Co Rt 5) and Rainbow Shores Road. Highway Superintendent Balcom has put an end to that practice. Mr Balcom explained that this practice has cost the residents of the whole Town of Richland over \$7700 per year and does not include the manpower and fuel. These are private roads and it's not something that the Town should be doing. Councilman Atkinson agrees that it should stop. Legislator Gilson addressed the Board and explained that this practice has set a precedence and it's a neighborly thing to do. Town resident Robert Jeffery told the Board that he owns a Camp up in Cape Vincent that is on a private road, shared by 27 camps. Residents on these roads should form an Association for the purchase of stone and snow removal. They do not rely on the Town to bring them stone. Crushed stone can cost up to \$400 per load.

**LEGISLATIVE REPORT:** Legislator Herb Yerdon is here to give his report. Frisbee Golf is at Camp Zerbe. The camp has about 544 acres and the more people that know about it the better it will be. New bigger bathrooms will be constructed. The goal is to build up the camp. It's the only county park on this end of the county. Americorps is looking for Summer help. It's for everyone just not kids. They also need camp nurses. In Mr Yerdon packets to the Town Clerk are a list of Committees that all the Legislators are part of. Mr Yerdon is on the Public Safety Committee and Human Services. Fire Coordinators report for the month. The 911 Call Center report. Probations report, and EMS call report.

Legislator Gilson is up next. The Oswego County Workforce Development along with Social Services is running parallel, without making government bigger, and in preparation for the job search with Micron coming in, trying to make it more proactive, and tied to the school, to make it more helpful for people that want to work. To help them with a skill. You will start seeing these mini job fairs popping up. There will be one in Fulton on February 6th. There will be posters and sponsors. The PTEK program at CITI Boces, is open to 8th graders and involves tech training and works with college programs. Employers have been working with this program. The IDA along with the Oswego County Legislators and ARPA funds, put together almost \$400,000 to help them develop their lab at CITI. Most get jobs right out of school and can make \$80-\$90,000 per year. It's all part of the program to keep kids here in the area instead of moving out of the area for work. There is a new program that the county has been working with for public transit. There is an app so you can track the bus location. There is a new tourist website. [visitoswegocounty.com](http://visitoswegocounty.com)

**ZONING AND CODES:** List of permits were presented to the Board. The Planning and Zoning meeting will meet next Tuesday. Not a lot pressing. Fish Cleaning license for Port Ontario. With the resignation of Richard Teleian Tim Crouch will move into his position and leave an opening on the ZBA Board. The Planning Board is set. WE have to reappoint Swiat Kaczmar on Tuesday. Two Planning Board members were up and needed to be reappointed. Mr Howland needs to get Code School approval. He does split the cost between all the municipalities. Should we advertise to get alternate for the ZBA? Town Clerk Newcomb will put a Help Wanted on the Town Website and facebook page for that alternate position. Conversation about joining the Tug Hill Commission. Camp Ground Moratorium will run out in August 2023. Councilman Atkinson had researched a few campground laws and Attorney Seiter had also found a few. Mr. Atkinson will bring his research to the board to follow up. ***A motion to approve Mr Howlands Code School, accept Richard Telian's resignation and approve Tim Crouch to the ZBA Board was made by Councilwoman Gilson and seconded by Councilman Atkinson. In a roll call vote, all were in favor with a vote of "AYE".***

**HIGHWAY REPORT:** Superintendent Balcom just wanted to remind the Board about paid holiday(4) and sick time(2) and (1) personal for the seasonal highway workers for next year's budget season. Highway report is up next. New back brakes on truck 17 also had a wheel broken. Changed cutting edge. Installed new planks on the trailer. Our seasonal guys have been doing so much more than regular highway work. They are welders, carpenters. We are very fortunate to have them . They made a new base for the drill press with wheels. Installed wheels on the metal press. Generator radiator is being rebuilt for \$1200. The motor is in good shape. Welded the gradall bucket and installed new pins. The water trailer has sold. Mr Balcom was notified today. It sold for \$ 6400. New brakes on pickup #7. Oil change and filter pickup #4. Welded new center pivot ball on dozer. We have had bucket trucks doing tree work saving a lot of money. Welded fenders on truck #18. With two weeks of good weather, they have gotten a lot of work done. Mr Balcom is getting ready to order a new truck. It will take about 2 years before it comes in. He had been working on this order for a while. He thinks it's very important to go over every detail. He has saved about \$23,000. He doesn't want to order another automatic. Mr Balcom has always been taught if" it's moving it's wearing out".

**BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS:** Replaced window at the Haldane that was broken again. It's been repaired and he left it covered with plywood until they are ready to open the building. The Haldane sign blew over during the bad winds of the last few weeks. The 4x4's are rotted. Once better weather comes, he will get them replaced. Filled in holds in the office and painted the walls. Woodstove is in the shop but not hooked up yet. Looking for a deal on the triple wall pipe. Installed a new door knob on the back door. Patched pot holes at Haldane. Kevin spoke to Kristy LaManche about a possible grant for a salt shed. Grants may be available soon, so there is a possibility that the Town could get a grant and have a Salt Shed up as soon as this year. No matter if we get the grant or not, the Highway really has to get a salt shed soon on the new

property on Centerville Road and Peck Road. Mr Balcom hasn't ordered any more salt. ***A motion to accept the Highway Report and Buildings and Grounds Report, was made by Councilman Pappa and seconded by Councilman Atkinson. In a roll call vote, all were in favor with a vote of "AYE".***

Supervisor North asked Attorney Seiter to speak to the Board about the Gravel Lease. Attorney Seiter told the Board that there was a little delay to the agreement. Mr Pollic wanted to have his Attorney look at the agreement. He is meeting with Attorney Robert Genant. He will get back with the Board when it gets cleared with Mr. Genant.

Next the Chinook Street property that the Town has the right of first refusal in purchasing from the Charles Krupke Estate. It is 3.8 acres of land that is adjacent to the Highway barn. Krupke family representative Daniel Krupke is asking \$12,000 per acre. The consensus of the Board is if the Salt shed and some day the Highway Barn is going to be moving to the new property on Centerville and Peck Road, why would the Town purchase this property. After a brief discussion, a motion made by Councilman Atkinson not to purchase the

**RICHLAND PARKS:** Attorney Graham Seiter has some information on this issue. He spoke to John Hoban today about this today. What happens if the river, with erosion moves from where it is today. It is a valid concern and he did agree with Mr Seiter. What the Town is looking for is an agreement between the Town, Village and the DEC that if that ever happened, maybe a distance, like within 10 feet of the walking path, that will be grounds to relook at the rights at that point. He is going to check with his supervisor to see what they may be willing to do. Otherwise Mr Seiter doesn't think the Town would have an issue with it. The Village and the Town are on the same page; it's just a matter of those protections. The hope would be that the DEC would put in protections, however the state moves very slowly so the Town and Village do not want to depend on that. If the water level changes, this easement moves. There has to be a magic line. Any action was tabled by the Town Board. Mayor Tighe advised that we are not talking about land, we are talking about fishing rights. So it's illegal for the Village to sell any plot of land. They are not selling any land. They are succeeding their rights to who can fish in the river to the DEC. The Board feels who better can manage the fish in the river than the DEC. It has nothing to do with property. The only thing they are selling is the fishing rights. Attorney Seiter does not disagree with that. The only thing that was a concern with Attorney Seiter and the gentleman from the DEC is that you have fishermen in the river at the Haldane, then the river moves, you have all these fishermen on the walking path where people that maybe are not fishing so it starts to impose on non-fishing people. The agreement that the Village has came from the State Attorney General that was ordered by the DEC. This is one of the reasons Mr Seiter spoke to John Hoban from the DEC today. They are trying to figure out what happens if the river changes. No one really thought about this before. The DEC has miles of easements, and the audience member said they probably have something similar to this issue. This is a good thing to think about.

