

The regular meeting of the Richfield Town Board was held on Monday, January 20, 2020 at the Richfield Town Hall. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by Supervisor Palevsky. Board members present were Bello, Eckler, Frigault, and Seamon. Highway Superintendent Proctor and Clerk Young were also in attendance. Supervisor Palevsky acknowledged that today is Martin Luther King Day.

A public hearing for the 2020 Fire and Ambulance contract was opened at 7:01 by Supervisor Palevsky.

Village Mayor Robin Moshier stated there is a 2% cost increase in Fire and Ambulance services. With no other comments from the public, Supervisor Palevsky closed the public hearing at 7:03.

The regular meeting was open at 7:03.

The board members had a discussion on The Assessor Association annual dues and the Flood Plan membership dues. The board agreed that neither membership would be utilized at this time. Voucher #A15 & #A17 will be taken off the abstract.

A General	\$ 11,687.45
B Town Outside village	\$ 336.67
DA Highway	\$ 19,580.17
DB Highway Outside village	\$ 800.00
SF	\$ 55,036.14
SL Street Lighting	<u>\$ 92.81</u>
Total	\$87,723.66

Motion by Eckler, second by Bello to pay all vouchers with three signatures. Bello-yes, Eckler-yes, Frigault-yes, Seamon-yes, Palevsky-yes.

Motion by Eckler, second by Frigault to approve the December 16, 2019, December 30, 2019 and January 2, 2020 minutes. Bello-yes, Eckler-yes, Frigault-yes, Seamon-yes, Palevsky-yes.

Clerk Young reported that 2020 town and county tax collection has begun. \$307,610.00 has been collected as of close of business today. The clerk has paid funds A, B, SL, and SF to the supervisor. The November and December fire and ambulance reports are on file in the clerk's office.

Highway Superintendent Proctor received a thank you note from Mrs. Davis for allowing students to go to Bakers Beach to collect water samples. Proctor asked the board members to sign the agreement of expenditures for road maintenance. Co Hwy 24 leading to Gulf Rd, Co Hwy 25 leading to Gulf Rd, and Hyder Rd leading to Filburn Rd are scheduled for repairs this year. An approximate cost of \$210,000.00 for 2.5 miles of road to be paved and 35 miles of roads to be maintained.

Motion by Eckler, second by Frigault to sign the Agreement of Expenditures for the Highway Department. Bello-yes, Eckler-yes, Frigault-yes, Seamon-yes, Palevsky-yes.

Keith McCarty reported the Otsego County Jail is still under construction. The repairs should be finished soon and inmates will be able to return to the facility. The Sheriff's office is scheduled to have their report on the multi car accident that occurred in the Village in December, by the end of the month. The cost to dispose of recycling and garbage is on the rise. Currently the cost is \$144.00 per ton for recycling and \$87 per ton for garbage. The county is sorting out the glass to be sent to Andela Products, cardboard can be sold, and Styrofoam can be taken to Otsego County Recycling Center.

Planning Board Chairman Sullivan reported the Planning Board had their monthly meeting on January 13, 2020. The board granted a subdivision to Trevor Chadwick. The board could not move forward with the Buell Fuels site plan review because an appeal was filed with ZBA in regard to the use the permit was granted under.

Land Use Officer Klemm issued one permit in January.

Old Business

Motion by Eckler, second by Palevsky for the supervisor to sign the 2020 Fire and Ambulance contract with the Village of Richfield Springs. Bello-yes, Eckler-yes, Frigault-yes, Seamon-yes, Palevsky-yes.

The IRS has set mileage reimbursement at .57.5 per mile. The board agreed to leave mileage reimbursement at .58 per mile.

The CD the town holds at Bank of Utica rolled over at the beginning of the year. Supervisor Palevsky withdrew \$85,000.00, \$150,000.00 remains in the CD for another year with an interest rate of 1.77%.

Motion by Bello, second by Eckler for Supervisor Palevsky to sign the engagement agreement with David Merzig to conduct an independent review of the zoning protest petitions. Councilman Frigault presented the board with changes he would like to see made to the agreement. Supervisor Palevsky will submit the changes to Merzig before signing. Bello-yes, Eckler-yes, Frigault-yes, Seamon-no, Palevsky-yes.

Motion by Bello to appoint PETER W. HOBAICA as the Town Attorney, second by Eckler. Bello-yes, Eckler-yes, Frigault-yes, Seamon-yes, Palevsky-yes.

New Business

Councilman Bello attended the Association of Town's training in Albany for newly elected officials. Bello found the training very informative and productive. Bello inquired about board members using Skype to participate in board meetings; he was told it was legal to do so.

The annual audit of the Justice's books needs to be completed. Supervisor Palevsky and Councilman Frigault will audit Judge Marmet's audit, Palevsky and Councilman Seamon will audit Judge Woodrow's audit.

The board had a discussion on whether or not it would be cost effective to eliminate one Justice Position. Councilman Frigault has spoken with Judge Woodrow; he stated there is a lot of work ahead for the court. The state is making a lot of changes to the laws that will require the Judges to do more paperwork in a shorter amount of time. The board agreed that both Judge positions are needed.

Privilege of the Floor

Kevin Putnam asked the board to increase his pay by .45 per hour.

Bill Klemm informed the board that sending emailing between all 5 board members violates Open Meetings Law.

Paul Palumbo stated that dropping down to one Justice will not save money in the long run.

Mike Reid stated; you can Skype into a meeting, but all requirements of Open Meetings Law must be met.

Keith McCarty stated the county is working on a Skype policy.

Supervisor Palevsky closed the privilege of the floor.

Highway Superintend Proctor informed the board the Highway Department inventory list has been started.

Councilman Bello gave the board members information on purchasing a portable toilet for the transfer station. If the town buys their own portable toilet it will pay for itself after the first year. The cost to purchase a portable toilet is \$625.00. Councilman Bello would like to look into eliminating one of the electric meters at Bakers Beach.

The board would like to look into a different garbage hauler for the Town Hall.

Motion by Eckler to adjourn at 8:24 pm, second by Palevsky. All members were in favor.

Maggie Young, Clerk

