
RICHFORD QUARTERLY

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April - June 2016

FROM THE SUPERVISOR

The winter of 2015/2016 was a complete opposite of the previous winter and provided the town a much needed break from what seemed like daily snow removal and high heat bills. This has allowed the highway crew the opportunity to do other much needed projects such as clearing brush, general equipment maintenance and cleaning the shop and painting the main shop area. The old used oil furnace in the highway garage developed un-repairable leaks in the heat exchanger, so a new used oil furnace was purchased and installed by the highway crew. As spring weather and temperatures improve, many old and new projects around the town will ramp up. The Community Auxiliary, The Friends of Rawley Park, The Richford Historical Society, The Richford Neighborhood Watch Group and The Youth Sports Group all have projects and events planned for 2016 and beyond. In May the planned mosaic for the south wall of park pavilion will come to life, please watch for further information so you can come out and be part of this community project. Also Boy Scout Corey Coombs of Newark Valley, has chosen the repair of the old and building of new picnic tables for the pavilion at Rawley Park as his Eagle Scout project. The volunteer group Friends of Rawley Park continues to work on clearing and preparing the grounds of brush and trash and plan on painting the pavilion this spring as well as many other projects throughout the year. They are also planning some community events for the park this year, these along with the events planned by the Community Auxiliary will make Rawley Park a busy place this year. At the April Town Board meeting a sports use agreement was signed, allowing youth soccer games to come to Richford and we will post when these games will be played, so come on down and watch the excitement of these young players. There are many old and new issues that we, as a board, continue to address and to keep abreast please come to the Town Board meetings or any of the other Town meetings or local volunteer group meetings to become involved in your community.

GRIEVANCE DAY

Grievance Day will be held Tuesday, May 24 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 Donald Lyke. 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.

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. Copies of the required assessment complaint form will be available at the meeting. Copies of the form can also be obtained

from the Assessor (by e-mail Town.assessor@gmail.com, or call 849-6966, 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. Locally the copies are also available from the Richford website: 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 at the Real Property Tax Office, 56 Main St., Owego, a link to view it will be on the Town of Richford website at www.richfordny.com and at the Assessor's Office in Marathon (849-6966).

TOWN BOARD NEWS

January 12 – A resident thanked the Board for their hard work on the budget. He noted that in 2015 the town taxes went up by 13.3% and in 2016 no increase was made.

The Town Board removed True and Walsh as the Town Attorney and appointed Nicholas Canizio as Legal Counsel for the Town of Richford for 2016. Mr. Canizio lives in Newark Valley, has practiced law for 37 years and has been very successful in helping Berkshire fix many issues. Mr. Canizio will attend all meetings, draft letters and laws, answer questions anytime they arise, and work closely with the Code Enforcer for a yearly fee of \$6,000. If he has to go to court for a case there would be an additional fee.

Mike Holt, Highway Superintendent, reported that brush hogging is done, and he is working to negotiate a lower fuel price for town barn. Justice Report presented a check for \$5,538. Dog Control Officer reported that 2 dogs killed chickens West Hill School Road and they were taken to Stray Haven. Code Enforcement Officer reported 1 building permit issued, 3 reviews, 4 certificates of occupancy, and 16 inspections. Town Planning Board Chair John Schwartz reported that the Planning Board will purchase a computer projection system using unspent funds from the 2015 budget.

The Town Board adopted rules of conduct, made appointments, established salaries as indicated in the budget, and set meeting dates for the 2016. Details are in the full minutes on the town website. Supervisor Davis is still working on the financial accounts to get them to balance. He is also looking into less expensive phone and internet options.

At this time there is no contract for EMS services and there might not be for a few months. Northern Tioga EMS must first disperse and then get rid of all equipment before anything can move forward. In addition, the transfer of the Certification of Need has to be concluded.

Feb 9 - Highway Superintendent Mike Hunt reported on work, including brush hogging on Michigan Hill, painting the Town Barn, and snow removal, plus purchase of a 1990 Grade-All GSWD Cummings for \$8,000 (plus transportation up to \$1,000). Hunt is working on a grant for a truck and skid steer.

Justice Report presented a check for \$5,538. Dog Control Officer reported that an elderly woman with many dogs was cited for not being able to take care of them and the dogs were removed. Code Enforcement Officer reported 1 building permit issued, 1 review, 1 certificate of occupancy, 16 inspections, and 1 complaint issued.

