
RICHFORD QUARTERLY

Volume 14, Issue 1

www.richfordny.com

January - March 2014

FROM THE SUPERVISOR

The 2014 Town budget proved to be a challenge because over \$123,000 had to be eliminated from the property tax levy in order to meet the 2% property cap. Contributions to the highway equipment and garbage truck reserve funds and funds for purchasing another truck for the Highway Dept. were eliminated to help meet the tax cap. The Town's contribution to the NYS Retirement System for 2014 will be \$20,065.

The town wide dog enumeration proved to be highly successful as a large number of town residents have purchased dog licenses. This extra revenue will help reduce the need to rely on property taxes to cover the cost of dog control.

Roberta Holcomb is the newest member of the Richford Town Board, replacing Beverly Brown whose term expired on December 31. The Town thanks Beverly for her years of service to our community.

Residents wishing to do business with the Town Clerk are asked to be patient as Judy Thurston recovers from illness. Tioga County has informed Richford that the computer system in the Town Clerk's office will have to be upgraded as the county property tax system will go paperless in two years.

Richford faces many challenges in 2014, including demolishing a burned-out house and completing work on a new contract with the highway employees. The Town Board meets the second Tuesday of each month at 7PM.

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, 2014. 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 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 (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 or a family member may be eligible for one or more exemptions. Application forms can also be obtained online at www.orps.state.ny.is/

TOWN BOARD NEWS

October 8, 2013 - Highway Superintendent Holt reported that most pipes have been replaced up to Valley View Road. Work on Tubbs Hill Road has been completed for this year. Mr. Holt also informed the Board that the Hayes gravel pit will be closed this year. There was more discussion regarding the tree at the Graded School that has branches hanging over a neighbor's property. Supervisor Wilcox will contact the tree trimming company to have the branches removed.

The Justice Court report for September 2013 showed \$3560 collected in fines. The Code Enforcement and Planning Board reports were given. There was no Dog Control report.

There was more discussion regarding the burned house on Route 79 in the hamlet. The Broome County Sheriff's Office was contacted because the owner Joyce Hyde has a Broome County address and we have not been able to contact her. The Town Board needs to decide how to pursue this matter.

The highway employee's contract was discussed. Health insurance is the matter holding up the contract. Supervisor Wilcox has tried to contact the insurance company. Highway Superintendent Holt is to check on the availability of a trailer before setting a date for a tire collection day

October 16, 2013 - A Special meeting of the Richford Town Board to review the 2014 Tentative Budget. Trees on the Graded School property will be trimmed to remove branches hanging over neighboring property.

Nov 12, 2013 - Town Lawyer, Khandikile Sokoni, answered questions regarding the burned home of Joyce Hyde. A public hearing will be held to discuss demolition of Joyce Hyde's property and to select a contractor to inspect the house.

Highway Superintendent Holt reported that he is working on finding a gravel pit and the Highway employees have been ditch digging, repairing trucks for winter service. The Justice Court report for October 2013 showed \$4270 collected in fines. There was no Dog Control or Code Enforcement report given. Charlie Davis gave the Planning Board report and asked the Town Board to sign a letter (prepared by the Planning Board)

asking the Post Office Department in Washington DC and our State Representatives to reopen the Richford Post Office. The Planning board is also working on Rules of Public Conduct, and an Ethics Code for all Town employees.

Supervisor Wilcox stated that the 2014 Budget must be filed by 11/20/2013, and the tax cap for 2014 is \$123,953. Once again there was discussion about having a tire collection day. Highway Superintendent Holt will check on getting a trailer. Supervisor Wilcox will tell Congressman Tom Reed that the Town of Richford agrees to the Simply Co-Pay insurance plan. The Highway employees have chosen Excellus for their health insurance plan, which will save some \$700 per month.

Nov 18, 2013 - A special Town meeting to discuss the Highway employees contract and garbage truck procedures.

December 10, 2013 - Before the meeting a public hearing was held to find a contractor to evaluate demolition of the Joyce Hyde property.

Highway Superintendent Holt stated that they have been hauling sand for next year and he has called regarding the CHIPS money. The Justice Court report for November 2013 showed \$3270 collected in fines. The Dog Control, Code Enforcement, and Planning Board reports were given.

There was more discussion regarding the Hyde property. Several residents suggested testing for asbestos before accepting a contract for demolition. Darryl Cross was selected as the contractor to evaluate the Joyce Hyde property

New garbage truck procedures were adopted by resolution. There was a question whether a town resident involved in a law suit against the Town can become a Board Member. The Town Supervisor received a letter asking the Town to support casino licenses. Several residents recommended against this support as there would be no benefit to the Town of Richford.

TOWN CLERK UP-DATE

Shortly before the new year, Town Clerk Judith Thurston was hospitalized for several days. She has returned home now and is recovering. Her daughter-in-law, Deputy Town Clerk Tina Thurston, is covering her duties during the busy tax collection season. All well wishes can be directed to Judith Thurston P.O. Box 80, Richford, NY 13835. We all wish Judith a speedy recovery and hope to see her back in the office soon.

FREE RABIES CLINIC

Bring your dog, cat or ferret to the Newark Valley Fire Stn. 7151 Rt. 38, Newark Valley, on Wednesday April 30, 6-8 pm, for a free rabies shot. First shot lasts 1 year and booster shots last 3 years. Bring proof of prior shot. Call 687-6585 for info.

BERKSHIRE FREE LIBRARY

Everyone is invited to Richford Children's Story Time, from 10-11am on Fridays at the Richford Congregational Church. If school is closed because of weather, Story Time will be canceled that day. We read stories, sing songs, make crafts and play games. All children who are not school age and their parents or caregivers are welcome. We will soon have books the children can borrow for 2-3 weeks. We are bringing the Library to you. Remember this is your Library too.

