

Minutes
Town of Richford Board Meeting October 14, 2014

The regular Town of Richford Board Meeting was called to order at 7:28 p.m. by Supervisor Wilcox. Councilwoman Herrick, Councilwoman Holcomb, and Councilman Miller were present. Councilman Brown was absent. Superintendent Holt, ten townspeople, and Richford Girl Scout Troop 40276 and their leaders were also in attendance.

Privilege of the floor was given to members of Richford Girl Scout Troop 40276 who reported that they spent multiple weekends cleaning the outside and inside of the town hall, doing repairs and painting where needed most until their money and donated supplies ran out. The board approved this project in August when approached by the girls as a means toward earning the bronze award. The board thanked the girls, their leaders, parents, and all who helped for the great work they did. The troop dedicated the project to "their good friend and Thursday night buddy," former town clerk Judy Thurston.

The minutes of the September 16, 2014 public hearing regarding proposed Local Law 2014.1 and the minutes of the regular monthly Town Board Meeting were presented. It was asked on the first page, fourth paragraph of the regular board meeting minutes to change the word liter to litter. It was further asked that on the third page, first paragraph of the regular board meeting minutes the word Byrne be changed to brine. Councilman Miller, seconded by Councilwoman Holcomb, made the motion to accept the September 16 public hearing minutes as submitted and the September 16 regular monthly town board meeting minutes as amended. All approved. The September 16, 2014 minutes were accepted as submitted and as amended.

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

The Highway Superintendent gave a report for September 2014. There is a possible problem with the town barn drinking water; Mike is waiting on the test report. The highway department received permission and permits from the state to clean gravel from pipes on Robinson Hollow inlet. The gravel is being stored for reuse on Lacey and Robinson Hollow Roads. The creek on Pacific Road was also cleaned in hopes it will stop the flooding. A lot of ditching has been done. Working on truck box rebuilds for winter. Pipes for the Mill Street repair have been received and permission granted by Mr. Underwood to dig up his lawn to do the pipe repair.

The 1989 and 1995 dump trucks the board authorized Superintendent Holt to sell at the Broome County auction on September 27 sold for \$13,650; better than he anticipated. The dump box Superintendent Holt was authorized to sell sold for \$1200.

Superintendent Holt reports that he has sand to last until the first of 2015 and the load of salt he just ordered should also see them through to the first of 2015.

The Dog Control Officer report for September 2014; resident notified of stray dog for pick up; four dogs picked up on Robinson Hollow, owner came for dogs; two dogs running with no ID taken to kennel later claimed by owner. Resident on Robinson Hollow saw a pit bull mix with no ID released from a vehicle; nice dog, taken to Stray Haven.

A Justice Court report for September 2014 was presented and the check amount from the Justice Court for September 2014 was \$5,455.

Code Enforcement report for August 2014; six building permits issued, one renewal, two inquiries, one certificate of occupancy and one certificate of compliance issued, one notice of violation. Construction costs \$85,650, fees collected \$550; total of 12 inspections.

Code Enforcement report for September 2014; three building permits issued, two inquiries, one certificate of occupancy and one certificate of compliance issued, one notice of violation. Construction costs \$9,045, fees collected \$175; total of 16 inspections and four hours of training class credits.

A Town Planning Board report was given by Charlie Davis; the 20 page executive report on the survey will be sent to the board hopefully October 18 or 19 and it will be posted on the website. The newsletter should be out the week of October 20. The Planning Board will be approximately \$200 over budget for 2014 and hopes the board will consider the Planning Board proposed budget for 2015 when constructing the 2015 town budget. Supervisor Wilcox acknowledges and thanks the Planning Board for their hard work.

Councilwoman Herrick, seconded by Councilman Miller, made a motion to pay the vouchers on Abstract #10 and that the vouchers on the Abstract are the same ones signed by the Board. The General Abstract includes vouchers A189 through A206, amounting to \$5,298.59. The Highway Abstract includes vouchers DA163 through DA181, amounting to \$20,277.42. All approved. Vouchers will be paid.

