
RICHFORD QUARTERLY

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FROM THE SUPERVISOR

In the past few months several difficult situations were resolved. A post office was reestablished in Town, a new four year contract was ratified with the highway employees, the Hyde property was acquired by the Fire District and new sidewalks were constructed along Rte. 38 in the hamlet area. This year the Town received over \$6,000 in sales tax revenue, several refunds and also adopted a Code of Ethics which will cover all town officials and employees. The Town is beginning work on the 2016 Town Budget and the garbage truck will have to be replaced. There is currently a vacancy on the County Planning Board for a Richford resident. Anyone interested in serving should contact the Town.

ELECTION DAY, NOVEMBER 3

Election Day is Tuesday, November 3, from 6 am to 9 pm at the Richford Town Hall, Bowery Lane. The Planning Board asked all Richford candidates to describe their qualifications and goals. Their responses are printed below.

Town Of Richford Offices

Supervisor: 2 year term: Martin S. Wilcox (D)
Charles E. Davis (R)

Councilmember: 4 year term: Cynthia J. Herrick (D)
Vote for any two Bill Stell (D)
Charles W. Thayer (R)

Town Clerk: 2 year term: Velvet Lyke (R) (unopposed)

Highway Superintendent: Michael F. Hunt R) (unopposed)
2 year term:

CANDIDATES FOR TOWN SUPERVISOR

Name: Martin Wilcox – D

Qualifications (experience, education and training):

I am a life -long resident of Richford. I am a graduate of Whitney Point Central School and SUNY Geneseo. I am currently employed at the Asset Recovery Center in Endicott and work Saturdays at the museum in Owego. I have served the Town for several years as Councilman, Town Clerk and Supervisor. I have much experience which I believe is valuable to the Town whenever there are questions or problems to solve.

Goals:

My goals are to continue to help town government work efficiently and effectively, continue to upgrade the Town's technology, continue to enforce town laws and to begin the process to eventually replace our municipal buildings.

Name: Charles Davis - R

Occupation: Contractor

Qualifications (experience, education and training):

I grew up on the family farm in Berkshire and have lived in Richford since 1976. In 1988 my wife and I built a new house in west Richford where we currently live. I Graduated from Newark Valley High School in 1972 and worked at Howland Brothers for 2 years. I started working in the construction field in 1974 and have been a self-employed contractor for the past 40 years. I was appointed to the Town of Richford Planning Board in 2006 and have served as chairman for the past 4 Years. During this time, I helped develop and maintain the towns website, worked on multiple planning board projects and help edit and distribute the town newsletter.

Goals:

Work with the board to help provide effective and timely solutions to matters brought before the board. Promote better communication among board members that will foster trust and transparency in your local government. Work with all departments and the board on a sustainable long-range plan that meets the communities needs and stays within our economic confines.

CANDIDATES FOR TOWN BOARD

Name: Cynthia Herrick - D

Occupation: Math teacher

Qualifications (experience, education and training):

I have been a Town Councilperson for the past 8 years. I think that my hours of work writing, editing, negotiating, etc. the Town's budgets, contracts, laws, ordinances, and comprehensive plan have helped the Town. I volunteered with the NTH PTS and the local Girl Scout Daisy troop. I have degrees in Psychology and Mathematics Education.

Goals: My primary goal is to continue to work with the rest of the board to meet the needs of the townspeople within the budget. There are two other specific areas that interest me. First, the revitalization and potential expansion of Rawley Park (which would be grant-funded) are inspiring. It feels like the Town is coming alive. Second, improving EMS to the Town is the most important thing we can do as a Town government beyond keeping the roads safe and maintained.

Other information: I grew up in Richford and am raising my family here because I appreciate small town life and love our small town. Thanks!

Name: William E. Stell, Sr. - D
Occupation: Retired union carpenter

Qualifications (experience, education and training): I have served for the past three years on the Town Planning Board. I have lived in Richford and attended almost every Town Board meeting for the last three years.

Goals: I am seeking to work with the Board on bridging the communication with our Town organizations and residents and work on getting grant money to help with different issues in the Hamlet and the rest of the Town.

