

Sate of New York
County of Fulton
Town of Stratford

Minutes of the Stratford Town Board meeting held on Thursday, November 14, 2013 at the municipal building located at 120 Piseco Rd.

Present:

Robert Johnson Jr.	---	Supervisor
Allan Perkins	---	Councilman
Bernard Leavitt,	---	Councilman
Lorraine Rumrill	---	Councilwoman
Dawn Youker	---	Councilwoman
Diana Massicotte	---	Town Clerk
Charles Goodwin	---	Highway Superintendent
Leigh Anne Loucks	---	Assessor
Lita Hillier	---	Bookkeeper
Peg Klages	---	Deputy Town Clerk

Absent:

Norman Wright	---	Code Enforcement Officer
---------------	-----	--------------------------

Supervisor Johnson called the meeting to order at 6:33 pm with the Pledge to the Flag.

Residents in attendance: Heidi Christiansen, Peter and Mary Szczebak, Gary Rumrill, Allicia Rice, Carolyn Walker, Dorothy Eifert, Ken Thompson, Donna Hasbrouck, Paul Riley, Susan Fogarty, David Cool, Joan Ploss, Janet VanValkenburgh and Kathie Burton.

PUBLIC SPEAKING

Allicia Rice suggested keeping a watchful eye as the School Board is planning to proceed on the capital improvement plan which still needs the School Board's vote and then, if passed, there will be a public hearing. The Capital Improvement Plan is separate from the budget.

Carolyn Walker suggested holding a dedication ceremony for the Stratford School at the Community Center for those who worked or went to school there. Maybe the newspaper could do a write-up. The suggestion was favorably received.

REPORTS

The Bookkeeper handed out the Treasurer's report for October to the Board.

The Dog Control Officer, Karen Jaquay, submitted her report which Supervisor Johnson read as follows:

October 9, 2013 to November 11, 2013

10/15/13 – Stray dog picked up and taken to Brennan, November 16.

11/2/13 – Stray dog picked up and taken to Brennan, November 3.
Nothing else to report.

She will be out of town the first part of December, but her son will take over until she returns.

Assessor Loucks read her report as follows:

Exemption renewal forms will be mailed within the next two weeks, depending on when the Department of Tax & Finance issues their IVP report. All forms have to be returned or postmarked by March 1, 2014.

All property owners who had the Basic STAR on their property are required to register with the Department of Tax and Finance. Letters were sent out in the beginning of September from them regarding this. This registration has to be done by December 31, 2013, to continue to receive the exemption.

Supervisor Johnson opened the meeting for any questions regarding the 2014 Budget.

Superintendent Goodwin reported as follows:

Men got truck ready for winter use for plowing and sanding.

They transported 7,056 yards of sand to get ready for plowing. The company will send a man out Monday to look at the problem with the boiler. He wants to get the valves and pipes switched over so they can get the furnace going.

Would like to put the autocar up for bid.

The shoulders are finished on Dugway Road.

Code Enforcement Officer's report read by Supervisor Johnson as follows:

October 10, 2013 – November 17, 2013

Two permits issued

Four inspections

Issued one Certificate of Occupancy

Followed up on numerous telephone calls.

Supervisor Johnson stated there was a problem with the building permits regarding what the CEO can write. CEO Wright was told he had to have residents go through the APA before he could issue a building permit. Do not need permit from APA for everything that is built in the Park. CEO Wright is checking into just what is required.

Supervisor Johnson said there would be an executive meeting Thursday, November 21 at 6:00 pm to discuss personnel salary and office hours. Also to be discussed is a new law so the Code Enforcement Officer will have something in place to go by and to issue tickets if resident is out of compliance.

Supervisor Johnson gave the Board members a copy of a local law providing for the Administration and Enforcement of the New York State Uniform Fire Prevention and Building Code.

OLD BUSINESS

Supervisor Johnson read a letter from the Stratford seniors requesting \$500.00 towards the Stratford Children’s Christmas Party to be held on December 21.

Motion made by Councilwoman Rumrill, seconded by Councilman Perkins to donate \$500.00 towards the Children’s Christmas Party

ADOPTED Ayes 5 Johnson, Perkins, Leavitt, Youker and Rumrill
Nays 0

A letter was read from the Dolgeville Masonic Lodge requesting \$250.00 towards their Christmas Party for the children in the area.

Motion made by Councilman Perkins, seconded by Councilwoman Youker to donate \$250.00 towards the Dolgeville Masonic Lodge Christmas Party

ADOPTED Ayes 5 Johnson, Perkins, Leavitt, Youker and Rumrill
Nays 0

NEW BUSINESS

Superintendent Goodwin stated that someone was taking the road signs including the post on Gleason Road. These are very expensive and asked if insurance would cover this. Supervisor Johnson suggested putting up game cameras.

