

**State of New York  
County of Fulton  
Town of Stratford REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
Municipal Building, 120 Piseco Road  
March 14, 2019**

Present:

Alicia Rice	Supervisor
Richard Fogarty	Councilman
Allan Perkins	Councilman
Joan Ploss	Councilwoman
Lorraine Rumrill	Councilwoman
Heather VanDenburgh	Town Clerk
Charles Goodwin	Highway Superintendent
Norman Wright	Code Enforcement Officer
Michael Sokira	BTI Director

Absent:

Karen Jaquay	Dog Control Officer
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Town Officials Not Required to Attend:

Leigh Anne Loucks	Assessor
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Number of Residents in Attendance: 7

Supervisor Rice called the Regular Board Meeting to order at 6:32pm with the Pledge of Allegiance.

**CORRESPONDENCE:**

Office Of The Aging: Super. Rice received a letter from Fulton County Office of the Aging, inviting the public to join them for "March for Meals" on Friday, March 22, 2019. Stratford contributed \$350 towards this program in March, and has received 402 meals for seniors in our town in 2018. Anyone interested is welcome to come.

Jefferson-Lewis BOCES: We received the Drug and Alcohol testing summary from July 1, 2018 through December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2018 for the Stratford Highway Dept. No issues were reported. Super. Rice gave Supt. Goodwin the material to either keep or give to TC VanDenburgh.

Memorandum of Understanding on Salt Usage in Adirondack Park: Super. Rice asked the Board Members to review the material she handed out regarding salt use. A general discussion occurred about the ecological implications of salt use on state roadways. Stratford mainly uses sand, but NYS Route 29A is state-maintained, and salt is used. Once salt enters the ecosystem, it doesn't dissipate over time, but builds up in the water source, contaminating it. "This is a whole watershed issue." Dr. Pierz will review the material from Super. Rice and get back to the Town Board on his recommendations.

**REPORTS:**

Highway Superintendent Goodwin's report was reviewed by the Town Board (See attached). Supt. Goodwin has hauled 35-40 loads of sand in. The candidate for the mechanic position has backed out, and his search to fill this position has been unsuccessful. Council. Fogarty asked about the increase of cost for salt; Supt. Goodwin stated that he budgets for 300 tons of salt, but this year he has used over 120% of

the initial estimated amount needed. The contract through Atlantic Salt stipulated that if more than 120% is used, a price adjustment of 10% more per ton will be added. Supt. Goodwin also had quotes on a truck, and Super. Rice will give copies to the Board Members.

Code Enforcement Officer Wright's report was reviewed by Town Board (See attached). A residence on North Haven Rd. is getting closer to completion, but CEO Wright cannot issue a certificate of occupancy unless the road has sufficient access for a fire truck. He stated it would be unfair for this person to pay full taxes on a property they cannot live in. Supt. Goodwin stated that NYS removed North Haven Rd. from the CHIPS program about 3 years ago and has not been maintained. The home was already under construction when it was removed from the program. Supt. Goodwin stated it would need to be widened and trees removed to accommodate an emergency vehicle. He has information from Fulton County about how to pass a resolution to reclaim road status. Council. Fogarty asked the approximate cost to repair this road, and Supt. Goodwin stated around \$20,000.00. Super. Rice requested the papers that Supt. Goodwin got from the county. This will be discussed at the next meeting. Supt. Goodwin requested that the Town Board consider extending the seasonal road restriction in Stratford from April 1<sup>st</sup> to May 1<sup>st</sup>. Due to prolonged winters, many of these seasonal roads are not able to be maintained until after all the snow melts, which can take longer than the April 1<sup>st</sup> deadline.

#### **RESOLUTION 8-19: Extending the Seasonal Highway Closure**

**WHEREAS**, the Town of Stratford currently closes and forgoes maintaining its Seasonal Highways between December 1<sup>st</sup> through April 1<sup>st</sup> per New York Town Highway Law - § 205-a. Seasonal limited use highway, and

**WHEREAS**, the Superintendent of Highways has stated that reopening these highways by the April 1<sup>st</sup> deadline has become difficult due to the excess snow and mud that still remains on these roads after the April 1<sup>st</sup> deadline; and

**WHEREAS**, the Superintendent of Highways has stated that a May 1<sup>st</sup> deadline would give extra time for these roads to dry out,

**RESOLVED** that the Stratford Town Board approves the change of seasonal highway road postings to reflect the dates of December 1<sup>st</sup> through May 1<sup>st</sup>.

