

Minutes
Richford Town Board Meeting August 12, 2014

The August 12, 2014 Town of Richford Board Meeting was called to order at 7:40 p.m. by Supervisor Wilcox. Board members present were Councilwoman Cindy Herrick, Councilwoman Roberta Holcomb, Councilman Ricky Brown, and Councilman Ken Miller. Highway Superintendent Mike Holt and eight townspeople were also in attendance.

Privilege of the floor was given to Dog Control Officer, Ron Raab. Report given and Ron solicits comments/questions from the board. The board thanks Ron for his service.

Privilege of the floor was given to Vicky Davis, leader of Richford Girl Scout Troop 40276. The troop is seeking the Girl Scout Junior Bronze Award and has elected to clean and do minor repairs to the town hall to obtain the award. The troop is asking the board to purchase \$100-\$200 worth of cleaning supplies for the town hall. The troop is hoping to obtain new chairs for the town hall from Cornell University. They hope to complete their project in September or October. Supervisor Wilcox thanked the Girl Scouts for their good works and will bring up the donation request under new business during this meeting.

The minutes of the July 8, 2014 Town Board meeting were presented for review. It was asked on the first page, third paragraph the word plague be corrected to plaque; that in the fourth paragraph COD be corrected to COG; and in the eighth paragraph the word breaks be corrected to brakes. Councilwoman Herrick, seconded by Councilman Brown, made the motion to accept the July 8, 2014 town board meeting minutes and the July 15, 2014 special town board meeting minutes as amended. All approved. The July 8 and July 15, 2014 minutes were accepted as amended.

The Supervisor and Town Clerk reports for July 2014 were presented.

Highway Superintendent report for July 2014 given by Superintendent Holt. The highway department has been oiling and stoning, doing general road maintenance, and are done hauling sand for the year. Vehicle maintenance is ongoing. Most of the work completed on Victory Hill and Tubbs Hill, work done on Anderson Hill and now ready to complete work on Barden Road and then will begin preparing for winter.

The Town of Union has not contacted Superintendent Holt regarding the purchase of the 14 foot dump box that the board approved sale of at the June 2014 meeting. Superintendent Holt will contact them to see if they are still interested. If they are not interested, he will advertise for the sale of the box.

CHIPS paperwork was turned in and Superintendent Holt believes we have approximately \$99,000 coming back to the town. If money comes back Superintendent Holt hopes to do more road repair and submit for the \$13,000 balance in December.

The Winter Fund monies, which were available due to the hard winter and flooding, have been turned in to the town and that was a bit over \$13,000.

Town of Richford Justice Court report for July 2014 has an enclosed check \$2780.

Dog Control Officer report for June 2014. Responded to report of dogs in the road at routes 38 and 79, found no dogs in the road. Pat Cartwright substituted while Mr. Raab was on vacation.

Dog Control Officer report for July 2014. Report of missing dog, not found. Report of dog barking, no one home at visit.

Code Enforcement Office report for July 2014 was presented. Two building permits issued and one building permit renewal; one building permit inquiry; one certificate of occupancy; total of five permit complaint certificates; construction costs \$11,000 and fees collected \$250; total of 18 inspections, 6 hours of training.

Councilwoman Herrick notes inquiry to Code Enforcement Officer regarding subdivision and zoning laws and asks the Planning Board representative to give a broad overview of the subdivision law. Basically subdivision rule is two acre and 200 foot frontage. Basically we are trying to avoid “shoestring” lots that are deep but very narrow. The subdivision of large amounts of acreage fall under commercial subdivision and different rules/laws apply as you would have to develop roadways etc.

Charlie Davis gave a Planning Board report for July 2014. The Planning Board will present an executive report on the survey to the Town Board at the September meeting. The Planning Board was pleased with the 18% return on the survey.

The next town newsletter will not be mailed until after the Potato Festival so they can include the Potato Festival report and the pre-election news. October 10 is the target mail date.

Councilman Brown, seconded by Councilman Miller, made a motion to pay the vouchers on Abstract #8 and that the vouchers on the Abstract are the same ones signed by the Board. The General Abstract including vouchers A154 through A167 amounting to \$11,642.57 and Highway Abstract including vouchers DA121 through DA140 amounting to \$20,481.30. All approved, motion passed, and vouchers on Abstract #8 will be paid.

