

Minutes  
Richford Town Board Meeting June 10, 2014

The Town of Richford Board Meeting was called to order at 7:29 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, eight townspeople, and guests Clifford Alexander and Cheryl Aluzo of Berkshire EMS, were also in attendance.

Clifford Alexander of the Berkshire EMS addressed the board about its' concern with the lack of response. Mr. Alexander distributes a call list from January 1-June 8, 2014 showing 27 calls to Richford with 10 unanswered for the first quarter; to date a total of 45 calls and 17 unanswered. Mr. Alexander advises the board that the number of volunteers is down; they currently have five or six active responding EMT's. They are actively recruiting and are advertising for paid medical personnel. The \$13,000 per year the town pays for coverage only covers basic costs, not salaries; salaries have to be covered by individual billing. Mr. Alexander invited the board to see if they could find better service for \$13,000 per year.

The minutes of the May 13, 2014 Town Board meetings were presented for review. It was asked that the first page, fourth paragraph, third sentence read cold, not coal, patch. It was asked that the last sentence read 'are' hauling. It was asked that the first page, 11<sup>th</sup> paragraph, last line read 'a motion to approve payment of the vouchers on abstract number 5 as submitted.' It was asked that on the second page under Old Business, first paragraph, second line read 'speeds should increase by the end of May,' and the fifth paragraph, first line read 'garbage truck attendant procedure.' It was asked that on page three, the second line read 'must hold a third public hearing,' and the eighth line read 'He reminds all.' It was asked that on page three under New Business, third paragraph, first line the address for Charles Merrill be corrected to read West Hill Road; and the third paragraph, fourth line read 'vacancy on the planning board with his term to end on December 31, 2017.' It was asked that on page four, paragraph seven read 'this issue with Superintendent Holt.' Councilwoman Herrick, seconded by Councilman Miller, made the motion to accept the May 13, 2014 board minutes as amended. All approved.

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

Town of Richford Justice Court report for May 2014 has an enclosed check \$2,590. Summary of appearance tickets issued for unlicensed dogs, approximately 200 issued.

Dog Control Officer Report for May 2014 reflects a lose dog response on Rte 79. All unlicensed dog tickets have gone through court system, many were returned with bad addresses. He will work with town clerk and town justice to finish the process soon.

Code Enforcement Officer Report for May 2014 reflects one building permit issued, one building permit renewed, one building permit inquiry, one temporary certificate of occupancy issued, 1 violation notice, \$50 in fees collected, and a total of 8 inspections.

Councilwoman Holcomb requests that the town clerk reconcile the Tioga Management Waste Facility invoices with the tipping sheets to verify charges.

Highway Superintendent report for May 2014 given by Superintendent Holt. Box purchased for town truck at \$2000, 720 feet of pipe replaced on town roads; hauled 1250 ton of sand in the month of April; mowed road sides. One employee was out for nearly a week after nearly cutting the end of his finger off.

The Superintendent is working on Pit papers for soil and water and when those are done the town attorney must write up agreement between John Harrington and the town for a five year plan. The Harrington Pit will save the highway department \$35-40 a load and there will be less hauling time.

Superintendent Holt asks for help on the new CHIPS papers, there are many changes this year and papers must be in by August 7. Superintendent Holt and Supervisor Wilcox will work together to complete the CHIPS paperwork.

The Town of Union has made an offer of \$1200 for an old box which is in fair shape and will not be used by the town. This issue will be addressed under new business.

Supervisor Wilcox noted that a wood carpet has been laid at the playground, but that the insurance company requires that the springs be covered and they currently are not. Supervisor Wilcox will ask that the springs be covered.

The highway department got the road cleaned up after the Victory Hill race which was not bad, but did require time.

Councilman Miller inquired if there is a limit on the amount of CHIPS monies a town can get. Superintendent Holt advises the board that the CHIPS money cap is \$112,000 for the Town of Richford. Capital projects turned in for CHIPS money include purchases of oil and stone purchases, gravel, pipes for roads. Projects funded with CHIPS money must last ten years.

