
RICHFORD QUARTERLY

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www.richfordny.com

January – March 2011

FROM THE SUPERVISOR

The Town faced a tough year as it began work on the 2011 budget, but the Town Board finally adopted a budget with a 10% tax increase. The estimated surplus was smaller than in previous years, there was the loss of county sales tax revenue and there were increases in health insurance premiums, the payment to the state retirement system and the cost of materials for the highway department. The Town can expect less state aid in 2011.

A change in state law made the Town responsible for dog control and so a local law was adopted to implement this change. As a result, dog licensing fees were increased effective January 1, 2011. The Town Board is considering conducting a dog census in the future.

The Town Board adopted a sliding scale for the senior citizen exemption of property taxes. The scale ranges from a 50% exemption for incomes up to \$16,999 to an exemption of 15% for incomes between \$23,000 and \$23,999.

The Town Board renewed its contract with The Berkshire Emergency Squad for another year. Under the contract the Town makes quarterly payments that are intended to cover the 20% deductible for ambulance services for town residents with health insurance. Residents who use ambulance services will receive a bill from The Berkshire Emergency Squad.

FROM THE HIGHWAY SUPERINTENDENT

Winter offers many challenges for our crew. Here are a few reminders to help aid us with our task. Please keep vehicles and other obstructions off of the roadside, as a clear roadside helps us with our job. For your safety and the safety of others, please avoid pushing snow into or across the roadway when plowing your driveway or walkway, as this practice can cause buildup and ridging that can affect vehicle control and also puts you in harm's way. Also remember, your mailbox is just that, your mailbox, the town is not responsible for repair or replacement of mailboxes. Placement and installation of your mailbox and its stand can make a big difference in the effect that plowing has on it. Check out your neighbor's mailbox - if it seems to withstand the stress of winter better than yours, copy their setup.

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, 2011. Real property is assessed on an "as is" basis as of March 1st each year. 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 (apply one time only) and the enhanced STAR is for seniors who meet certain income and age requirements. Seniors must apply for the enhanced STAR each year. Other exemptions are available for senior citizens, agriculture, and veterans.

Starting in 2011, the Town Board of Richford adopted a sliding scale for aged exemption of town property taxes. Seniors, age 65 and over, with a yearly income of \$23,999 or under might be eligible for this new town exemption. For more information about this new exemption and to obtain the necessary application form, contact Frances Butler, at 849-6966 or e-mail at franb@frontiernet.net, or write her at P.O. Box 366, Marathon, NY 13803.

Low income seniors are also reminded that the Newark Valley School District and Tioga County each has a different income level for residents to apply for property tax exemptions. Tioga County has raised the limit to \$24,300. Please check with the Assessor if you or a family member may be eligible for one or more of these exemptions.

Application forms can also be obtained online at www.orps.state.ny.us.

TOWN BOARD NEWS

November 4, 2010:

A public hearing for the proposed 2011 town budget was held. Supervisor Martin Wilcox, presided over the meeting to obtain public input regarding the 2011 budget.

November 9, 2010:

The Town Clerk's, Supervisor's and Planning Board reports for October 2010 were presented. A Code Enforcement Report, Dog Control Report and a Justice Court report for October 2010 were received but were not available for presentation. The Highway Superintendent reported that the repair project on Hubby Road has been completed and he wishes to thank the Towns of Newark Valley and Harford for their help on this project. The highway crew has been patching potholes and doing maintenance work at the Highway Garage and Rawley Park. An updated sliding scale for aged exemption of town property taxes was reviewed and passed. There was continued discussion of the new dog licensing program and the need for a new dog control law to be passed as mandated by NYS. A public hearing on the Revised Dog Control Law will be held on December 2, 2010, at 7:00 p.m. The Board decided to further discuss the 2011 Town Budget at the special meeting on November 16, 2010,

November 16, 2010:

A special meeting of the Richford Town Board. The first item of business was the review of the proposed Local Law No. 1 of 2010 (Licensing & Control of Dogs in the Town of Richford). After some discussion the Board approved a draft proposal to be presented to the Town Attorney for review. The Public Hearing for this proposed law will be held December 2, 2010. A review of the Preliminary 2011 Town Budget was held. After much discussion, several changes were made and the 2011 town budget was adopted.

