

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

**DATE:** November 12,2024

**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, Kern Yerdon, Joe Skotnicki, Jeff Edick, County Legislators Herb Yerdon and Ed Gilson, ZEO/CEO John Howland 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 by Councilman Atkinson.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** Joe Skotnicki would like to address the Board about a few places in the Hamlet of Richland that are complete "eyesores". Mr Skotnicki called Councilwoman Gilson and she and Supervisor North went to look at a few properties in the Hamlet. Mr Howland isn't here yet so the Board will address it when he arrives.

**WATER REPORT:** Councilman Pappa read the Water Departments report. This report will be part of the minutes. Scriba Electric will be at the Well site in Orwell this week. Working on getting trucks ready for the winter. Waiting on a return call from Brennan's Beach.

**LEGISLATIVE REPORT:** A draft of the County Budget is done with a Public Hearing to be held on November 14,2024. The draft County budget is \$266,127,000 The pressures this year include

labor costs, and the state mandates for preschool, special education and medicaid. 2025 will be the first time that Oswego County has to pay the full bill on Medicaid in the amount of \$25,330,000. The County continues to be debt free. Mr Yerdon is next. He advised that only 2 towns are at 100% full value assessment. Most are at 60-70%. A re-val is expensive. Americor is hiring. It's a pretty good deal and you get credit for college.

**ZONING AND CODES:** A list of permits were given to the Board. We are now over 120 permits issued. Some violation notices were sent out. Supervisor North would list a complete list of violations in his report each month, not just the resolved ones. Attorney Seiter was asked to give an update on the Garvin matter. Mr Garvin was sent a Stipulation Agreement and as of today, he has not responded. After a brief discussion, ***a motion was made by Councilman Atkinson to proceed with legal action due to lack of cooperation. This motion was seconded by Councilwoman Haynes. In a roll call vote, all were in favor with a vote of "AYE".***

No word on the campground on Canning Factory Road. The Town approved the campground. The campground then goes out and gets approval from the County and everyone else. The Town gave them the approval based on a Special permit application and site plan. Mr Edick wants to know how they go about finding if they have been approved. When they apply for a permit for the campground. Once DEC signs off, the Health Department for the septic systems then the Town will issue a permit for the construction of the campground. They will not get a permit until Mr Howland gets the okay from the DEC and Health Department. When that is Mr Howland has no idea. They only have been approved by the Planning Board to have the campground there; they have not been approved for the construction of the camp ground. If they want to put in roadways, they can. Bill Havner may have some information.

A supreme Court action has been brought against the Dischiave property on Valley Road. It's all been filed with the Court. The Court gave them until December 5th to file a response. Attorney Seiter has 10 days to respond to her. Then she has 5 days to respond to Attorney Seiter. After that, a court date will be set. At the moment, no response has been filed. If nothing is filed, Attorney Seiter will ask for a summary judgement and ask the judge for the order. It's a lot to do about nothing. OYA Renewables filed for Bankruptcy. They are just putting the Town on Notice. No action is required by the Town.

**HIGHWAY REPORT:** The Highway Superintendents report will be attached to these minutes.

Discussion was centered around the challenges of hiring locally due to lack of available candidates. Councilwoman Gilson suggested maybe to repeal the local law to make hiring easier for department heads. Discussion moved to the purpose of the law which was to prioritize local candidates and then neighboring towns. It was suggested that using special meetings or emails for waivers instead of repealing the law may be a better solution.

Councilwoman Gilson would like to make a motion to repeal Local Law #3 of 2015.

Councilwoman Haynes seconded the motion. After a discussion, Attorney Seiter with a motion on the floor, the Board can certainly go ahead with repealing this local law. Rather than appealing this law, try out email or phone call to see if this works. Superintendent Balcom is

fine with making a call or emailing the Board rather than repealing the law. After a long discussion, Councilwoman Gilson rescinded her motion to repeal the Local Law.

**BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS:** Old sheds are gone at the Haldane. Crushed stone was put down to fill the pots holes. A tree that fell down was cleaned up. New bases that were purchased earlier in the year were left on the field. They were picked up and taken care of. The concession stand was closed up and winterized. New water line was put in at the lower storage building at the highway. The wood stove was put back into the Highway Garage with a new chimney. Soccer nets were also left out on the field at Haldane. Mr Balcom will try to get to them sometime when he has a chance.

**RICHLAND PARKS:** Nothing new to report at this time. Nothing can be done until spring at this time.

**COMPREHENSIVE PLANNING BOARD:** The Board has received the resignation of Chairperson Dawn Holyniski. She has done a fantastic job and the Board wants to Thank her for all her hard work. *A motion to accept Mrs Holyinski's resignation was made by Councilwoman Gilson and seconded by Councilman Atkinson. A roll call vote resulted in all in favor with a vote of "AYE".*

**DOG REPORT:** Shelter Agreement . Attorney explained to the Board about the new agreement. One of things is the cost has gone up. One idea is to put those costs back to the owner. The Town does put those costs back on the owner at the time of redemption. The Dog control report is next. *A motion to accept the Dog Control report for October 2024 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 Supervisor report was made by Councilwoman Gilson and seconded by Councilwoman Haynes. All were in favor with a vote of "AYE".*

**JUSTICE REPORTS:** Justice reports for Judge Ridgeway for September and October and report for Judge Conger for September was presented. *Councilman Atkinson made the motion to accept all reports from the Justices. Councilman Pappa seconded this motion. In a roll call vote, all were in favor with a vote of "AYE".*

**WARRANT OF BILLS:** Next is Abstract # 11 of 2024. *A motion to accept the Warrant was made by Councilman Atkinson and seconded by Councilman Pappa. A roll call vote, all were in favor with a vote of "AYE".*

**TOWN BOARD MINUTES:** Town Board Minutes for September 10, September 17, October 1, and October 8, 2024 were presented to the Board. With no discussion, *a motion to accept the*

*minutes 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 CLERKS REPORT:** *A motion to accept the Town Clerks report for October 2024 was made by Councilwoman Gilson and seconded by Councilwoman Haynes. With a roll call vote all were in favor with a vote of "AYE".*

**CEMETERY UPDATES:** Mr Balcom and Deputy Clerk Julie Peterson went to the cemeteries and found where all the corner markers go. They are all put in the ground. Cemeteries for the most part are closed.

**TOWN HISTORIAN REPORT:** No report

**MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS:** Thank you note from the Gilson Family.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** Mr. Edick asked about the moratorium on Campgrounds in the Town of Richland. Many suggestions were given with hopes that the Planning Board would act on them. The moratorium ran out in August, and nothing was done. As of right now, we are not protected and Mr Edick would like something done. Attorney Seiter will get a new law written up. A public hearing must happen before the moratorium can be put in force. The Town will schedule a Public Hearing for January for this moratorium. Also there are many people living in RV's in the Town that will be addressed at the next meeting.

With nothing more to bring before the Board, Supervisor North would like to go into Executive Session to discuss an issue with a Freedom of Information request. *This motion was made by Councilwoman Haynes and seconded by Councilwoman Gilson. All were in favor with a vote of "AYE". 7:50pm. At 8:08 pm a motion to come out of Executive Session and 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".*

**NEXT TOWN BOARD MEETING:** Next meeting will be on December 10th at 6:00pm.

**MEETING ADJOURNED:** *A motion to adjourn was made by Councilwoman Haynes and seconded by Councilman Atkinson. All were in favor with a vote of "AYE". 8:08pm*

Respectfully submitted by

Millie Newcomb  
Town Clerk