

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

DATE: October 8, 2024

KIND OF MEETING: Town Board Meeting

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

BOARD MEMBERS' PRESENT: Supervisor Robert North
Councilwoman Donna Gilson
Councilwoman Sue Haynes
Councilman Eric Pappa

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE: Kevin Balcom, Julie Peterson, Mike Kastler, Robert Jeffery, Tim Crouch, Robert Hicks, Ed Gilson, Kern Yerdon, Jeff Edick, Larry Hudson, Valerie Rose, John Howland, Charles Deaton, Charles Frankenberger

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

PUBLIC COMMENT: Mike Kastler, Sandy Creek Highway Superintendent, asked to address the board regarding the water rate that they are being charged. They are in receipt of the letter dated October 2nd notifying them the rate will remain the same as last year. At the joint meeting in March, the audit that was paid for by the Town of Sandy Creek showed over a million in fund balance for water. Richland said they would entertain the idea of dropping the rate .50 or put a hold on it for an extended period of time. He feels the rate increase that was done 2 years ago was not needed or justified. The Towns are supposed to be partners and have completed 2 water projects together. He would like clarification for the reason. Supervisor North invited Mr. Kastler to attend the next budget meeting to discuss this with the Town financial advisor, Larid Petrie. Councilwoman Gilson stated that the water budget has not been finalized yet, but that at the last meeting they agreed to leave the water rate the same. We are not trying to make money off of Sandy Creek. Our goal is to be able to sell water to them at a reasonable rate and how to reduce the rate and still maintain our system.

WATER REPORT: Chief Water Operator, Bob Hicks, gave the water report. This report will be attached to these minutes. Still waiting on Scriba Electric to complete the entrance pole at the Richland well site. This needs to be completed as soon as possible so the Town can submit for

reimbursement from the County through ARPA. Eric will reach out to him again. The generator for well B7 and B23 is all set-in place. They are looking for quotes to get that hooked up.

PUBLIC COMMENT: New people entered the meeting, and the supervisor asked if they had anything for public comment. They inquired about the Richland Fire Department. Is there anything the Town can do or ARPA funding that can be used to help them. Attorney Seiter explained that they are a private entity, and no money can be given to the district. The Town has received and certified the petition that it was given, and that it is a valid petition under state law for the dissolution of a district. That certification has been given to the commissioners and it is now their job to move the matter forward by state law. The petition asked for the department to be dissolved, if dissolved it becomes their job to find people other fire protection. Unfortunately, the Town has no say in the district, the commissioners control the district.

LEGISLATIVE REPORT: Legislator Gilson stated that they are working on the budget. They have lost some revenue from the State, the Governor is holding back some funds. The County is working diligently to keep the costs down. Mr. Gilson has been working with the County Clerk on insuring that property owners are protected from identity theft. The County has put some controls in place. There is a website that homeowners can sign up on and if there are any inquiries about your property, you will be contacted. The website address is <https://searchiqs.com/fraudalert?CC=NYOSW>.

ZONING AND CODES REPORT: John reviewed his report with the board. Marshall Minot, Zoning Board Chairman, has submitted his resignation effective 12/31/2024. He has been with the Town for over 30 years. Joe McGrath, Chairman for the Planning Board has also submitted his resignation effective 12/31/2024. Joe has been with the Town since 1988, 36 years. Attorney Seiter sent discussion notes to Kevin Caraccioli indicating the changes that he would like to see made to the proposed stipulation regarding the Dischiave case. After several weeks, he has still not heard from him. Due to the length of time and no correspondence, he is now filing it with the Supreme Court. John pulled the paperwork for the campground on Towne Rd. They asked for approval for a 6-unit campground, 2 cabins and 4 RV sites. Approval was given for the existing cabins and 1 RV, with the conditions of: DEC approval for 1 cabin and the RV before the rest of the property can be used. DEC came down and moved the wetlands back and expanded the campground. The issue is the way it was understood when they applied, they could have 3 campers and 2 cabins with the existing septic system. Until they get a septic system in, they need Health Department approval. They are not under the Health Department regulations as they only have 4 campers. The Town of Richland zoning, cabins, tents, RV's are considered a campground. So, under the Town law, they have 6. It is a standard pump system not a raised bed system. The County did say they needed a backflow preventer in the water system. John states that the campground is in compliance, and he is keeping an eye on it. A resident spoke up and stated that they made changes to the existing septic system. He saw

them digging in the new lines and putting in the pipe over a weekend. John stated that he was not aware of this, and it was the first he has heard of it. There are different rules for septic systems for campgrounds compared to single family houses with bedrooms. Another neighbor stated that owners of the property dug up the leach field/septic system, the woods are cleared out about 120'. He showed it to John on a property map of the property being discussed. John is going to visit the property and talk to the owners about the septic and with the engineer to see if a new septic was designed.