Discussion about the Stray Haven contract: Stray Haven charges \$100/dog and the Town must pay this fee if the dog is not claimed. Attorney Canizio will suggest changes to the contract. Discussion about the Code Enforcement contract. Attorney Canizio suggested a shared service agreement with the Berkshire Code Enforcement Officer. Supervisor Davis will speak to current Code Enforcer and his supervisor about a shared service agreement. Attorney Canizio will draw up an agreement when needed.

Lengthy discussion about EMS. Newark Valley advertised request for proposals for EMS Services. Richford Fire Department has asked for equipment distribution, including an ambulance, when the Northern Tioga EMS is disbanded. Many of the Fire Department members are taking EMS classes.

Discussion about problems with trucks and cars parked in the way of snow removal vehicles. The Town Board may need to write a law, but for now will use the State Law to ticket and remove vehicles. Mike Hunt will call Sheriff office if he has any issues with parked vehicles in the way of snow removal.

The Board decided to purchase a keypad and security system (one-time cost) to replace the annual \$500 ADT cost. Supervisor Davis will prepare a procedure for Town employees to use a Town credit card; this will allow staff to purchase items online when costs are significantly lower.

March 8 - Highway Superintendent reported that the Grade-all, purchased from Brigg's Associates and transported by Tioga County Highway Dept., has been sanded and painted. Justice Report presented a check for \$6,162. Code Enforcement Officer reported 4 building permits issued, and 11 inspections. Supervisor Davis and Attorney Canizio will work with Slaterville to discuss a Shared Service Agreement for Code Enforcement.

Supervisor Davis attended the Richford Fire District Meeting and reported that the Richford Fire Department wants to go back into the ambulance service business. Citizens can provide their input to Town Board or the Fire Commissioners.

The Board established a Petty Cash Policy, and Town Credit Card Policy. Haefele will increase monthly bill by \$2.99: They have not responded to Davis concerning lower costs for phone/internet service.

Corry Coombs of Troop 30 proposed an Eagle Scout Project to repair the picnic tables and to build a few new ones. Corry will

ask for donations from outside sources for money needed for materials. Bill Stell helps with the Boy Scouts and will work with Corry.

Soccer Club asked to use Rawley Park for a few games. Attorney Canizio reviewed the agreement and stated that it looks good and he would just like to review the insurance policy. A resident called about the ditch washing out on his property due to the old dump location. This was a pre-existing condition when the resident purchased the property. DEC & Soil and Water were contacted, and the Highway Department filled in the ditch immediately.

Items are being thrown into the back of the garbage truck when the truck is closed for operation. This trash is neither weighed nor paid for. Councilmember Thayer recommended installing cameras, and signs that read "No Unauthorized Dumping - Violators will be Prosecuted to Furthest Extent of the Law - Security Surveillance".

Other matters: Councilperson Holcomb stepped away from her official position and spoke during Privilege of the Floor. She asked if the Town Board had discussed her case with Attorney Canizio. Attorney Canizio indicated that he had read the agreement and that all that is required is her signature and it will be settled. Supervisor Wilcox had signed the agreement that was presented to the town. Ms. Holcomb indicated that her lawyer had retired. Attorney Canizio said that the BAR Association would tell her where her lawyer currently resides.

April 12 - Highway Superintendent Mike Hunt reported on transporting gravel, brush hogging Tubbs Hill and preparing equipment for summer. CHIPS funding will increase each of the next 5 years. The Department purchased a \$3,000 truck to run errands, etc; this is more cost efficient than the large trucks.

Justice Report presented a check for \$2,819. Code Enforcement Officer reported 1 building permit issued, 1 certificate of occupancy, 2 certificates of compliance, and 4 inspections. Supervisor Davis, Attorney Canizio and Slaterville will discuss a Shared Service Agreement for Code Enforcement.

Planning Board reported that Hydrogeologist Steven Winkley of the New York Rural Water Association, will be in contact regarding a survey of water sources in the town, including aquifers. This information is critical for protecting the Town's water resources, especially as we are dependent on private wells and septic systems.

Friends of Rawley Park reported that a resident of Richford gave a donation to cover all expenses for the Mosaic not covered by grants. Mildred Faulkner Truman Grant will pay for security at the park. Joe Kral is talking with Lowes to get a grant for paint for the roof, bathroom upgrades and other costs to repair the park. Corey Coombs estimated his Rawley Park project will cost about \$600: the Board agreed to pay for expenses not covered by donations.