Board members learn from Superintendent Holt that he does not have a five-year plan for road repair or capital projects. The board would like the Superintendent to come up with a five-year plan even knowing that weather conditions may alter the plans year to year. Board members should drive the town roads and familiarize themselves with the conditions and the challenges facing the highway department.

Charlie Davis gave a Planning Board report for May 2014. Comprehensive plan survey has been mailed out, is due back June 26, and will be reviewed at the July 2, 2014 Planning Board meeting. The survey feedback will be incorporated in the updated comprehensive plan. There will be a voucher for stamps turned in and then the Planning Board should have enough funds for one more town newsletter. The Final Assessment Roll will be posted on the town's website after July 1. The Town Board appreciates the Planning Board staying on budget.

Councilman Brown, seconded by Councilman Miller, made a motion to pay the vouchers on Abstract #6 and that the vouchers on the Abstract are the same ones signed by the Board. The General Abstract including vouchers A108 through A127 amounting to \$6,932.78 and Highway Abstract including vouchers DA91 through DA108 amounting to \$30,025.14. Councilwoman Holcomb raises the concern that the town continues to be over budget on an increasing number of lines. Four ayes and one abstention; motion passed and vouchers on Abstract #6 will be paid.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

The following resolution was introduced by Councilman Brown, seconded by Councilwoman Herrick; WHEREAS the Richford Town Board must hold a third public hearing where recommendations of the contractor will be reviewed in order to pursue plans to demolish the Joyce Hyde property, BE IT RESOLVED that the Richford Town Board will hold a public hearing on the removal of an unsafe building on Tuesday, July 1, 2014 at 6:30 p.m.

A roll call vote showed all members of the Town Board voting aye. The resolution was unanimously adopted.

It was determined that a public hearing on the tax cap will be held in September. The town's attorney needs to review the law on the tax cap before the

Supervisor Wilcox is still working on entering into an agreement with Computel Consultants for the purpose of reviewing the towns' utility bills.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

New York State set the tentative tax equalization rate for this year at 97%. The original rate was 92% but the town's attorney spoke with the state office and they have us 5% leeway bumping it to 97%. She advises the town to accept the rate for this year. Supervisor Wilcox stated a concern that if the rate keeps dropping we may have a problem with the state forest land.

Councilman Miller, seconded by Councilwoman Herrick, made the motion to authorize Highway Superintendent Holt to sell the unused 14 foot dump box to the Town of Union for \$1200. All approved.

## **COMMENTS FROM THE SUPERVISOR**

It has been mentioned each meeting that some budget lines are already overspent. The Supervisor would like to again remind everyone that it has been a round year so far for the town; bad winter, raised electrical rates, unexpected expenses; which may necessitate borrowing money this year. We may have opportunity for some additional revenues.

A letter was read from the current town clerk, Judy Thurston, in which she resigned her position due to health reasons. Anyone interested in the position will need to fill out a petition and get signatures to be on the ballot for the November election. Petitions must be filed between July 7 and July 10. The position has for responsibilities, clerk of the board (take minutes, handle correspondence) tax collector, license issuing agent (marriage, dog, etc.) and custodian of town records. A suitable candidate would have administrative ability, computer skills, and personal integrity. The current election in November would be to fill the one year left on an unexpired term. The position would then be on the ballot for November 2015 for the two-year term.

Councilmen Miller, seconded by Councilwoman Herrick, made the motion for the Supervisor to purchase a plaque and take \$25 from the supervisor's account, A1220.4, to purchase a gift certificate in recognition of Judy Thurston's 26 years of service. Councilwoman Holcomb will also try to collect money from townspeople to add to the Town's gifts. All in favor, motion passed. The plaque and gift certificate will be purchased.

## **Privilege of the Floor**

Ralph spoke to the Post Office operations manager for this area and Washington has signed a contract to rent the corner lot across from the ice cream store and will place a shed on the lot so people with post office boxes can access their boxes but there will be no one manning the building.

After some discussion, Councilman Brown, seconded by Councilman Miller, made the motion to authorize Ed Evenson to rent Rawley Park for \$10 per usage. All in favor, motion adopted.

Councilman Brown, seconded by Councilwoman Herrick, made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:35 pm. All approved.

Tina Thurston, Deputy Town Clerk