

REGULAR MEETING, TOWN OF REDFIELD, March 18, 2021

The regular monthly meeting of the Redfield Town Board was held on March 18, 2021 at the Redfield Municipal Building starting at 7:00pm. Roll call was taken and the following board members were present:

- Tanya Yerdon - Supervisor
- Carla Bauer - Councilwoman
- Elaine Yerdon - Councilwoman
- Erwin Webb - Councilman
- Matthew Tompkins - Councilman

In addition, Susan Hough -Town Clerk, Russell Montieth -Highway Superintendent, Michael Yerdon - Code Enforcement Officer, Jane Jones - Assessor, Tom Jones, Corey Yerdon, Sherriff Don Hilton, Justice Dory Dumas and Tug Hill Commission - Angela Kimball

Pledge of the Allegiance was said.

Resolution 21-23

Motion was made by Carla Bauer and seconded by Erwin Webb that the
General Fund Bills - Abstract #03 Vouchers 059-076,087-088 Totaling \$ 18,237.63 the
Light District #1 - Abstract #03 Vouchers 085 Totaling \$ 1,655.44 and
Fire District - Abstract #03 Vouchers 086 Totaling \$ 45,500.00

Be paid.

ADOPTED Ayes 5 T. Yerdon, E. Yerdon, E. Webb, C. Bauer, M. Tompkins
Nays 0

Resolution 21-24

Motion was made by Matthew Tompkins and seconded by Erwin Webb that the
Highway Fund Bills - Abstract # 03 Vouchers 076-083 Totaling \$ 32,877.82
Be paid.

ADOPTED Ayes 5 T. Yerdon, E. Yerdon, E. Webb, C. Bauer, M. Tompkins
Nays 0

Resolution 21-25

Motion was made by Erwin Webb and seconded by Elaine Yerdon that the Payroll Sheets be accepted as presented.

ADOPTED Ayes 5 T. Yerdon, E. Yerdon, E. Webb, C. Bauer, M. Tompkins
Nays 0

TOWN CLERK – SUSAN HOUGH

Town Clerk received a letter from Oswego County regarding the invoice for printing the tax bills. A resolution was passed on January 7, 2021 that will increase the bill by \$.20 per parcel, this will take place next year as budget's have already been passed for this year. She advertised in a legal notice that the Town of Redfield roads are posted for weight, ordered by Highway Superintendent Russell Montieth.

Resolution 21-26

Motion was made by Elaine Yerdon and seconded by Matthew Tompkins to approve the January 12, 2021 regular meeting as presented.

ADOPTED Ayes 5 T. Yerdon, E. Yerdon, E. Webb, C. Bauer, M. Tompkins
Nays 0

ASSESSOR - JANE JONES

Jane- progressing there were 100 transfers from October 19, 2020 to January 1, 2021 that she has entered on the property cards, the building permits are also caught up to date, none were on the property cards, a lot were not on the roll. Normal 5% increase in the Towns valueship, she can't address, 1200 parcels in four (4) weeks. The equalization rate will go down again, get new Assessor trained. Grievance day procedure, Angie Kimball- you are still allowed to do it virtually. Jane's thought was appointment only, Supervisor Tanya Yerdon - Tanya sat here last year to make sure only one person came in at a time. Grievance day is the last Tuesday of May, May 25th. Supervisor Tanya Yerdon - last year she thinks it was 2-4 and 6-8, we did get guidance from the County but it was too late, we had already published the hours.

SHERIFF - DON HILTON

Sheriff Don Hilton - other Towns are worried about angry citizens, he's not sure what they will do. Justice Dory Dumas - maybe they could use Constables. Sheriff Don Hilton - that would work great as they are all the same night.

