

Minutes  
Richford Town Board Meeting May 14, 2013

Meeting called to order at 6:10 p.m. Councilwoman Herrick, seconded by Councilwoman Brown, made the motion to adjourn to Executive Session. All Approved.

The regular Town of Richford Board meeting was resumed at 7:10 p.m. by Supervisor Wilcox. All Board members except Councilwoman Herrick were present. Highway superintendent Mike Holt was present and six townspeople were also in attendance.

The minutes of the April 9, 2013 Town Board meeting were presented for review. It was asked that the word balloons in paragraph 5 (referencing stop signs) be removed. Councilman Brown, seconded by Councilwoman Brown, made a motion to accept the minutes as amended. All approved. A clarification was made regarding page 5 of the April minutes; Jessie Keener had the wrong number for the dog control officer. Mr. Raab is available and does answer his phone.

Let the minutes reflect that the March Town Clerk's report was read, there was no accounting. No April Town Clerk's report. Town Supervisor report for April 2013 was presented.

Highway Superintendent Holt gave a report for April 2013. There were not as many cinders available as hoped; it took one and a half weeks, 104 loads, and Richford received 18,000 ton. The town will need approximately 75 loads of sand to go with the cinders. The Highway Department is currently working dirt roads, patching blacktop. The turbo blew out in roller; part is ordered and should be in May 15; repair work should take no more that a day or two. The Highway Dept. will work on the Barden Road Bridge project until the roller is repaired. The town park is ready for use, the garbage has been moved and the town lawnmower repaired. The town lawnmower will need to be replaced next year.

The Code Enforcement report for April 2013 was presented; \$100 in fees collected. A Justice Court report for April 2013 was presented and the check amount from the Justice Court for April 2013 was \$3,455.00. There was no Dog Control report for April 2013.

A Town Planning Board report was given by Charles Davis. The town newsletter came out this week. The last planning board meeting had three town board members present and Councilwoman Herrick will do updates and report back. Members of the Planning Board did attend the training session in Owego on holding public meetings.

Councilman Miller, seconded by Councilman Brown, made a motion to pay the vouchers on Abstract #5 and that the vouchers on the Abstract are the same ones signed by the Board. The General Abstract includes vouchers A87 through A110 amounting to \$7,668.75. The Highway Abstract includes vouchers DA87 through DA112, amounting to \$94,266.20. All approved, vouchers will be paid.

OLD BUSINESS:

Supervisor Wilcox brings forth the Holcomb vs. Town of Richford assessment case currently before the town. Councilman Miller, seconded by Councilwoman Brown, makes a motion to agree to reduce the assessment on 315 Victory Hill Road to \$305,000. All approved; motion passed.

Supervisor Wilcox reads letter of appreciation from the Northern Tioga Neighbors for use of the town hall community room.

Supervisor Wilcox reads letter from William Stelle Sr. Mr. Stelle would like to be considered for a position on the town planning board. Retired carpenter of 40 years, experience in construction field will be of help to the planning board. Mr. Stelle has been a resident since July 2012 and resides at 49 Matson Road. Mr. Stelle is a regular attendee of the town board meetings as well as the planning board meetings. Mr. Stelle has addressed the board many times and exhibits an interest in our community. Mr. Davis states that the planning board has one open position and it is a 7 year term. Mr. Stelle acknowledges that there is training involved to be a planning board member and is willing to attend said training. Councilwoman Brown, seconded by Councilman Brown, makes a motion to appoint William E. Stelle Sr. to the town planning board for a term of 7 years to expire in 2020. All approved; motion passed.

Superintendent Holt states the Barden Road Bridge Project pipe replacement will begin in July. They are in the process of building the pad, the pipe is stored in the barn. First of June they'll starting building and will truck pieces as they can use them; cannot leave any materials set out overnight. Superintendent Holt met with the crane operator, excavator operator, and the soil and water permit is done. Superintendent Holt has two estimates on guardrails. State specs require 126 foot length on each side of the road using box beam. Auburn company quoted \$9800 and Geneva company quoted \$13,000.

Superintendent Holt warns the board that the bridge on Rockefeller will likely be the next one. It has been written up for several years because of the guardrails. They were working Rockefeller Road today, May 14, and they were there inspecting the bridge. The inspection crew was there at the direction of the state DOT. Supervisor Wilcox asks if the Rockefeller Bridge can be done with a box culvert and Superintendent Holt responds that it could be done with another big pipe; 20 foot instead of 16, but could be done. Superintendent Holt has no idea how old the Rockefeller Bridge is.

