

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE TOWN BOARD
TOWN OF RICHLAND
1 BRIDGE STREET, PULASKI, NY

DATE: March 26,2019

KIND OF MEETING: Special Meeting of the Town Board with the Town of Richland Court

PLACE: Grand Jury Room, H. Douglas Barclay Courthouse Pulaski, NY

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Supervisor Dan Krupke
Councilman Kern Yerdon
Councilman Allen Goodsell
Councilwoman Sue Haynes
Councilwoman Donna Gilson

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE: Town Attorney Graham Seiter Justices Ridgeway and Conger,
Town resident Jamie Foster
Town Clerk, Millie Newcomb

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 6:13 p.m. with Supervisor Krupke leading in the Pledge of Allegiance

A motion to award the contract to Continental Construction, in the amount of **\$209,834** to build the Pavilion at the Haldane Center. The project had to be reviewed by the State and got the go ahead to move forward. Supervisor Krupke and Craig Sternberg met with the Owner of Continental Construction. ***The motion was made by Councilwoman Haynes and seconded by Councilman Yerdon. In a roll call vote, all were in favor with a vote of "AYE***

Discussion turned to the addition of a court clerk. This would be a new position. Supervisor Krupke asked the Honorable Justice Ridgeway and Conger to speak to the need to add an additional clerk. Judge Ridgeway advised the Board that the State seems to be shifting more duties off to the Local Courts. The Justices have talked about getting more help. One of the clerks asked to have her hours reduced for July and August from 30 down to 15 hours a week. In addition, the other clerk maybe retiring in the future. At this time she hasn't mentioned it but the court would like to get someone in and get them trained. The Judges would like to have a total of 75 hrs per week in the court for the clerks. The Justices are here to make an Official request. Judge Ridgeway feels the extra clerk is warranted do to the increase in traffic in the

Courts. The new clerk would train and work the 15 hours this summer . After that time, the Justices would like that person stay on permanently working 15 hrs per week.

Justice Conger advised the Board that every Law Enforcement agency prints off tickets and give the ticket to the violator. The clerks have to download the tickets every morning. The only agency that does not use computers to write tickets are the DEC officers. Those tickets are entered by hand. This and all tickets must be handled in a timely manner and accurately. Judge Ridgeway starts his court night at 5:00 pm or earlier if warranted. Many times, he hears Small Claims earlier in the day to help out on court nights. Usually the courts last until 10:00 pm. Judge Conger stays until 12:00 am in most cases. She also advises that she does a lot of her own Clerk duties. Also this year, all Court Clerks are to attend Clerks training. Judge Conger says the State is making it mandatory.

Councilwoman Gilson would like to know the percentage of increase in the Court since the Village Court dissolved. Judge Ridgeway thinks that that percentage was about 54% increase. The discussion moved to the methods of payments. Judge Conger accepts Credit Cards and cashiers checks. Judge Ridgeway accepts cashiers checks but doesn't take credit cards due to clients disputing charges because on the receipts make it look like the charge was done in Richland TN. Councilman Goodsell would like to know the percentage of traffic fines to criminal cases. Justice Conger explains that traffic is definitely more but the criminal cases takes much more time.

Half of the paperwork that is being done now, in reference to traffic tickets, the Department of Motor Vehicles used to handle.

In closing, the increase in volume could be the increase of "Bad Guys" or better law enforcement. The shift of the work load onto the Courts is very noticeable. The closest in size of Court cases, Judge Conger thinks is the Town of Hastings although, Central Square still has a Village Court. The Town of Richland gets more DEC and traffic. It typically takes 2-3 weeks for the DEC to clear tickets after the Town has already disposed of it. Councilman Yerdon feels everything that he has heard tonight, is something that would increase in the Budget. Judge Ridgeway will do his training online. He thinks that he had put about \$6000 in the budget. If the Board decides to add an extra person, both clerks will work every court night.

Councilwoman Gilson thinks the Court is setting a bad precedent letting an employee take the summers off then having the new person go back to part time. The new clerk should be trained and let stay on 30 hours and the clerk in question go down to the part time status at 15 hrs a week. Councilman Yerdon is not happy about the whole situation with the Clerks. He feels the Town of Richland has spent a lot of money training the clerks and to bring another clerk in , train them just because a clerk wants to cut her hours for the summer is not fair to the other clerk or the tax payers of the Town of Richland. Councilman Yerdon thinks the clerk in question should have thought about this before she took the job. Mr. Yerdon continues that the Town of Richland spends over \$109,000 in wages for the Court System between the Justices and Clerks. He feels that the Town of Richland Court has to be one of the highest paid in the area, with the exception of the Town of Hastings and maybe Schroepfel. With nothing further to discuss, the Board thanked Justices Ridgeway and Conger for coming to the Board. ***A motion to go into***

executive session was made by Councilwoman Gilson and seconded by Councilman Goodsell. In a roll call vote, all were in favor with a vote of "AYE". 7:25pm.

A motion to exit executive session was made by Councilwoman Gilson and seconded by Councilman Goodsell. In a roll call vote, all were in favor with a vote of "AYE". 8:13pm. No decision was made as a result of Executive Session.

Mr Foster would like to know if Supervisor Krupke has had a chance to look over the documents that he dropped off. Mr. Foster has done extensive research at the County Building in Oswego for maps and other documents pertaining to Rainbow Shores Road. A brief discussion with no results noted.

With nothing else to bring before the Board, a motion to adjourn was made by Councilwoman Haynes and seconded by Councilwoman Gilson. In a roll call vote, all were in favor with a vote of "AYE". 8:20 pm.

Respectfully submitted by:

Millie Newcomb
Town Clerk