

---

---

# RICHFORD QUARTERLY

---

---

Volume 14, Issue 2

[www.richfordny.com](http://www.richfordny.com)

April – August 2014

---

---

## FROM THE SUPERVISOR

It was a very difficult winter for the Town. The highway employees worked a lot of overtime; this was necessary to provide the town residents with safe roads to drive out. There were higher electricity and fuel oil bills. Twice the line from the Town Hall to the septic had to be dug up because of ice in the line. The first time cost over \$1,458.00. The year-end for 2013 was over \$13,000 less than estimated and the Town only received \$6.22 in sales tax revenue from the County. 2014 may be a difficult year fiscally for the Town. The Town Board meets the second Tuesday of each month at 7p.m.

## POST OFFICE "UPDATE"

The "Temporary" closure of the Richford Post Office continues into its sixth month. The only relief that our local residents have received is the placement of an out-going mail receptacle (Blue USPS Mail Box) in front of the Richford Quickway with pick-up at 3 pm Monday -Saturday. This allows local residents to send out letters without having to drive the 4+ miles to Berkshire to achieve that seemingly easy task. Residents with P.O. Boxes must still drive to Berkshire to pick up their mail during regular lobby hours, from 7:30 am - 5 pm Monday thru Friday and 7:30 am – 11:30 am on Saturday. The retail sales window is open from 7:30 am – 11:30 am Monday thru Friday and 9 -11am on Saturday. For more information contact the Berkshire Post Office at 657-2755 or USPS at 1-800- 275-8777 or go to [www.uspspostoffices.com/ny/berkshire/berkshire](http://www.uspspostoffices.com/ny/berkshire/berkshire). The out-going Blue USPS Mail Box)in front of the Berkshire Post Office is picked up 4:35 p.m. Mon-Fri and 11 am on Saturday.

## YOUR IDEAS NEEDED

The Planning Board is beginning the job of updating the Town's Comprehensive Plan. A Comprehensive Plan is a document that describes the history, current state, and future vision for the community. It acts as a road map to guide future growth and development while promoting the health, safety and general welfare of the people.

The Comprehensive Plan should reflect the ideas and opinions of the community's residents. A questionnaire will be mailed in May to everyone who lives in, or owns land in, the Town of Richford. Please take the time to fill out the questionnaire and return it to the Planning Board – your opinion matters, and will help guide the future of our Town.

If you would like to work on this update, please join the Planning Board at its monthly meeting, the first Wednesday of each month 7-9pm, at the Town Hall on Bowery Lane. For more information, e-mail [planningboard@richfordny.com](mailto:planningboard@richfordny.com), or call Victoria Nuzzo (607-227-1177) or Charles Davis (607-657-8248).

## GRIEVANCE DAY

Grievance Day will be held Tuesday, May 27 from 4 - 8 pm at the Town Hall, Bowery Lane, Richford. Grievance Day gives property owners the opportunity to discuss and to seek relief for their property assessments with Board of Review members Flora Karasin, Steve Kotula and another member. By law, Frances Butler, Assessor, must attend this meeting, but she is not a member of the Board of Assessment Review. Property owners whose assessments were changed have been notified directly by mail.

Copies of the required assessment complaint form will be available at the meeting. Copies of the form can also be obtained from the Assessor (849-6966, by e-mail [Town.assessor@gmail.com](mailto:Town.assessor@gmail.com), or by mail: P. O. Box 366, Marathon, NY 132803). Also, copies can be obtained from the County Real Property Tax Office, 56 Main St., Owego, NY or from the New York State website: [www.orps.state.ny.us](http://www.orps.state.ny.us). Locally the copies are also available from the Richford website: [www.richfordny.com](http://www.richfordny.com).

On or about May 1st the tentative Assessment Roll Book will be filed by the Assessor at the Town Clerk's Office for local residents to examine during the Clerk's regular office hours. In addition the roll book will be available to view at the Real Property Tax Office, 56 Main St., Owego, and at the Assessor's Office in Marathon (849-6966). A link to view it will also be on the Town of Richford website at [www.richfordny.com](http://www.richfordny.com)

New York State law requires that any changes in the property assessment after the tentative roll has been filed must be made by the Board of Assessment Review and NOT by the Assessor.

