
RICHFORD QUARTERLY

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January - March 2016

FROM THE SUPERVISOR

Welcome to 2017. Upon completion of my first year in office I look back at all of the challenges that this new position presented to me. A large part of the supervisor's responsibility is accountability for and distribution of Town money (your tax dollars). These records must be kept current with monthly and annual reports presented to the Town Board and available for completion of an Annual Update Document (AUD) with the State. New forms were developed to make accountability more streamlined and to aid in completion of our required filings. In late October I was contacted by the NYS Office of the State Comptroller (OSC) and informed that the Town of Richford had been selected for an audit by their office. Entrance interviews were conducted with myself, other officers and employees of the Town that handle Town monies or are accountable for Town monies. Reviews of all of our accounts were conducted as well as reviews of policies and procedures. After conducting the entrance interviews and reviewing our accounts the OSC scaled the audit back to a "risk assessment". What this means is that the Town's accounting and policies were within expectable standards. They did make a few suggestions at that time and a full report of their findings will be sent to the town and copies of that report will be available as soon as we receive it. This also helped us in completion of the delinquent AUD reports to the State of New York. Thanks to Velvet Lyke and the long hours that she has put into this daunting task, the Town is almost caught up with these required State reports. I look forward to the second year of my term, and beyond if you the voters see fit. I continue to be at the Town Hall every Wednesday from 9 – 11 am if you want to stop by. Thank You, Charlie Davis, Supervisor

REMINDERS FROM THE ASSESSOR

Town Assessor Frances Butler reminds residents that applications for all property exemptions must be received in her office by March 1, 2017. If you own property that is your main residence, you are eligible for the STAR (School Tax Relief) exemption. The basic STAR is for all property owners and the enhanced STAR is for seniors who meet income and age requirements. Seniors must apply for the enhanced STAR each year.

New STAR applicants will receive a credit in the form of a check directly from NYS instead of receiving a school property tax exemption. The amount of the STAR benefit is the same regardless of how it is received. New Basic and Enhanced STAR applicants will no longer apply through the assessor, instead they must register with NYS Tax Department. Property owners may register weekdays by phone from 8:30 to 4:30 ([518-457-2036](tel:518-457-2036)) or online at www.tax.ny.gov/star. Additional information is available at <http://www.tax.ny.gov/pit/property/star/>.

Seniors 65 and over, with a yearly income of \$23,999 or less are eligible for an exemption of Town property taxes. Renewal forms

were sent to residents who applied last year for the enhanced STAR and/or the aged property exemption. For information or forms, contact Frances Butler by email (town.assessor@gmail.com), phone (849-6966), or letter (PO Box 366, Marathon, NY 13803).

Low-income seniors are also reminded that the Newark Valley School District and Tioga County have different income levels for residents to apply for property tax exemptions. Tioga County has a yearly income of \$24,300. Please check with the Assessor if you may be eligible for one or more exemptions. Application forms can also be obtained online at www.orps.state.ny.us/.

TOWN BOARD NEWS

Minutes from the Town Board meetings are available on-line at <http://richfordny.com/meetingminutes.html>.

Oct 11 - Special Town Board Meeting to discuss the Tax Levy Law, needed in case the budget is over the tax cap. Supervisor Davis emphasized that the budget looks good thus far and the Town Board will do its best to NOT go over the tax cap.

Oct 11 - The regular Town Board Meeting. Many residents discussed the reasons for the Aurora Street road closure. Supervisor Davis explained that the road is closed, except to local and emergency traffic, due to the large amount of traffic at a high rate of speed and the almost fatal accident of a child leaving a school bus.

Highway Superintendent Hunt reported that the west end of Tubbs Hill Rd (1.5 miles) is ready for Oil and Stone next year. There may be enough funds in snow removal to pay for the salt storage shed.

Justice Report included a check for \$1,595. Planning Board Chair John Schwartz noted that people living in the Hamlet are putting up mail boxes to replace PO boxes. The Planning Board does not have these new addresses, and consequently some residents are not receiving the Town newsletter.

