
RICHFORD QUARTERLY

Volume 13, Issue 1

www.richfordny.com

January - March 2013

FROM THE SUPERVISOR

The Town completed its fiscal year on Dec. 31. In 2012 the Town adopted a budget with an increase in the tax levy of 1.7% (below the tax cap of 2%). A new printer/copier was purchased for the Justice Court with funds from a NYS Justice Court Assistance Program grant. The Town also received its first county sales tax check in three years. The Planning Board is working with the Town Board on a road use agreement, a road protection law and a moratorium, all related to hydrofracking. The Town has renewed its agreements for dog holding services with Stray Haven and also for code enforcement services with the Town of Caroline. The Town Board still holds its monthly meetings on the second Tuesday at 7 p.m.

TOWN BOARD NEWS

September 11, 2012

The regular Town of Richford Board meeting was called to order at 7:20 p.m. by Supervisor Wilcox. All Board members were present. Six townspeople were also in attendance. The Berkshire Emergency Squad was present and asked that the Town of Richford send a liaison to the monthly meetings of the Squad to report back to the Town Board. The Town Clerk's and Supervisor's reports for August 2012 were presented. The Highway Superintendent was not present, but did report to Supervisor Wilcox that they plan to stone and oil roads beginning Thursday or Monday. Supervisor Wilcox was asked to inquire of Mr. Holt regarding a product used on roads in place of salt brine and has a hard finish to it. A Town Planning Board report was given. They are preparing a draft of a "Road Use Agreement" as requested by the Town Board. There was a short discussion on the number of members on the Planning Board. The Town Board also instructed the Planning Board to work on a new draft of a One Year Moratorium Law on gas drilling after the Road Use Agreement and Road Preservation Law are completed. A resolution concerning the lowering of speed limits on certain town roads within the Town of Richford was adopted and will be forwarded to the State of NY for review. There was discussion regarding the 2013 Town Budget. Supervisor Wilcox presented a draft of a local law to override the NYS tax cap. A Public Hearing on the proposed tax override local law on October 9, 2012 at 6:30 pm. The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

October 9, 2012 Public Hearing:

Supervisor Wilcox called the Public Hearing regarding proposed Local Law #2 of 2012, a Local Law to Override the Tax Levy Limit Established in General Municipal Law 3-C at 6:37 pm. Twenty-eight townspeople were also in attendance and ask questions and/or made statements for or against proposed Local Law #2 of 2012. After much discussion and after asking for any further comments, Supervisor Wilcox closed the Public Hearing at 7:15 pm.

October 9, 2012 Board Meeting:

The regular Town of Richford Board meeting was called to order at 7:17 p.m. by Supervisor Wilcox. Twenty townspeople were also in attendance. A representative of the Berkshire Emergency Squad was present and talked regarding their budget. Minutes of the September 11, 2012 regular monthly Town Board Meeting were presented and approved. The Town Clerk's and Supervisor's reports for September 2012 were presented. The Highway Superintendent gave a report. Perry Road has been worked on and plans for the Highway Garage septic and changing a dump truck to a sander truck are also being worked on. A Code Enforcement and Justice Court report for September 2012 was presented. There was no dog control report for September 2012. A Town Planning Board report was given. They have been working on a draft of a road preservation law. The Town Board approved a tire collection day on September 22, 2012 from 8:00 am to 2:00 pm at the garbage truck location. The fees will remain the same as they were in the spring. The Board agreed to update the current employee payroll program. The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

November 8, 2012 Public Hearing:

Supervisor Wilcox called the Public Hearing on the Town of Richford 2012 Preliminary Budget to order at 6:42 pm. Councilman Miller and Councilwoman Herrick were present. Councilman Mead and Councilwoman Brown were absent. Three townspeople were also in attendance. There was discussion regarding several questions pertaining to the 2013 Preliminary Budget. Supervisor Wilcox closed the Public Hearing at 7:18 pm.

November 13, 2012 Board Meeting:

The regular Town of Richford Board meeting was called to order at 7:20 p.m. by Supervisor Wilcox. The minutes of the October 9, 2012 and November 8, 2012 Public Hearings, the October 9, 2012 regular monthly Town Board Meeting and the Special Town Board meeting held on October 16, 2012 were presented and approved. The Town Clerk's and Supervisor's reports for October 2012 were presented. Highway Superintendent report for October 2012 was presented. The new septic system at the Highway Garage has been completed and the CHIPS paperwork has been completed and mailed. A new radio was purchased for one of the trucks. A Town Planning Board report was given. There was discussion regarding the 2013 Town of Richford Preliminary Budget. Changes were made and the Preliminary Budget was approved. A motion to appropriate \$35,000.00 toward the purchase of a new pick-up truck was approved. A resolution to adopt the Town of Richford 2013 Preliminary Budget was approved. The meeting was adjourned at 9:03 p.m.

