

State of New York
County of Fulton
Town of Stratford

Minutes of the Stratford Regular Board meeting held on Thursday, July 14, 2016 at the municipal building located at 120 Piseco Rd.

Present:

Allicia Rice	---	Supervisor
Allan Perkins	---	Councilman
Richard Fogarty	---	Councilman
Lorraine Rumrill	---	Councilwoman
Joan Ploss	---	Councilwoman
Charles Goodwin	---	Superintendent
Leigh Anne Loucks	---	Assessor
Norman Wright	---	Code Enforcement Officer
Janet Dickson	---	Deputy Town Clerk
Peg Klages	---	Deputy Town Clerk
Michael Sokira	---	BTI Director
Judge Douglas Gardner	---	Town Judge

Absent:

Diana Massicotte	---	Town Clerk
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Supervisor Rice called the regular Town Board meeting to order at 6:35 pm with the Pledge to the Flag.

Residents in attendance: Dorothy Eifert, Heidi Christiansen, Ken Thompson, Joseph Pierz, Mary Beth Salamone, Gary Rumrill, Rick & Lori Gray, Gary Ford, Peter & Mary Szczebak, Emma Baulch, Donald Wymon (Vincent's Heating), Jason Riply (Vincent's Heating), Caroline Drake (Stratford Seniors), Susan Fogarty, Thomas Vennard, Jean Doyle, Karen Jaquay and Carolyn Walker.

There was correspondence from the State of New York Public Service Commission petitioned by the Wireless Association (CTIA) on pole attachment policies; initial comments are sought by August 1 and reply comments by August 15, 2016.

Supervisor Rice received the Municipal Shelter Inspection Report update from last month, now in full compliance.

Supervisor Rice will email Heidi the information from Fulton County Solid Waste regarding information on latex Paint, electronics drop-off, mercury-containing thermostats, fluorescent bulbs, rechargeable batteries, there is no hazardous waste drop off this year.

REPORTS

Highway Superintendent Goodwin reported as follows:

Fixed East Shore Road ext.
Ditching
Cutting brush along roads, mowed cemeteries.
Getting roads ready for black top.
Hauled more crushing in.
Truck done and using it.

Would like to put the log truck, dump trailer and screening plant up for bid on the network auction.

Superintendent Goodwin introduced Donald Wyman from Vincent heating to give Board members information regarding heating the barn instead of using wood furnace. Handed out copies. Currently doing grant work for renewable heat. \$100,000 system but with grants the Town only has to come up with \$26,000. The wood boiler can be sold. The system is professionally engineered. Pellet system. Needs backup oil boiler. The system in the Town Barn does not keep up with heat in barn. Not hooked up properly.

Supervisor Rice thanked them for coming, said they gave us a lot to think about.

C&J gave plans for heating the barn.

Councilwoman Ploss suggested we should check into updating system we have.

Only one bid for paving bid from Hanson – Mallett Hill Road, Mike Smith Road, ext. and lower end Piseco Road - \$167,587. We have \$121,000 in the fund.

RESOLUTION #22-16 TO ACCEPT THE BID FROM HANSON AGGREGATED NEW YORK LLC FOR ASPHALT CONCRETE PAVING

WHEREAS, the Stratford Town Board decided at the Town Board meeting on July 14, 2016 and

WHEREAS, the Supervisor read the bid from Hanson Aggregated New York LLC for Asphalt Concrete Paving and

WHEREAS, it was decided to do Mallett Hill Road, Mike Smith Road, ext. and lower end of Piseco Road for \$167,587

RESOLVED, that the bid from Hanson Aggregated would be accepted as stated subject to approval by Town Attorney.

Offered by: Councilman Fogarty, seconded by Councilwoman Ploss

ADOPTED Ayes 5 Rice, Rumrill, Fogarty, Ploss and Perkins
Nays 0

Tom Vennard would like an assessment of West Shore Road which is about 1-1/2 mile long. There are boulders coming through road. The lake drains on the 15th of September, could there be some repair of shore line.

Supervisor Rice stated it would be looked into during the budget.

CEO Norman Wright read his report as follows:

June 7 through July 13

Eight inspections

Three meetings

Issued 4 permits

Issued one ticket of compliance

Many Phone calls

Karen Jaquay, Dog Control Officer, reported as follows:

June 15 through July 12

Most of the month has been very quiet. July 5, a call came in for a lost cat. Owners set a trap and it was checked for 3 days. The trap was removed.

