

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

DATE: May 14,2024

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

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE: Town residents, Robert Jeffery, Tim Crouch, Swiat Kaczmar, Kern Yerdon, Chief Water Operator, Bob Hicks, Highway Superintendent, Kevin Balcom, County Legislator, Herb Yerdon, Town Attorney Graham Seiter 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.

BLESSING: Councilman Atkinson lead the Opening Blessing

PUBLIC COMMENT: Councilman Atkinson told the Board that the first thing you see when you come into the Town's Zoning is strictly enforced. He would like to see signs saying "Welcome to the Town of Richland, Fishing Capital of the State of home of world class fishing. This is Robert Jeffery's idea but Mr Atkinson thinks it is too. CEO/ZEO Howland told the board that the Town of Sandy Creek just put some up and it took them 8 months to get approved by the State. They are very small so you almost have to come to a stop to see them because the state mandates the size. Any of the roads owned by the state you have to get state approval. Per Mr Jeffery, it can be done.

WATER REPORT: Chief Water Operator Bob Hicks is here with his report. Water usage for April 2024 was 14,311,500 gallons Water usage for April 2023 was 11,306,200 gallons, which means

we pumped 2,995,300 more gallons this year over last year. Brennans opened up earlier this year due to the weather. Well B27 and Well B21 are both fixed and running. Well B27 had a new pump and a 4 inch stainless steel pipe, a new stainless steel check valve. Well B 21 had the check valve. The old one was stuck open. Both of these will be covered under the project. Well B23 is still down waiting for Ron from P&T to come and diagnose the problem with the Motor. Both tank inspections are done. There are some issues with the North tank that we are having Dustin Clark from B&L look at. We are looking to set up a meeting with him to discuss the issues. We installed 3 taps last month and we have 1 tap to do this month so far. No major problems with the system last month. Working on inventory and flushing dead ends. Supervisor North asked what the issues were since he mentioned it twice. Mr Hicks told the board that mainly it was with the North Tank. When they did the inspection, they said the outside coating was ok. They will pressure wash it and check it again in 5 years. But inside there are some rust spots that they have to work on. Dustin Clark with B&L told Mr Pappa that there is grant money out there and he is looking at it. Councilwoman Gilson asked about the ARPA money depending on what they decided to do with the underground electrical. Pappa would like to see what is going on with the tank first, he is not as worried about the underground electrical, he wants to make sure we are good with the tanks first. That is priority one. We can fix a pole in a day or two. If we lose a tank, that is a lot more severe. Dustin Clark is checking on a few things for us like tank painting, and we can go from there. We can sit down with him and go over things that he has found. He will have figures for us very soon and we can go from there. The annual Drinking Water Report was presented to the Board. This report is available for review in the Town Clerk's Office , on the Town Website and message Board outside the Supervisor's office on the Jefferson St message board.

LEGISLATIVE REPORT: Oswego County has a Save the Date for the 19th Annual Oswego County Career Summit at the Oswego County Fairgrounds on Wednesday June 5, 2024. This is for all 8th Graders learning about potential future career options through demonstrations and hands-on workshops. On Friday May 17th at 4:45 at 99 Churchill Road, Oswego. The first tournament of the year-Grand Opening at Legends Field. A memo from Sara Sunday from the Office of the Aging. May is Older Americans Month. Transportation update for Out of the County Medical Appointments. OFA was able to provide 12 trips to date to Syracuse for medical appointments. Upcoming Events: The longest day event is scheduled for Thursday June 20th at the Oswego Farmers Market. It will start with a small presentation at 4:45pm followed by a walk around Bridge St and Utica St Bridges. The 2024 Senior Picnic has been scheduled for Wednesday August 14th. It will be at the Mexico VFW once again this year. The Parkinson's Disease journey presentation at Bishop Commons on April 9th was very well attended. Due to the attendance and interest by people of Oswego County, Empower Parkinson's is working with OFA to establish a month support group, supporting those with Parkinson's Disease and their caregivers. Lastly, there is a new program called, Help me Grow. Serving Families with children ages 0-5 yrs. Email with any questions oswegocountyhmg@icpoc.org or for more info visit: www.icpoc.org/OCHMG. The Orwell Fire Department got their money from ARPA. It took

almost 2 years to get but they received \$75,000. Camp Zerbe Bath House is coming along. It has a roof and siding on it. It should be operational pretty soon. The wiring is next.