OLD BUSINESS:

Councilman Miller inquires of Supervisor Wilcox the status of the review of the towns' utility bills etc. by Computel Consultants as approved by the board at the May 2014 board meeting. Supervisor Wilcox informed the board that Computel Consultants have not yet done the review.

Supervisor Wilcox introduces further discussion of the Joyce Hyde property. In October or November of 2013 the towns' attorney met with the board and had sent a chart of the option of pursuing either litigation or demolition. The board at the time voted on demolition. At the September 2014 meeting the board made a motion that Councilwoman Holcomb would work with the code enforcement officer to write a letter and include in the letter to Joyce Hyde that the town board will accept the property in exchange for fines. The Board also made the motion to hire a process server to serve the letter on Joyce Hyde. At the time, after much discussion and argument, Supervisor Wilcox voted for the motion but in retrospect wishes he had not and asks the board to rescind the motion. Discussion followed on title search, current location of Joyce Hyde (located in South Carolina,) cost of hiring process server in county in SC where Hyde lives, what happens to property liens if property is sold for taxes, what happens if liens are too high and no one buys the property for taxes. Conclusion, get result of title search from attorney, written notice from county on issue of liens on properties sold for taxes. Councilwoman Holcomb will work with the Code Enforcement Officer and draft the letter to J Hyde, but wait on title search and letter from county before sending.

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 asks Superintendent Holt if a tire collection day is needed. Superintendent Holt states there has been an issue of disposing of the tires. It is concluded that the town will wait until Spring to hold a tire collection day.

Supervisor Wilcox discussed the Town Budget for 2015 and Councilman Miller, seconded by Councilwoman Herrick, made a motion to hold a special town board meeting on Wednesday, October 29 at 6:30 pm regarding the 2015 budget. All approved.

Councilman Miller, seconded by Councilwoman Holcomb, made a motion to hold a Public Hearing on the Preliminary 2015 Town Budget on Thursday, November 6, 2014 at 7:30 p.m. A notice is to be placed in the paper. All approved.

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR:

Richard Harrington was present and gave a report on REAP (Rural Energy for America Program). He reported that the REAP program is imbedded the Farm Bill and will continue. Currently REAP is assisting or has assisted the Berkshire Fire House, Newark Valley water system, the malt business founded in Berkshire, the Newark Valley Farm Market, Ellis Hollow meat processing facility. REAP has been asked by the Southern Tier Planning Board to assist with a grant to study broadband needs in rural Tioga County.

The Berkshire Library was discussed in regards to the poor condition of the 1800 era building. Some grants have been obtained and used to purchase a new furnace, rebuild the foundation, work on the wiring, etc. Library participation by Richford residents has increased over the years and the library asks the board to consider increasing the Town of Richford grant to the library from \$3250 to \$3500 for 2015.

Berkshire Post Office has increased their hours and is now also open afternoons from 2:00-4:30 p.m.

Richford Fire Department public hearing on their budget is Wednesday, October 15 at 7:00 p.m.

Resident asks that the bushes at the entrance to the town hall and the bushes on Mill Street be trimmed. Superintendent Holt will take care of this request.

Town Planning Board member Charlie Davis will look at the lights and heat ducts in the town hall and let the Supervisor know if repairs are needed.

Townsperson asked what the letter to Joyce Hyde will contain; list of fines, cost town has incurred? Councilwoman Holcomb will include the law, list of fines, etc.

Townsperson asks if the Highway Department contract is available to the public and where the negotiations stand. Supervisor Wilcox states that negotiations are still underway.

Discussion on what the Animal Control Officer responsibilities are. He is the Dog Control Officer; there is no service for the control of cats. If you see a health issue with numerous cats, report it to the health department.

Discussion on the term of the board members and how many meetings they are allowed to miss. Supervisor Wilcox will look into the issue.

Townsperson asked that the code enforcement officer be asked to address the abandoned trailer on the corner lot of 79 and 38; believes the lot is owned by Hoffmier.

Councilwoman Herrick, seconded by Councilman Miller, made a motion to adjourn. Motion approved. The meeting was adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

Tina Thurston
Town Clerk