Name: Charles W. Thayer - R
Mr. Thayer did not prepare a statement.

CANDIDATE FOR TOWN CLERK

My name is Velvet Lyke and I am the current Richford Town Clerk. I have enjoyed my first year serving the Town of Richford. During my first year I was able to collect the taxes, organize the town data, resume selling hunting and fishing licenses as well as continue with dog licensing. I am running unopposed for the position. I look forward to serving the Town for the next two years and I hope to become a Notary this year to assist more town members. Thank you for your support.

TOWN BOARD NEWS

July 21 - Special meeting to discuss the Harrington Gravel Pit, Highway Contract, and Rawley Park Bonfire. Lengthy discussion about the Comprehensive Plan with many suggested changes. The Board approved a five year contract with John and Sandra Harrington to remove gravel for \$22/truck load. Short discussion about the 2015 highway contract. The Board scheduled a second Special Town Board Meeting for July 27 to further discuss the contract. The park bonfire was authorized.

July 27 – The Board met in Executive Session to discuss the Highway Contract with the Union and Highway Employees.

Aug 11 - Highway Superintendent Mike Hunt reported progress on Barden Road repair work. They have hauled approximately 600 loads of gravel with help from the Towns of Harford and Dryden. Discussed replacing the chassis for the garbage truck.

The Justice report included a check for \$3,004. Dog Control Officer Rob Raab reported on licensing, and complaints about dogs barking and running at large. Code Enforcement Officer reported 6 building permits, one certification of occupancy, 2 complaints of lack of building permit, and 21 inspections.

Councilwoman Herrick inquired about a Sign Ordinance, as she is concerned about large billboards with illumination in the town.

The paperwork to transfer ownership of the Hyde Property over to the Richford Fire District has been completed and signed. The Fire District will have the property surveyed and then an abatement company will demolish and remove the house.

The Fire District may still own the Graded Schoolhouse. The tax property system states the Town owns the property but the deed doesn't agree. Supervisor Wilcox will go to the County to review the deed to determine who has clear title. Town Clerk Lyke will review Town Board Minutes from 1984-1987 to see what the agreement was between the Town and Fire District.

Councilwoman Herrick asked the Board to vote on the Code of Ethics. Councilman Miller had not read the final version and did not want to vote on something he did not review. Davis stated the final version is the same as the first version he provided to the Board 18 months ago. Once again no vote was taken and the topic tabled until the September meeting.

Two applicants applied for the position of Town Hall and Rawley Park Custodian; Barbara Keener was hired. John Harbst was hired as Substitute Garbage Attendant.

The 2015 Highway Employees Contract was discussed. Councilman Miller questioned wording about comp time. Supervisor Wilcox appealed to Councilman Miller to agree with the contract as written since Mike Hunt assured the Town Board he can work with it. The Town Board approved the contract.

Discussion about a tax cap override. Councilmembers Herrick and Miller feel it's best to put the Tax Cap override into place as a precaution. Supervisor Wilcox will contact attorney to get the local law drafted. Councilwoman Herrick mentioned that a Town Grant Gateway Administrator must be appointed before state grants can be applied for. The Board appointed Velvet Lyke as the NYS Grants Gateway Administrator.

Discussion about the many improvements made at Rawley Park. The Board voted to replace a broken outside light with a vandal resistant one. The Park Committee is working with Haeefe TV to provide free WIFI at the park and the Highway Department is correcting drainage problems at the park.

Sept 8 2015 - Highway Superintendent Mike Hunt reported that the CHIPS check for \$97,251.25 should be received in September. The garbage truck will be repaired with a \$3000 chassis. Barden Road will be finished next week and the Highway Department will oil and stone it in 2016. The Highway Department will begin installing drain tile on Andersen Hill next week. Hunt stated that the 2016 estimated budget should be the same as last year, and requested that the excess money in the Machinery Fund be transferred to the Equipment Reserve Fund since some of the equipment is getting older.

