

State of New York  
County of Fulton  
Town of Stratford

Minutes of the Stratford Regular Board meeting held on Wednesday, May 14, 2014 at the municipal building located at 120 Piseco Rd.

Present:

Robert Johnson Jr.	---	Supervisor
Allan Perkins	---	Councilman
Lorraine Rumrill	---	Councilwoman
Dawn Youker	---	Councilwoman
Charles Goodwin	---	Superintendent
Diana Massicotte	---	Town Clerk
Michael Sokira	---	BTI Director
Peg Klages	---	Deputy Town Clerk
Leigh Anne Loucks	---	Assessor

Absent

Joan Ploss	---	Councilwoman
Norman Wright	---	Code Enforcement Officer
Lita Hillier	---	Bookkeeper

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

Residents in attendance: Heidi Christiansen, Dorothy Eifert, Carolyn Walker, Gary Rumrill, Ken Thompson, Paul and Cathy Riley and Allicia and Frank Rice.

## **REPORTS**

Supervisor Johnson read the Dog Control Officer, Karen Jaquay's, report as follows:

April 9, 2014 to May 9, 2014

No dog related problems occurred in the town for the past month.

BTI Director, Mike Sikora, gave his report as follows:

1. Both new applicators (Corey DeBonte and Nicole Wainwright) passed their tests but are still waiting for their ID's from the state. They cannot treat streams without their ID's. They have been monitoring only. I did treat with Nicole around Ayers Lake and Pleasant Lake. She is ready to go as soon as she gets her ID. I'm meeting with Corey tomorrow (5/15). I still need to have him treat and demonstrate to me that he is ready to go as soon as he gets his ID.
2. Peter Szczebak and I have been treating. I have been finding lots of larvae, especially in the smaller streams. I have been trying to get to all the major streams.

3. Received letters back from a lot of residents who have fast flowing streams on their property. I will use this information to get the database updated.
4. I reported last month that we had 12-1/2 gallons. Found 25 more gallons while cleaning out the shed and getting rid of empty pesticide containers. Some were from 2011. We will use that up. I won't need to order any until next year.
5. Ordered and received supplies and equipment for our new applicators. Need to still get the pack baskets.

Superintendent Goodwin gave his report as follows:

Sweeping and raking roads.

Fixing pipes at Pleasant Lake and Bliss Road, and Stewart Landing

Received \$13,199.87 free for Chips which has to be used this year. Altogether will receive \$112,797.58 with a rollover of \$5,493.51.

Waiting to receive quote from Hanson on roads.

Requested MIG Welder, will get three quotes.

Councilwoman Youker asked about the well water. Supervisor Johnson said they were waiting for well drilling company quotes. Supervisor Johnson said he was talking to Roger of Lynch Well Drilling regarding the problem with the well water. Roger suggested putting in an attachment to the pump to separate the sand out of the water until he can check out the situation. The attachment would be about \$350.00. Supervisor Johnson would prefer we hire someone locally. If the Town digs well, Supervisor Johnson said they could share the well with the Fire Department. Supervisor Johnson stated that they wanted to research the project before committing to the project.

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

April 11, 2014 through May 8, 2014

Three Appearance Tickets  
One Building Permit  
Six Inspections

Assessor reported as follows:

The 2014 Tentative Roll has been filed with the Town Clerk and is available at the Town Hall, as well as online. The link is on the Town website.

Grievance Day will be held on Wednesday, May 28, 2014 from 4:00 to 8:00 pm. To date, there has not been a third BAR member appointed; although I know there was an interested party at the April meeting. I would hope that this would be addressed at the meeting tonight.

I am again unable to access the County RPS database through the Citrix server. From what has been explained, there are issues with the satellite connection compatibility with this server. I have been placed on the prior connection, and am hoping to have this issue rectified at some point in the future. It has been a problem since the end of March 2014.

Town Clerk Massicotte said they would have to redo the Code Enforcement law because she failed to publish it in newspaper. Heidi Christiansen asked what the law entailed. Supervisor Johnson read the intent and purpose of the law as follows:

This local law provides for the administration and enforcement of the New York State Uniform Fire Prevention and Building Code (the Uniform Code) and the State Energy Conservation Construction Code (the Energy Code) in this Town. This local law is adopted pursuant to section 10 of the Municipal Home Rule Law. Except as otherwise provided in the Uniform Code, other state law, or other sections of this local law, all buildings, structures, and premises, regardless of use or occupancy, are subject to the provisions of this local law.

The Code Enforcement Officer needs the law to back up his position.

Supervisor Johnson handed out the Treasurer's Report.

