

Minutes
Town of Richford Board Meeting July 14, 2015

The regular Town of Richford Board Meeting was called to order at 7:23 p.m. by Supervisor Wilcox. Councilwoman Holcomb, Councilman Miller, Councilwoman Herrick, Supervisor Wilcox, Highway Superintendent Hunt and 9 townspeople were present. Councilman Brown was absent.

We began the meeting with the pledge of allegiance led by Councilman Miller.

Comprehensive Plan:

Elaine Jardine from Tioga County Economic Development came to present a new future land use map to be included in the Comprehensive Plan. By state law the map may or may not be included in the Comprehensive Plan. However, it is a nice snap shot of Richford.

Councilwoman Holcomb commented that there are limited areas in the hamlet for commercial development. She would like to see the map show possible economic development up Rte's 38 and 79.

Councilman Miller would like to see the legend on the map revised and for the map to include state lands, rivers, ponds or lakes.

Upon further discussion it was decided by consensus of the Town Board that Ms. Jardine would continue to work on the map to show the state lands, rivers and other water ways along with an updated legend which will include:

- Community Vision instead of Future Land Use
- Rural Mix instead of Open Space
- State Forest Land
- Mixed Use Hamlet Center instead of Light Commercial

Ms. Jardine complemented the Planning Board for all their hard work. Victoria Nuzzo was recognized for her efforts.

Before the Town Board can adopt the plan a Public Hearing, review by the County Planning Board, and review by Ag and Market need to be done.

There is a vacancy on the County Planning Board for a Richford Representative. Any volunteers please contact Supervisor Wilcox.

The minutes of the Special Meeting June 3, 2015, the June 9, 2015 regular town board meeting and the July 9, 2015 special town board meeting were presented. The following correction was asked to be made by the board:

June 9, 2015 Minutes:

- Page 3 – Correct spelling of Emilie Stuehlmiller name

July 9, 2015 Minutes:

- Page 1 – Change Councilman Wilcox to Supervisor Wilcox
- Page 1 – Motion to adjourn made by Councilwoman Holcomb not Councilman Wilcox

Councilman Miller made the motion, seconded by, Councilwoman Holcomb, to accept the June 9, 2015 regular town board meeting and the June 3 and July 9, 2015 special board meeting minutes as amended. With 3 ayes, 1 abstained (Councilwoman Herrick did not attend the special meeting on July 9); minutes are approved as amended

The Town Clerk's, Town Supervisor's, Highway Superintendents, Building Code Enforcement and Court reports for June 2015 were presented.

The Code Enforcement (May) and Dog Control (April) reports were also presented.

Highway Superintendents report:

- Installed approximately 3,500 feet of drain tile on Barden Road
- Two courses of oil and stone on the following roads: town streets, Anderson Hill (.5 of a mile), Popple Hill (.78 of a mile), Howland Hill Rd (.34 of a mile)
- Assisting Berkshire and Newark Valley with oil and stone as they assisted us
- Will begin hauling gravel to Barden Road
- Before the end of the month a bill from Suitkote will arrive which will be paid and receipt sent to Mike so he may get reimbursement from CHIPS
- A mattress, along the side of the road, was picked up by Brian Strut and brought to the garbage truck. Mr. Strut will come to the clerk's office to settle his situation. The Town Board would like to reiterate that dumping of any types of garbage on the road side is not appropriate.

Justice Report:

Check for \$4,699 was presented to the Board

Dog Control Report:

April:

- Complaint of dog bothering children – ticket issued
- Dogs running at large in town and on West Hill Rd
- Dogs running at large on Rte 38 and taken to kennel; owner located and dogs returned

June:

- Dogs running at large on West Hill Rd

Code Enforcement Report:

May:

- One building permit, two notices of violations and 15 inspections

June:

- Three inquiries, 1 renewal permit, one certification of occupancy, three violations, 25 inspections, and six hours of training. Collected \$270.

Town Planning Board report was presented.

- Charlie Davis thanked the Board for all the special meetings they attended to help complete the Comprehensive Plan
- Mailed Town Newsletter on July 10th

Town Board thanked the Planning Board for their efforts.

Abstract of Vouchers:

Councilman Miller, seconded by Councilwoman Herrick, made a motion to pay the vouchers on Abstract #7 and that the vouchers on the Abstract are the same ones signed by the Board. With 3 ayes, one abstained (Councilwomen Holcomb due to conflict of interest on voucher for attorney) vouchers will be paid.

OLD BUSINESS:

Post Office:

New Post Office Boxes are located at the side of the Diner. Some postal purchases can be made inside the Diner. Charlie Davis sent a letter to the Postmaster to obtain information for the newsletter however, the letter went unanswered. Bill Stell noted that he spoke with a Post Office representative regarding getting a mailbox outside his home. The representative told him that until the government officially closes the Post Office in Richford this cannot be done.

Town Positions:

Winter Garbage Attendant and Custodian

Councilwoman Holcomb, seconded by Councilwoman Herrick, made a motion that the Town Board place help wanted ads for the substitute garbage attendant and the custodian.

Supervisor Wilcox and Town Clerk will work on the ads.

With 4 ayes motion was passed.

Town Clerk brought up the Garbage Attendant's schedule for holidays should be reviewed. It was decided that the Town Clerk and Garbage Attendant would review the yearly calendar and determine the dates that the attendant will be on duty. Then any days off will be posted at the truck and in the Town Newsletter.