## TOWN BOARD NEWS

**Jan 14** -- Lee Ann Tinney, Director of Economic Development for Tioga County, asked the Town Board to pass a resolution in support of Tioga Downs' bid for a gaming license. If Tioga Downs get the license, it would result in more than 1000 new jobs, and the County would receive some 6.1 million dollars split among many entities: 80% would go to the school districts, 10% would be split between the Town of Nichols and the County, and the remaining 10% would be shared by surrounding towns, including Richford. If Broome County gets the license Tioga County could still receive revenue of approximately \$600,000 divided up between schools, county, and towns.

Councilwoman Holcomb stated she realizes the revenue and creation of jobs, but she is against gambling and cannot support a resolution. Councilman Ricky Brown stated support for the gaming license. Councilwoman Herrick feels gambling is

highly predatory and feels the town should not offer support to a specific company. Supervisor Wilcox voiced the concern that if Richford takes action against Tioga Downs' bid, the other municipalities may not look favorably on that. A decision will be made at the February meeting.

Highway Superintendent Holt stated that the scale on the garbage truck has been certified. They hauled 1400 ton of sand in December for this year and next and are busy servicing equipment and getting ready for spring. The Dog Control officer had no activity to report. The Justice Court report December 2013 showed \$3685 collected. Code Enforcement Officer report showed two building permits issued, four violation notices sent, construction costs of \$82,000, and \$300 collected.

Charlie Davis gave the Planning Board report. They have developed a Code of Ethics for all Town employees, Board members etc., based on a NYS model. Supervisor Wilcox stated that a board member can simply recuse him/herself if he/she feels there is a conflict of interest. Councilwomen Herrick and Holcomb feel a resolution is sufficient and a law is not required. No action was taken on the Code Of Ethics. The Planning Board also presented a revised Code of Conduct for all persons attending board meetings and public hearings. No action was taken on the Code of Conduct. Davis described the Town-wide survey that will be mailed to all residents as part of the Comprehensive Plan update.

Members to different positions were appointed, and salaries were approved for 2014: Town board member (\$900); Town Justice (\$5,556); bookkeeper (\$2,000); Supervisor (\$3,900); assessor (\$5,300); clerk (\$4,140); Town hall attendant (\$1,860); dog control officer (\$2,500); highway superintendent (\$42,900); highway dept. employee (\$18.15/hr); Code enforcement officer (\$9,015); Court clerk (\$10.00/hr); garbage truck attendant (\$8.00/hr); historian (\$250/yr); board of assessment review (\$100 Chair, \$50 each member).

There was discussion about the lack of agreement with the highway employees for the contract that expired on December 31. Also, continued discussion about the Post Office closure. Supervisor Wilcox will contact Tom Reed's office for advice.

**Feb 11** -- Justice Court report for January 2014 showed \$1992 collected. Code Enforcement Officer report showed; one building permit, one certificate of temporary occupancy, and three violation notices sent. Discussion about the burnt building in the hamlet, and whether the highway department can remove it? Supervisor Wilcox stated that they are not trained in hazardous waste removal and this activity is not in their contracted duties. Continued discussion about problems at the garbage truck: The weight of garbage in the truck is more than what is recorded by the attendant.

Supervisor Wilcox stated that we did not have the anticipated end of year surplus in the general account; Sales tax revenue was estimated at \$12,000, and actual was only \$6.22. This will be a difficult year for the town. The highway department contract is still under negotiation.

**March 11** -- Highway Superintendent Holt stated that it has been a tough winter for all towns; there is no sand to be bought, no stone to acquire for additional supply for road repair. Vehicles have been serviced and are ready. Trucks due for inspection and it's getting harder to get these old trucks to pass. Garbage truck needed work to pass. Justice Court February 2014 report indicated \$1075 collected. Code Enforcement Officer report for February 2014 indicated four building permit inquires, one closed out permit, one certificate of occupancy, and one certificate of compliance.

Charlie Davis gave the Planning Board report. The Code of Ethics is now in the hands of the Town Board to review, accept or change, and pass resolution on. Councilwoman Holcomb wants time to review laws quoted etc. and have Town Board discuss the Code of Ethics at the April 2014. Davis reiterated that the Code of Ethics does not need to be a law; rather, it can be a resolution and therefore easier to change.