Supervisor Davis will meet with the Insurance Company to finalize the policy that will include the Parker Property (replacement value \$1.3 million).

The Board voted to establish a Town Road Weight Limit of 10 tons for the following roads: Michigan Hill, Hog Hollow, Victory Hill, Rockefeller, Sears, Payne Marsh, Hubby, Tubbs Hill, Andersen Hill, Brummage, Davis and Creamery. Emergency vehicles, routes established as temporary emergency routes and local deliveries and pick-ups are exempt from this weight limit.

Nov 9 - Special Meeting to discuss the preliminary budget,

followed by the regular Board Meeting. Justice report included a check for \$3,139. Dog Control Officer Ron Raab reported that an ongoing complaint about dogs continually barking was unfounded. Attorney Canizio suggested that the Dog Control Officer keep a log of phone calls and his actions. The town received a \$100 bill from Stray Haven for housing a stray dog. The Town will contact the dog owner for reimbursement.

The proposition to extend the Superintendent of Highways term to four years was passed by a vote of 252 to 137. Highway Superintendent Hunt reported that the salt shed is under construction. Local resident Bill Stell obtained a state bid quote for a new lawn mower for \$2,500 under retail cost. The Board will discuss purchase at next month's meeting.

Supervisor Davis determined that the Town's insurance will cover Town residents who perform community service if they do work for the Town. Ideas for public service include: food pantry, installing the playground equipment, cemetery clean-up, and work on the Graded School.

Dec 13 - Highway Superintendent Hunt reported that the Highway crew has been busy plowing roads, working on equipment, and building the salt shed, which is near completion. Justice Report included a check for \$3,581. The Board agreed to purchase a Kubota 60 inch lawn mower for \$8,501.15.

Town Planning Board report included a discussion about the subdivision law and the need for a fee schedule and penalties. Attorney Canizio stated that penalties would require a public hearing before being added as an addendum to the subdivision law. Councilwoman Holcomb suggested revising the subdivision law prior to or coincident with establishing the penalties.

Discussion about EMS service, which is currently offered by the Town of Maine. They have asked to meet for negotiation on a new contract. Attorney Canizio will set up a meeting time. Bangs Ambulance provides service for the Town of Caroline, apparently without charge. Supervisor Davis will look into this option.

Discussion about the newly acquired Parker Property. The Town will establish a committee to determine a future plan for the building. There will be two Planning Board Members (Bill Stell and Doris Caskey), two Board Members (Supervisor Davis and Councilman Holcomb), and two volunteers from the Town. Please contact Supervisor Davis if you would like to be a volunteer on this committee.

Dec 29 - Special Board Meeting to finalize payment of bills. Discussion about the Parker Building and EMS service: The Board approved a subdivision application fee of \$50 per parcel for three or more parcels.

Emilie Stuhlmiller has decided not to accept reappointment to the Planning Board after 25 years of service. If anyone is interested in serving on the Planning Board please submit a letter to the Town Board as soon as possible.

The Board approved purchase of a loader for \$30,000 FY 2017, and purchase of a CAT 950G NJPA -032515-CAT for \$188,776 with trade in of 644GJD loader for a value of \$18,000, using \$60,000 as a down payment and a five year financing contract.

COMMUNITY AUXILIARY

The Community Auxiliary organizes many family events each year for Richford. Save the date of April 15th for the Easter Egg Hunt at Rawley Park from 10 a.m. until noon. Families are asked to bring one bag of candy. We look forward to seeing you there!

The Auxiliary now has a bounce house available for rental this spring and summer. What a great way to celebrate a kid's birthday or to kick off a family reunion! The fee for rental will be at the bargain price of \$100 for a weekend! If interested contact Chris Craft or Andrea Baker. Come and be part of the Auxiliary - Meetings are held the 2nd Monday of each month at 7pm; anyone interested in becoming a member can contact Chris Craft at 844-8969 or Andrea Baker at 539-7069.