OLD BUSINESS

Councilman Miller spoke with Don Barber of the Town of Caroline regarding the Consortium Health Insurance. Mr. Barber doesn't feel that adding the five Richford town highway employees will lower the rate, but suggests that Councilman Miller review it. If it will lower costs, the town highway employees will need to sign up by late December/January. Councilman Miller will attempt to get the information disseminated to the board before the next meeting so the merits of the program can be discussed and a plan of action can be agreed on. We have five months before the highway department contract expires.

Councilman Miller contacted the town's attorney with questions on the Joyce Hyde property and distributed that information to the board via email. Supervisor Wilcox reminds the board that the attorney presented two options; pursue prosecution or pursue demolition and the board voted on pursuing demolition as trying to find Ms. Hyde to pursue prosecution was proving unsuccessful. Councilwoman Herrick, like Councilman Miller did not realize that the town would not take possession of the property, but would only be able to put a lien on the property to get the towns' costs refunded. Supervisor Wilcox feels we can apply to take possession of the property. Councilwoman Holcomb brings up the concern that the assessed value of the property with a structure on it is \$18,300, when the house is destroyed the land property value drops to \$8,300. The town spends over \$30,000 to demolish the buildings and clean up the property to have a piece of land that is valued at \$8,300; a terrible loss to the town. The town is now paying to do a title search. A Phillip Sheppard's name appeared when a search was done on real property. Councilwoman Holcomb feels the attorney should be consulted to see if the town can ask the owners to be fined according to penal law at the same time the attorney is asking for the lien. The board will forward questions to Supervisor Wilcox and he will consult the attorney.

NEW BUSINESS

Councilwoman Herrick, seconded by Councilwoman Holcomb, made the motion to transfer \$253.47 from General Fund A9040.8 to A1620.4. All approved. Motion adopted and monies will be transferred.

Councilman Brown, seconded by Councilman Miller, made the motion to authorize the Town Supervisor to purchase up to \$200 in cleaning supplies for the Richford Girl Scout Troop to use for their project to clean the town hall. All approved. Motion adopted.

Councilman Miller, seconded by Councilman Brown, made the motion to reschedule the September Town Board Meeting to September 16, 2014 as the primary election for the Democratic and Republican parties will be held September 9. All approve. Meeting will now take place on September 16, 2014.

The Richford Potato Festival will be held on September 20. The town garbage truck will remain open this year as no activities take place near the town barns/garbage truck area.

The following resolution was introduced by Councilwoman Herrick, seconded by Councilman Miller, WHEREAS there is a need to override the state tax cap for 2015, BE IT RESOLVED that on September 16, 2014 at 6:30 p.m. the Richford Town Board will hold a public hearing on proposed Local Law Number One of 2014 to override the New York State Tax Cap. Roll call vote, resolution was unanimously adopted.

Supervisor Wilcox will email a copy of the local law to the town board members prior to the September 16 2014 meeting. The Town Clerk will send legal notice of the public hearing to the Tioga County Courier at least five days prior to September 16, 2014. Councilwoman Holcomb would like to know from the state comptroller what the dollar amount is in regards to the tax cap so the board is prepared to answer questions from the townspeople at the public hearing.

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

Chuck Moniz of 13258 State Route 38 in Richford asks about posting electronic speed signs on the north and south ends of town on Route 38, much like Harford has. The state told him he had to go to the town board first. Councilman Miller remembers the town had to write a letter to the state to request reduction in speed limits through town. Superintendent Holt will contact the state to see what the process is, and costs related to, getting the electronic signs. The board will revisit this issue at the September board meeting.

Mr. Moniz also brings before the board the issue of the collapsing sewer drain at the end of his driveway which now causes cars to bottom out when entering and exiting the driveway. He was told to go to the town supervisor to request repair. Superintendent Holt will contact the state about repairing said section of sewer drain.

Richard Thurston thanked the town board for the plaque given to Judy Thurston in recognition of her years of service as town clerk.

Richard Thurston would like to see the planning board be more open to developing this town. In the past the planning board blocked development of a couple of projects that could have brought needed revenue to the town. Councilman Miller wants to reassure the townspeople that both the planning board and the town board are very open to projects that will bring revenue to the town.

Mr. Thurston also expresses concern on the amount of money the town has spent on the Joyce Hyde property to only get a lien on the property. He feels a process server should be able to locate Ms. Hyde or the other person listed to start prosecution. Councilwoman Holcomb will look at the deed to see if an "also tenant" is listed.

Mr. Thurston also brings up the issue of the kitty litter being dumped the length of Anderson Hill and the smell it creates. Superintendent Holt will contact the state police regarding this matter.

Councilman Brown, seconded by Councilwoman Holcomb, made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:03 pm. All approved.

Tina Thurston, Town Clerk