HIGHWAY REPORT: Kevin would like the Winter Safety Gram that he wrote up posted to the website and Facebook. He just received the Snow and Ice Agreement from the County yesterday. He has calculated the mileage, and everything looks good. Next year he would like to look at getting salt from someplace cheaper than the County. The Highway Department has spent \$3,005 on culvert pipe so far this year doing driveways. He has 2 new applicants for wingmen who reside in the Town of Richland and 2 that will be returning from last year. He would like to hire them, and he will be all set for the winter season. Also, he would like to have the 2 new guys start November 4th to start training them. Supervisor North asked Kevin if we are currently charging people to put in the culverts. Currently, we do not. The board then discussed whether to charge residents for this service. The Town of Sandy Creek Highway Supervisor stated that they charge residents for the pipe but not the labor to install it. The board has discussed this before. ***A motion was made by Pappa and seconded by Haynes to have residents pay for the culvert pipe, we will install it for free, and we will cover from the shoulder of the road over the top of the pipe. In a roll call vote, members voted as follows: Haynes, yes; Gilson, yes; Pappa, yes; and North, yes. A motion was made by Haynes and seconded by Gilson to allow Kevin to hire the 4 seasonal workers that he requested and allow the new ones to start on November 4th. In a roll call vote, members voted as follows: Haynes, yes; Gilson, yes; Pappa, yes; and North, yes.*** Kevin reviewed his report with the board, the report is attached to the minutes. ***A motion was made by Gilson and seconded by North to approve the County Snow and Ice Contract as written. In a roll call vote, members voted as follows: Haynes, yes; Gilson, yes; Pappa, yes; and North, yes.***

RICHLAND TOWN PARKS: The board discussed charging a rental fee for use of the Haldane grounds. Currently, the Town does not charge a fee. In most instances someone from the highway department must go down to the field and unlock bathrooms, relock them after use, clean up bathrooms, etc. and it is usually done outside of normal work hours. ***A motion was made by Haynes and seconded by Gilson to charge a \$50 rental fee and a \$25 refundable deposit for use of the Haldane Pavilion and Complex. In a roll call vote, members voted as follows: Haynes, yes; Gilson, yes; Pappa, yes; and North, yes. A motion was made by Gilson and seconded by Haynes to accept the report from Kristy LaManche as submitted. In a roll call vote, members voted as follows: Haynes, yes; Gilson, yes; Pappa, yes; and North, yes.*** Kristy is still working on obtaining a grant for a salt storage shed. She will be applying for one in the Spring and Kevin is shovel ready at the site location.

COMPREHENSIVE PLANNING BOARD: The October meeting was postponed until the 10th.

DOG REPORT: *A motion was made by Haynes and seconded by Gilson to accept the September dog report as submitted. In a roll call vote, members voted as follows: Haynes, yes; Gilson, yes; Pappa, yes; and North, yes.*

SUPERVISOR REORT: *A motion was made by Haynes and seconded by Gilson to accept the August and September Supervisor Reports. In a roll call vote, members voted as follows: Haynes, yes; Gilson, yes; Pappa, yes; and North, yes.*

JUSTICE REPORTS: *A motion was made by Pappa and seconded by Haynes to accept the August and September Justice Reports for both Judge Conger and Judge Ridgeway. In a roll call vote, members voted as follows: Haynes, yes; Gilson, yes; Pappa, yes; and North, yes.*

WARRANT OF BILLS: *A motion was made by Haynes and seconded by Pappa to approve Abstract #10. In a roll call vote, members voted as follows: Haynes, yes; Gilson, yes; Pappa, yes; and North, yes.*