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December 11, 2012 Board Meeting:

The regular Town of Richford Board meeting was called to order at 7:25 p.m. by Supervisor Wilcox. Two townspeople were in attendance. The minutes of the November 13, 2012 regular monthly Town Board Meeting were presented and approved. The Town Clerk's and Supervisor's reports for November 2012 were presented. The Highway Superintendents report for November 2012 was presented. Winter sand has been hauled in and all trucks have been repaired and are ready to be used. The Barden Road Bridge project has been completed. Code Enforcement, Dog Control and Justice Court reports for November 2012 were presented. A Town Planning Board report was given. The Planning Board would like to have a Road Use and Road Preservation Laws draft ready by years end. A motion to hold a year-end meeting at 7:00 pm on Thursday, December 27, 2012 was approved. The meeting was adjourned at 9:17 p.m.

December 27, 2012 Special Board Meeting:

Supervisor Wilcox called the special year-end meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. Councilwoman Herrick and Councilman Miller were present. Councilwoman Brown and Councilman Mead were absent. Four townspeople were also in attendance. Board members finalized 2012 business. The meeting adjourn at 8:40 p.m.

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, 2013. 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. Seniors, age 65 and over, with a yearly income of \$23,999 or under are eligible for a sliding scale for aged exemption of Town property taxes. Renewal forms have been sent to residents who applied last year for the enhanced STAR and or the sliding scale property exemption. For information or to obtain the needed forms, contact Frances Butler by email (franb@frontiernet.net), 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 or a family member may be eligible for one or more exemptions. Application forms can also be obtained online at www.tax.ny.gov/forms/orpts_cur_forms.htm

RICHFORD FIRE DEPARTMENT NEWS

The 18 active members of the all-volunteer Richford Fire Department responded to some 60 calls in 2012, according to Fire Chief John Keener Jr. and President Carrie Keener. Six of the members have been certified as 'interior' firefighters. The

department has several vehicles at its disposal to respond to fires and accidents: a fire engine, a tanker, a mini pumper and an ambulance. Volunteers are always needed to augment the Richford volunteer fire department "family". If interested in joining as a volunteer call John Keener at 607-972-1336 or attend a fire department meeting held on the last Thursday of every month at 6:00 pm at the fire hall.

HIGHWAY SUPERINTENDENT

The winter months provide many challenges for our highway crew. To help expedite their job, remember to keep the road right-of way clear, don't plow snow into or across the roadway, and remember that your mailbox is your responsibility to maintain.

Also, The area on the south end of the town barn is provided for our residents to dispose of larger metals that are recyclable. Do Not dump any non recyclable materials in this area. "NO" mattresses, couches, glass or garbage are to be dumped in this area. If you have any questions on what can be left in that area, call the town barns at 657-2770

COMMUNITY AUXILIARY

The Community Auxiliary members are a group of Town residents who plan and conduct several activities, primarily for the youth in the town. They are sponsoring a Breakfast with the Easter bunny on Saturday, March 30, from 9 a.m. on at the Town Hall. They also sponsor a barbecue to raise funds for the Richford Scholarship and have a Kiddies Day program where the king and queen of Richford are selected and several children receive bicycles and helmets. If you would like to obtain more information about this community organization, and how to become a member, please call Chris Craft at 844 - 8969.

HELPING HANDS FOOD PANTRY

The pantry has moved! Located NOW at 11 Jewett Hill Road, in the lower level. Enter building on side nearest the library. Hours remain the same as before: Monday 6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. and Thursday 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. Contact Emily @ 657-8158 or Joan @ 657-8158 for more info.

BERKSHIRE EMS

The Town of Richford currently has a contract with the Berkshire Emergency Squad for ambulance service for residents. The 911 emergency call goes to the Tioga County dispatcher, who in turn, calls the Berkshire Emergency Squad. If the Squad is unavailable, then another squad is called through mutual aid by the dispatcher. The contract which the Town of Richford has with the Squad calls for a 20 percent deductible on the bill. The ambulance bill can vary depending on the medical needs of the patient being transported. If you cannot pay the bill, please call the Berkshire EMS at 642-3451. You can help the ambulance crew find your home by have the property identification number clearly visible from either direction of the road. For more information please call EMS at 642-3451.

