

Minutes
Town of Richford Board Meeting November 10, 2015

The regular Town of Richford Board Meeting was called to order at 7:18 p.m. by Supervisor Wilcox. Councilman Miller, Councilwoman Holcomb, Councilwoman Herrick, Supervisor Wilcox, Highway Superintendent Hunt and 14 townspeople, including one high school student for her Participation in Government Class (Brittany Molyneaux), were present. Councilman Brown was absent.

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

Berkshire Free Library:

Mrs. Sandy Negus, Berkshire Free Library, presented to the Board. She explained how the name of the Library came into existence. The word Free had to be in the name since a group of people established the library. Mrs. Negus is on the Library Board. The library has obtained grants to fix the building in accordance with historical requirements. The Library Board would like to consider changing the name to The Berkshire/Richford Free Library but until all grants are completed the name cannot be changed.

Richford and Berkshire work closely on Library activities, such as story hour in the Richford church on Friday's from 10 -11 am. This activity is supported by a grant. The members of the Library Board would like to unite Richford and Berkshire with the Blueberry and Books Festival on July 23, 2016. They will have vendors, crafters, food and other activities. Karen McNally, Library Board Member, indicated that they would like volunteers for various items on the day of the event and on committees. Meetings are held once a month usually on Tuesday evenings at 6pm. Fran Miller is the new librarian and she started a FB page. There are nine trustees on the board, four from Richford.

High Speed Internet:

Amy Sostak from Finger Lakes Technology Group (FLTG) spoke to the group. Some of the items discussed were as follows:

- Richford Residents concerned about lack of high speed internet access
- Finger Lakes Technology Group is for Commercial vendors only, don't work with residential issues
- FLTG work on the Southern Tier East Regional Planning Group with the initiative to get grants for this type of high speed internet access. She indicated the Governor of NY does not believe that our community has the infrastructure necessary for this type of access thus no grants for our area at this time.

The minutes of the October 13th Public Hearing and Regular Town Board Meeting, October 22nd Special Town Board Meeting, and the November 5th, 2015 Public Hearing

and Preliminary Budget Meeting were presented. The following corrections were asked to be made by the board:

- October 13, 2015 Board Meeting
 - Correct spelling of chassis on page 2 two locations
 - Correct spelling of Stuemiller on page 3
- October 22, 2015 Special Board Meeting
 - Move DA5110.1 to Expenses from Revenues
- November 5, 2015 Public Hearing
 - Paragraph one and “speople” to the word town to make townspeople
- November 5, 2015 Special Board Meeting
 - Paragraph one and “speople” to the word town to make townspeople

Councilman Miller made the motion, seconded by, Councilwoman Holcomb, to accept the October 13th Public Hearing and Regular Town Board Meeting, October 22nd Special Town Board Meeting, and the November 5th, 2015 Public Hearing and Preliminary Budget Meeting minutes as amended. With 3 ayes, Councilwoman Herrick abstained, minutes are approved as amended

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

Note that \$7,000 from the Garbage Reserve fund will be transferred into the appropriate account when the bill for the truck and chassis are received.

Town Clerk is selling hunting licenses.

Highway Superintendents report:

- \$87,000 for CHIPS money has been requested and should be arriving in December. This was for the money expended for the winter sand and winter preparations.
- Mike will be ordering more road signs for the town since some are missing or damaged, this includes Hog Hollow Rd
- Purchasing Salt and Sand
- E&V Energy will be cleaning furnaces at the Town Hall and Town Barns
- Garbage Truck – Frank Payne has title and he needs payment. Town needs title to drive the truck back to Richford.

Justice Report:

Check for \$3,235 was presented to the Board

Dog Control Report:

No Dog Report

Code Enforcement Report:

- 5 building permits, 2 inquires, 2 renewal notices, 2 close out permits
- 2 certificates of occupancy, 1 violation, 5 plan reviews, 32 inspections

Town Planning Board report was presented.

- Victoria Nuzzo has updated Comprehensive Plan with Minor changes. The Planning Board is asking the Town Board to schedule a Public Hearing on December 8, 2015 prior to the board meeting.
- Planning Board has determined after reviewing information that the maintenance of sidewalks is left up to the Town.

Abstract of Vouchers:

Councilman Miller, seconded by Councilwoman Herrick, 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. With 4 ayes, vouchers will be paid.

OLD BUSINESS:

Post Office:

Supervisor Wilcox received a letter from the Postal Service, Joseph Mulvee. Supervisor Wilcox has invited Mr. Mulvey to our December meeting to discuss the future of a postal building in Richford. The Town wants to keep the process going to get a post office in Richford in 2016.

Comprehensive Plan:

Councilwoman Herrick, seconded by Councilwoman Holcomb, made the motion to hold a Public Hearing on the Comprehensive Plan on Tuesday, December 8, 2015 at 6:30 pm. 4 ayes the motion was passed. The public hearing notice will be placed in the Tioga County Courier the week of November 22, 2015. Charlie Davis will assist in the write up of the notice.

