

Minutes  
Town of Richford Board Meeting November 11, 2014

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

The minutes of the October 14, 2014 regular town board meeting and the October 29, 2014 special town board meeting to review the 2015 proposed budget were presented. It was asked on the first page, fourth paragraph of the special board meeting minutes to change the name to Dave Perry. Councilwoman Holcomb seconded by, Councilman Miller, made the motion to accept the October 14 regular town board meeting minutes as submitted and the October 29 special town board meeting minutes as amended. All approved. Minutes are approved as amended.

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

The Highway Superintendent gave a report for October 2014. At the request of the Town Supervisor, Mike checked the price of used oil which is \$2.65 at present but expected to go as high as \$2.90.

The town trucks are serviced, boxes repaired, floors put in, tires on, just need to put plows on. A sandblaster was rented for paint prep and Superintendent Holt advises the board to consider the purchase of a sandblaster in the future. Rental of blaster was \$500 per week.

Mill Street pipe has been put in on one end. Mike used his personal backhoe as the town's excavator was too large for the job and does more damage than good. The pipe on the other end the resident will not allow the town to go in his lawn to replace the pipe. Mike is looking for an alternative. Superintendent Holt advises the board to consider the purchase of a backhoe for the town. A used backhoe can run upwards of \$10,000.

Superintendent Holt expects another \$13,000 plus in CHIPs money in December of 2014.

The Dog Control Officer report for October 2014; resident of West Creek Road notified of stray Husky, dog taken to Stray Haven.

A Justice Court report for October 2014 was presented and the check amount from the Justice Court for October 2014 was \$5,835.

Code Enforcement report for October 2014; five building permits issued, one inquiry, one certificate of occupancy and one certificate of compliance issued, one notice of violation. Construction costs \$111,849 fees collected \$750; total of 24 inspections.

A Town Planning Board presentation was given by John Schwartz on the comprehensive plan. The presentation was an overview of the results of the survey. The town's comprehensive plan can be used in legal proceeding and for the basis of grant applications. Supervisor Wilcox acknowledges and thanks the Planning Board for their hard work.

Councilman Brown, seconded by Councilwoman Herrick, made a motion to pay the vouchers on Abstract #11 and that the vouchers on the Abstract are the same ones signed by the Board. The General Abstract includes vouchers A207 through A225, amounting to \$27,212.98. The Highway Abstract includes vouchers DA182 through DA205, amounting to \$11,400.63. All approved. Vouchers will be paid.

## OLD BUSINESS:

Supervisor Wilcox reminds the board that the town's highway department employee contract expires on December 31, 2014. Councilwoman Herrick suggests a special board meeting to review the current contract. Councilwoman Holcomb asks for a print out of the current contract. Councilwoman Holcomb, seconded by Councilman Miller, made a motion to hold a special town board meeting on Wednesday, November 12, 2014 at 6:30 p.m. to review the current highway department employee contract. All approved. Motion passed.

Councilwoman Holcomb introduces further discussion of the Joyce Hyde property. Supervisor Wilcox states the town's attorney has ascertained that the title is clear; only Joyce Hyde is on the title. Supervisor Wilcox will follow up with county on issue of liens on properties. Town attorney advises board to wait until property comes up for tax sale instead on asking Joyce Hyde to turn over property in lieu of fines. If the town obtains property via tax sale, they will not be liable for liens on property, only back taxes. At this time it appears the property will go up for tax sale in June of 2015. Supervisor Wilcox will contact county for clarification on getting liens paid out at tax sale; would town lose out if they have a lien on the property and someone buys it for back taxes. Councilwoman Holcomb will work with the Code Enforcement Officer and draft the letter to Joyce Hyde, but wait on title search and letter from county before sending. Councilman Miller would like to know what the back taxes are on the Joyce Hyde property.

Supervisor Wilcox updated the board and townspeople regarding the Richford Post Office. At present the Post Office is speaking with the Country Folks Diner and will inspect the property to see if they have an area that can serve the towns' post office boxes. Supervisor Wilcox will share updates as he gets them.

## NEW BUSINESS:

Supervisor Wilcox reads a letter dated September 20, 2014 from Kim Stanford which states she is resigning from the planning board.

The Town Board should meet and review the 2015 proposed budget once more before adopting the budget by November 20, 2014. Councilwoman Holcomb, seconded by Councilman Miller, made a motion that the Town Board meet on Wednesday, November 12, at 6:30 p.m. to review the 2015 proposed budget and the highway contract.

## PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR:

Richford Neighborhood Watch representative Mindi Moniz speaks to the board about the first Neighborhood Watch and recommendations from the Tioga County Sheriff's representative. The officer recommends Neighborhood Watch signs be posted at all four ends of town. Also recommended were vests and flash lights for the committee members. Mindy will be contacting Lowes, Home Depot etc. for grants and donations and asks the board for help purchasing the signs. Superintendent Holt will approach the county about producing the signs if Mindy gets him dimensions and content. Mindi and Chuck will contact the state about hanging the signs. The Sheriff's office will try to step up patrols in Richford and asks that the committee notifies them when they are patrolling. Councilman Miller asks Mindi to remind the Sheriff's office that the hamlet street speed limits have been lowered to 25 miles per hour.

There was further discussion on the proposed 2015 budget and the per 1000 increase for tax payers.

Councilman Brown, seconded by Councilwoman Holcomb, made a motion to adjourn. Motion approved. The meeting was adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

Tina Thurston  
Town Clerk