**COMPREHENSIVE PLANNING BOARD :** See the attached note at the end of these minutes. The next meeting will be held on March 7th at 6:00 pm until 7:30pm here at the Courthouse, Grand Jury Room.

**RESIGNATION OF WATER CLERK:** *A motion to accept Water Clerk Mary Yerdon's resignation was made by Councilman Larry Atkinson and seconded by Councilwoman Gilson. In a roll call vote, all were in favor with a vote of "AYE".*

In the coming week, the Board will meet and decide Mary Yerdon's replacement. The start date for the new hire will be 03/01/2024

**VERIZON TOWER AGREEMENT:** Attorney Seiter has a call with Colin Jones from Verizon. The legal department looked into the Well Head Protection. This says that you can't put paving down, the water actually has to seep down into the ground. So they had concerns with what they use. Gravel should be fine so Attorney Seiter thinks they are good and has no further concerns. Councilman Pappa also advised that the area has to be mowed. Weeds cause problems with bacteria so if everything is open and clean, they will never have an issue. The agreement hasn't changed at all so Mr. Seiter thinks everything is a go.

**SAM GRANT:** This grant allowed the Town to get other grants. This grant now is kind of useless because now we have to spend money to get the grant. So it's decided that the Town will say no to that grant. *A motion by Councilman Atkinson to abandon the Sam Grant. This motion was seconded by Councilwoman Gilson. In a roll call vote all members were in agreement with a vote of "AYE".*

**INSPECTION OF WATER TOWERS:** *A motion to have Pittsburg inspect our water tanks for \$1600 per tank was made by Councilman Atkinson and seconded by Councilwoman Gilson. In a roll call vote, all were in favor with a vote of "AYE".* Once this inspection is done, we will put out for bid the cost of painting the water tanks if needed. Robert Jefferys has some names of companies that do this kind of work if the Town needs some of this information, just let him know.

**WILLIAMSON LAW SOFTWARE:** New online payments software. This was tabled until the March Meeting to discuss further.

Councilman Pappa was talking to Water Operator Joe Sikora today about the 3rd Water truck that is just sitting at the Water Building in Fernwood. The Councilman isn't sure if the truck is worth keeping around. It's 9 years old, 120,000 miles on it. It's just sitting rusting. Maybe save for the summer help to use to paint and weedeating.

**DOG REPORT:** Dog report was presented. With no discussion, *a motion to accept the DCO Report as presented was made by Councilwoman Gilson and seconded by Councilman Atkinson. In a roll call vote, all were in favor with a vote of AYE.*

**SUPERVISOR REPORT:** No report

**JUSTICE REPORTS:** Justice reports for Judges Conger and Ridgeway for December and January were up next. With no discussion, *a motion to accept the reports as presented was made by Councilwoman Gilson and seconded by Councilman Pappa. In a roll call vote, all were in favor with a vote of "AYE".*

**WARRANT OF BILLS:** Abstract of bills for February , Abstract #2 of 2024 and Abstract # 15 of 2023 is next. Members of the Board reviewed the bills and *a motion was made by Councilwoman Gilson and seconded by Councilman Pappa to accept and approve both abstracts for payment. In a roll call vote, all were in favor with a vote of "AYE".*

**TOWN BOARD MINUTES:** Town Board minutes for January 9,2024 was presented to the Board for approval. *A motion by Councilman Atkinson and seconded by Councilwoman Gilson to approve the minutes as presented. 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 for January 2024 was made by Councilwoman Gilson and seconded by Councilman Atkinson. In a roll call vote, all were in favor with a vote of "AYE".*

**CEMETERY UPDATES:** Supervisor North thinks the McClellan Cemetery looks terrible. There are no grants available for repairs of the stones or for fences. Mr North would like to put more money aside in next year's budget for stone repair for cemeteries. A question if perpetual care money can be used for stone care and repair. We will have to find a copy of the bylaws to the cemeteries.