ZONING AND CODES: CEO/ZEO Howland is here with his report. A listing of all permits was presented to the Board. It's been pretty busy. Planning Board minutes and Agenda are in the packet along with the Zoning Board Agenda for next week. The only thing for both boards is the cell phone tower on the Town's property. It's just a formality but it has to be done. At the last meeting there was an error for the appointments for alternates. Joseph Sknotnicki is the alternate for the ZBA Board. Mr Howland asked in the future if he could be made aware of who the Board has appointed to Boards. He doesn't have a problem with him but it's nice if he knows who they are, he can send them paperwork for meetings. Mr Howland passed out a list of violations again to the Board and would like to go over them. The first is William Garvin on Lehigh Road. He has made a little bit of progress, but he has had violations on that property for several years. Mr Garvin did call the office today and told him to come to tonight's meeting. He isn't here. He will be sent for an Administrative Hearing next month So he has until the next meeting to get his property into compliance. The property on Sherman Road is all cleaned up and graded off. Yungra property on Daysville Road is all cleaned up. The owner sent Howland pictures this afternoon. He is going to build a home on the property. Michelle Dishave, Mr Howland has not heard one word from her. So Attorney Seiter will send her a letter. Christian Bristol has picked up some, he isn't 100% but he is working on it. The Morse Est. The town can't do anything about that but he did get a call from someone the other day that there were people taking off the rafters so it's wide open to the weather now. The steel has already taken so it's going to be a mess. The County health department sent letters to the Town about the trash, and Mr Howland explained that the owners are dead so there is nothing anyone can do at this point. The Health Department did say that none of their letters were returned and that they sent a condemned letter telling them that they cannot use the property. The gentleman from the County Health Department told Mr Howland that they sent the letters to the Parish address and they were not returned. Attorney Seiter asked if the taxes had been paid. At this time the taxes have not been paid so Attorney Seither said the County will foreclose on the property so why would the Town want to pay money to clean it up when the County will foreclose on it and sell it. The last one is Dave Conn. He was up to 32 cars and is down to 18 cars now. He has been on the phone with Mr Howland many times. This property will go on to the list but will probably have things cleaned up. Not only does he have the cars but he has parts and tires on the porch. The Administrative Hearing was originally set for May 20th but the Board decided to move it until one hour before the Town Board Meeting. The Administrative Hearing will be at 6:00 pm on June 11,2023. Next is Campgrounds. The Board would like to do a workshop to discuss the campgrounds.

The Planning Board has one item on their agenda on Monday night, it will be a recommendation for the ZBA for the telecommunications tower so it will not be very long. For June's meeting, the ZBA will do the SEQR for the Tower variance, and schedule a Public Hearing for June. Once

the ZBA approves it, it has to go back to the Planning Board for site plan approval. They will have a joint Zoning and Planning Board Meeting on the same night in June so the ZBA can approve and the Planning Board can approve the site plan so they don't have to wait another month. Mr Howland was thinking when it came to Campgrounds, 10 acres, 10 sites or more but then you're going to have people that will be totally against it, or have no campgrounds, period. Councilwoman Gilson recently went to a financial conference and spoke to some other Board members from other towns and what they did about Campgrounds. They have a 900 sq ft building, she thinks 5 acres and have a campsite. Maybe if you live in a 900 sq ft building and live in a camper, you could either rent it or have a family stay in it. They told Mrs. Gilson they have better control, they said. The problem here is that people want to bring their camper up here and put on a lot. Mrs Gilson said that is how they are able to control the situation because they have the same problem. Another problem Councilman Atkinson said is that in AirBB there is a category for campers that you can Airbnb. Are we creating another mess? His feeling is Camping and Campgrounds are our area, if it is in a RA area, they have to apply for a special permit. Attorney Seiter explained that you have to say they are allowed in this area, and not in this area. If they are not allowed, then it's a use variance. You're not going to get it if it's a use variance. If they are allowed, then they are allowed. You can say they are allowed with a special permit then you can get the conditions to kick in. A workshop is scheduled May 28th at 10:00am. Councilwoman Haynes invited CEO/ZEO Howland to attend.

