

State of New York
County of Fulton
Town of Stratford

Minutes of the Stratford Regular Board meeting held on Thursday, November 10, 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
Diana Massicotte	---	Town Clerk
Norman Wright	---	Code Enforcement Officer
Peg Klages	---	Deputy Town Clerk

Absent:

Leigh Anne Loucks	---	Assessor
Janet Dickson	---	Deputy Town Clerk
Karen Jaquay	---	Dog Control Officer
Michael Sokira	---	BTI Director

Supervisor Rice called the public hearing and regular Town Board meeting to order at 6:00 pm with the Pledge to the Flag.

Residents in attendance: Heidi Christiansen, Gary Rumrill, Mary and Peter Szczebak, Carolyn Walker, Susan Fogarty, Gary Ford, Jay Pierz, Dorothy Eifert, Tom Vennard and Mary Beth Salomone.

Motion made by Councilwoman Ploss, seconded by Councilwoman Rumrill to move budget from tentative to preliminary.

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

Supervisor Rice explained the reasoning behind override of tax levy. In 2014, tax rate was 3.11, 2015, tax rate was 3.10, 2016, tax rate was 3.12 not much variation. In 2017 tax rate is 3.64. We had three workshops and went over line item to see where it could be cut. What we have in the bank now will have to cover expenses to February 1. The state allows two years in a row for override. Jay Pierz felt the state was not fair in their assessments of the land they own. He felt we should look into it. Supervisor Rice state the increase would be \$52 per \$100,000.

RESOLUTION 30-2016

RESOLUTION BY TOWN BOARD TO OVERRIDE THE TAX LEVY LIMIT

WHEREAS, the Board held its regular scheduled meeting on November 10, 2016 to hear any discussion on the proposed Law No. 1, To Override the Tax Levy Limit Established in General Municipal Law Section 3-c,

RESOLVED, that the Stratford Town Board does hereby adopt Law No. 1 to override the tax levy,

Offered by: Councilman Perkins seconded by Councilwoman Rumrill

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

Hearing closed at 7:07 pm.

RESOLUTION 31-2016

ADOPTION OF 2017 BUDGET

Offered by Councilman Fogarty, Seconded by Councilman Perkins.

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

WHEREAS, the Stratford Town Board held its regular meeting on November 10, 2016,

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED, that this governing body adopts the final budget as presented at a total of \$943,359.00 which includes the fire district of \$60,000.00.

There was correspondence from Marc Butler regarding our assessments. The letter is available at the Town Clerk’s Office.

There was an announcement from DEC announcing a public meeting scheduled for November 15 in Johnstown. “DEC is seeking public input on how to best manage these lands and provide access for outdoor recreational activities, including hunting, fishing, trapping, hiking, camping, wildlife watching and other activities.”

There was a notice of Public Hearing from the Adirondack Park Agency to be held on November 14 and November 15 to conform Adirondack Park Agency rules to the Public Officers Law and rules promulgated by the Committee on Open Government.

There was a letter from the Adirondack towns and villages funding of the Adirondack Park Local Government Review Board asking for funding of \$300.

REPORTS

Highway Superintendent Goodwin reported as follows:

- Cut shoulders on Avery Road from 29A to Mallet Hill Road.
- Fixed Truck #7 ox floor for sand chain. Taken out walker beams to have rebush and pin
- Put new brake and drums in and put plow gear on.
- Dug rock out West Shore Road on back side.
- Plowed snow and sleet and sanded roads 10-27-16.
- Taken old tires to the landfill.
- All trucks' plow gear are on and sand gear.

Highway Superintendent Goodwin handed in inventory of highway machinery, tools and equipment.

Motion made by Councilman Fogarty and seconded by Councilwoman Ploss not to buy mower.

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

Steve Smith is evaluating barn roof during the next couple months.

CEO Norman Wright's report as follows:

October 11 – November 7, 2016

- Ten inspections
- Two meetings
- Issued three permits
- Issued four Certificate of Compliance
- Issued one order to remedy
- Many Phone calls

Supervisor Rice read Karen Jaquay, Dog Control Officer's, reports.

September 13 to October 18

I went to Fulton County Public Health to help a dog owner with his documentation of vaccines to enable him to license all his dogs.

I still have two pending cases of failure to license. One was a no show and the other is working to comply with all laws. Will continue to monitor and report on both cases.

I have had a slow start on the census. This was due to the fact of family illness.

The rest of the month has been very quiet.

October 19 to November 8

One case pending, placed with the Town Attorney.

Another case is also pending, was a no show.
Started the census, slow going. Will continue with this.

I had a call from a concerned citizen about a case that is still pending. Checked it out and was unable to verify the claim. Will continue to monitor.

The rest of the month was quiet.

Supervisor Rice read the Assessor's report as follows:

Renewal forms for exemptions have been sent. They must be returned by March 1, 2017 (or postmarked) with all financial documentation to be processed for the 2017 tax roll. If any residents are unable to get to the office or need their forms and information picked up, please call the office to make arrangements, at 315 429-3639.

Anyone who has or will be purchasing a home will need to apply to the NYSDTF for a STAR exemption. The handout for new homeowners is attached.

Councilman Fogarty asked about the work calendar from the Assessor which has not been handed in yet.

BTI Director Sokira has put out an appeal for applicators for next year.

Supervisor's Report

Newsletter was sent out. Mentioned the Christmas Party for the Children, sign up in Town Clerk's office or the Post Office.

The former Bookkeeper is working on the 2015 Financial Report, should be filed shortly. Supervisor Rice suggested that the CD not be renewed. It was agreed by the Board.

Assessor Loucks had a disk of the large maps made and is having copies printed 11 x 17 for CEO.

Motion made by Councilman Fogarty, seconded by Councilwoman Ploss that all purchases over \$250 by Department heads must be approved by Supervisor Rice and a Board member until the end of the year.

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

AUDIT OF CLAIMS

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

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

General Fund – Abstract 11	Voucher Nos. 104 through 127	\$ 9,534.01
Highway Fund - Abstract 11	Voucher Nos. 158 through 170	\$21,839.90
Prepaid Fund - Abstract 11	Voucher Nos. 140 through 151	\$ 4,379.70

OLD BUSINESS

RESOLUTION 32-2016
ACCEPTANCE OF JUDGE GARDNER'S BOOKS

Offered by Councilman Fogarty, Seconded by Councilman Perkins.

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

WHEREAS, the Stratford Town Board held its regular meeting on November 10, 2016,

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED, that Judge Gardner's annual review of judge's books be accepted.

PUBLIC SPEAKING

Gary Rumrill complained about dogs barking.

Tom Vennard suggested looking into State and Federal grants to help the town with any projects that might come up.

Peter Szczebak asked about status on the dam. Supervisor Rice stated she has not heard from them but will keep trying to obtain answers. Peter asked about a grant to get rid of invasive species.

Question was asked regarding zombie properties. Supervisor Rice said CEO is doing everything available to him to have properties cleaned up. CEO stated he has two properties in the court that are not going anywhere.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion made by Councilwoman Rumrill, seconded by Councilwoman Ploss to approve the Board meeting minutes of October 13 and October 31, 2016

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

NEW BUSINESS

Supervisor Rice asked the board if they would OK the Seniors putting in shelving out in the Shed. Permission was granted.

There was a discussion on having the floors professionally done. Councilwoman Rumrill said that they should be done every year which would help preserve them.

With no further business, on a motion by Councilwoman Rumrill, seconded by Councilman Fogarty, the meeting was adjourned at 8:07 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Diana Massicotte, Town Clerk