Supervisor Tanya Yerdon - the ATV/Side-by-Side problems - last year was a difficult year, it was like the Wild West up here, with COVID they didn't want the Deputies and families exposed. Sheriff Don Hilton - He knows they go by his house and get crazy. Supervisor Tanya Yerdon - we do not have a trail system, except what the County did, lucky someone didn't get killed. Sheriff Don Hilton - part of the issue was the Troopers and Sheriffs didn't know the roads were open. ATV membership has increased, the membership now has a \$ 5.00 charge that will go to the Sheriff's department for patrol, the snowmobile and marine are good, the ATV unit only has three (3) people. He's going to the Legislature to try and get more help, and Kurt Oshelt will post the roads. Mike Yerdon - County Route 2, 17 and 47 are open and the speed limit is 25mph. Sheriff Don Hilton - they got out there late for ATV's, the ATV Club members thanked them for being out there. Snowmobiles with the modified mufflers - loud is most of the problem. Supervisor Tanya Yerdon - they are on the reservoir racing all night, in the summer they are jumping off the bridge, so crowded on the bridge it's dangerous, the County has signs on it. Mike Yerdon - Kurt put new signs up on the bridge. Sheriff Don Hilton - they have the Brewerton, Black and Railroad Bridges that have the same problem. Supervisor Tanya Yerdon - she has seen the Deputies stop on the bridge and talk to them and then the deputy just go. Sheriff Don Hilton - with the new bail law we issue tickets and can't even arrest them. Supervisor Tanya Yerdon - they don't issue tickets. Sheriff Don Hilton - tickets mean nothing, wild west, worst he's seen, the County has made a deal that if you give to the local food pantry \$ 50.00 the tickets go away, can't suspend license, no recourse to them. The Program was copied from other Counties, all they have to do is contract the DA's office they reduce it, give them a list to donate to. Speeding tickets - the fine went to the Town's now it doesn't, it's out of control, they can try. Angie Kimball - a couple ticket goes a long way. Tractor Trailers going through there, it's dangerous. Sheriff Don Hilton - he has three (3) patrols for 960 square miles, they will try and he will talk to the Troopers, reach out to other Agencies. ATV's doubled last year, Boats and Snowmobiles will too. Supervisor Tanya Yerdon - wants to be on the same page, and just wants support. Sheriff Don Hilton - we are spread thin, he will do what he can. Supervisor Tanya Yerdon - we have people shooting off Fireworks and Tannerite all hours of the day and night. Sheriff Don Hilton - Tannerite is not illegal, does the Town have a noise ordinance? Supervisor Tanya Yerdon - no it's not enforceable. CW E. Yerdon - the DEC owns the land around the reservoir and advertise to come up here and that it's free, but they don't give any support. Supervisor Tanya Yerdon - idea, approached DEC to make the land around the Reservoir a State Park and then they can Police it. Sheriff Don Hilton - lobby for more enforcement to Albany. Tom Jones - snowmobile season there's all kinds of law

enforcement up here, don't see that during ATV season. Sheriff Don Hilton - trying to get part-time deputies to put on a rotation. There's an issue from North Shore of Oneida to Tug Hill, he has three (3) total people with one person having to have a day off, he has one person on Oneida Lake and the other on another lake. Ingalls gave them loaner ATVs but doesn't know if they will again. Mike Yerdon - huge side-by-sides going 50-60mph on the roads, it's not legal for them to ride in NYS. Supervisor Tanya Yerdon - people are being told the roads in Redfield are open, they are not, can the Town put notice no town roads open to ATVs? Sheriff Don Hilton - yes, put signage up. Supervisor Tanya Yerdon - we need somebody, some presence and not be left alone. Sheriff Don Hilton - will do what he can, has three (3) for the whole county, put pressure on the DEC - ownership should have enforcement. Supervisor Tanya Yerdon - will do what we can do, is the meeting on Monday closed? Sheriff Don Hilton - it's a meeting to organize, talk about hiring, he will do his best, this is something he's been pushing for, he'll talk to the Troopers and DEC they work well together. Has Retired Deputies he'd like to hire as part-time, they have to be trained by the DEC to be certified to drive ATV, suggests signage. Supervisor Tanya Yerdon - does anyone else have anything? Sheriff Don Hilton - will try to come up to more meetings. The Supervisor and Board thanked Sheriff Hilton for attending the meeting, he left at 7:55pm.