TOWN AND OTHER OFFICIALS 2013**TOWN BOARD** MEETS: 2ND TUESDAY, 7PM, TOWN HALL

- ◆ Martin Wilcox Supervisor 657-8295
- ◆ Cyndi Herrick Councilperson 657-8659
- ◆ Beverly Brown Councilperson 201-2738
- ◆ Ricky Brown Councilperson 201-2738
- ◆ Ken Miller Councilperson 657-2789

TOWN CLERK

- ◆ Judy Thurston 657-8090
- ◆ Business hours- Town Hall: Tues, Wed, 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

- ◆ Kevin McMahon Phone: (B)539-6700; (C)[745-0004](tel: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 Holt 657-2770

TOWN GARBAGE TRUCK

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

BOARD OF APPEALS

- ◆ Dore Karasin 657-8659
- ◆ Louis Karasin 657-2526
- ◆ 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
- ◆ Victoria Nuzzo 657-8656
- ◆ John Schwartz 657-8512
- ◆ Kim Stanford 342-6709
- ◆ Emilie Stuhlmiller 657-2680

FIRE DEPARTMENT MEETS: LAST THUR, 6PM FIRE STATION

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

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

POST OFFICE'S

- ◆ Richford 657-2617
- ◆ Berkshire 657-2755

RICHFORD REPRESENTATIVES TO:**COUNTY LEGISLATURE**

- ◆ Ed Hollenbeck 642-3201

County Planning Board

- ◆ Vacant – volunteer needed

Berkshire EMS Inc.

- ◆ Lee Virtue President 642-3451

OFFICIAL TOWN NEWSPAPER

- ◆ Scotsman Pennysaver 753-3413

TOWN WEBSITE

- ◆ www.richfordny.com

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Calendar of Events.

Feb. All Month: "Fabulous February" Paperback Book Sale
Lots of new donated titles. 25 cents each/ Buy 4 get one free!
All month during regular library hours: Tues 12-5; Wed 1:30-7; Thurs 1-5; Fri 1:30-7; Sat 9-2

Feb. 7: Food giveaway, Richford Congregational Church, 12:30 p.m., bring containers

Feb 18: President's Day

Feb. 20: Board of Directors meeting, Northern Tioga Neighbors Network, 7 p.m., Hubbard Center

March 2: Soup and Salad Supper, Richford Congregational Church, Route 38, 4 - 6:30 p.m. Free Will offering.

March 7: Food giveaway, see Feb 7 for info .

March 20: Board of Directors (NTNN), see Feb 20 for info.

March 30: Breakfast with the Easter bunny, 9 a.m., Town Hall, sponsored by the Community Auxiliary

March 31: Easter Sunday.

April 4: Food giveaway, see Feb. 7 for info

April 17: Board of Directors NTNN, see Feb 20 for info.

For more information on these events and additional events, go to the Town of Richford website at www.richfordny.com

The Berkshire Free Library,

The library thanks the 76 -area families that donated \$3,222 towards the campaign. Although this year's total fell short of the \$4,500 goal, together with the donated by local businesses towards the mailing, campaign funds still represent a major portion of the years operation budget.

"Fabulous February" Paperback Book Sale Lots of new donated titles. 25 cents each/ Buy 4 get one free! All month during regular library hours: Tues 12-5; Wed 1:30-7; Thurs 1-5; Fri 1:30-7; Sat 9-2 Call before coming if weather is bad: 657-4418

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NTNN NEWS

Northern Tioga Neighbors Network (NTNN) is a group of volunteers providing transportation including trips to doctors and shopping for groceries, help around the home and yard, friendly visits and phone calls and help finding appropriate service agencies. We serve the towns of Berkshire, Richford and now Newark Valley.

Due to popular demand, NTNN will be sponsoring another Senior Citizen exercise and wellness group starting this March. Watch for further announcements.. Contact NTNN at 607-657-2823 or toll free at 1-877-657-2823 and leave a message.

TROUT HABITAT PROTECTED

The Finger Lakes Land Trust announced that it has accepted the donation of a conservation easement from landowner Jeanne Paisley on her 120-acre property bordering the East Branch of Owego Creek. Conservation easements are legal agreements that limit future development while allowing land to remain in private ownership and on the tax rolls. In this case, the easement provides for vegetated buffers along the creek while allowing for continued use of the land for agriculture and forestry.