

State of New York
County of Fulton
Town of Stratford

Minutes of the regular meeting of the Stratford Town Board held on Thursday, August 9, 2012 at the municipal building located at 120 Piseco Rd.

Present:

Robert Johnson Jr.	---	Supervisor
Allan Perkins	---	Councilman
Bernard Leavitt	---	Councilman
Dawn Youker	---	Councilwoman
Diana Massicotte	---	Town Clerk
Leigh Anne Loucks	---	Assessor
Lita Hillier	---	Bookkeeper

Absent:

Lorraine Rumrill	---	Councilwoman
Mark Snowman	---	Superintendent
Dave Rackmyre Jr.	---	Code Enforcement Officer

Supervisor Johnson called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm with the Pledge to the Flag.

Residents attending – Peter and Mary Szczebak, Carolyn Walker, David Cool, Ken Thompson, Allicia Rice and Lynn Stalnaker.

PUBLIC SPEAKING

Allicia Rice announced that there would be no September primary in Stratford and asked if the Clerk could post the information. Town Clerk Massicotte said the information has been posted online, the Transfer Station and outside her office. Allicia also mentioned that she had talked to Robert Freeman, Director of Committee on Open Government regarding reports presented by the officers of the Town and that they should be made available to residents before the meeting. Town Clerk Massicotte had also talked to Mr. Freeman regarding the above inquiry. The Treasurer’s Report does not have to be made available before the meeting unless it is to be discussed and then if practicable, otherwise the report has to be foiled from the Town Clerk.

The minutes do not have to be put online. They should be prepared two weeks from the date of the meeting and made available if requested, but stamped as “Draft” or “Subject to Change.” The Board does not have to approve the minutes, just accept the minutes as written or with required changes. The Board decided that they would approve the minutes rather than just accept them.

Councilwoman Youker reported that she was asked to attend a meeting in Gloversville on August 29, 2012 to discuss options for sharing more services and consolidating government activities within Fulton County.

REPORTS

Code Enforcement Officer Rackmyre's report was sent by fax. The report did not come through as the fax machine is down.

Assessor Loucks reported as follows: Small Claims Assessment Review has been received and discussed with Town Attorney. She will forward a copy of the petition to him for review. No new information has been received regarding the 2010 SCAR per Attorney Allen Day.

Assessor Loucks requested copies of the financial report and General Abstract pertaining to her accounts to reconcile her accounts each month. The Board approved the request.

Assessor Loucks said regarding the conflict of interest between the Assessment Department and Councilwoman Youker, Town Attorney Allen Day concurred that there was no conflict of interest if there is no direct or indirect financial gain.

Supervisor Johnson asked about the confrontation between Maxwell and residents on Stewarts Landing Road and Irish Settlement Road. The residents had requested that they did not want Maxwell on their property. Assessor Loucks discussed the situation with Maxwell. She had labeled the paperwork with notations if residents did not want him on their property.

Henry Eifert reported to Supervisor Johnson that he talked to DEC regarding the gate being left open which has lowered the water. Mr. Blanchard of DEC reported there will be a barrier put up which bar boats with trailers. Mr. Gardner was hired by the Caroga Association to monitor the boats coming into Caroga Lake. Mr. Szczebak said the monitoring of boats was also discussed at the Stewart Landing Association. There is a concern by the lake residents that trailered boats might be carrying invasive species which could enter the lake. He said legally DEC could provide fishing access on the lakes of 1,000 acres or less.

Supervisor Johnson read Superintendent Snowman's report for July:

Equipment

Charlie and Lenny working on Ford 450 Dump. Bought new leaf blower for potholes - used to blow out sand and debris before applying cold-patch. Charlie worked on belt loader, welding and working on oil leak on John Deere Grader. Took Grader Hydraulic Pumps to Johnstown Hydraulic to be rebuilt. Charlie put grader together and checked air leak on truck #8.

Roads

Cold-patched East Shore Road, Middle Sprite, Voorhees and Stewarts Landing. Checked roads around Town. Lenny mowing grass around lake roads. Three 24" x 20' pipes were put in Voorhees Road. First big job for new excavator. Installed pipe #4 on Voorhees Road. Installed new 12" x 40' and two loads of gravel to Middle Sprite Road. Sheriff called to report big pine tree across County Road 104 which we responded to. Installed #2 pipe 18" x 60' to Middle Sprite road. Black patching Voorhees Road and seeding down grass where new pipes were installed. Cutting brush on Voorhees and Middle Sprite Roads and cold patching, getting ready to black top.

Garage

Men working on burms around sand pile, putting down grass seed and hay.

Miscellaneous

Jim moved dozer to gravel pit to remove trees and brush. Cutting trees back in pit to extract gravel. Called insurance company for insurance for new excavator. Met with Jeremiah Bain and Charles Askerbauer to obtain gravel permits. Attended County Highway Meeting in Mayfield. Checked beavers by Richard’s on Piseco Road and also Middle Sprite Road. They have been plugging the pipes.

Bookkeeper Hillier handed out the Treasurer’s report. Bookkeeper Hillier handed out page 1 of her report which showed the Highway Fund Revenues and Expenses as of July 31, 2012. She also handed out information on the purchase of the Excavator as follows:

Excess Sales Tax	\$20,000.00
Excess CHIPS Aid	3,500.00
Surplus Scrap Sales	10,000.00
Balance Left in Transfer to Capital Projects	24,510.00
Excess Bridges Expenses	25,000.00
Assessment Update Excess	35,000.00
Snow Removal Expenses Anticipated Excess	8,000.00
Machinery Expenses Anticipated Excess	<u>8,000.00</u>
TOTAL	\$134,010.00

Town Board moved into Executive Session on a motion by Councilman Perkins and seconded by Councilman Bernard Leavitt at 7:24 pm. Regular meeting returned to business at 7:45 pm.

NEW BUSINESS

Supervisor Johnson read the Fulton County Highway Department Snow Removal and Ice Control Contract. Contract is for County Roads 104 and 119, total miles 8.96, total contract \$44,800.00.

RESOLUTION 14-2012

RESOLUTION BY TOWN BOARD ACCEPTING CONTRACT FOR THE SNOW REMOVAL AND ICE CONTROL ON COUNTY ROADS FOR THE WINTER OF 2012 - 2013

On a motion by Councilman Perkins and seconded by Councilman Leavitt the following resolution was

ADOPTED Ayes 4 Johnson, Perkins, Youker, Leavitt
Nays 0

WHEREAS, the County Superintendent of Highways and Facilities of Fulton County has submitted a contract for the removal of snow and ice control from certain designated County Roads within the Town under Section 135A of the Highway Law, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that pursuant to Section 135A of the Highway Law, this Board does hereby accept the contract for snow removal and ice control as submitted and authorizes the Supervisor and Town Board to execute the contract.

OLD BUSINESS

No old business.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion made by Councilman Perkins, seconded by Councilman Leavitt to approve the Board meeting minutes of July 12, 2012.

ADOPTED Ayes 4 Johnson, Perkins, Youker, Leavitt
Nays 0

AUDIT OF CLAIMS

Motion made by Councilman Perkins, seconded by Councilman Leavitt to approve the bills on Abstract #8.

ADOPTED Ayes 4 Johnson, Perkins, Youker, Leavitt
Nays 0

Bills to be paid in the following amounts:

Highway Fund	Voucher Nos. 91 through 102	\$8,390.53
General Fund	Voucher Nos. 125 through 138	\$8,175.32

With no further business, on a motion of Councilman Leavitt, seconded by Councilwoman Youker, the meeting was adjourned at 8:10 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Diana Massicotte
Town Clerk