**Offered by Councilwoman Rumrill, seconded by Councilman Perkins**

**5 AYES**

**Rice, Fogarty, Perkins, Ploss, Rumrill**

**0 NAYS**

There was no Assessor report for this month.

There was no Dog Control Officer report for this month. ADCO Harry Jaquay passed away last month, and DCO Jaquay recently had knee surgery. Her son, Matt, was at the meeting and passed along her thanks for the card sent to her. Matt will be helping with DCO calls while she recovers. The Town sends their condolences to DCO Jaquay and Matt.

BTI Director Sokira's report was reviewed by the Town Board (see attached). Dir. Sokira stated that Peter Szczebak will not be renewing his BTI permit, and thanked him for 20 years of service to the program. He reviewed the upcoming permits and registrations needed to keep the program active, and stated his budget request will need to be increased in 2020 due to these costs.



The Town Clerk verbally reported for February 2019: TC VanDenburgh has issued approximately 200 Transfer Station permits to date. She reminded the public that she can accept tax payments in her office until Monday, April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2019. She has also received a lot of calls and emails about Verizon FIOS, and reminds the public that Verizon will contact the town approximately 3 months before their build date, so as soon as we know something, we will let the public know. Until then, she has no news.

Justice Arena submitted his Monthly Justice Court Fund Internet Report to the Town Board. Super. Rice spoke to Court Administration, who directed her to their Supervisor. She is awaiting their input on how to close the two bank accounts that Justice Gardner left open, as she is unable to close them herself.

### **Supervisor Rice's Report:**

The NYS Primary date changed to June- anyone running for a town position will need their petition signed and submitted by April 1<sup>st</sup>.

LED Street Lighting: Super. Rice spoke to another Town Supervisor, who indicated that they went through National Grid for their LED street lighting upgrade and they felt they received a better deal than NYSPA. She has the contact information for National Grid, and will look into getting a quote from them to compare to NYSPA's quote.

**RESOLUTION 9-19: The Town of Stratford's Support of Adirondack Park Local Government Review Board Resolution 2 of 2019:** Urging Adirondack Intercounty, AOT, NYCOM, NYSAC, AND NYS to come together with a plan to provide cell coverage for all Adirondack residents and visitors

**WHEREAS,** cellular service and the ability to use individual wireless devices should not longer be considered a luxury; and,

**WHEREAS,** today's society, in all walks of life, is heavily dependent on cell phone and wireless networks. All areas of the State, including the Adirondacks need to have dependable access to this technology infrastructure; and,

**WHEREAS,** increasingly, where service is available, cell phones are being used to alert authorities of lost or injured outdoor enthusiasts; and,

**WHEREAS,** first responders are able to use these available networks to quickly find and respond directly to where they are needed, saving time and resources,

**WHEREAS,** there are still large tracts of the Adirondacks which are still deprived of this utility; and,

**WHEREAS,** we as government officials have an obligation to provide for the public safety, the education, as well as the equitable treatment and opportunity for all of our citizens; now, therefore be it

**RESOLVED,** the Adirondack Park Local Government Review Board hereby calls upon all local governments to stand together, individually and through our associations to insist that the time is now to provide all Adirondack residents and visitors with this critical technology; and be it also,

**RESOLVED,** that copies of this resolution be forwarded to Government Andrew Cuomo, Senate Majority Leader Stewart-Cousins, Senate Minority Leader Flanagan, Assembly Speaker Heastie, All the Adirondack Legislators, Adirondack Intercounty, NYSAC, AOT, NYCOM, the Association of Adirondack Towns & Villages.