Continued discussion about the lack of EMS Service. The Richford Fire Department is interested in only First Responder responsibility at this time. Thus, the town is still in search of ambulance coverage.

Discussion about the Parker Property, adjacent to the Town Highway Building. The Board authorized Supervisor Davis to sign the purchase agreement with a \$1,000 deposit. The Board emphasized it does not want to burden tax payers with the purchase of this property, and that the 2016 budget will cover payments for the year.

Donald Lyke was appointed to a 5 year term on the Board of Assessment Review. The Board authorized Davis to obtain credit cards for Superintendent Hunt and Supervisor Davis with a \$5,000 limit. Tioga County will make a sign to place at the garbage truck for unauthorized dumping. Clerk Lyke will use the Town Record Retention Policy to minimize the paperwork in the office. Courtroom thermostat needs to be replaced. Concern about the odor in the Town Hall: Supervisor Davis believes the odor is from the vents being blocked and the sewer fumes backing up; he will fix this issue. A resident is concerned about hikers parking cars on Robinson Hollow Rd.

Continued discussion about the old dump. The neighbors are concerned about water contamination and tree mortality. The Town will move the salt pile that is located at the dump to another location. Attorney Canizio stated it is important to know exactly what the problem is and how the trees died.

TIOGA OPPORTUNITIES PROGRAMS

Tioga County Department of Aging assists the elderly to stay at home and participate in family and community life. On the third Wednesday of each month staff will be at the Hubbard Center (behind the Health Clinic) from 1:30 to 3:30 pm to provide local residents greater access to their services. On May 18 there will be an informational event about the programs and services offered by Tioga Opportunities, Inc. Enjoy great giveaways and a chance to win a gift basket.

Tioga Opportunities is offering two FREE programs (call 607-687-4120 x 331 to register):

- . Understanding Long Term Levels of Care: April 26, 2-3 pm, Municipal Building, 9 Park St, Newark Valley.
- . Program on Alzheimer's Disease: May 12, 10-11 am, Countryside Community Center, 9 Sheldon Guile Blvd, Owego.

RAWLEY PARK UPDATE

Join the Friends of Rawley Park on May 21st and 22nd for the installation of the community mural on the south pavilion wall. Many have already participated in creating tiles and donated supplies to help. We are currently very busy actively pursuing grants for park improvements. If you have any comments or would like to get involved, please let us know! LIKE US on Facebook (Friendsofrawleypark) or email us at friendsofrawleypark@richfordny.com. You may also contact Joe Kral with any questions or comments at (585) 322-3232.

Rawley Park was awarded \$4,800 from the Arts Council of the Southern Finger Lakes to fund construction of the community mural. Come to the Park and see how much it offers!

RICHFORD HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The Richford Historical Society is continuing to make the historic Graded School building more available for town residents and visitors. The nearly 150 year old building is on Rt. 38 a few blocks south of the intersection with Rt. 79. In this newsletter are two surveys. One seeks your thoughts for the Graded School. The other is a chance to volunteer to help. Please fill them out and deposit in the locations listed on the surveys. You can get more copies at the town hall and the town website: richfordny.com under Town Government/History. The Historical Society is pursuing grants to take the next steps in making the building more accessible.

DRUG AWARENESS NIGHT

Come learn about the issues and what can be done. Join us for a Drug Awareness Night, Wednesday, May 11 at 7 pm at the Newark Valley United Church of Christ, 32 S. Main St. Newark Valley NY (look for the tall steeple as you come in on Rt. 38). Join the discussion and become part of the solution.

Presenters include Senator Fred Akshar, Dreams over Drugs, STAP-TO GIVE Narcon training, Tioga County Sheriffs Dept., New York State Police, Tioga County Health Department, Tioga County DA's office, Tioga County Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition.

MEDICAL EQUIPMENT LOAN CLOSET

Are you recovering from surgery and need crutches, a walker, or a wheel chair? Or maybe you or a relative are having mobility problems and would like a commode or tub transfer bench? Call the Finger Lakes Independence Center in Ithaca (607-272-2433) and ask about the free 3-month equipment loan. They also have a 'try it' room where you can try many items to help keep you mobile, and borrow numerous cd's and dvd's books and videos.