Donna Hasbrouck had a question regarding the Assessor’s salary as stated in budget. Supervisor Johnson said that it would be discussed in executive session. Mrs. Hasbrouck asked if the Assessor would be treated as a new hire. Supervisor Johnson said she was vested, the Town does not have to pay for her retirement.

Ken Thompson asked about the increase in the Supervisor’s salary. Supervisor Johnson said that he hadn’t had a raise in four years and felt the amount of work the Supervisor’s job entails justifies a raise. He is on call seven days a week and is always accessible to the residents of the Town.

Donna Hasbrouck asked about the reduction in General Repairs, DA5110.4 from the tentative at \$80,000.00 to preliminary at \$60,000.00. Bookkeeper Hillier said it was not down \$20,000.00. The Budget as modified 2013 to \$50,000.00. It is actually up \$10,000.00 for summer road repair for fuel.

It had been brought to Supervisor Johnson’s attention the number of break-ins in this area. He said we might have to consider a constable because the Sheriff’s Department and the State Police have had to downsize. We do not have the road patrols. Supervisor Johnson is working with the State and Ranger Ploss regarding the situation at Stewarts Landing. Ranger Ploss thought an alcohol policy could be put in place there which might make is a better environment for families to spend the day.

Alicia Rice asked about the \$62,000 in Funds. Bookkeeper Hillier stated that the estimated revenues are down, because the Highway fund was receiving money from the General fund which is technically an inner fund transfer which is actually revenue, so \$62,000 of the Highway fund revenue came down because the General fund is not giving the Highway Fund money.

Councilwoman Youker questioned the Brennan Humane Society bill of \$300; the Town is charged \$150.00 per dog after we reach our limit of six. Supervisor Johnson said that is was stated in our Contract with them.

Gary Rumrill asked about a mining permit. Supervisor Johnson said there was something in the works but he wants to discuss it with the Town Board first.

There was a question about the tax rate which this year is at \$3.48 per thousand, a decrease of 49% from the 2013 tax rate.

The County tax rate is tentatively set at 9.05%.

Ken Thompson asked about the need for firemen. Councilman Leavitt said they had four new recruits who volunteered. They have to go through training for which they are not reimbursed. Allicia Rice said that if the men are not trained they are a hazard and should not be at the fire. Supervisor Johnson said it becomes a liability issue. Councilman Perkins said we have mutual aid with the Salisbury and Hilltop Fire Departments. Supervisor Johnson stated we may have to consider a paid fire department in the future.

Supervisor Johnson closed the open budget meeting and resumed the regular meeting.

Bookkeeper Hillier stated that the salaries for elected officials were set once the budget was adopted. The salaries for the appointed and hourly employees would be set at the reorganization meeting in January.

RESOLUTION 25-2013

ADOPTION OF 2014 BUDGET

Offered by Councilwoman Rumrill, Seconded by Councilman Perkins.

ADOPTED Ayes 4 Johnson, Perkins, Leavitt, and Rumrill
Nays 1 Youker

WHEREAS, the Stratford Town Board held its regular meeting on November 14, 2013,

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED, that this governing body adopts the final budget at a total of \$970,024.00 which includes the fire district of \$46,000.00.

Motion made by Councilman Perkins to move into executive session to discuss litigation issue and personnel, seconded by Councilwoman Rumrill.

ADOPTED Ayes 5 Johnson, Perkins, Leavitt, Youker and Rumrill
Nays 0

Moved into executive session at 7:38 pm.

Supervisor Johnson brought the meeting back to order at 8:35 pm.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion made by Councilwoman Rumrill, seconded by Councilman Leavitt to approve the Board meeting minutes of October 10, 2013.

ADOPTED Ayes 5 Johnson, Perkins, Leavitt, Youker and Rumrill
 Nays 0

AUDIT OF CLAIMS

Motion made by Councilman Perkins, seconded by Councilwoman Rumrill to approve the bills on Abstract #11.

 Ayes - 5 Johnson, Perkins, Leavitt, Youker and Rumrill
 Nays - 0

General Fund	Voucher Nos. 192 through 217	\$ 7,047.33
Highway Fund	Voucher Nos. 136 through 150	\$35,217.50

With no further business, on a motion by Councilman Perkins, seconded by Councilwoman Rumrill, the meeting was adjourned at 8:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Diana Massicotte, Town Clerk