**TOWN HISTORIAN REPORT:** No report.

**MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS:** ARCIT Contract for Antivirus protection for all Town of Richland computers. The price for one year is \$684.90 more than 3 years. The 3 year price is \$ 1369.50 *A motion was made to approve the 3 year price. This motion was made by Councilwoman Gilson and seconded by Councilman Atkinson. In a roll call vote, all were in favor with a vote of "AYE:.*

Attorney Seiter spoke to the Town Board about the Village-Town Court Agreement. Mr Seiter contacted Judge Gidion who is the Judge in charge of all Town and Villages. He pointed him in the direction of the Comptroller's Office that deals with the Justice Fund. When he spoke to them there are actually rules regarding this regardless of an agreement or not. If the Town is

handling court matters for the Village, the Town is obligated to pay over certain fines that go to the Village. Those are restricted to parking fines and Village ordinances. Any village code where there is a fine issued. Since 2012 no one has been keeping up with this. Mr Seiter has reached out to Judge Conger and asked if she recalls since 2016 any Village matters. She explained not many at all. She doesn't recall parking tickets because if any tickets were issued, not many responded or even showed up to court. Judge Conger will look through their records to see if they can find any. The Comptroller's office will check their records. When the court submits the records to the comptroller, the court is supposed to put VO on the ticket, so they may be able to check them that way. Mr Seiter doesn't know about going back to 2012 but they may be able to print off how much is owed. Attorney Seiter feels it will not be that much. From what he is hearing from Judge Conger. Going forward both the Town and Village will talk to the Judges and say any future cases they will have to keep track and separate. They should have been doing that. Judge Conger thinks that they have been keeping track. This issue should be tabled until he gets an answer. Mayor Tighe suggested that Mr Seiter speak to the Village Chief of Police. He will reach out to the Pulaski Police Chief as soon as he can. Reminder about the Tug Hill Conference at the Turning Stone. Please have the forms returned to the Town Clerk before April 1,2024.

**NEXT TOWN BOARD MEETING: March 14,2024 at 7:00pm**

**MEETING ADJOURNED:** With nothing more to bring before the Board, *a motion to adjourn was made by Councilwoman Gilson and seconded by Councilman Pappa. In a roll call vote, all were in favor with a vote of "AYE."*9:23pm

Respectfully submitted by

Millie Newcomb  
Town Clerk





- We have a new member to our committee, Mark Dobrynski, representing the village of Pulaski. Mark is a member of the village zoning board of appeals. He has already come up with suggestions to make the process of reviewing and make changes to the Comp Plan.
- We have started reviewing the Comp Plan from the beginning. Two years ago, we amended the goals and recommendations in the Plan. Through that process we found significant data in the Plan that needed to be updated throughout the document.
- It will be a long process, but to make it simpler, an <sup>Mayor Tighe suggested</sup> ~~idea~~ arose at our meeting that maybe the board would prefer to review and accept the document in sections to alleviate the time constraints reviewing the whole document of 200 pages at one time. What do you think?
- We continue to discuss ways to educate and inform the community of the Climate Smart Campaign of installing heat pumps in their homes and businesses as an energy savings for the environment and lower energy bills for the homeowner and business owner(s).
- Fernwood Community Center: You might have heard we have achieved the goal through donations (\$8000) from people in the community of Pulaski and the Town of Richland, as well as former residents, to enable us to obtain the deed and liability insurance. This was achieved by donations in a short period of time from Thanksgiving through the first part of the new year. This shows the desire and community needs to have a safe, pleasing place to gather, as well as reflecting of all the gatherings the church had over 164 years.
- There is so much that needs to be done in order to make that safe and pleasing. We are currently looking at grant opportunities to replace the old furnaces with heat and cooling systems. It would be foolish not to pursue this mission now that NYSERDA and state are offering huge discounts and grants for such a project.
- Our next Comp Plan meeting is Thursday, March 7<sup>th</sup> starting at 6 pm until 7:30 pm at the courthouse. The public is always welcome to join us. Our inclement weather policy is if the Pulaski School District is closed due to inclement weather, then we will not hold a meeting. Also, if the school day is shortened and no after school activities because of inclement weather then we will not hold a meeting.