Highway Employees Contract:

There is no contract as of today.

Councilwoman Holcomb indicated she has sent an email asking for help with health care calculations, but received no response.

Councilman Miller, seconded by Councilwoman Holcomb, made a motion to hold a Special Town Board Meeting on Tuesday, July 21, 2015 to discuss the Highway Contract. With 4 ayes, motion was passed.

During this meeting comp time will be discussed.

Rawley Park Committee – Committee meeting will be held July 21, 2015 at 6:30 at the Town Hall.

There was a park cleanup day on Thursday, July 9th. Joe Kral and about 5 other townspeople came to help clean up the creek area. Another cleanup day is scheduled for July 16th from 6-8:30. They hope to expand cleanup around the pavilion to railroad areas also. Please bring bug spray, hand clippers, rakes, good work shoes if you would like to help.

Mr. Kral noted that there is erosion on the creek bank and maybe some crushed stone or packed ditch dirt might help make the areas safer. Mike Hunt said he would look into it.

The Hooker Foundation Grant money should be coming in soon. This grant money will be used to get a survey of the land. The park committee is working on an opinion survey of what the town would like to see at the park. They will give these surveys out to park attendees and possibly at the garbage truck.

Barbara Keener brought an issue of sewage run off by the Diner to the Boards attention.

Recycling:

Supervisor Wilcox indicated to the Board that the Tioga Waste Management accepts used household batteries and bulbs. Public may take to 352 Glenmary Drive, Owego NY for free recycling.

NEW BUSINESS:

Hyde Property:

The Town Board held a Special Meeting on July 9, 2015 to discuss the Hyde Property with the Fire District.

At this meeting a resolution was made to sign a three way agreement between the Town Board, Fire District, and Tioga County. If the Tioga County Legislature approves the agreement the Hyde Property will be turned over to the Fire District. The Fire District will pay any back taxes and will demolish and remove the home within three months. The Town may receive some of the back taxes.

Barbara Keener told the Board that before the house can be demolished they will get a survey of the property. In the interim the house will be insured and boarded up for safety purposes.

Comprehensive Plan:

A final version of the Comprehensive Plan will be emailed to the Town Board by Victoria Nuzzo on July 15th. The Town Board will review and discuss at the Special Meeting on July 21st. At that time the Board will decide if the plan is ready for a public hearing. If so, it will be set for August 11, 2015.

Garbage Truck

Frank Payne has a cab and chassis that would work as a new base for the garbage truck. Per Mike Hunt the garbage truck is in bad shape and needs to be replaced and this might be a good alternative.

Councilwoman Holcomb made a motion, seconded by Councilman Miller, to authorize the Highway Superintendent to purchase a used GMC cab and chassis from Frank Payne, for up to \$3,000, to be used as a replacement garbage truck. With 4 ayes the motion was passed.

Harrington Gravel Pit

Attorney sent draft of the agreement to Supervisor Wilcox who then forwarded to the board via email. Mike Hunt indicated that they will begin using gravel next week. This item will be discussed at the July 21st meeting.

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR:

Graded School House

Councilwoman Herrick mentioned that the Graded School House is not on the Historical Registry. There are many benefits if it was such as funding. Also some challenges. This item was brought up for the Board to consider what they would like to do with the property in the future.

REAP (Richard Harrington)

Mr. Harrington updated the Town Board on the projects that REAP is involved in. These include the following:

- Bio Energy Phase 2 is almost complete and report expected in September 2015
- Richford/Berkshire Library Energy Conservation Project – Library needs additional \$10,000 to complete their project
- Stackmore Furniture asked for assistance but then sold their building
- Farmhouse Brewery received grant for fermentation equipment
- Planning Board East is interested in developing a possible bottling hub for 31 micro breweries in the southern tier.
- High Speed Internet study was done. County will be putting together a grant proposal to be submitted to NYS. This would include areas fanning out from Owego.

Town Hall

Barbara Keener indicated a problem with the lights at the Town Hall. Mike Hunt will look into the issue.

Recognition of Town Youths

Bill Stell proposed that the Town recognize exceptional youth from the Town of Richford. Mr. Stell volunteered to put together a proposal on how to recognize the youths.

Roberta Holcomb Court Case with Town– Ms. Holcomb addressed the board as a private citizen to make a statement regarding the comments in the Town Newsletter. The Town Newsletter indicated that she was asking the Town to pay for her attorney fees and this was incorrect. She is asking the Town to pay for Costs and Disbursements and Interest associated with filing the Court Case to contest her assessment. She indicated that since the case has been ongoing these costs are incurred for the three years her assessment has not changed. These costs include: costs before note of issue, costs after note of issue, trial of issue. Disbursement Costs include: fee for index number, notice of petition, serving petition, postage, serving subpoena, and request for judicial intervention. Ms. Holcomb believes she is entitled to these costs since the case was settled in her favor. She refuses to sign the agreement until the Town Board agrees to pay these costs. Ms. Holcomb wants the town to know that since her assessment is based on the farm agricultural assessment she most likely will not receive any reimbursement for back taxes.

Mr. Davis apologized to Ms. Holcomb for including incorrect information in the Town Newsletter.

Councilwomen Herrick, seconded by Councilman Miller, made a motion to adjourn. Motion approved.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:00 p.m.

Velvet Lyke
Town Clerk