Supervisor Wilcox brings up issue of notification to residents of Barden Road, public service agencies such as fire, police and ambulance, when the bridge is under construction. Superintendent Holt is hoping that two weeks will complete the project to where the bridge can be reopened. Supervisor Wilcox needs list of all roads affected by this closing, names of residents on those roads, and help mailing a notification to those people. Mr. Davis states that two-three weeks ahead of time a notice should be posted saying when the bridge will close. Also advertise it in the town paper. Superintendent Holt has meet with the county and they will lend him detour, and any construction signs to use so there's no need to purchase any. Superintendent Holt and crew will work to have all detour roads in the best shape possible before the bridge closing. Mr. Davis asks if Brigham Road, a single lane road, can be posted as under construction and 15 mph. Superintendent Holt will check with DOT on mph signs. Mr. Davis believes he has the resident addresses that Supervisor Wilcox will need. Mr. Davis will work with Supervisor Wilcox on mailing and addresses with a target mail date in early June.

Superintendent Holt asks about speed signs that need to be put up. Supervisor Wilcox received a letter from the DOT that said it was up to the town to put them up. They have authorized erection of the signs, but town must put them up. Supervisor Wilcox will share letter with Superintendent Holt.

At the April meeting sale of the pick up truck was authorized. Auctions International was approved for sale listing but Superintendent Holt requests a change. The Town of Berkshire would like to purchase the truck as is for \$15,500. Supervisor Wilcox reminds the board that it was estimated that we could get \$15,000 for it. Superintendent Holt has been watching Auctions International and doesn't feel we would do better there. The Berkshire Town Board has approved the purchase if the Richford Town Board approves the sale. Councilman Brown, seconded by Councilwoman Brown, makes a motion to authorize the sale of the 2010 Ford pick up as is to the Town of Berkshire for \$15,500. All approved; motion passed.

#### NEW BUSINESS:

Councilman Miller speaks about the county meeting he attended on "public meetings" where he asked if the Shopper could be used as a town paper. The county representative said he would check and get back to Councilman Miller.

Councilman Miller spoke to the road supervisor in Caroline and they use a road oil on their roads instead of salt brine to keep the dust down. The cost is nearly the same and Councilman Miller feels we should consider switching as the road oil is not as hard on the roads. Superintendent Holt will speak with the Caroline road supervisor.

#### PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR:

Planning Board member John Schwartz speaks of the joint Planning Board and Town Board meeting and the Road Preservation Law and a potential issue that might come up. It could be possible that the roads will need to be widened and the process of widening the roads may require the taking of more land from the landowners. The Town Board should take a look at the issue and make public so the people will know what the process will be.

Dean Prince of 712 Harford Road regarding neighbor, Tom Slaughter(?) and the junk still all over his property. He has been cited, was supposed to be issued a certificate of compliance but in the last month, he has not made any attempt to clean up. Mr. Prince spoke with Kevin McMann on April 4 as was told there would be a certificate of compliance issued. Mr. Prince does not know if that happened. Mr. Prince would like the board and others to please try harder to make Mr. Slaughter comply. Supervisor Wilcox made note that the town cannot go on to someone's property and clean it up, that is criminal trespass and theft of property. The town can act only when a court issues an order for the town to do so. Supervisor Wilcox notes that Richford has serious issues with junk/trash on people's property. The town, the board, is doing their job but it is a sticky business. Supervisor Wilcox pulls the vouchers from Kevin McMann and notes reflect 4.10.13 Harford Road, left message-no follow up. Complaint from neighbor regarding 720 Harford Road following on-site visit. 4.11.13. Sent notice of junk violation, notice sent to resident and town attorney 4/17/13. April 25, 720 Harford Road, no activity on clean up, no response. Mr. Prince thanks Supervisor Wilcox for his time and will continue to follow up with the board.

Emily Stuhlmiller notes that the Neighbors Network are having volunteer/member recognition dinner will meet here tomorrow night (5/15) from 6:30-8:00. Also new librarian started preschool reading program at the Hubbard Center. Saturday, May 18 will be a plant information/swap at the Berkshire Library.

May 28 will be grievance day from 4:00-8:00 p.m. in the Richford Town Hall. Tentative Assessment role is on the website, the form is on the website and the form will be available on site. The Assessor will be present.

Councilman Miller, seconded by Councilwoman Brown, made a motion to adjourn. Motion approved, meeting was adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

Submitted by Tina Thurston for  
Judith Thurston, Town Clerk