### **PUBLIC SPEAKING**

Gary Rumrill asked Mike Sokira if he had been on Avery Road yet. He hasn't got to Avery Road yet. Mike stated that he had sent the letters to everyone in town but did receive quite a few returns.

Allicia Rice reminded everyone that the school budget would be voted on Tuesday. She said there was one new person running for a board position. Allicia said to figure your school taxes, you take the assessment, subtract \$30,000 for basic STAR, then multiply by 13.13%. Assessor Loucks stated that the property tax, if we stay under the 2% cap will be 1.46% difference in tax from 2013.

Supervisor Johnson said the sale tax revenue decreased because Walmart moved to the City of Gloversville.

Councilwoman Youker asked if a letter was sent to School Board to have voting machine in Stratford. Supervisor Johnson said they wouldn't put it up for a vote because we were annexed instead of consolidated. Supervisor Johnson said he felt that if you are not a taxpayer, you shouldn't be allowed to vote on the school budget. Allicia Rice said anyone 18 yrs. or older can vote and does not have to own or rent property. You do not have to be a registered voter in this school district.

There was a discussion regarding the bus routes and why three big busses travel to Stratford. Councilwoman Rumrill stated that the busses were scheduled this way to keep the time down to under an hour for the bus ride for the school children.

The children cannot work at the school during the summer because they do not live in Herkimer County. Supervisor Johnson said there was a reading program put on by the Lions Club but the Stratford children are not allowed to participate.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**10-14 RESOLUTION BY TOWN BOARD APPOINTING PAUL RILEY TO THE BAR**

**WHEREAS**, there is a vacancy on the BAR by the resignation of Brian Alling and,

**WHEREAS** Paul Riley has expressed an interest to be appointed to the BAR,

**RESOLVED**, that the Stratford Town Board does hereby appoint Paul Riley to the BAR to finish the term left vacant by Brian Alling, to be effective immediately through September 30, 2015:

**Offered by: Councilman Allen Perkins                      seconded by Councilwoman Lorraine Rumrill**

**ADOPTED: Ayes 4                                      Johnson, Perkins, Youker and Rumrill**  
**Nays 0**

**11-14 RESOLUTION BY TOWN BOARD TO HOLD PUBLIC MEETING ON JUNE 12, 2014**

**WHEREAS**, the Board will hear any discussion on the proposed Law No. 1, the Administration and Enforcement of the New York State Uniform Fire Prevention and Building Code,

**RESOLVED**, that the Stratford Town Board does hereby require that notice be put in the newspaper ten days before next regular Board Meeting.

**Offered by: Councilwoman Lorraine Rumrill                      seconded by Councilman Alan Perkins**

**ADOPTED: Ayes 4                                      Johnson, Perkins, Youker and Rumrill**  
**Nays 0**

Motion made by Councilwoman Rumrill, seconded by Councilman Perkins to move into executive session with the Assessor to discuss pending litigation at 7:15 pm.

**ADOPTED    Ayes 4                      Johnson, Perkins, Rumrill, and Youker**  
**Nays 0**

Supervisor Johnson called the meeting back to order at 7:34 pm.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Supervisor Johnson said he talked to the Planning Department regarding grants to maybe help develop the Town land. They recommended the Group, LaBarge Buck, Engineers from Albany. There are a lot of grants available. He hasn't received the information regarding the school and if there is asbestos and what the cost would be to remove it. Supervisor Johnson would like to see a Town Park and reclaim the ball fields.

Town Clerk asked the Board if they would object to her putting out an open flag sign in front of her office. The board did not object.

Councilwoman Rumrill asked if the Highway Department would be picking up the sand at the bridges. Superintendent Goodwin said they would take care of it.

Frank Rice of the Fire Department said it was a state law that when you are a corporation, you are not allowed to share services with the Town. Supervisor Johnson he would check with the Town Attorney. Supervisor Johnson said they appreciate the Fire Department letting the Highway Department use their water.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Motion made by Councilman Perkins, seconded by Councilwoman Rumrill to approve the Board meeting minutes of April 10, 2014.

**ADOPTED**    Ayes    4            Johnson, Perkins, Rumrill, and Youker  
                  Nays    0

**AUDIT OF CLAIMS**

Motion made by Councilwoman Rumrill, seconded by Councilman Perkins to approve the bills on Abstract #5.

                  Ayes - 4            Johnson, Rumrill, Perkins, and Youker  
                  Nays - 0

General Fund	Voucher Nos. 79 through 102	\$4,009.50
Highway Fund	Voucher Nos. 43 through 54	\$4,023.89

With no further business, on a motion by Councilwoman Rumrill seconded by Councilman Perkins, the meeting was adjourned at 7:50 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Diana Massicotte, Town Clerk