Plan to attend the "CABIN FEVER FLEA MARKET" Feb. 15th 9am-4pm at the Richford Congregational Church. Please call Sandy Negus at 607-657-8272 for more information. Sale will benefit the Berkshire Free Library.

Now is a good time to start planning your gardens. We have lots of books on growing flowers and vegetables. It helps to think about plants growing to get rid of the mid-winter doldrums. Stop in the library sometime to get a good book to curl-up with on a cold winter's night.

And stop in for free internet, help with job search, help with homework, help with resumes, reading programs, tutoring and more. Library hours are Tues. 12-5, Wed. 1:30-7, Thur. 1-5, Fri. 1:30-7 & Sat. 9-2. Any questions? Call 607-657-4418.

EASIER CURBSIDE RECYCLING

No more sorting - just place all your recyclables together in one recycling bin. They are separated at a state-of-the-art recycling facility located in Tioga County. Check the list below for what can be recycled. Putting in a non-recyclable item will contaminate an entire batch, which must then be deposited in the landfill, defeating the entire purpose of recycling. If you have questions or need a replacement bin, call 607-687-8274.

Paper: Newspaper, Magazines, Catalogs, Junk mail and Office paper, Telephone books, Soft cover books, Hard cover books with cover removed, Greeting cards, Wrapping paper (non-metallic only)

Cardboard: Corrugated and Single Layer cardboard, cereal & tissue boxes, egg cartons, Gable Top Milk and Juice Cartons. **Do not recycle** Waxed cardboard, Food, Soiled paper, Styrofoam egg cartons, Tissues, Napkins, Paper Cups or Plates.

Glass: Unbroken clear, brown or green glass bottles and jars only - no Drinking glasses, glass plates or glass cookware.

Plastics: Bottles and jugs with recycling symbol # 1 - 7. Rigid plastics including 5-gal buckets and flower pots, dish drainers, plastic cups and bowls, Plastic hangers and chairs, toys etc.

Metal: Tin and aluminum cans, Clean aluminum foil and pans, Completely empty aerosol cans.

Do not recycle: Styrofoam, Light bulbs, Automotive Fluid Containers, and ABSOLUTELY NO PLASTIC BAGS OF ANY KIND. Please recycle plastic grocery bags at your local grocery store.

TOWN AND OTHER OFFICIALS 2014

- TOWN BOARD** MEETS: 2ND TUESDAY, 7PM, TOWN HALL
- ◆ Martin Wilcox Supervisor 657-8295
 - ◆ Cyndi Herrick Councilperson 657-8659
 - ◆ Roberta Holcomb Councilperson 657-8644
 - ◆ 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 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 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
 - ◆ 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
 - ◆ Victoria Nuzzo 657-8656
 - ◆ John Schwartz 657-8512
 - ◆ Kim Stanford
 - ◆ William Stell 856-689-3573
 - ◆ Emilie Stuhlmiller 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
 - ◆ Donna Gencarelli Treasurer 657-9985
 - ◆ One Vacancy, Contact Jeff Holcomb if Interested

- 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 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

- Berkshire EMS Inc.**
- ◆ Lee Virtue 642-3451

RICHFORD REPRESENTATIVES TO:

- 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

Fold 2

Calendar of Events

- Jan 31** Deadline for signing up for North Tioga Agricultural District, call Elaine Jardine, 687-8257 for information
- Feb 1** Soup and Salad, Congregational Church, Richford, Route 38, 4 – 6:30 pm, take outs available, proceeds to benefit Helping Hands Food Pantry, free will donation.
- Feb 5** Town Planning board meeting, 7 pm, Town Hall
- Feb 6** Free food available to those who need it, Richford Congregational Church, State Rt. 38, 12:30- 1:30 p.m., bring boxes, bags.
- Feb 8** Benefit dinner for Hulse family, 2-8 pm, Nichols (see article below)
- Feb 15** Cabin Fever Flea Market, Richford Congregational Church, 9 am – 4 pm, bake sale, other foods, trash and treasures, donations appreciated. Contact Sandy Negus, 657-8272. Benefit for Berkshire Library.

- Feb 19** Board of Directors Meeting, NTNN, see Jan 15
- Mar 1** Soup and Salad, see Feb 1
- Mar 5** Town Planning Board Meeting, 7 pm., Town Hall.
- Mar 6** Food giveaway, see Feb 6
- Mar 30** Breakfast with Easter Bunny; Sponsored by the Community Auxiliary. 9 am at the Richford Town Hall, Bowery Lane. Open to all Richford Children
- Apr 2** Town Planning Board Meeting, 7 pm., Town Hall.
- Apr 3** Food giveaway, see Feb 6
- Apr 30** Rabies Clinic for pets. 6-8 pm, Newark Valley Fire Station.

For additional events, up-dates and much more go to
www.richfordny.com.

Fold 1

HOW TO HELP THE HULSE FAMILY...

Our condolences to the Hulse family of West Creek Road, who lost their house, belongings and, sadly, their 4 year old son/brother in a fire. The family is living in Endicott currently. If you would like to help them rebuild, please send monetary donations and cards to: Bill and Leanna Hulse, 1902 Union Center Highway Endicott, NY 13760. A family friend has also set up an on-line campaign to raise funds, which can be found at: <http://www.gofundme.com/Help-the-Hulses>. There are also two fundraisers currently in the works. The first will be a chicken and biscuit dinner, with DJ, 50/50 and raffles on Feb. 8th at the Railroad Bar and Grill in Nichols from 2-8 pm. More information about this and other ways you can help can be found on “*Help for the Hulse’s*” Facebook page.