

Minutes
Richford Town Board Meeting February 11, 2014

The Town of Richford Board Meeting was called to order at 7:40 p.m. by Supervisor Wilcox. Board members present Councilwoman Herrick, Councilman Ken Miller and four townspeople were also in attendance.

The minutes of the January 14, 2014 Town Board meetings were presented for review. January 14, 2014 minutes to be amended to read salaries for town board members should be \$3840 and the Town of Caroline annual fee \$9015. Councilwoman Herrick, seconded by Councilman Miller, accepted the January 14, 2014 amended board minutes. All approved.

The Supervisor's report and for January 2014 was presented as were the December 2013 and January 2014 Town Clerk reports.

No Highway Superintendent report for January 2014.

Town of Richford Justice Court for January 2014 amount of enclosed check \$1992.50.

Code Enforcement Officer report for January 2014; one building permit, one certificate of temporary occupancy, three violation notices sent. Total of eight inspections.

No Dog Control officer report; will wait till after January tax season to follow up on unlicensed dogs and issue appearance tickets.

Charlie Davis gave a Planning Board report for January 2014. Survey for the comprehensive plan; the planning board will take the survey to test flow etc. and may look to a couple of the town board members to assist. Victoria is lead on the comprehensive plans but missed the February planning board meeting and will miss the March meeting as well. Charlie will communicate with Victoria via phone to keep this moving. Hoping for April roll out of the survey. Charlie will mail copies to the town board members.

The town newsletter is out.

Councilwoman Herrick ask about the Code of Conduct document. Charlie Davis states that the Ethics and Code of Conduct were turned over to the Town Board. Councilwoman Holcomb had some questions on nepotism but needs more time to review. With small towns a certain amount of nepotism is acceptable as long as it is publicized. The planning board did not include the establishment of a board of ethics as the town is not in a position to do that. Charlie Davis to mail hard copy to all board members of current Code of Conduct and Ethics documents.

Mr. Stell, planning board member, inquires about who enforces the codes the Code Enforcement officer goes by. If there are restrictions in deed; who enforces those? Does the board of the code enforcement official? If property is deeded for certain use and is used differently who addresses this? Code Enforcement officer does not have access to deeds.

The General Abstract includes vouchers A18 through A39 amounting to \$14,294.59. The Highway Abstract includes vouchers DA16 through DA36 amounting to \$17,679.62. Councilwoman Herrick, seconded by Councilman Miller, made the motion to approve the abstracts as submitted. All approved. Vouchers will be paid.

Old Business

Councilman Miller regarding letter from Post Office and notes blue box now at Richford store.

Councilman Miller asks if the highway department can take down the burnt building? Supervisor Wilcox states that they are not trained in hazardous waste removal and not in their contracted duties.

Councilwoman Herrick asks about the contractors report. Supervisor Wilcox states that the report, when received, will be read at an open meeting.

Councilman Miller was asked by a constituent why we plow cemetery road since it's a private road. Councilwoman Herrick states that while it's a private road, it's for the public good. It was noted that it is not plowed to the right into the cemetery, but to the left onto the Keeners property.

Councilman Miller brings up the garbage truck issue. People are still not being asked to sign a receipt book and he feels the attendant is not keeping close control over the truck. Discussion follows that the policy is that the printed name should be on the left and the person should sign on the right. The weights on the sheets should match the weight on the truck. Town barn garbage should be weighed and noted but put as no charge, same with the fire department and church. Councilman Miller would like the policy to read that when the truck is closed to the public the truck itself should be closed and locked or somehow inaccessible. Supervisor Wilcox will talk to both the highway superintendent and the garbage attendant. Supervisor Wilcox and Councilwoman Herrick and Councilman Miller will go to the garbage truck on February 12, 2014 to speak with the attendant about the procedures.

Supervisor Wilcox notes that the Tioga Downs gaming resolution is tabled until the March meeting due to lack of board members at the February meeting.

New Business

Supervisor Wilcox brings the boards' attention again to the fact that we did not have the anticipated end of year surplus in the general account. Estimated surplus was \$12,000 in sales tax revenue and the actual was \$6.22 sales tax revenue. This will be a difficult year for the town as far as the general fund is concerned. Councilman Miller asks if the state has indicated whether we're under or over the 2%. Councilman Miller indicated that 2.3% was noted a form. Supervisor Wilcox has heard nothing from the state but indicates that we were slightly under the 2% last year so maybe the .3 percent was leeway for coming in under 2% last year.

Councilman Miller asks if anyone can schedule a town meeting to solicit ideas on a subject. Charlie Davis states that a private citizen can hold a town meeting. Charlie Davis states that when doing any kind of survey getting a 15% return is good and 18% is excellent; very good for a cross section. Councilman Miller wonders if asking the town what they want to see or what can be cut to help the town budget. Example, funding the library is important to the people, but buying diesel fuel for the highway department is essential. Councilwoman Herrick brings up the insurance for the highway department employees and looking into Obama Care as a possibility for cost savings for the town and the highway department employees.

Privilege of the Floor

In response Supervisor Wilcox notes that the highway department contract is still under negotiation.

Councilwoman Herrick, seconded by Councilman Miller, made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:35 pm. All approved.

Tina Thurston, Deputy Town Clerk