HIGHWAY SUPERINTENDENT - RUSSELL MONTIETH

Russell - they did a lot of work on the old pickup, front hub, wheel bearings, axle seals inner and outers, bought new drive shaft, \$ 1,557 taken care of all the noise. Transmission on the 2014 is done \$ 9,576, clutch, pilot bearing, air lines in the transmission air, thought had a turbo problem, had a coolant leak/Head it's fixed. Alternator 2017 went - Delong had one - got it fixed and back running the same day. The 2007 and 1995 were the only trucks on the road for a while. Has the Expenditure of Funds for Town Highways - goes with the CHIPS money - one (1) mile road work on the Waterbury Road - bridge to the braes, three-tenths (3/10) mile on Harvester Mill Road - Ranieri's to Trumble Drive, concrete pour on Kay road culvert. The CHIPS \$ is fully funded, no Winter Recovery, has some money left over, usually get around \$ 100,000 to \$ 130,000 to work with, right now the rough estimate is \$ 83,000 per mile from Cargill - and it depends on the price of stone. Today they worked in the shop, got the maintenance caught up, did the four (4) hour oil samples for the Loader, the kit was \$ 143 - it's time consuming - it has to be done to keep the warranty. The road posted signs for weight are up. The York Rake - the tines are very warn, prices are \$ 24 a piece - there are sixty-five (65) on it, \$ 17 a piece get sixty-five (65) - would get seventy-five (75) to have extra.

Resolution 21-27

Motion was made by Matthew Tompkins and seconded by Erwin Webb to authorize Highway Superintendent Russell Montieth to purchase seventy-five (75) for the York Rake.

ADOPTED Ayes 5 T. Yerdon, E. Yerdon, E. Webb, C. Bauer, M. Tompkins
Nays 0

SUPERVISOR - TANYA YERDON

Tanya - Someone cut the chain that was on the water pump - it's up to the Board as to what they want to do with it, removed handle off the pump, remove the pump and cap it? She had requested the handle be removed and put a bag over it so no one would put stones in it. She thinks until we see what the water table is this year, if we have a rainy Spring then they could use it. CM M. Tompkins - thinks it looks good there, would rather keep it. Supervisor Tanya Yerdon - this building can't go without water this year, it almost cost us the pump, hot water heater, etc. Mike Yerdon - pump- someone took the effort to cut the chain, more will seep in there and contaminate the water.

Supervisor Tanya Yerdon - in Oswego County no well will pass.

CODE ENFORCEMENT OFFICER - MICHAEL YERDON

Mike - the Year End report has been filed and received by NYS. He has active people waiting to build.

LEGISLATOR - MICHAEL YERDON

Mike - there will be a Rabies clinic in Pulaski May 15th. They will have a Special Meeting on Thursday at 7pm. The Covid Relief fund - Redfield should receive \$ 103,293, this is from the Federal Government and will release funds directly to the Towns - can be used for Equipment, Infrastructure, but not to reduce the taxes. AIM from the State shifted internet/sales tax.

TUG HILL COMMISSION – ANGELA KIMBALL

Executive Order 202.94 is the latest order which allows for the relaxation of the Open Meetings Law requirements allowing virtual meetings and that order currently extends through March 16th, so any of our local municipalities that may be looking to hold their monthly board meetings, planning board or ZBA meetings through electronic means are still able to. The Commission will continue to host any of these meeting using Zoom for the time being, so if anyone is interested in using the service for January meetings, please contact Angie so she can get your meeting set up. Executive Order 202.94 also extended the availability for remote public hearings through March 16th. The Commission has pulled together the latest information on COVID-19 matters and combined information from the various papers that were available for the last several months into one handy FAQ sheet. The information has been recently updated and can be found at:

<https://tughill.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/COVID-19-January-2021-FAQ.pdf>. **REMINDER:** Tug Hill Tomorrow Land Trust and the Tug Hill Commission are presenting a three-part webinar series about types of land conservation for landowners and municipalities. The final webinar in this series titled “Forest Conservation”