Tax Cap Override:

On November 5, 2015 the public hearing on the tax override was held. Once this meeting was held the board can vote on the law.

Councilman Miller would like to review the budget again to help reduce the budget from the preliminary amount of \$706,360.

Tax Override Law has to be voted on prior to the budget. Budget must be completed by November 20, 2015.

A lot of discussion on various parts of the budget was held.

Resolution:

Be it resolved that Local Law 1 of The Year 2015 to override the property tax cap for 2016 shall be adopted.

Roll call – Councilwoman Holcomb – aye
 Councilwoman Herrick – aye
 Councilman Miller – nay
 Supervisor Wilcox – aye

With 3 ayes the resolution is adopted.

Velvet will file with the State.

Councilwoman Herrick, seconded by Councilwoman Holcomb, made a motion to hold a Special Town Board Meeting on Wednesday November 18, 2015 at 6:00 pm to review the budget.

Rawley Park:

DOT cleared out the ditches. No issues with water should occur.

EMS:

Supervisor Wilcox, called the office and spoke to Jim Tornatore (NV Mayor). We have not received the quarterly report and Supervisor Wilcox will continue his effort to obtain one. It is the feeling of the Board members that we should look into other options for EMS services since this one is unreliable. John Keener mentioned that the EMS coordinator may have some information that may be useful.

Town Truck Fuel Bills:

Mike Hunt indicated that we do not pay any taxes on fuel.

Sidewalk Maintenance:

The Board has significant discussions on the way that sidewalk maintenance can be handled.

Councilwoman Herrick can see that the town or the residents could have the responsibility for the maintenance. She is in favor of a local law to have residents responsible for maintaining the sidewalks.

Councilman Miller indicated it would be nice for the town to take care of them but that would increase the budget even more. He is in favor of a local law to have residents responsible for maintaining the sidewalks.

Councilwoman Holcomb is in favor of a local law to have residents responsible for maintaining the sidewalks.

Supervisor Wilcox would like the town to be responsible since the homeowners did not replace the sidewalks. He would also like to wait to see how the winter goes and what homeowners do. He also noted that either way the graded school house sidewalk is the responsibility of the town.

The vote to continue with a local law which would give the property owners responsibility for maintaining the sidewalks in front of their residences came out 3 to 1 in favor of the law.

Supervisor Wilcox suggested that the Town Lawyer draw up the Local Law. Councilman Miller indicated that we owe the lawyer enough money and asked the Planning Board if they could develop a law and have attorney review it.

Charlie Davis accepted the request for the Planning Board they will gather a few examples and present a draft to the Board.

Took a vote of the Board, 3 ayes and Supervisor Wilcox abstained.

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR:

Graded School House Proposal:

John Schwartz presented to the Town Board a Request for Proposal. A group at Cornell University is requesting proposals from town and municipalities where students can do various projects. If selected the students would put together a survey of what the town's residents would like to see done with the Graded School House. Then another group would take those results and design a plan to accomplish the vision for the Graded School House. There is no fee to send in a proposal. If Richford is accepted there would be a \$500.00 fee.

The initial proposal is due December 4, 2015. Selections will be made in January. The Town Board needs to approve the submittal of the proposal. If selected the town would have to pay the \$500 or withdraw from the program. This would be beneficial in applying for necessary grants.

This issue was tabled and will be addressed at the Special Town Board Meeting on November 18, 2015.

REAP:

Richard Harrington attended the meeting and updated us on REAP programs:

- Redbrook Meat Processing and the Farmhouse Brewery Projects are closed.
- Bio Mass and Bio Energy Phase II complete
- Broad Band Study – Tioga County study completed
- USDA supervisor asked to come to December meeting to discuss new grant cycle
- USDA has grants for municipalities for highway and fire department equipment

Neighborhood Watch:

Neighborhood Watch started last fall. The state was petitioned for signs and they have provided four free of charge. Mindy asked the Highway Dept to install and Mike Hunt said they would do that at each welcome to Richford sign.

Town Attorney Request for Information:

A town resident, Mindy Moniz, requested information on the amount paid to the Town Lawyer broken out by category for 2014/2015 time period. Supervisor Wilcox took responsibility for this information request.

Highway Workers Contract:

Ed Evenson requested a copy of the Highway Contract. Supervisor Wilcox took responsibility for this information request.

Rawley Park:

Charlie Davis thanked Barb Keener, April Anderson, Joe Kral and all the other members of the town who were responsible for making Trunk or Treat a great success.

Garbage Fee Amounts:

Bill Stell asked why the garbage fees on the Supervisor's Report differ from the Clerk's Report. This is because they are for two different months. The Clerk Report is for October and the amount on the Supervisor report is from September.

Cable Revenue:

The town has an agreement with Haeefe TV which gives the town 5% of the fees collected by Haeefe.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 9:48 p.m.

Velvet Lyke
Town Clerk