TOWN BOARD MINUTES: *A motion was made by Haynes and seconded by Gilson to accept the minutes from August 19, August 26, September 9, September 23 Budget, and September 23 Union Negotiation. In a roll call vote, members voted as follows: Haynes, yes; Gilson, yes; Pappa, yes; and North, yes.*

TOWN CLERK REPORT: *A motion was made by Haynes and seconded by Pappa to accept the September Town Clerk Report as submitted. In a roll call vote, members voted as follows: Haynes, yes; Gilson, yes; Pappa, yes; and North, yes.*

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS: The Town is in receipt of the petition from the residents of Towne Rd for a speed limit reduction. *A motion was made by Haynes and seconded by Gilson to approve the Resolution to reduce the speed limit on Towne Rd. In a roll call vote, members voted as follows: Haynes, yes; Gilson, yes; Pappa, yes; and North, yes. A motion was made by North and seconded by Pappa to approve the Teamsters Agreement. In a roll call vote, members voted as follows: Haynes, yes; Gilson, yes; Pappa, yes; and North, yes.*

PUBLIC COMMENT: Tim Crouch asked the board about the camper on N. Fernwood Rd. that someone has been living in for the last few years. Supervisor North stated that the owners have obtained a building permit to put an addition on their home for him, it is their father. Mr. Crouch also stated that he has brought the septic situation at the Towne Rd. campground to all board members and to Mr. Howland. Councilwoman Haynes said that it has been addressed and Mr. Howland will take care of it. Kern Yerdon asked if the Teamsters contract agreement

has been negotiated and agreed to? The board informed him that it has been discussed and agreed to. Mr. Cimilluca will be coming tomorrow, and they are unable to disclose the proposed raises. The board agreed to what the union asked for. Kevin asked the board if he could send a couple of guys out of state to look at a piece of equipment that he is interested in purchasing from Auctions International? He does not want to purchase anything without looking it over and seeing the condition of it. The board thinks that it is a good idea, and they are ok with it.

BUDGET MEETING: The next budget meeting will be held on October 17th at 2 p.m.

NEXT SCHEDULED BOARD MEETING: The next town board meeting will be held on November 8th at 6 p.m.

MEETING ADJOURNED: The meeting was adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by
Julie Peterson
Deputy Town Clerk

Water Report

September 2024

- 1. Last year we pumped 13,688,600 gallons of water for September. This year we pumped 14,732,400 gallons. That is 1,043,800 gallons more than the previous year.**
- 2. Sanitary survey is all done for this year with the county health department. Everything was good.**
- 3. Billing is complete and bills have been mailed out.**
- 4. Still waiting on the entrance pole at Richland well site.**
- 5. Picked up our new mower. We have been mowing all of our sites.**
- 6. Starting our fall flushing of dead ends.**
- 7. Generator for well B7 and B23 is all set-in place. Waiting for the price for hook up and putting the fencing around it.**

Superintendent Report 9/30/24

I have two applicants for our winter season help. That I want to hire 11/4/24.
Willey Webb. Tracy Furlong.

The Haldane mower is fixed \$400.00

We fixed boomer mower rear seal, bearings \$288.00

Finished ditching Lehigh Road

Cut a V ditch and cut shoulder at Rainbow Shores Road

Put boom mower arm on the big tractor. Cutting behind guide rail and hard to get spots.

Screening sand at Fernwood pit.

All of the sand salt mix is at the County building, ordered 1000 ton of salt which is in county salt shed.

Took gravel and stone to water building for the road to the generator.

Broomed intersections all of some roads because of farmers getting crops.

Installed new stop and stop ahead signs on frank lacey road and town road.

Had a burial at Daysvillle cemetery.

Removed several beaver dams plugging culvert pipes.

We had a training session on 811 all the guys.

Installed silt fence around sand pile at county building.

Removed a large tree from drybrige road culvert, caused by flooding.

Had Sandy Creek bring their machine to try to unplug pipe on peck road we could not get it. Call county and they brought there 60' pole a machine and we still could not get it. Called Bob Coffin and we changed out pipe. His excavator blew a hydraulic line, our excavator loss a track, and we hit the 10" water line.

We have two trucks ready for winter. Will dress the others when peck road is done.