HIGHWAY REPORT: Received \$6500 from Auctions International for the old Water Truck. Received \$1200 for an old dump truck box body that was sitting in the back of the yard from truck #23. The box hadn't been on the truck in years. Included in that \$1200 was an old bumpers and stone spreaders. Kollin Watson has quit and Mr. Balcom hasn't received a resignation from him yet. The Town Clerk has put an ad in the paper for help. It was a loss. Ditched Town Road, and Lehigh Road. Todd Jordal is doing a great job. Installed a new driveway on Lehigh Road. and 400' of ditches. Cleaned up shoulders on North Daysville and Palmiter Road. Worked on the Loomis Road turn around. Cut a large maple tree out of the road on Town Road Extension. Cold patched holes. Rebuilt Chipper box. Installed new oil and hydraulic tanks. Removed the boom from the mower and started to mow once the hydraulic lines are repaired. Trucks 98,97,10,96,22 are ready to haul. Graded Bishop Road. Shared services are great and he realizes sometimes we can't do it on our own, but if we can afford to purchase something used or slightly used, it's almost a must. Mr Balcom is looking to purchase a used roller for \$10-\$15,000 because with the one that the town has with 7 other towns it is sometimes impossible to get a hold of.

BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS: River Edge and Riverside residents are not happy about the Town not bringing them stone. Installed softball bases, although they are done, with all the rain, no one has been able to play on the field. Working on clearing the property on Centerville Road. Pond bids are going out. Pond tube was clogged and the highway unplugged it. Charlie Macuccia and Sam Fox are back to work. Cut a tree up that fell in Richland Cemetery.

PAVING BIDS: The Town Clerk's Office received two sealed bids for the paving of Manwaring Road and Atkinson Road. These bids will be attached to the minutes. The first bid is Heidelberg Materials. The bid is \$376,810.00. The second is from Barrett Paving Materials. That bid is \$434,828.70. Superintendent Balcom would like to look over the bids and the funds that he has to work from before a decision is made. ***A motion was made by Councilman Atkinson and seconded by Councilman Pappa to accept the bids as presented. In a roll call vote, all were in favor with a vote of "AYE".*** On Monday May 20,2024 at 10:00am, the Town Board will meet to award the paving bid at that time.

Gravel Lease update: Attorney Seiter spoke to Kevin last week. He has made all the changes that Mr. Pollic asked for. Seiter didn't have any issues with the changes he asked for. Everything was sent back to Attorney Genant and he is waiting on his client. We should have the contract by the next Town Board Meeting.

COMPREHENSIVE PLANNING BOARD: The meeting was canceled. No report

HALDANE REPORT: The Haldane Advisory Board met last night. They had just a few members show up for the meeting. Nothing really going on at this time.

