

Joint Meeting of the Village of Pulaski Board, Town of Richland Board, and Haldane
Community Center Advisory Committee
August 18, 2026 – Snow Memorial Building – 7:00 PM

Chairperson: Jeffrey Fowler Village Mayor
Village Board: Melissa Wadkinson, Jan Tighe, and Patti Kingsley
Town Board: Robert North, Sue Haynes, Donna Gilson, Eric Pappa, and Larry Atkinson
Haldane Committee: Sue Haynes and Ed Gilson

Guests: Carl Falk, Kevin Balcom, Kern Yerdon, Katherine Burnham, and Jimmy Sprague

Agenda Item #1: Call to Order

Jeffrey Fowler opened the meeting at 7:02 PM and the gathering recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Agenda Item #2: Meeting Purpose

The purpose of the meeting is to share and gather information from the various Boards, Committees, and stakeholders in the Haldane Community Center. The meeting is not intended to make any decisions but to plot a future course of action for the center. Jeffrey Fowler opened the floor for public comment, but no comments were offered at that time.

Agenda Item #3: Value Statement/Value Proposition

Jeffrey Fowler noted that the center holds a lot of value for Village and Town residents, along with the various leagues including: the Hockey Association, Youth Soccer and Youth Softball Associations, and Pop Warner. Many residents use the skate park, trail and playground.

Agenda Item #4: Immediate Concerns and Challenges

Jeffrey Fowler expressed the concern that the Village Board doesn't feel informed regarding the activities and programs run through the center. The Board receives minutes from the Haldane Advisory Board, but the meetings are held only when necessary. There is a tentative meeting scheduled for September 14, 2026, at 6:00 PM at the Haldane Center. The full Advisory Committee consists of Sue Haynes, Ed Gilson, Bill Woods, Tim Thayer and Alan Engelbrekt. In the agreement between the Town and Village two members of the committee should include Village appointees. Bill Wood and Alan Engelbrekt are residents of the Village however the advisory committee also includes stakeholders such as Tim Thayer, who helps with Pop Warner and t-ball, Tyler Kennedy who runs the Hockey Association, and Theresa Joyner who handles the Pulaski Youth Softball. Jeffrey Fowler will reappoint the Village members to the Committee.

Points to work on would include; improving communication, coordination, and transparency between the three bodies overseeing the center and the leagues involved.

The Hockey Association and the Pop Warner leagues/associations are nonprofits, but the other leagues are volunteer run without a formal financial structure. The Town does not charge softball, football, and soccer leagues for the center's use. They file their paperwork with Tammy Whaley the Supervisors Clerk, for scheduling, etc.

Agenda Item #5: Next Steps

Jeffrey Fowler pointed out that to apply for funding a clear vision of what the stakeholders intend to do with the center is important and explained the how the Village worked with NYS provided consultants and the Local Planning Committee (LPC) to present the various project plans to NYS for the Downtown Revitalization Initiative (DRI). The Village was awarded \$10,000,000.00 for various private and public projects in June 2025. NYS had final decision-making authority. Since the award the Village has hardly heard from the State, however some of the private projects have been in contact. If the Town and Village Boards can agree on a cohesive plan the Village would be glad to help facilitate the acquisition of additional grant funding for the Haldane Center.

Melissa Wadkinson suggested the Boards work together to create a near and long-term vision for the center and include it in the Haldane Center in the Town of Richand/Village of Pulaski Comprehensive Plan. The Comprehensive Plan is regularly looked at by funding agencies as a positive resource for funding decision making. Melissa Wadkinson pointed out that a small task force of stakeholders to help shape a couple paragraphs with a vision for the center for the Comprehensive Plan would be a good way to start. Donna Gilson agreed. Eric Pappa and other Town Board members pointed out that keeping the building up is the biggest priority. Another idea is an additional building or an addition to it that isn't tailored to hockey and could generate revenues from shows, etc. to help with the center's budget. Kevin Balcom's main concern is paving the parking lots and road going into the center.

Jeffrey Fowler and Eric Pappa would like to workshop with the various leagues to brainstorm ideas and better understand their revenues and expenditures. The Town Board agreed.

A loose deadline for the gathering of information, ideas, and creating a public survey for the end of October 2026. The Boards will hold another meeting around that time.

Katherine Burnham had a question regarding the volunteer structure of the Hockey Association. That question will be addressed.

Kern Yerdon suggested revisiting and possibly updating the agreement regarding the Town and Village regarding the Haldane Community Center.

The meeting adjourned at 7:57 PM.

Presented & Approved

Jennifer Gibbs

Deputy Clerk