

Minutes  
Richford Town Board Meeting March 11, 2014

The Town of Richford Board Meeting was called to order at 7:35 p.m. by Supervisor Wilcox. Board members present Councilwoman Herrick, Councilwoman Holcomb, Councilman Ken Miller, Councilman Brown and five townspeople were also in attendance.

The minutes of the February 11, 2014 Town Board meetings were presented for review. February 11, 2014 minutes to be amended under Old Business, paragraph three to read "is plowed to the right and circles around to allow for parking." Also amend under New Business, paragraph one, eliminate the word surplus; paragraph two, change Obama care to official name of Affordable Health Care Act. Councilwoman Herrick, seconded by Councilman Brown, accepted the February 11, 2014 amended board minutes. All approved.

The Supervisor's report and for February 2014 was presented as was the February 2014 Town Clerk report.

Highway Superintendent report for February 2014 given by Mike Holt. Tough winter for all towns; there is no sand to be bought, no stone to acquire for additional supply for road repair. Vehicles have been serviced and are ready. Trucks due for inspection and it's getting harder to get these old trucks to pass. Garbage truck needed work to pass.

Town of Richford Justice Court for February 2014 amount of enclosed check \$1075.00.

Code Enforcement Officer report for February 2014; four building permit inquires, one closed out permit, one certificate of occupancy, one certificate of compliance. Total of 10 inspections.

Dog Control officer report for February 2014; on February 14 report of chocolate lab, female, on Rte 79, taken to Stray Haven; owner contacted dog control officer and was referred to Stray Haven.

Charlie Davis gave a Planning Board report for February 2014. Comprehensive plan still in review. Councilwoman Herrick was guest at Planning Board meeting and asked about the Hooker Foundation and further enhancements to the park. Charlie Davis was invited to the Berkshire Planning Board meeting to see where they are on their comprehensive plan, road protection and several other initiatives. Charlie left hard copies of the Code of Ethics with Town Board members. The Code of Ethics is now in the hands of the Town Board to review, accept or change, and pass resolution on. Councilwoman Holcomb wants time to review laws quoted etc. and have Town Board discuss the Code of Ethics at the April 2014 meeting before returning the document to the Planning Board. Charlie Davis reiterates that the Code of Ethics can be a resolution so can be changed; it does not need to be a law; especially since we do not have a Town Board of Ethics. If needed the town can use the County Board of Ethics.

The General Abstract includes vouchers A40 through A61 amounting to \$12,527.17. The Highway Abstract includes vouchers DA37 through DA52 amounting to \$17,253.41. Councilman Brown, seconded by Councilwoman Holcomb, made the motion to approve the abstracts as submitted. All approved. Vouchers will be paid.

### **Old Business**

Councilwoman Herrick revisits the garbage truck issue. She believes it was made clear to the attendant what the protocol is and as he still does not follow it, feels the town should advertise for a replacement. Superintendent Holt estimates what the highway department puts in the truck and has the attendant record it, he will be more proactive in having accurate weight recorded and logged. Action: Supervisor Wilcox will talk with the garbage truck attendant on March 12 to discuss the procedure and concerns and see when he can meet with the board. If he refuses to meet with the board, action will be taken.

A resolution in support of Tioga Downs for selection as the eastern southern tier region casino gaming license awardee was put forth by Councilman Miller, seconded by Councilman Brown, and with a roll call

of three to two, the resolution passed. A formal resolution (attached) will be sent to Lee Ann Tinny, Director of Economic Development for Tioga County.

Highway department employee contract that expired December 31, 2013 has not been resolved. Counter proposal was declined. Further negotiations are needed.

Supervisor Wilcox contacted the town's attorney regarding next step on the Joyce Hyde property. One more public hearing is required where the report is reviewed. The town clerk is to send minutes of the two previous public hearings on the Joyce Hyde property to the town's attorney, Khandi Sokoni of True, Walsh, and Sokoni.

### **New Business**

Councilwoman Herrick discussed the Hooker Foundation and the opportunity for grant proposals. This year they have two round of grants, regular and capital projects. The town's current comprehensive plan includes enhancing park and recreation facilities. Bike and walking paths around outer perimeter of park, full size basketball court, bathrooms with time sensitive locks so they are available during park hours were mentioned by all groups Councilwoman Herrick met with on this topic, as well as more equipment for younger and older children. One issue is that 5% owner contribution is required and the minimum grant amount is \$50,000 so town would need to have \$2500 up front and commit to upkeep of the park facilities. Councilwoman Herrick will check to see if "in kind" contributions will be accepted, i.e. towns people to work on the project, and/or contributions from townspeople to meet the \$2500. The submission deadline is April 30. The fact that the town owns the field adjacent to the park to the right (south) of the driveway was mentioned, space issues etc. for a walking/bike path were discussed. Councilwoman Herrick would like to form a committee of interested people, to include herself, Becky Randall, Bernie Mertz, John Schwartz, and others. Councilman Miller feels it's too tight a deadline to meet this year. Supervisor Wilcox does not feel the town can commit to the \$2500 obligation this year. John Schwartz suggests a resolution to form a committee to pursue grant opportunities, The Floyd Hooker Foundation and others. A motion by Councilman Miller, seconded by Councilwoman Holcomb, to authorize Councilwoman Herrick to pursue grant opportunities was made. All approved. Motion passed.

Councilman Miller read letter of inquiry regarding bus transportation in Tioga County to alert board of importance of this need. John mentions that Northern Tioga Network had over 20,000 miles by volunteers reiterating the need for bus transportation. Councilman Miller questions what the Town Board can do to help facilitate bus services. Supervisor Wilcox is not sure what the board can do but will check into what they would like from the Town of Richford. Tioga Transport will not be able to transport people to their doctors appointments any longer, Medicaid will no longer pay for bus transportation. Councilwoman Herrick will email and ask what is needed from the Town of Richford.

### **Privilege of the Floor**

John Schwartz would like to know what the Town Board can do about the internet access in areas outside of town. Very few actually live in town where the access is acceptable, most have less than 6 megabytes per second which is very slow; 98% of homes in NYS have faster access. Frontier and Haefele are our providers. John asks that the board contact these providers and push for higher internet speeds for the out laying areas using the argument that we are slower than 98% of the rest of the state and would they please address the situation. It was mentioned that Verizon put in fiber in their Richford tower and AT&T is working on putting fiber in theirs, and that that will improve speeds. Supervisor Wilcox and the board will research this issue.

Councilman Miller, seconded by Councilman Brown, made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:55 pm. All approved.

Tina Thurston, Deputy Town Clerk