DOG REPORT: Dog Control Report was submitted to the Board. No discussion

SUPERVISOR REPORT: ***A motion to accept the Supervisors Report as submitted 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: Justice reports and the Court Audit are next. Reports for Judge Ridgeway for March and April and the Court Audit for the Board to review. Supervisor North wanted the Board to see the ranking that the Town Court was in the State for fines. This year the Court was 7th out of 25 in money collected. Supervisor North wants to commend the Court offices for all their hard work. ***With little discussion a motion to accept the monthly reports for Judge Ridgeway and the Court Audit was made by Councilwoman Haynes and seconded by Councilman Pappa. In a roll call vote, all were in favor with a vote of "AYE".***

The IMA with the Village Court. Supervisor North asked Attorney Seiter what was next for that. Mr Seiter says he really doesn't know if it will go any further. As far as he knows, the only money owed to the Village was for \$75. Mayor Tighe's concern is to make sure the Town Court separate cases when they come in to make sure if there are Village cases the money is being forward. Both Town Justices are aware that if there is a Village case in front of them, they should be separated. We already have an IMA in place that we are using. There really isn't anything else to do. There are just not that many Village cases.

WARRANT OF BILLS: *A motion to accept Abstract #5 was made by Councilwoman Haynes and seconded by Councilwoman Gilson. In a roll call all were in favor with a vote of "AYE".*

TOWN BOARD MINUTES/TOWN CLERKS REPORT FOR APRIL 2024: Town Board Minutes for April 9, 2024 and the Town Clerks Report for April 2024 are next. *A motion to accept the April 9th minutes and the Town Clerks Report for April 2024 as presented was made by Councilman Atkinson and seconded by Councilwoman Haynes. In a roll call vote, all were in favor with a vote of "AYE".*

Liquor License for Ma Barkers is also in the packet. *A motion to accept the Liquor License for Ma Barkers was made by Councilman Pappa and seconded by Councilwoman Haynes. In a roll call vote, all were in favor with a vote of "AYE".*

CEMETERY UPDATES: Kellogg Monuments in Mexico NY has given the Town an estimate for repairs to the stones in the McClelland Cemetery on the corner of County Route 28 and the Lehigh Road. (NYS Route 81 on ramp) The stones were damaged when a vehicle came off the exit and went through the cemetery. A police report was taken at the time but no vehicle was ever found. The estimate to repair the stones was \$1575. *With a brief discussion a motion to accept the estimate 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 HISTORIAN REPORT: No report

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS: New summer Recreation Director. His name is Ben Hellert. He is from Brewerton, New York. He was the only one that applied for the position. The Board has to approve a waiver since he is not a resident of the Town. Councilman Atkinson asked if the Board should go into executive session to discuss his employment. Superintendent didn't think it was necessary. The salary is \$22 per hour. He is the middle school band teacher.

Councilwoman Gilson made the motion that the Board hire Mr. Hellert at \$22 per hour and grant the waiver for him to be hired. This motion was seconded by Councilwoman Haynes. In a roll call vote, all were in favor with a vote of "AYE".

Tug Hill membership. The meeting is on June 25, 2024 for membership. The meeting is subject to change. Councilwoman Gilson believes this is the meeting where the Town is accepted into the organization.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Tim Crouch would like to address the Board about the Lighthouse property on County Route 5. Last October, the Planning Board told the owner that he must take down the walls on the Building that was built. He is in violation. Attorney Seiter said the last thing he was told was that the owner will take down the walls. He cannot do anything else to the property until he clears the violation. Town resident Swiat Kaczmar told the Board that last month he asked the Board to extend the moratorium on the campgrounds 6 months. It's a

substantial need. It's a possibility that this will impact our natural resources here. We need to take this into careful consideration. Councilwoman Gilson told the Board that if we kick the can down the road another 6 months, it's a lot to ask of people. It ends on August 8th so we would need another moratorium. She feels that we really need to address the situation. That is the purpose of the Workshop with Mr Howland. We really need to take action or come to a conclusion Mr. Kazmar just wants the Board to take careful consideration.

NEXT TOWN BOARD MEETING: June 11, 2024 at 6:00pm for Administrative Hearing.

Supervisor North would like to go into Executive Session to discuss a particular person. ***The 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". 8:27pm***

At 9:20 pm 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". The results of the Executive Session were that no action was taken.

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". 9:20pm.

MEETING ADJOURNED: 9:20pm

Respectfully submitted by

Millie Newcomb
Town Clerk