A resolution in support of Tioga Downs for selection as the eastern southern tier region casino gaming license awardee was approved on a 3 to 2 vote. Highway department employee contract that expired December 31, 2013 still not resolved and further negotiations are needed. Continued discussion about the garbage truck problems.

Discussion about the change in bus transportation for Medicaid appointments: Tioga Transport will not be able to transport people to their doctors appointments any longer, Medicaid will no longer pay for bus transportation.

Supervisor Wilcox contacted the town's attorney regarding next step on the burnt building in the hamlet, on the Joyce Hyde property. One more public hearing is required where the report is reviewed. The town clerk is to send minutes of the two previous public hearings on the Joyce Hyde property to the town's attorney, Khandi Sokoni of True, Walsh, and Sokoni.

Discussion about applying for a grant for enhancing park and recreation facilities. A 5% owner contribution is required and the minimum grant amount is \$50,000 so the Town would need to have \$2500 up front and commit to upkeep of the park facilities. Councilwoman Herrick will inquire if "in kind" contributions of volunteer labor will count towards the 5% contribution.

## **DRUG TAKE-BACK DAY**

Do you have any medications that you need to dispose of? National Prescription Drug Take-Back Day is April 26<sup>th</sup> 10a-2pm at the Old Mill Professional Building Parking Lot, 6 McMaster Street in Owego (across the street from Agway). No appointment necessary, just drive-up for window service (you will not need to exit your car). Drop off all unwanted prescription and non-prescription pills, pet medications, powders, inhalers, controlled substances, and epi-pens; just no liquids, needles or medical sharps. Questions? Call 607-687-6349, or go to [www.tccasa.org](http://www.tccasa.org).

## **FIRE DEPARTMENT NEWS**

The Richford Fire Department has had a very busy winter! Our volunteers responded to a large number of structure fires, motor vehicle accidents, and mutual aid calls. They have worked selflessly to assist our community and our neighboring communities. To help our volunteers do their jobs a little easier, the Fire District purchased a new Ford 550 rescue vehicle that is outfitted to handle a variety of different situations. The vehicle has been designed to store auto extrication equipment as well as medical assist and AED equipment, and a light bar that will provide safer scene operation at night. Our volunteers have already put this much needed vehicle to use.

Already this year, our volunteers have responded to 17 calls; 4 fire, 3 MVA's, 6 mutual aids and 4 medical assists. Applications are always available and volunteers are always needed! Please contact April Andersen at 657-2575 with any questions or to apply for membership. The fire district would also like to welcome Chuck Schell, our newest commissioner who is replacing Roberta Holcomb on the District board. Thank you to Roberta for her time and efforts during her time on the board.

## **RABIES CLINIC**

The next rabies clinic on April 30 is hosted by the Tioga County Department of Environmental Health from 6 -7 p.m. at the Newark Valley Fire Station, 7151 Rte. 38, Newark Valley, NY. A \$10 donation is requested (not required) per pet. Clinic is available for dogs, cats and domesticated ferrets. Vaccine will not be administered unless pets are under control with dogs on a leash and cats either on a leash or boxed and both accompanied by a responsible adult.. If your pet has had a previous rabies vaccination, bring that certificate with you if not, the vaccination will be effective for a one year period. Questions? Contact the Tioga County Health Dept. (607)687-6585

## **COMMUNITY AUXILIARY NEWS**

The Auxiliary will sponsor a chicken barbecue on Saturday, May 10 at the Fire Station to support the Richford Scholarship. The Auxiliary hopes to raise the \$400 needed to provide for two scholarships of \$200 each for a Richford graduating boy and girl who plan to further his/her education. Auxiliary members will call residents asking for donations of canned baked beans, cooking oil, charcoal, salt potatoes and cash donations for chicken. Calls can also be made to Christina Craft (844-8969) to offer donations. Your assistance will be greatly appreciated by the Auxiliary members as they work to meet this commitment.

The Auxiliary also plans to have Kiddies Day on July 19 when bikes will be available for Richford children only. The event is scheduled from 9 a.m. to noon at Rawley Park. More information will be available from Christina Craft.