COMMUNITY AUXILIARY NEWS

A chicken barbecue to support the Richford scholarship will be held Saturday May 7 at the Fire Station, Bowery Lane. Four hundred (\$400) dollars are needed to provide for two scholarships of \$200 dollars each for a Newark Valley graduating senior (boy and girl) who plan to further his/her education. Residents are asked to contribute items for the barbecue (baked beans, cooking oil, charcoal, or salt potatoes) and money to help buy the chicken. Donated items should be brought to the Town Hall by May 1st. Please call Andrea (760-8454) or Christina (844-8969) if you can donate. Your assistance is greatly appreciated by the Auxiliary members as they work to meet this commitment. Our community appreciation also to the Auxiliary as they have taken on this vital responsibility for many years.

Other activities planned by the Auxiliary for this summer include Kiddies Day on Saturday June 18 and a Jamboree in August. More details at richfordny.com and Facebook. The Auxiliary thanks all who donated food and participated in the recent Easter egg hunt. All who came had a great time!

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Calendar of Events

- Apr 26 Long-term care program, 2-3 pm, Village Hall, Newark Valley
- Apr 28 Lourdes Mobile Mammogram Van, Health Clinic. Doctor order needed.
- May 2, 16 Richford Historical Society, Graded School, 7pm
- May 5 Mobile Food Pantry, Richford Congregational Church, Route 38, 11 am – 12:30 pm. bring bags, boxes
- May 7 Smorgasbord Dinner, Richford Congregational Church, 4–7 pm, Adults \$9, children 5–12 \$4.50, under 5 free
- May 7 Scholarship Barbecue, Fire Station, 12 noon till done, \$9 dinner, \$6 halves, sponsored by Community Auxiliary
- May 7 Annual meeting, Richford Highland Cemetery Association, Town Hall, 7 p.m.
- May 10 Public Hearing about the grant/loan for highway department equipment. Town Hall, 6:30 pm.
- May 11 Drug Awareness Night, 7 pm, UM Church of Christ, Main St., Newark Valley, Call 642-5520 for info
- May 12 Alzheimer's Disease Program, Office of Aging, Owego, 10 – 11am, free but call [607-687-4120](tel:607-687-4120), ext 331 to reserve seat

- May 14 Berkshire Library, stories and games 10am -12 noon
- May 14, 15 Installing mosaic tile, Pavilion building, Rawley Park, call Joe at [585-322-3232](tel:585-322-3232)
- May 18 Office of Aging representative at Hubbard Center, Bowery Lane, Richford, 1:30- 3:30 p.m.
- May 19 Rabies Clinic, Fire Station, Newark Valley, 6 –8 p.m.
- May 21 Richford Fire Department Chicken Barbecue
- May 21 Tire Collection Day, 8 am-2 pm, Highway Garage
- May 21, 22 Installing mosaic tile at Rawley Park
- May 24 Grievance Day, Town Hall, 4 – 8 p.m., Town Hall
- May 28 Lourdes Mammogram Van at Health Center
- June 2 Mobile Food Pantry Distribution, see May 5 for info
- June 6,20 Richford Historical Society, Graded School, 7pm
- June 18 Kiddies Day, Rawley Park, sponsored by Community Auxiliary
- July 11 Richford Summer Youth Program begins, 6 weeks, call Becky Randall, 657-8254 for more information

Please check town website, www.richfordny.com, for additional programs and news occurring after the newsletter.

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FREE HOME REPAIRS

Tioga Opportunities is offering free home repairs (labor and materials) to qualified households July 10 - 16. Projects may include painting, installing mobile home skirting, building wheelchair ramps, etc. Applications are due April 30. For information and application forms contact Andrew Hafer, at 607-687-4222 Ext. 302, or email at ahafer@tiogaopp.org (please put 2016 GWC in the subject line).

TIRE COLLECTION DAY

Tire Collection Day will be held May 21 from 8 am - 2 pm, at the Town Highway Garage (Rt. 79 east). All tires accepted. A modest fee will be charged for each tire.

RABIES CLINIC

The Rabies Clinic will be held Thursday, May 19, 6 – 8 pm at the Newark Valley Fire Station, State Route 38. A \$10 donation is requested per animal but no pet will be turned away because of inability to pay. Pets must be under control with dogs on a leash and cats either on a leash or boxed. For more information call the Health Dept. at 687-8600 and ask for Environmental Health.