December 2, 2010:

Public hearing on proposed Local Law No.1 of 2010, Licensing & Control of Dogs in the Town of Richford, was called to order at 7:10 pm. by Supervisor Wilcox. Councilwoman Herrick, the Town Attorney, and Ron Raab, (dog control officer) were present. Two townspeople were also in attendance.

December 14, 2010:

The regular Town of Richford Board meeting was called to order at 7:37 p.m. by Supervisor Wilcox. The Town Supervisor's and Clerk's reports for November 2010 were presented. There was no Highway Superintendent report for November 2010. A Code Enforcement report, Dog Control report and a Justice Court report for November 2010 were presented. The check amount from the Justice Court for November 2010 was \$2540.00. A Town Planning Board report was given. Copies of a revised Property Identification Law were presented to the Board for their input. Local Law #1 of 2010, Licensing and Control of Dogs In The Town of Richford, was adopted. The Board extended thanks to Councilwoman Herrick for all her work on this new law. The Board discussed the new fee schedule for dog licensing. The matter was tabled until the year end meeting. Richard Harrington was reappointed to the REAP Board as the Town of Richford's representative. Supervisor Wilcox showed the Board a form he proposes using for back-up for part-time town employees pay records. After reviewing the form, the board members approved the use of this form.

December 29, 2010:

Supervisor Wilcox called the special year-end meeting to order at 6:30 pm. Three townspeople were also in attendance. The President of the Berkshire Emergency Squad Inc. was present and addressed the Board regarding service to Richford. A motion authorizing Supervisor Wilcox to sign a one year Letter of Extension of the current contract with the Berkshire Emergency Squad Inc. was approved. The year-end finances were reviewed and approved. The dog licensing fees were approved.

AMERICAN HEART HEALTH MONTH

The Tioga County Health Department is offering two "Stay Healthy" workshops at the Bernice Davenport Chapel (next to the white church) 28 South Main Street, Newark Valley, NY. Session One: Easy Ways to Eat Healthy will be on Wednesday, February 9, at 7:00 pm. Session Two: Easy Ways to Stay Active will be held on Wednesday, February 23 at 7 p.m. Each session will last approximately 90 minutes. Healthy refreshments will be served. Though reservations are not required, please call 607-642-5520 or E-mail officefirstcongny@stny.rr.com and leave a message so we have enough food for all who attend.

HEALTH CLINIC NEWS

Susan Boldman completed her term as AmericCrops volunteer at Northern Tioga Center for Family Health in early December. Working under the direction of Lynn Verduin, FNP, Susan assisted at the Health Center and, as needed, with the Northern Tioga Neighbors Network. We thank Susan for her dedicated work and for her care and concern for the clientele of both groups.

At this writing there is no AmericCorps volunteer assigned to the Health Center. If anyone is interested in this position, please contact the Rural Health Network at 1-888-603-5973. AmericCorps volunteers are provided for various community agencies in Broome and Tioga Counties by the Rural Health Network, located in Whitney Point. The availability of the volunteers helps expand the services provided by these agencies.

FREE TAX ASSISTANCE FROM AARP

Free Tax Assistance from AARP is available February for taxpayers age 60 and over (and those under 60 with low to moderate income are also welcome). Taxpayers are asked to bring a copy of their 2009 tax return, all W-2's, 1099's and any other statements reflecting their 2010 income and deductible expenses, including property tax receipts, charitable donation receipts, medical expenses, mortgage payments, and child care expenses, etc. The returns are computer generated and e-filed for a quick turn around and refund.

Appointment locations (call first): 1st Congregational Church located at 34 S. Main St. in Newark Valley on Wednesdays from 9 to noon. Call 642-5520. Countryside Community Center located on Sheldon Guile Boulevard in Owego on Tuesdays and Thursdays 9-2. Walk in Site: United Way Office located at 24 State Rt. 96 in Owego – Tuesday and Wednesday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Call 687-4028 for information.

