

# Town Talk by Nick Palevsky

Richfield Town Supervisor & Chief Financial Officer

## IT WAS FAKE NEWS

In last week's paper, Councilmen Frigault & Seamon accused me of endangering Town residents by not signing some un-named documents, ahead of some unknown deadline. I challenge them to produce a single piece of evidence to support that charge. Show us any "important deadline" that I ever missed. Show us any credible threat to ambulance service in the Town, because I didn't sign something, by a certain date. Credible means: on the letterhead of a legitimate state agency.

Here is my evidence: On the Town's website right now, and available from the Town Clerk, is a one-page letter from Joseph Farrell, at the NYS Department of Health, dated April 29, 2021. It came to me via email and was forwarded to Councilmen Frigault & Seamon the same day. They had it one full week before they published their smear. The letter begins: "Dear Supervisor Palevsky, It was a pleasure to speak to you yesterday and clear up the confusion around your town's ambulance operating authority. I have outlined the issues we discussed and the suggested solution to the problem."

The confusion Mr. Farrell speaks of stems from a resolution adopted by the PRIOR TOWN BOARD, in August of 2019, and voted for by Councilmen Frigault & Seamon—a resolution for the Town to "Establish & Operate a Municipal EMS." EMS stands for Emergency Medical Service—in plain English, an ambulance service. No one on the Town Board ever meant to establish or operate an EMS. No one on the Board who voted to do so ever followed up with any action. But the resolution was passed and sent to the Department of Health.

No wonder Mr. Farrell was confused. Nobody wants the Town to operate a second ambulance service. All the Town Board wants is to contract with the Village of Richfield Springs, for fire protection and ambulance service, as we have done for the past fifty years running. As we are doing now, in 2021, at a cost of \$57,238. The townsfolk get a good deal—fire and ambulance services for less than \$50/person/year. The Village taxpayers get help covering operating costs for the Fire Department. Win-win.

Mr. Farrell's letter is perfectly cordial. He suggests, but does not order. He gives no deadlines and makes no threats. A subsequent email from Mr. Farrell begins: "The Department has no intention to limit [ambulance] service to your town." Councilmen Frigault & Seamon knew all this when they published their latest smear, deliberately frightening the community, again.

A mother of five young children called me, scared witless there would be no ambulance when her family needs one. I tried to explain that she has nothing to fear.

My message to Councilmen Frigault & Seamon: Please stop scaring people just to win an election. You are taking partisanship too far. You published your slander; now let's see your proof. My evidence is on the Town's website right now. Where is yours?