(https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_68NAWYdDQgmARkRPj1JTCA) will be on March 10 at 7 p.m. **REMINDER:** Another webinar series from the Commission running this winter is the “Letters from a Tug Hill Logger” series. Leona and Peter Chereshnoski, the granddaughter and great-grandson of John Clemens and keepers of his treasured scrapbooks of memories will read letters, share stories, show off artifacts and photos and “spin yarns” of Tug Hill logging in its hey-day, all through the eyes of two remarkable personalities, one who wrote the stories and the other that broadcast them over the radio for the masses to hear. A cache of letters exchanged between John “Old Lard” Clemens and Robert “Deacon” Doubleday, a popular early morning Syracuse radio announcer in the middle 1900s, provide the backdrop for this series. The remaining session is March 24th, register at:

(us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_SglXM7TJSSCQccG2uv6eSw) at 7 p.m. **REMINDER:** The New York State Department of Transportation (NYSDOT) is soliciting candidate projects for funding under the BRIDGE NY program, which provides enhanced assistance for local governments to rehabilitate and replace bridges and culverts. Particular emphasis will be provided for projects that address poor structural conditions; mitigate weight restrictions or detours; facilitate economic development or increase competitiveness; improve resiliency and/or reduce the risk of flooding. Applications will be accepted January 25, 2021 through May 19, 2021 for culverts, and June 9, 2021 for bridges. Applications and information available at www.dot.ny.gov/bridgeny. Lewis County Economic Development, working together with Jefferson County Economic Development, the Lewis County Chamber of Commerce, Oneida

County Tourism, Oswego County Community Development, Tourism and Planning, Operation Oswego County, Tug Hill Commission, and several area snowmobile clubs, has contracted with the Center for Community Studies at Jefferson Community College (JCC) and Camoin 360 to undertake an economic impact study of snowmobiling in Lewis County and the Tug Hill region. JCC students will soon be at high-traffic locations throughout the four -county area interviewing snowmobilers on a variety of aspects of the popular winter sport. There is also an opportunity for snowmobilers to take the survey online starting Monday, February 15 at Economic Impact of Snowmobiling in Lewis County and Tug Hill Portions of Jefferson, Oneida, and Oswego Counties Survey ([surveymonkey.com](https://www.surveymonkey.com)). The NYS Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA) has over \$17 million to help communities implement actions to reduce carbon emissions and combat climate change in a new Clean Energy Communities Leadership Round. Four high-impact clean energy actions must be completed to earn a Clean Energy Communities designation. This round builds on the previous round of the program. Local governments in New York State interested in participating in the program can apply for grants through NYSEERDA's online portal on a rolling basis, until December 31, 2025 or until funds are exhausted. Additionally, the Adirondack North Country Association's (ANCA) Clean Energy Communities (CEC) Coordinators Nancy Bernstein and Jennifer Perry will be holding a webinar with an overview of NYSEERDA's recently announced Clean Energy Communities Leadership Round on March 2nd from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Register for the webinar at: [Introduction to Clean Energy Communities Leadership Round | ANCA \(adirondack.org\)](#) and for more information about the program visit NYSEERDA's website at: [Clean Energy Communities - NYSEERDA](#). Contact information for the ANCA coordinators and people who can assist you with this program if you aren't in the ANCA area is located in the February 26th edition of the Tug Hill Times. The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation's (DEC) application period for the Trees for Tribes' Buffer in a Bag program is now open. Private and public landowners who qualify may apply for a free bag of 25 tree and shrub seedlings for planting near streams, rivers, or lakes to help stabilize banks, protect water quality, and improve wildlife habitat. To qualify, landowners must have property in NYS with at least 50 feet that borders a stream, river, or lake, and provide photos or a map of the planting location. Applicants are eligible for one bag of 25 seedlings and recipients are chosen on a first-come, first-served basis. A total of 500 bags will be available statewide for this round of applications. Visit DEC's website for more information about the Buffer in a Bag application process and requirements at [Buffer in a Bag - NYS Dept. of Environmental Conservation](#). Applications are due by 3:00 p.m. on April 12. Join Geof Huth, Chief Records Officer for the Office of the New York State Unified Court System, as he discusses the unique rules and retention and disposition schedules that apply to municipal court records. Learn how to use these schedules, how to organize files, how to properly dispose of court records, and other special rules those who manage court records should be aware of. Register today on the NYS Archives website at: [Workshop Schedule | New York State Archives \(nysed.gov\)](#) for this March 17th webinar. Applications for 2020 Tree City USA awards are open. You can submit applications on the Arbor Day Foundations portal. For a link to the portal and requirement details, visit DEC's Tree City webpage. The Northern Border Regional Commission's (NBRC) State Economic & Infrastructure Development grant application materials will be available March 8, with an application deadline of May 21. There will be approximately \$4.6 million available for each state (Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont and New York). All four Tug Hill counties are within the program area, and it is likely that all four counties (Jefferson, Lewis, Oneida and Oswego) will be considered distressed, which makes them eligible for 80% grant 20% match. Maximum awards of up to \$1,000,000 will be made to eligible infrastructure projects, with a \$350,000 limit for non-infrastructure projects. Public bodies, 501© organizations, Native American tribes, and state governments can apply. Check out the NBRC website at [State Economic & Infrastructure](#)