**Offered by Councilman Perkins, seconded by Councilwoman Ploss**

5 AYES

Rice, Fogarty, Perkins, Ploss, Rumrill

0 NAYS

**RESOLUTION 10-19: The Town of Stratford's Resolution in support of Snowmobiling and Increasing Snowmobile Trail Miles in the Adirondacks**

**WHEREAS**, snowmobiling is a critically important part of the Adirondack winter economy; and,

**WHEREAS**, on July 26, 1972, Governor Nelson A. Rockefeller issued a press release, upon signing the Adirondack State Land Master Plan (SLMP), that states in part that about 20 miles of snowmobile trails in areas classified as Wilderness by the SLMP will be closed, and replaced in areas outside the Wilderness and Primitive classified land, and that an additional 930 miles of snowmobile trails located in other classifications will remain; and,

**WHEREAS**, since the SLMP was adopted in 1972, the State of New York has purchased nearly 350,000 additional acres of Forest Preserve land, which at the time of purchase had many miles of community Snowmobile trails that were not part of the State snowmobile trail system; and,

**WHEREAS**, the State Land Master Plan does not create a cap on snowmobile trail mileage, but states there will be no material increase in snowmobile trail mileage that existed in 1972, allowing for snowmobile trails on newly acquired State lands to remain; and,

**WHEREAS**, the arbitrary 848.88 miles of snowmobile trail miles that DEC and APA use as a cap is not supported by Governor Nelson A. Rockefeller's promise to the people of the State of New York in 1972, which assured the people of the State of New York that they would have a minimum of 950 miles of snowmobile trails in the Adirondacks; and,

**WHEREAS**, DEC has, during Unit Management Plan adoption called for the closing of snowmobile trails for various reasons, while identifying replacement snowmobile trails; and,

**WHEREAS**, upon adoption of the Unit Management Plans the targeted snowmobile trails are closed, leaving the people of the State of New York waiting years in some cases for the replacement trails to be built;

**RESOLVED**, the Adirondack Park Local Government Review Board hereby calls upon DEC and APA to abandon the snowmobile mileage cap, allowing any snowmobile trails on State Lands acquired after 1972 to remain as long as those lands are not Wilderness or Primitive; and it is further,

**RESOLVED**, the Adirondack Park Local Government Review Board calls upon DEC to stop the practice of closing snowmobile trails identified in the Unit Management Plans, for replacement, until the new trails are built and ready for use; and it is further,

**RESOLVED**, that copies of this resolution be forwarded to Governor Andrew Cuomo, DEC Commissioner Basil Seggos, Senate Majority Leader Stewart-Cousins, Senate Minority Leader Flanagan, Assembly Speaker Heastie, All the Adirondack State Legislators and Town Supervisors, All Adirondack Counties, the Association of Adirondack Towns & Villages.

**Offered by Councilman Fogarty, seconded by Councilwoman Rumrill**

5 AYES

Rice, Fogarty, Perkins, Ploss, Rumrill

0 NAYS



AMBULANCE SERVICE: The Greater Amsterdam Volunteer Ambulance Corps (GAVAC) is seeking Stratford's support for their application for permanent ambulance operating authority in Fulton and Hamilton counties, due to the recent closure of the Fulton County Ambulance Services (FCAS) and the impending closure of the Johnstown Area Volunteer Ambulance Corps (JAVAC). GAVAC wants to take the certificate of need for all of Fulton County; however, their letter doesn't address the fact that MOVAC currently has Stratford's certificate of need to operate in our area. As of Monday, Fulton County was not supporting this. Super. Rice recommends that Stratford "wait-and-see" how events unfold.

**A motion to table this discussion was offered by Councilman Fogarty, seconded by Councilwoman Ploss.**

**5 AYES**

**Rice, Fogarty, Perkins, Ploss, Rumrill**

**0 NAYS**

### **Financial Report:**

#### MARCH ABSTRACTS:

2019 GENERAL FUND	VOUCHERS 20-29	\$ 3,179.32
2019 PREPAID FUND	VOUCHERS 25-42	\$ 17,663.90
2019 HIGHWAY FUND	VOUCHERS 20-33	\$ 7,460.44

**A motion was offered by Councilwoman Rumrill, seconded by Councilwoman Ploss to approve the payment of these vouchers.**

**5 AYES**

**Rice, Fogarty, Perkins, Rumrill, Ploss**

**0 NAYS**

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#### **PUBLIC SPEAKING: Commenced at 7:33pm**

G. Rumrill recommended that the Town should use barriers and dead end signs for seasonal roads. TC VanDenburgh asked about recycling bins in the Town Hall to encourage those renting the hall to recycle. New York State Route 29A near and around Pleasant Lake is in dire need of repair-Councilman Fogarty suggested writing a letter to our representatives about repairing it. Super. Rice said she would ask for Caroga Lake's support. G. Rumrill spoke about a cell tower being installed behind the Fire Department in Salisbury, hoping that this new tower could improve reception in Stratford.

