

Minutes
Town of Richford Board Meeting December 9, 2014

The regular Town of Richford Board Meeting was called to order at 7:38 p.m. by Supervisor Wilcox. Councilwoman Herrick, Councilwoman Holcomb, Councilman Miller were present; Councilman Brown and Superintendent Holt were absent. Five townspeople were also in attendance.

The minutes of the November 11, 2014 regular town board meeting and the November 12, 2014 special town board meeting were presented. It was asked on the second page, second paragraph of the November 11 meeting minutes to change the second line to read 'attorney has ascertained...' It was asked on fifth paragraph of the November 12 meeting minutes to change the second line to read 'Supervisor Wilcox will investigate...' Councilwoman Herrick, seconded by, Councilman Miller, made the motion to accept the November 11, 2014 regular town board meeting minutes and the November 12, 2014 special town board meeting minutes as amended. All approved. Minutes are approved as amended.

The Town Clerk's and Supervisor's reports for November 2014 were presented.

No Highway Superintendent report; superintendent is out checking roads due to winter weather conditions.

The Dog Control Officer report for November 2014; resident notified of two lost beagles, dogs returned home. Resident reported continuous barking of dog, barking still persists and dog control officer is pursuing the matter.

A Justice Court report for November 2014 was presented and the check amount from the Justice Court for November 2014 was \$6,118.

No Code Enforcement report for November 2014.

Town Planning Board report was presented by Charlie Davis. The board is working on the comprehensive plan with a target of May 2015 for completion. The board may need to call in experts when reviewing/writing certain sections of the plan. The next town newsletter will go out in January 2015. The town website was discussed as to what should and should not be on it. Charlie will contact the Association for Towns for direction.

Councilwoman Herrick, seconded by Councilman Miller, made a motion to pay the vouchers on Abstract #12 and that the vouchers on the Abstract are the same ones signed by the Board. The General Abstract includes vouchers A226 through A242, amounting to \$8,522.78. The Highway Abstract includes vouchers DA206 through DA227, amounting to \$13,417.28. All approved. Vouchers will be paid.

OLD BUSINESS:

Councilwoman Holcomb introduces further discussion of the Joyce Hyde property. Councilwoman Holcomb worked with the code enforcement officer, Kevin McMahon, who wrote a letter to Joyce Hyde which was sent registered mail and a return receipt was received. Kevin says the town should ask for an updated estimate on demolition of the buildings. Per Kevin and the county treasurer, the cost can be assessed to the tax bill. Before moving forward with demolition the board agrees that a judge's order is needed to protect the town from a lawsuit for entering private property and to give backbone to a lien on the property. Councilwoman Herrick notes that the property is listed on Craig's List for \$18,300. Councilman Miller, seconded by Councilwoman Herrick, made a motion to authorize Supervisor Wilcox to direct the town's attorney to file the necessary legal papers in court for the town to proceed with demolition of the Joyce Hyde property. With a vote of 3 ayes and 1 abstention, the motion passed.

Supervisor Wilcox updated the board and townspeople regarding the Richford Post Office. The Post Office has signed an agreement with the Country Folks Diner. A contractor has been hired to pour a pad to put the building on that will house the post office boxes. At this time the Post Office is calling this a temporary fix and plans to build a new Post Office in Richford. Supervisor Wilcox will share updates as he gets them.

Supervisor Wilcox sent the board's counter proposal to the highway department employees and received a response and a request by the men to meet in person. Insurance and vacation time are being questioned/disputed by the highway employees. Councilwoman Holcomb agrees that a face to face meeting will be the most efficient way to get the contract finalized. Supervisor Wilcox will contact the men to set a date before 31 December 2014.

NEW BUSINESS:

Supervisor Wilcox advises those present that the November election results saw Peggy Andersen re-elected Town Justice and Velvet Lyke elected Town Clerk. Supervisor Wilcox thanks current town clerk, Tina Thurston, for filling the spot after the resignation and passing of Judith Thurston. Velvet will assume all town clerk duties on 1 January 2015. Tina will work with Velvet to transfer banking authorization and assist with any other paperwork needed to complete the transfer of all town clerk duties and responsibilities.

Stray Haven contract was given to the board for review. Questions were asked on the fees charged to the town and to the owner of the stray/housed animal. The board asked for more time to review contract and Councilman Miller will contact Stray Haven for clarification. The contract will be discussed either via email or at the year-end meeting.

The Code Enforcement agreement with the Town of Caroline was presented for review. After some discussion Councilman Miller, seconded by Councilwoman Holcomb, made the motion to approve the agreement of code enforcement services with the Town of Caroline and to authorize Supervisor Wilcox to sign the agreement. Vote was taken, all approved; motion adopted.

The Town Board will need to hold a special meeting to pay year-end bills and balance the accounts. Supervisor Wilcox would like to have all 2014 bills sent out before December 31, 2014. The board asks that a meeting with the highway employees take place that same night. Councilwoman Herrick, seconded by Councilman Miller, made a motion that the Town Board meet on Monday, December 29, at 6:00 p.m. to first adjourn to executive session and meet with the highway employees regarding their contract and then continue with the regular meeting to pay year-end bills and balance the accounts. Vote was taken, all approved; motion adopted.

The need for a new copy machine was discussed; the old one cannot be repaired. Newly elected town clerk, Velvet Lyke, will research copiers and prices.

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR:

Newly elected town clerk, Velvet Lyke, asked the board for permission to attend a training session for newly elected town officials taking place in Binghamton in January. Velvet will pay the \$85 fee and turn in a voucher for reimbursement of fee and mileage in January.

Newly elected town clerk, Velvet Lyke, asks about DEC training. Current town clerk will forward email regarding online training.

Charlie Davis mentions to the board and townspeople that long-time school bus driver of west Richford route, Ann Benscoter, will be retiring and sorely missed.

Councilman Miller, seconded by Councilwoman Holcomb, made a motion to adjourn. Motion approved. The meeting was adjourned at 9:02 p.m.

Tina Thurston
Town Clerk