

Minutes Town of Richford Board Meeting October 13, 2015

The regular Town of Richford Board Meeting was called to order at 7:58 p.m. by Supervisor Wilcox. Councilman Miller, Councilwoman Holcomb, Councilwoman Herrick, Supervisor Wilcox, Highway Superintendent Hunt and 9 townspeople were present, including three high school students for their Participation in Government Class (Catherine Lyke, Katie Jobson, and Kristen Martin). Councilman Brown was absent.

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

The minutes of the September 8, 2015 regular town board meeting, and the minutes for the special town board meeting on September 14, 2015 were presented. The following corrections were asked to be made by the board:

- Page 3 – Change the date in the header to September 8th.
- Page 4 – Correct name for Jill McEvoy

Councilwoman Herrick made the motion, seconded by, Councilwoman Holcomb, to accept the September 8, 2015 regular town board meeting and September 14, 2015 special town board meeting minutes as amended. With 4 ayes, minutes are approved as amended

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

Highway Superintendents report:

- Andersen Hill Road – Installed approximately 5,200 feet of drain tile up the center, pealed shoulders and cleaned ditches.
- Starting to haul in sand for ice control.
- Sold scrap metal Mike has receipt and will give to Supervisor
- Councilwoman Holcomb spoke to Mike regarding a spreadsheet of roads to help keep track of maintenance. Mike indicated he has the spreadsheet and is utilizing it.
- Councilwoman Holcomb asked Mike how the union was going with the employees. Mike has not had any issues. Comp time will be limited from April to December since this is the busy season.
- Supervisor Wilcox inquired if Mike had gotten the Health Insurance Information, the mandatory CDL training and if contacted by Laurie Cole regarding insurance and plates for trucks. Mike was aware of all items and taking care of them.

Justice Report:

Check for \$1,946 was presented to the Board

Dog Control Report:

- Two dogs taken to Stray Haven
- Dog running up and down Payne Marsh

Code Enforcement Report:

- Was provided.

Town Planning Board report was presented.

- Comprehensive Plan comes in front of the Tioga County Planning Board on October 21. Charlie Davis will attend and invited anyone from the Board to also attend.
- Comments from Ag and Market received. Many comments but some do not apply to our town. Victoria Nuzzo will send comment to the board. She will also discuss with Elaine Jardine and the committee.
- Prepping for October newsletter should go out next Monday

Supervisor Wilcox indicated to town members that Richford does not have a County Planning Board Member and if anyone is interested please contact the Board.

Abstract of Vouchers:

Councilman Miller, seconded by Councilwoman Herrick, made a motion to pay the vouchers on Abstract #9 and that the vouchers on the Abstract are the same ones signed by the Board. With 4 ayes, vouchers will be paid.

OLD BUSINESS:

Garbage Truck:

The town can purchase a packer for \$14,000 and receive a \$4,000 credit for the old packer for Hacker Packers. In addition, a new chassis can be purchased from Frank Payne for \$3,000. The total outlay for the two items is \$13,000.

Councilman Miller, seconded by Councilwoman Holcomb, made a motion to move \$7,000 from the Garbage Truck Reserve Fund to Account A8160.2, and to move \$1,000 from A1990.4 to A8160.2 and purchase the packer and chassis for \$13,000.

With 4 ayes the transfers and purchase will be made.

The Garbage Truck reserve fund was created to help with unexpected issues and to keep from raising taxes.

Accounts in Deficit:

The only account in deficit this month is the Attorney account A1420.1 in the amount of \$4,572.10.

There was considerable discussion on this account and if the amount owed to the attorney. Councilwoman Holcomb feels that the lawyer has not given the town sound advice on matters such as the Hyde property. Town members asked if the lawyer only performs work when asked by the town.

Supervisor Wilcox expressed his opinion that the lawyer does have the town's best interest in mind and that she does work when asked by the town and to protect the town. In addition, the lawyer works on other things besides the Hyde property, this includes questions from Board members, law suits and drafting laws.

An example of when the lawyer did activities that were not requested of her was presented: The DEC had sent a letter to the lawyer and town regarding Flood Mitigation. Charlie Davis drafted the paperwork. At the same time the lawyer did the same work.

Councilwoman Holcomb brought an example to the board of possible bad advice given to the town related to the Hyde Property. She had asked another organizations attorney what they would do and they indicated they would wait the 3 years until the building was up for the tax sale.

Supervisor Wilcox explained that the town was asked by the town people when the hazard would be taken care of and that was a main reason the town took action. Supervisor Wilcox also commented that he believes that Councilwoman Holcomb is biased because of her lawsuit against the town.

Councilman Miller made the comment that the lawyer will have to be paid. He suggested the board wait till the end of the year to move funds to cover the fees. He would also like to see the board work with the Fire District on the new building.

EMS Quarterly Report:

Councilwoman Holcomb inquired about the report from EMS group. Supervisor Wilcox said we usually receive with the bill and we have not received that as of today.

Ed Evenson indicated that he listens to the calls on his radio and the responses have not improved.

Councilwoman Herrick suggested we look into paid services because the townspeople are in an unsafe situation.

New Business:

Sidewalk Maintenance:

Supervisor Wilcox received a letter from the Engineer in Tioga County. The letter was read and stated that the town is responsible for maintenance and snow removal of the newly constructed sidewalks per Highway Law Section 10 Subsection 25 and Section 140.

In addition, the County Highway department will look at the ditches by Rawley Park to determine if any maintenance is needed.

Victoria Nuzzo requested the board review the Highway laws to see if the maintenance of the sidewalks could be a home owner's responsibility. This could help to keep taxes lower.

2016 Budget:

Councilman Miller, seconded by Councilwoman Holcomb, made the motion to hold a public hearing on Local Law to override the tax cap and the preliminary budget for 2016 on November 5, 2015 at 6:30 at the Community Hall. With 4 ayes the motion was passed.

Councilwoman Holcomb, seconded by Councilman Miller, made the motion to hold a special town board meeting to discuss the tentative budget on Thursday, October 22, 2015 at 6:30. With 4 ayes the motion was passed.

Tire Collection Day:

No collection day this fall.

Rawley Park:

Joe Kral informed the board that the front bank will be seeded if the weather permits. Seed purchased by the owners of the Diner.

Broken bench needs to be repaired and replaced. Barb Keener was in charge of asking town highway men to help repair and replace.

Councilman Miller, seconded by Councilwoman Holcomb, made a motion to approve a Trunk or Treat and bonfire (weather permitting) at Rawley Park on October 30, 2015. With 4 ayes the motion was passed.

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR:

Emilie Stuelmiller asked the board to increase the budget for the Berkshire Library to \$3,700 due to increase in minimum wage. She also asked for a \$500 donation to Northern Tioga Neighbor to Neighbor. She will provide Supervisor Wilcox with documentation.

Emilie Stuehl Miller also asked Mike Hunt if he would have the Town's Highway men to remove weeds from the Welcome to Richford sign and by the town barns.

Victoria Nuzzo inquired where the Justice Court money goes. Supervisor Wilcox showed her the revenue information in the town budget. She also asked the board to consider not paying the Town Historian to help with the budget.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 9:28 p.m.

Velvet Lyke
Town Clerk