#### **PUBLIC SPEAKING: Closed at 7:51pm**

OLD BUSINESS:

**A motion was made by Councilman Fogarty, seconded by Councilwoman Rumrill, to sign the lease for the Stratford Volunteer Fire Company well for \$1.00 for one year.**

**3 AYES**

**Fogarty, Ploss, Rumrill**

**2 ABSTAINS**

**Rice, Perkins**

**0 NAYS**

Councilwoman Ploss asked about the status of redoing the Town Hall floor. Super. Rice will look into finding companies and quotes on the cost.

NO NEW BUSINESS.

A motion to go into Executive Session for Contract Negotiations at 7:56pm was made by Councilwoman Ploss, seconded by Councilwoman Rumrill.

**5 AYES**            **Rice, Fogarty, Perkins, Ploss, Rumrill**  
**0 NAYS**

A motion to return to the regular meeting at 9:14pm was made by Councilwoman Rumrill, seconded by Councilwoman Ploss.

**5 AYES**            **Rice, Fogarty, Perkins, Ploss, Rumrill**  
**0 NAYS**

**With all business concluded, on a motion from Councilwoman Ploss and seconded by Councilman Perkins, the March 2019 regular meeting was adjourned at 9:14pm.**

**5 AYES**            **Rice, Fogarty, Perkins, Ploss, Rumrill**  
**0 NAYS**

*-Heather VanDenburgh, Town Clerk*

REGULAR MEETING  
March 14, 2019  
AGENDA

1. Call to order of regular meeting
2. Correspondence
  - ✓ Office of Aging
  - ✓ Jefferson-Lewis BOCES Drug and Alcohol testing
3. Reports
  - Highway Superintendent
  - Codes Enforcer
  - Assessor
  - Dog Control Officer
  - BTI Director
  - Judge
  - Town clerk
  - Supervisor
4. LED street lighting
5. Resolutions from Adirondack Park Local Government Review Board
  - ✓ Cell coverage
  - ✓ Increase of snowmobile miles
6. Ambulance service
7. Financial report
8. Monthly budget update report
9. Payment of bills
10. Public speaking
11. Old Business
12. New Business
13. Executive session
14. Adjournment

Highway Report 3-12-19

Ben doing a lot of Sand on Ice Ave  
Plowing Snow  
Ben pushing Snow Back in instation And  
Trun Around  
Hill Sand from pit to Ben. And  
Work on Equipment

Highway Superintendent  
Charles Loeblin

Ceo report.

feb. -12<sup>th</sup> - march-11<sup>th</sup>

2 Inspections

1 court appearance

1 meeting

1 school

secretary of state report

few calls

Board Meeting Notes

March 2019

BTI

1. Ordered and received 20 gallons of VectoBac12AS From the new vendor Adapco
2. Notified the DEC of our start treatment date of Friday 3/15/19 to satisfy condition 1 of our Aquatic Permit.
3. Notified, by mail, all new Stratford real estate owners of our black fly control program, asking permission to treat on their properties. This satisfies condition #4 of our Aquatic Permit.
4. Elizabeth Hastings will not be treating this year. Her certification expires on 3/21/19. I will be treating the Pleasant Lake/ Ayers Lake areas this year.
5. Pete Szczebak will treat this year until his certification expires on 6/21/19. He has expressed to me that he will not be renewing his certification in the future.
6. Looking ahead, before the 2020 treatment season begins, I will need to apply for a new Aquatic permit, a new business permit and renew certifications for all Technicians and my Commercial Applicators certification. Also will need to find candidates to replace the two we are losing, and set up the training classes for them. Below are the expiration dates and fees:

Town business registration- 6/30/2020 - No fee - good for 3 years

Aquatic permit- 4/7/2020 - \$100 fee - 5 years

Nicole Wainwright - 5/21/2020 - \$450 fee - 3 years

Larry Staring - 2/21/2020 - \$450 fee - 3 years

Jeff Lanphere - 2/21/2020 - \$450 fee - 3 years

Mike Sokira - 5/21/2020 - \$450 fee - 3 years

SPDES pesticide general permit - 10/31/2021 - \$110 per year - good for 4 years