Received one dog call on July 11. Was investigated and owner advised of Town law. Owner complied with all.

Gave one ticket for failure to license.

Was able to purchase heavy duty crate.

BTI Director Michael Sokira reported as follows:

Stopped treating June 19. Report due to DEC November 13 and will report to the Board usage of pesticides for budget expenditures.

Would like to take another pesticide class with the Town of Caroga with the Board's approval.

Would like to add one or two applicators next year. Not having much luck recruiting applicators. Supervisor Rice said the applicants have to understand what is involved. Mike said they are required to take a thirty hour class and then pass two tests.

Assessor's Report as follows:

It was brought to my attention that the BAR contacted a homeowner during their deliberations. This homeowner was allowed to speak in reference to the appraisal that was submitted, even though she had not attended the Grievance proceedings. I was not present for this exchange and have attempted to have contact with the Town Attorney with regard to this since June 1, 2016. To date, I have not spoken to the Town Attorney but was advised that I should "let this go." I want it on the record that I have shown this to be a violation of the RPTL that pertains to Assessor responsibilities, which require the Assessor to

be at all hearings. If an issue arises, I would like it on the record that I did seek legal counsel from the Town Attorney, but to date, it has not been received, directly from the Town Attorney, written or verbal.

The Assessor position is mandated to be separate and independent from the Town Board. I have had several legal questions in the past few months, but have been unable to get legal counsel directly from the Town Attorney; instead it must go through the Town Board/Supervisor. I did speak with the Association of Towns and was advised that the Town Attorney needs to be accessible when there is a valid legal question, by any officer of the Town. I have possible SCAR Article 7 cases in the near future, which may require access to legal counsel. I would like to have a workable solution to this, if possible.

A statement was made at the June meeting, by a member of the Town Board, that the “appointees of the Town, in prior years, abused the ability to contact the Town Attorney.” I would like a list of the appointees referred to in that statement and the documents to show the abuse of Town Attorney access, also referred to in that statement.

Supervisor Rice will set up meeting with Town Attorney to discuss who can contact the attorney.

Supervisor Rice asked Judge Gardner what kind of tickets he handled. The Judge stated that he handled tickets for the following: DWI’s, evictions, Code Enforcement Tickets, civil cases up to \$3,000, speeding and Dog Control tickets. The State of New York has a guideline that states what you can fine people, minimum and maximum jail time. The person pays Judge The Judge tries to work with people who may need to make payments. Judge writes check to Town, State sends bill and Supervisor sends in check to Comptroller’s office. Town can make local laws for anything they deem feasible, such as, for fines. If person does not show for court date, they are issued another date, if they fail to appear, they are issued a pending warrant and after 60 days a suspension of registration or arrest warrant goes out.

CEO Wright asked how many times can a person appear and say they need time to obtain an attorney. Judge Gardner stated they have 45 days after they make request. Council will be assigned after the 45 days if they still do not have attorney and are still making request as a stall tactic.

Councilwomen Ploss asked if there was a penalty if the person was before the judge for same ticket, the fine goes up.

Supervisor Rice reported as follows:

Supervisor Rice asked that everyone sign up for newsletter by email as soon as possible.

Supervisor Rice asked if two members of the Board would put together a complaint policy and an email policy to be presented at meeting. Councilwomen Ploss and Rumrill will put together email policy and Councilmen Perkins and Supervisor Rice will put together complaint policy.

Letter from Mary Beth Salamone stating resignation from her position on Board of Assessment Review, after her five year term ends in 2017.

Supervisor Rice said letter from lawyer went out to Lita, former bookkeeper, to finish Financial Report for 2014. She said Kelly would do 2015 report.

Our wireless service is cancelled. We will start over with Verizon wireless.

Supervisor Rice thanked Jann Dickson and Peg Klages for their help while Town Clerk Massicotte was on vacation.

AUDIT OF CLAIMS

Motion made by Councilman Perkins, seconded by Councilwoman Rumrill to approve the bills on Abstract #7 with correction that there is only one Hummels' bill.

ADOPTED Ayes - 5 Rice, Rumrill, Ploss, Perkins and Fogarty
Nays - 0

General Fund – Abstract 7	Voucher Nos. 69 through 84	\$5,337.73
Highway Fund - Abstract 7	Voucher Nos. 85 through 85	\$9,060.74
Prepaid Fund - Abstract 7	Voucher Nos. 90 through 101	\$3,714.97

PUBLIC SPEAKING

Supervisor Rice asked speakers to identify themselves.