Justice Report included a check for \$3,088. Code Enforcement Officer reported 1 building permit, 6 building permit renewal notices, 3 violations and 21 inspections. Town Planning Board report included review of the draft Comprehensive Plan. The Town Board will meet with the Planning Board Sept 14 to further discuss the Comprehensive Plan.

The Board discussed the \$3,100 Hyde property tax refund from the County. Councilmembers Holcomb and Miller want the money returned to the Fire District, which paid this to the county when buying the property. Supervisor Wilcox wants the Town to keep the money.

The Code of Ethics was finally adopted, after a year and a half of discussion. Holcomb abstained from the vote. The Fire District gifted the Graded Schoolhouse to the Town Board in September 1985, but the deed was never modified. The Board will budget funds in 2016 for the deed transfer fees. Supervisor Wilcox contacted Congressman Reed's office and was told that a new post office will open in 2016.

A Town person asked about the Highway Employees new contract. The raise percentages are: 4% retroactive to 2015, 2.3% 2016 and 2017 and 2.5% 2018. The new health insurance begins January 1, 2016. A Town person inquired if the building fund is in an interest bearing account and if any resolution of the NYSEG billings had occurred. Supervisor Wilcox stated the reserve funds could be put into any kind of account that the town selects, and no resolution has been made.

Sept 14 - Special meeting to discuss the Comprehensive Plan. The Town Board and Comprehensive Plan Committee reviewed and agreed upon wording changes. Councilwoman Holcomb stated that the benefits of natural gas extraction should be listed in the plan. Supervisor Wilcox commented that Councilwoman Holcomb's suggestion is very specific and the plan is meant to be general in nature. The Board agreed to leave this topic out of the plan.

As the Board and Committee went through each goal an agreement was made that the wording was acceptable. The Town Board voted to approve the revised draft Comprehensive Plan and to continue the approval process by submitting the Plan to the County Planning Board and NYS Ag and Markets for review, prior to holding a Public Hearing.

FROM THE HIGHWAY SUPERINTENDENT

We were able to install drainage, lay fabric and gravel about 1 mile of Barden Rd. and install drainage and ditch the west end of Andersen Hill Rd. Both of these projects will help dissipate water from under the road and help keep frost from damaging the roads. We hope that any temporary inconvenience that these projects caused will be offset by the long-term improvements that we are striving for. Trucks will be set-up for the winter season and sand stocks will be bolstered. This month we will be clearing brush along town roads to help improve vision lines. As always, if you have any question or concerns, please contact me at the highway barn at 657-2770. Thank You, Michael Hunt.

FIRE DEPARTMENT NEWS

The Fire Department purchased the 'burnt house' in August and is working with Gorik Construction to have the house removed before the snow flies. The Fire Department's plans are to construct a new Richford Fire District Building at this location.

NEW SIDEWALKS!

The worn out sidewalks along Hwy 38 have been replaced by NYS DOT. Homeowners are encouraged to keep them free of snow and ice during the winter months, so children (and all of us) can walk safely in winter.

SIGN UP FOR TIMELY EVENT ALERTS

If you would like to have timely alerts about upcoming special events – public hearings, festivals, etc. – sign up at newsletter@richfordny.com with the request, "yes, please send local notices via email". Also, please indicate if you would like to receive this quarterly newsletter by email, in place of or in addition to a paper copy. Your email address will NOT be given or sold to anyone – just used to keep you informed of special events here in Richford. You can also see these on the town website richfordny.com.

FRIENDS OF RAWLEY PARK

In August we hosted our first annual potluck, movie night and bonfire at the park and it was a great hit. We could not have done it without the support of our community - Town staff and representatives, the Richford Volunteer Fire Department, Steve Holcomb who made the movie possible, and the Richford Taste Treat for providing some cold treats for the evening. Thank you all!

The Friends of Rawley Park committee continues to receive great feedback from the community full of ideas and support. Our survey is now ready and it's very important to get everyone's input as we build a master plan for the park grounds. If you would like a copy of the survey sent to you please contact us at friendsofrawleypark@richfordny.com.