NORTHERN TIOGA NEIGHBORS NETWORK

Northern Tioga Neighbors Network (NTNN) is a group of dedicated volunteers who provide transportation for elderly residents who need it, exercise classes to help people stay healthy, and other services. If you would like to join as a volunteer driver or a board member call John Schwartz (657-8512). If you or someone you know needs transportation to a doctor's appointment or the grocery store call our NTNN phone number: 657-2823. Please allow at least 3 business days to allow us to find a volunteer driver.

Mark your calendars. **Upright Folks: posture and balance 2017** is a low impact exercise program for adults 50 and over. NTNN has sponsored active older adults exercise and fitness programs in Richford since 2012. The class is held at the Richford Community Hall on Tuesdays March 7 - May 2, 10 to 11:30 am. The cost is \$10 for the whole program. Finishers receive prizes. Watch for more information.

RICHFORD HISTORICAL SOCIETY

On Nov. 28 Cornell Design Connect presented preliminary recommendations for improving the Graded School, including parking, a gazebo for community use, handicapped access, improved building energy efficiency, and heating and cooling systems. A final report will be sent to the Historical Society.

Prof. Michael Rogers (Ithaca College Physics Dept.) and his students surveyed the Graded School grounds using magnetic sampling. He sent preliminary results that tentatively located the septic system and well. The final results will be sent when data is further refined. Stay tuned for more information.

FRIENDS OF RAWLEY PARK UPDATE

Rawley Park is asleep under a blanket of snow, but come spring, it will be a very busy place again! The mosaic was completed on September 11, the product of hundreds of hours of volunteer time over the summer. Through four very generous grants, we have playground equipment and a security system waiting to be installed, paint for the pavilion and funds to fix the restrooms. In the April newsletter, work parties, meetings and an expanded update will be announced. Please come out to support your community park!

TOWN AND OTHER OFFICIALS

2016 TOWN BOARD MEETS: 2ND TUESDAY, 7PM, TOWN HALL

e-mail: townboard@richfordny.com

- ◆ Charles Davis Supervisor 657-8248
- ◆ Cyndi Herrick Councilperson 657-8659
- ◆ Roberta Holcomb Councilperson 657-8644
- ◆ Charles Thayer Councilperson 657-8651
- ◆ Ken Miller Councilperson 657-2789

TOWN CLERK

- ◆ Velvet Lyke townclerk@richfordny.com 657-8090

◆ Business hours- Town Hall:

Tues, 5-7 pm. Wed. 8-11 am.

TOWN HALL BOWERY LANE

- ◆ Fax, answering machine: leave a message 657-8090

e-mail townclerk@richfordny.com

TOWN JUSTICE

- ◆ Peggy Andersen Judge 657-8090
- ◆ Rebecca Randall Court Clerk 657-8090
- ◆ Court held 1st, 3rd, and 4th Mondays 5:30-8:00 pm;
Town Hall

TOWN BOOKKEEPER

- ◆ Rebecca Randall 657-8090

ASSESSOR

- ◆ Frances Butler 849-6966
- e-mail town.assessor@gmail.com

BUILDING PERMITS AND INSPECTION

- ◆ Kevin McMahon Phone: (B)539-6700; (C)745-0004
Fax: 539-6400. Office hours: 8am – 12 noon M-F
- ◆ Office: 2670 Slaterville Road [PO Box 136],
Slaterville Springs, NY 14881. E-mail at
codeofficer@richfordny.com

TOWN HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT

- ◆ Mike Hunt 657-2770

TOWN GARBAGE TRUCK

- ◆ Doug Wandell Attendant Highway Garage
- ◆ Open: Wed 3:30 - 7pm, Sat 8am- 2pm, \$.10/pound

BOARD OF ASSESSMENT REVIEW

- ◆ Flora Karasin 657-2526
- ◆ Steve Kotula 657-4462
- ◆ Vacant– volunteer needed

DOG CONTROL OFFICER

- ◆ Ronald H. Raab 426-4567

PLANNING BOARD MEETS: 1ST WED, 7PM TOWN HALL

e-mail: planboard@richfordny.com

- ◆ John Schwartz Chair 657-8512
- ◆ Doris Caskey 220-4161
- ◆ Chuck Merrill 657-2587
- ◆ Victoria Nuzzo 657-8656
- ◆ Joe Kral 585-322-3232
- ◆ William Stell 856-689-3573
- ◆ Vacant - volunteer needed