Development Investment Program | Northern Border Regional Commission (nbrc.gov) for more information. Lori Mithen-Demasi from the NYS Association of Towns will be conducting a webinar titled "A Primer for Highways" on March 18th at 6:30 p.m. Highways by prescription (use); width and bounds; encroachments and obstructions by abutting owners; abandonment by non-use and discontinuance; minimum maintenance highways; and seasonally limited use roads will all be discussed. To register visit: Highway Webinar Registration. The commission is hosting a free webinar called "A New Climate on Both Large and Small Scales" on Thursday, March 25, 2021 at 7:00 pm. Meteorologist David Eichorn will provide an updated meteorological perspective on Tug Hill's changing climate and changing local weather. The commission is excited to now make his presentation available and serve as an alternative to the typical keynote address given at the annual Tug Hill Local Government Conference which was not held again in 2021 due to the pandemic. Mr. Eichorn will discuss data related to climate change through a meteorological perspective and review how a warmer Arctic can impact our Northeastern weather. He will also look at one of the region's big climate drivers, the El Nino/La Nina cycle in the Pacific and investigate its role in the changing climate. And lastly, Mr. Eichorn will explain the "Polar Vortex" - is this a new catch phrase or is there something more to it? His message to local governments is generally to plan for more unpredictability in weather patterns. To register visit: Weather Webinar Registration. Registration is now open for Cornell Local Roads spring training. The full list of available courses is on their website at CLRP workshops (cornell.edu). Locally, workshops will be held in Jefferson County the second week of May: May 11 – Local Roads and Streets Done Right May 12 – Surveying May 13 – Dollars and Sense of Municipal Operations. **SAVE THE DATES:** The Tug Hill Commission's next meeting will be Monday March 15th at 10 a.m. The public is welcome to attend the meeting which will be held via Zoom at: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85472663375#success> or via phone at (929) 205-6099 US, meeting ID 854 7266 3375. Additionally, the CTHC Executive Committee hasn't yet made a decision as far as the spring meeting, so stay tuned for details as the time gets closer for that meeting.

SUPERVISOR - TANYA YERDON

Tanya - The Greenboro Cemetery - she has been to Pathfinder to change the name to the Town of Redfield and the signature - they will not do anything without a form from the Association - which the Association isn't recognized by NYS. She has talked to Bob Genant- he suggests having Chris close the accounts and get certified checks payable to the Town of Redfield. She doesn't know if that's going to work or not. She took the Church deed and it will be absorbed into the Fire Department land deed. The other two (2) parcels have to be combined for anyone to do anything there, at closing the deed would become one, we would need to get them surveyed. Together it would be about one and one half (1 1/2) acres, .52 acres Old Town Barn and 1.21 acres old Davis property so 1.72 acres. She talked to Realtors - if we advertise correctly we could get \$ 10,000 to \$ 11,000 maybe, we don't know anything about the septic, has a drilled well, need to find markers - it would be an improved lot. CM M. Tompkins - we need to reach out to surveyors to get on the schedule, Matt will call - probably under professional services. Corey Yerdon - whatever the cost the Town has to absorb the Fire Department will help with the cost. CW E. Yerdon - did you get the Contract done for Mr. Conover? Tanya - is working on it. TC S. Hough - we might want to take the Kennel Sign down at the end of Balcom Drive. Supervisor Tanya Yerdon - The Town keeps putting money into Harvester Mill road due to damage from the snowmobiles, isn't there any place we could get help from for this? Tom Jones - he knows they have liability coverage but not sure about anything else. CM M. Tompkins - what about the State? Angie Kimball - the State gets the Registration money. Tom Jones - 2018 -02019 over 30,000 sleds, in one day there were 2,000. Jane Jones - the past two (2) years it's been worst.