HYDRO-FRACKING UPDATE

In December, then Governor Paterson issued an Executive Order that hydro-fracking will not happen until July 1, 2011, at the earliest. Consequently, the Town of Richford has at least 6 months to prepare for natural gas drilling should permits be issued in July. The Town can gain some protection from potential harmful impacts of hydro-fracking with Critical Environmental Area designations. These CEA's can include wetlands, streams, historic areas, and even playgrounds and other areas requiring special protection.

The Environmental Protection Agency has designated all of Tioga and Broome Counties as sole source aquifer regions. This means that groundwater is the primary and only water source for Richford residents. Protecting our groundwater is essential for maintaining our quality of life in Richford.

DOG LICENSE FEES

The Town Board has updated the fees for licensing dogs. Some of the fees are as follows:

Spayed/neutered:	\$11
Un-spayed/un-neutered:	\$20
Replacement tags available for \$4.	

For complete fee details, go to the Town Clerks office or www.richfordny.com/townclerk.html

Also, there will be a \$15 enumeration fee for any dog found to be un-licensed/un-renewed at the time of the enumeration. These fees will be used to cover costs related to conducting the enumeration.

TOWN AND OTHER OFFICIALS 2011

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

- ◆ Martin Wilcox Supervisor 657-8295
- ◆ Cyndi Herrick Councilperson 657-8659
- ◆ Beverly Brown Councilperson 539-7657
- ◆ Cathy Schoonover Councilperson 657-8195
- ◆ Ken Miller Councilperson 657-2781

TOWN CLERK

- ◆ Judy Thurston 657-8090
- ◆ Business hours- Town Hall: Tues., Wed. and Thurs 7-9pm.

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 franb@frontiernet.net

BUILDING PERMITS AND INSPECTION

- ◆ John Daniels Phone: 539-6700 Fax: 539-6400
- ◆ Office: 2670 Slaterville Road [PO Box 136], Slaterville Springs, NY 14881. E-mail at Building_Department@townofcaroline.org.

TOWN HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT

- ◆ Mike Holt 657-2770

TOWN GARBAGE TRUCK

- ◆ Jesse Keener Attendant Highway Garage
- ◆ Business hours: Wed 4-8pm, Sat 8am to 2pm, \$.10/pound

BOARD OF APPEALS

- ◆ Dore Karasin 657-8659
- ◆ Louis Karasin 657-2526
- ◆ Lucille Ingrahm 657-8002
- ◆ Richard Thurston 657-8033
- ◆ 1 vacancy – volunteer needed

BOARD OF ASSESSMENT REVIEW

- ◆ Flora Karasin 657-2526
- ◆ Steve Kotula 657-4462
- ◆ Shannon Cockbill 849-9662

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

- e-mail planboard@richfordny.com
- ◆ Charles Davis Chair 657-8248
- ◆ Phyllis Hoffmann 539-7750
- ◆ Victoria Nuzzo 657-8656
- ◆ John Schwartz 657-8512
- ◆ Kim Stanford
- ◆ Emilie Stuhimiller 657-2680

FIRE DEPARTMENT MEETS: LAST THUR, 6PM FIRE STATION

- ◆ John Keener Fire Chief 972-1336
- ◆ Carrie Keener President 657-4414

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

- ◆ Jeff Holcomb President 657-8176
- ◆ Florence Brooks Secretary 657-4420
- ◆ April Andersen 657-2575
- ◆ Guido Gencarelli 657-9985
- ◆ Roberta Holcomb 657-8644
- ◆ Donna Gencarelli Treasurer 657-9985

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

- commaux@richfordny.com
- ◆ Chris Craft President 844-8969
- ◆ Esther Truesdail Vice-President 539-6466

DOG CONTROL OFFICER

- ◆ Ronald H. Raab 607-426-4567

TOWN HALL AND RAWLEY PARK SCHEDULING:

- ◆ Rebecca Randall 657-8254

TOWN HISTORIAN

- ◆ Bill Sherwood 539-6283

RICHFORD HISTORICAL SOCIETY 2ND MON, APRIL - NOV

- ◆ Bill Sherwood President 539-6283

RICHFORD REPRESENTATIVES TO:

COUNTY LEGISLATURE

- ◆ Ed Hollenbeck 642-3201
- ◆ Ron McEwen 657-2531

County Planning Board

- ◆ Vacant – volunteer needed

OTHER SERVICES

Berkshire Ems Inc.