The committee is currently applying for two grants. One is to fund security camera installation at the park. The other is to fund a mosaic on the south end of the park pavilion. We are working with a local artist to create a design that represents Richford and our surrounding area. The drawings done by the children at the movie night were the first step in gathering those ideas. We welcome donations of tile, mirror, or glass type materials (can be broken) to create this mosaic. Do you have any lying around? Don't throw them away – donate them!

BERKSHIRE FREE LIBRARY NEWS

LuAnn Whirl, Director of the Berkshire Free Library, announced her resignation effective October --. During her 3 year tenure, LuAnn obtained funding for many programs, including story hour for children in Richford and Berkshire. An open house. For LuAnn, will be held at the Berkshire Library Wed. October 28 from 5-7 p.m. Come and thank LuAnn for her service and wish her well in her future endeavors

FREE HOME ENERGY HELP

Tioga Opportunities Inc. Energy Services is offering free home energy services for income eligible residents. These may include weatherization services, energy efficient freezers and refrigerators, high efficiency lighting and home insulation, if you meet income guidelines and are a NYSEG electric customer. Sounds too good to be true? Call 607-687-0944 x310 or toll-free 1-877-786-2419 for information. There is an easy form to fill out to start the process.

Fold 2

Calendar of Events

- Oct 17 Introduction to Today's Technology - 6 week program on using computers, smart phones, etc. 10 am, Berkshire Town Hall, Railroad Ave. Call the Berkshire Library at 657-4418 for dates and times of remaining classes.
- Oct 20 Fire Dept. 2016 budget public hearing, 7 pm, Fire Hall.
- Oct 30 Deadline to sign up for Christmas gifts for youth (infants – 18 years) from Tioga County Rural Ministry. Call 687-3021.
- Oct. 31 Deadline to sign up for holiday food baskets, Berkshire Helping Hands Food Pantry, call 657-8501 or 657-8158
- Nov 2 Last day to apply in person at the board of elections for an absentee ballot.
- Nov 3 Election Day. Polls open from 6 am until 9 pm, Town Hall, Bowery Ln.

- Nov 5 Free Food, with the Mobile Food Pantry Food Distribution, 11:30 am – 12:30 pm. Richford Congregational Church, bring boxes, bags.
 - Nov 5 Public hearings on 2016 Town Budget and Tax Cap override, 6:30 pm, Town Hall, Bowery Lane.
 - Nov 21 Pickup Thanksgiving Food Baskets, Community Hall, Berkshire, 10 a.m.
 - Dec 3 Mobile Food Pantry, see Nov 5
 - Dec 19 Pickup Christmas food baskets, Community Hall, Berkshire, 10 a.m.
 - 2016**
 - Jan 2 Soup and Salad, 4 - 6:30 pm, free will offering, Richford Congregational Church
 - Jan 7 Mobile Food Pantry, see Nov 5
- Please check town website, www.richfordny.com, for additional programs and news occurring after the newsletter.

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TRUNK-OR-TREAT

Everyone is invited to Trunk-or-Treat at Richford's Rawley Park on Friday October 30th from 6:00 to 7:30PM. Dress up the kids, yourselves and your cars. Bring candy to hand out and join in the fun as we celebrate Halloween and the end of a great season at the park! Music, games, bonfire, contests and prizes. Don't usually see many trick-or-treaters at home? Bring the sweets down to the park and join in the fun (No kiddos required). Watch for more details at www.facebook.com/friendsofrawleypark or call Joe (585)-322-3232

HOLIDAY FOOD BASKETS AND GIFTS

Make your request for holiday food baskets for Thanksgiving and Christmas by calling 657-2501 or 657-8158 by the deadline, October 31. Pickup times are November 21 for Thanksgiving baskets and December 19 for Christmas. The Helping Hands Food Pantry in Berkshire coordinates these baskets for residents of Richford, Berkshire and Speedsville. The Tioga County Rural Ministry provides gifts for all Tioga County children (infants to eighteen years of age) from low to moderate income families. To register for gifts, call the Ministry at 687-3021 by the October 30 deadline.