Highway Superintendent Russell Montieth - he has talked to Tanya and Ed Montieth about re-routing the trail so they don't go through the Town Barn, it could be very dangerous when the plows are coming and going. Corey Yerdon - also very dangerous for the Helicopter that lands there. Tanya will find the time to contact the State to try and get funds.

Corey Yerdon - the Fire Department will be hosting an open house on Saturday, April 24th, they will be using the entire truck bay for COVID restrictions. Tanya - Art's house - the Axe and Plaques are still on the wall - she would hate to see them thrown away when the house is sold- obviously they should go back to the Fire Department. Corey will make sure that conversation happens.

Supervisor Tanya Yerdon - the Scalfone Law PLLC Invoice- we paid them \$ 98,036.72 from 2017 to 05/09/2018. She got a hold of the State, and finally proved to Melody that the \$ 50,000 that was paid to them was from the Town and not the intervenor funds. Melody was notified and Tanya was notified by email from the State December 2020 that the case is closed, that changes needed to be done by the end of the month. Tanya asked Melody if everything was in order and Melody said yes. Tanya talked to the State this week and asked what she had to do to get the money. The State has returned the money to Avangrid. Part of the many questions asked to Melody was do you know how to file for intervenor funds - she told us she did, proved she did not follow up. Tanya went down through the invoice to date there are \$ 14,794.36 late fee charges, it's very hard to see where/what charged for. There is \$ 22,357.50 in charges for the other laws that we did not authorize. CW E. Yerdon - \$ 42,000 went to \$ 49,700, did random stuff - first owed \$ 600 then it went up to \$ 700, and then those two went up. Tanya - Matt brought up seven (7) hours of research would be done by someone else not an Attorney - imagines you would have to look at other Towns but a lot of research to use there laws. CM M. Tompkins - research of the Article 10 - we hired her because she knew it. Tanya - Melody called Bob Genant and charged us for the calls - Tanya told Melody over and over again you have to have the Boards approval. Tanya feels we should have negotiating power as Melody let \$ 50,000 go, the State held on to the money till December 2020, the other laws not authorized. CW E. Yerdon - charged for work on Transmission Line Law - we never even got to that point. Tanya - when this first started she talked to a gentleman about a wind law, he would be glad to do it, writing a wind law would start at \$ 12,000. Sometimes Bob doesn't speak up to Melody, Tanya has to, Melody and Bob will be there but Tanya will be the one speaking. Matt- wants answers from this, we get answers or go to court then we have to pay them, if she wins we have to pay her attorney fees. Will she be willing to work with us? Tanya - she says she is. Suz - She was suppose to know the Intervenor Funds procedure. Tanya - looked through the minutes, more times than one she was asked if she could get the funds and we were adamant that we get those funds. Matt - we are going to pay something, \$ 50,000 of intervenor funds we didn't get, the interest and other laws are \$ 37,151.86 combined, that leaves \$ 38,003.12, feels there's a lot of questions, split it with her, we'll pay \$ 19,000, need a signed release from her. Tanya - feels terrible this happened and wants it over with. Suz - we told her time and time again that we needed those intervenor funds, needs to be resolved we can't leave it hanging. Misrepresented herself. There was discussion. Suz - send letter open communication and get compromise.

Motion was made Erwin Webb seconded by Matthew Tompkins to adjourn the meeting at 9:29pm.
ADOPTED Ayes 5 T. Yerdon, E. Yerdon, E. Webb, C. Bauer, M. Tompkins
Nays 0

The next Town of Redfield Town Board meeting will be held Tuesday, April 13, 2021 at 7:30pm.

March 18, 2021
Susan Hough, Town Clerk

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