Heidi Christiansen asked if the Town had a generator. Superintendent Goodwin said they have one they can hook up. Would like to see the town put in a standby generator.

Jim Hine asked what is being done to bring equity back to assessment. Supervisor Rice said there would be a workshop for the town July 26 at 6:30 with Peter Galarneau, Real Property Tax Director, to discuss what it would take to have an equitable assessment for the town. The meeting is open to anyone who wants to be here, but it is a workshop, so there will be no public speaking. It is a 60 page document they have to go through.

Caroline Drake stated that the seniors are trying to be more visible in the town, our information day is coming along nicely. It looks like we will be self sufficient so we will need no help from the town. At our meeting, we decided we would like to adopt the two planters on either side of the door if it is all right with the town. The board said it would be great.

Another project would be the Quilt Barn Project at no cost to the town. The quilt block would be 6 x 6 to mount on building. There is a map that shows where these blocks are located if anyone is interested in tracking them down.

Motion made by Councilman Perkins, seconded by Councilwoman Ploss to approve the 6 x 6 quilt block for the building.

ADOPTED Ayes - 5 Rice, Rumrill, Ploss, Perkins and Fogarty
Nays - 0

Stratford Seniors would like to put on a Barber Shop Chorus on Tuesday, August 30 at 5:30 followed by brownie ice cream sundaes. Charge would be a donation and \$1.00 for sundae.

Gary Rumrill asked DCO Jaquay how the Town could get the money back from tickets served on individual. County brought charges but nothing came of it. Karen stated that if the horse got out again, call the State Police and say it is a hazard. Karen can't do anything about the horse because she is the dog Officer only. Judge Gardner said the town could write a town law that incorporates any animal that is a pet.

Lorie Gray asked if someone could be working on the 2015 Financial report but Supervisor Rice said the 2014 has to be finished and filed before the 2015 can be worked on.

Jan Dickson, Deputy Town Clerk, asked residents to give Supervisor their email address in order to receive newsletter by email because it is much cheaper than regular mail.

Gary Ford asked Assessor if there was a deadline for the small claims court. She said you have to file by July 31. Gary Ford asked the judge about the \$200 fine if you were caught out of code. The Judge said he couldn't legally comment on a specific case.

Jean Doyle asked how she would be notified if she was not in compliance with building code. CEO Wright said he would notify her in person.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion made by Councilwoman Rumrill, seconded by Councilwoman Ploss to approve the Board meeting minutes of June 9, 2016 with one correction.

ADOPTED Ayes - 5 Rice, Rumrill, Ploss, Fogarty and Perkins
Nays – 0

OLD BUSINESS

Supervisor Rice stated the Town was signed up with Jefferson-Lewis County BOCES drug and alcohol testing service. They will provide training for highway Superintendent and employees. She said that she cancelled drug testing with Work Force Integrity Network from Tennessee.

NEW BUSINESS

Councilman Fogarty asked about starting engineering studies for roof for town barn.

Motion was made by Councilman Fogarty, seconded by Councilwoman Ploss to have Superintendent Goodwin contact Smith Engineering to start drawing plans for roof on barn.

ADOPTED: Ayes 5 Rice, Perkins, Ploss, Fogarty and Rumrill
Nays 0

A motion was made by Councilwoman Rumrill, seconded by Councilwoman Ploss to move into executive session to discuss personnel hiring at 8:25 pm.

ADOPTED Ayes - 5 Rice, Rumrill, Ploss, Fogarty and Perkins
Nays – 0

Meeting was called back in session at 9:05 pm on a motion by Councilwoman Rumrill, seconded by Councilwoman Ploss.

ADOPTED: Ayes 5 Rice, Perkins, Ploss, Fogarty and Rumrill
Nays 0

RESOLUTION #23-16 Naming appointed position for Building Janitorial Staff for the Balance of the year 2016

WHEREAS, the Stratford Town Board decided at the Town Board meeting on July 14, 2016 and

WHEREAS, the information was examined and reviewed by the Stratford Town Board, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that Emma Baulch shall be appointed as Building Janitorial Staff in the Town of Stratford for the remainder of the year 2016:

Offered by: Councilwoman Ploss, seconded by Councilwoman Rumrill

ADOPTED: Ayes 5 Rice, Perkins, Fogarty, Rumrill, and Ploss
Nays 0

With no further business, on a motion by Councilwoman Ploss, seconded by Councilman Fogarty, the meeting was adjourned at 9:07 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Jann Dickson, Deputy Town Clerk