FIRE DEPARTMENT MEETS: LAST THUR, 6PM FIRE STATION

- ◆ John Keener Fire Chief 972-1336
- ◆ Carrie Keener President 607-743-6016

FIRE COMMISSIONERS MEETS: 1ST TUES, 6:30PM FIRE STATION

- ◆ Jeff Holcomb President 657-8176
- ◆ April Andersen Secretary 657-2575
- ◆ Travis Getzke 432-4206
- ◆ Barb Keener 242-1754
- ◆ Donna Gencarelli Treasurer 657-9985
- ◆ Crystal Foux 351-0867

COMMUNITY AUXILIARY MEETS: 2ND MON, 6 PM TOWN HALL

commaux@richfordny.com

- ◆ Chris Craft President 844-8969
- ◆ Andrea Baker Vice-President 539-7069

Currently looking for member to join. Call Chris Craft if interested

TOWN HISTORIAN

- ◆ Bill Sherwood 539-6283

RICHFORD HISTORICAL SOCIETY 2ND MON, APRIL - NOV

- ◆ Bill Sherwood President 539-6283

TOWN HALL AND RAWLEY PARK SCHEDULING

- ◆ Barb Keener 242-1754

FRIENDS OF RAWLEY PARK

- ◆ www.facebook.com/Friendsofrawleypark.com

EMERGENCY SERVICE

- ◆ Call 911

COUNTY LEGISLATURE

- ◆ Ed Hollenbeck 642-3201

COUNTY PLANNING BOARD

- ◆ Vacant – volunteer needed

OFFICIAL TOWN NEWSPAPER

- ◆ Tioga County Courier 687-0108

TOWN WEBSITE

- ◆ www.richfordny.com

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Calendar of Events

- Jan 26** Lourdes Mammogram Van at Clinic, doctor's order needed
- Feb 2** Mobile Food Pantry at Richford Congregational Church, Rt. 38, 11:30 am -12:30 pm, bring boxes, bags.
- Feb 4** Soup and Salad, Congregational Church, Richford, Route 38, 4 – 6:30 pm to benefit Helping Hands Food Pantry. Free will donation, take outs available
- Feb 23** Lourdes Mammogram Van at Clinic, doctor's order needed
- March 1** Deadline for various application forms to Frances Butler, Town Assessor
- March 2** Mobile Food Pantry Distribution, see Feb. 2

- Mar 4** Soup and salad, Congregational Church, Richford, see Feb 4
- Mar 7** Upright Posture exercise class begins. Town Hall, 10 - 11:30 am
- Mar 30** Lourdes Mammogram Van at Clinic, doctor's order needed
- April 6** Mobile Food Pantry Distribution, see Feb.2
- April 15** Auxiliary Easter Egg Hunt at Rawley Park, 10am to noon.

Story time 10-11 am Tuesdays for all pre-schoolers and their parents, grandparents, or caregivers, at the Berkshire Free Library. Call 657-4418 for details.

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TOWN OF RICHFORD PLANNING BOARD

The Town Planning Board has a vacancy. If you would like to join please call John Schwartz (657-8512) or contact the Town Clerk. Our work includes this newsletter. We are currently updating the town subdivision law and recently completed a comprehensive plan update for the town. We meet at 7 pm on the first Wednesday of the month in the town hall. The meetings are open. Drop in if you would like to find out more.

NEW PICNIC TABLES

Local Eagle Scout Cory Coombs was awarded the Eagle Badge (the highest possible achievement in the Boy Scouts) for his community project of building and repairing the picnic tables at Rawley Park, assisted by Scout master Bill Knight of Troop 30 (Newark Valley) and Bill Stell. Corey spent some 350 hours repairing 14 old tables (removing nails and staples, sanding, painting, and varnishing) and building 2 new tables. The tables look fantastic and will provide many years of service to the Town and all people using the Park pavilion. Thanks Corey for an outstanding job!