- ◆ Lee Virtue President 642-3451

OFFICIAL TOWN NEWSPAPER

- ◆ Scotsman Pennysaver 753-3413

CONFIRMED RABIES CASES IN TIOGA CO

There have been confirmed Rabies cases in wild and domesticated animals within Tioga County. If any person comes in contact with a suspected rabid animal then they will have to receive the Rabies Vaccination. This is a series of about 5 shots given over the course of 28 days. The vaccine has to be administered at a Hospital Emergency Department. The Rabies Virus if not treated immediately is 100% fatal.

If your family dog, cat, or ferret is not vaccinated it is at risk of contracting rabies. Animals that typically carry the Rabies Virus are bats, skunks, red fox and raccoons. If your pet comes into contact with any of these animals, the incident needs to be reported immediately to the Health Department at 687-8565.

The Tioga County Health Department is hosting a Rabies Vaccine Clinic, February 4th 6-7 P.M. at the Waverly Village Barn, Spring St., Waverly A \$5.00 donation is requested, but not required. No person will be turned away.

Do not put your pets or your family at risk for contracting the Rabies Virus. Get your dogs, cats and domesticated ferrets vaccinated. Pets can be vaccinated after 12 weeks of age.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

If you or someone you know is interested in getting involved in your local government, here is the chance. There is one vacancy on the Board of Appeals, one on the County Planning Board and one on the Town Planning Board. These Boards depend on local residents to keep the Town functioning – if you are interested in one of these positions contact Martin Wilcox 657-8295.

LOAN CLOSET

The Department of Aging now has a Loan Closet for durable medical equipment such as wheelchairs, walkers, canes, portable commodes, shower chairs and hospital beds. If you know of anyone in need of these items or you have items to donate, please contact Joe at 607-4120, ext 314.

Calendar of Events

- Jan 25 Diabetic Support Group, 6 p.m., Congregational Church, Main Street, Berkshire. Call 657-4479 for information.
- Jan 29 Town Clerk, at Town Hall, 9 - 11 a.m., open for payment of property taxes.
- Feb 3 Food giveaway, Richford Congregational Church, Route 38, 12:30 till gone. Bring boxes.
- Feb 5 Soup and Salad, Richford Congregational Church, 12 - 3 p.m., free will offering.
- Feb 9 Stay Healthy Workshop, "Easy Ways to Eat Healthy," 7 p.m., Bernice Davenport Chapel, 28 South Main St., Newark Valley (next to white church).
- Feb 16 Advisory Board meeting, Northern Tioga Neighbors Network, 7 p.m., Hubbard Center, Bowery Lane.
- Feb 17-19 Book Sale, Berkshire Library.
- Feb 22 Diabetic Support Group, see Jan. 25 for details.
- Feb 23 Stay Health Workshop, part 2, "Easy Ways to Stay Active", see Feb 9 for details.
- Mar 3 Food giveaway, see Feb 3 for details.
- Mar 5 Soup and Salad, Richford Congregational Church. See Feb. 5 for details.
- Mar 16 Advisory Board, NTNN, 7 p.m., Hubbard Center.
- Mar 29 Diabetic Support Group, 6 p.m. See Jan. 25 for details.
- Apr 2 Soup and Salad, Richford Congregational Church. See Feb 5 for details.
- Apr 7 Food giveaway, Richford Congregational Church. See Feb 3 for details.

The Richford Planning Board compiles this newsletter and maintains the town website, www.richfordny.com. If you have any questions or comments, contact the Planning Board at (607) 657-8248 or e-mail us at newsletter@richfordny.com.

Town Newsletter
P.O. Box 80
Richford, NY 13835

Richford Resident
P. O. Box
Richford, NY 13835