## **HEALTH CENTER OPEN HOUSE**

The Northern Tioga Center for Family Health will celebrate twenty years of service to residents of Richford and Northern Tioga County with an open house on Tuesday, June 3 from 1:30 to 3:30 pm at the Health Center, Route 38, Richford. All are invited to come and meet the Health Center staff. The Center is affiliated with Lourdes Hospital.

The Health Center was first located in the apartment next to the Post Office, and later was moved to its current location. Lynn Verduin started as Family Nurse Practitioner. Construction of the Hubbard Center began in 2002 and was named after the late Ward Hubbard who donated the land for the two buildings. The Health Center was established through the efforts of personnel from Lourdes and a community alliance.

## **BERKSHIRE FREE LIBRARY**

Story Time in Richford is continuing, thanks to a grant from the Rosen Library Fund. Story Time is for children 5 and under, and is held 10-11am every Friday at the Congregational Church (Route 38 in Richford). The Rosen Library Fund is also hosting The Ross Park Zoo Mobile, which will come to Richford on June 6<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 am, also at the Congregational Church. All children are welcome to participate in this fun and educational program about wild animals.

The Summer Reading program will start the end of June, as soon as school lets out – your child will bring a flyer home with information. This program rewards children for every hour spent reading. Stop in or call during library hours to find out more.

LuAnn Whirl, head librarian at the Berkshire Free Library, will join the Richford Summer Youth Program once a week to help with summer reading and to have fun doing experiments with the children.

Plan to attend the free “Moreland the Magician” show on July 19<sup>th</sup> at the Berkshire Community Hall at 1:00pm. This program is free to all Richford and Berkshire residents, and will be fun for all.

## **TIOGA COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

This year marks the 100th anniversary of the chartering of the Tioga County Historical Society. There is currently an exhibit depicting the role of Tioga County in the Civil War, which occurred over 150 years ago. There are also exhibits of a classroom and general store from 100 years ago. Many other special events are planned for 2014. The museum is located at 110 Front St. in Owego and is open Wed-Sat 10Am-4PM.

Fold 2

### *Calendar of Events*

- April 26 Drug Take-Back Day, 10 am – 2 pm, at 6 McMaster Street in Owego.
- April 30 Rabies Clinic, 6 – 7 pm, Newark Valley Fire Station.
- May 1 Food giveaway;. 1:00 – 2 p.m. Richford Congregational Church, bring boxes or bags.
- May 3 Smorgasbord Dinner;. 4:00 – 7 p.m., Richford Congregational Church.
- May 4 Richford Highland Cemetery Association meeting, Town Hall, 7 Bowery Ln. 7 p.m.
- May 10 Chicken barbeque. 12 noon till done. Half and dinners available. Sponsored by Community Auxiliary, open to all
- May 10 Tire Collection Day, 8 am – 2 p.m. Highway Dept. Garage

- May 27 Grievance Day, 4 – 8 pm, Town Hall, Bowery Lane.
- June 3 Health Center Open House, 1:30 – 3:30 pm, Health Center.
- June 5 Food give away see May 1
- June 6 Ross Park Zoo Mobile, 10 – 11am, Congregational Church (Rt. 38), free to all children
- July 3 “NO” Food giveaway, Summer Break.
- July 7 Summer Youth Program begins. Mon, Wed, and Fri. noon to 3 p.m. lunch provided. Call 657-8254 for more info.
- July 19 Kiddies’ Day, 9am – noon. Sponsored by Community Auxiliary.
- July 19 Moreland the Magician, 1pm, Berkshire Free Library. Free to everyone.
- Aug 7 Food giveaway, see May 1

Fold 1

### **TIRE COLLECTION DAY**

Tire Collection Day will be held May 10 from 8 am - 2 pm, at the Town Highway Garage, (Rt. 79 east). Due to a limited amount of space available on the collection truck, tires will be collected on a first come, first serve basis until the truck is full!!!! The fees to help cover costs:

17" or smaller (auto type): \$1.00

Auto tires, to 17" w/rims, or truck tires  
15 - 19" or without rims: \$3.00

20" and larger but, less than 100 lbs: \$6.00

100 lbs. and larger \$6.00 + an additional .05 per lb.  
(for example: \$7.25 for a 125 lb. tire).