

**State of New York
County of Fulton
Town of Stratford REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
Municipal Building, 120 Piseco Road
May 9th, 2019**

Present:

Alicia Rice	Supervisor
Allan Perkins	Councilman
Richard Fogarty	Councilman
Joan Ploss	Councilwoman
Lorraine Rumrill	Councilwoman
Heather VanDenburgh	Town Clerk
Charles Goodwin	Highway Superintendent
Karen Jaquay	Dog Control Officer
Moirra Marshall	Historian

Absent:

Michael Sokira	BTI Director
Norman Wright	Code Enforcement Officer

Town Officials Not Required to Attend:

Leigh Anne Loucks	Assessor
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Number of Residents in Attendance: 8

Supervisor Rice called the Regular Board Meeting to order at 6:30pm with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Correspondence:

VERIZON: Stratford's Verizon Freedom for Business 1 year agreement will expire on June 4th, 2019. It is set to automatically renew unless changes are requested. Board members agree to let it renew.

BOCES: Starting July 1st, 2019, BOCES will begin to bill quarterly instead of monthly for the Highway's random drug and alcohol testing. They will also be raising the yearly administration fee \$50, making our yearly fee \$350.

NY DEPT OF TRANSPORTATION: We received notification from the NYS DOT that the Burnt Valley Creek bridge over 29A will be rehabilitated, and that this area of the road will be considered a restricted highway until November 30, 2020 while the rehabilitation is in progress.

NYPA: New York Power Authority sent a press release, stating that the NYS Budget (passed on April 1st, 2019) included parts KK & LL, which "authorize[s] the New York Power Authority (NYPA) to support local municipalities to exercise specific home rule authority under Community Choice Aggregation." Super. Rice will take the webinar to learn more and see if its benefits are applicable to Stratford.

NYMIR NEWSLETTER: The NYMIR Spring 2019 newsletter was provided to all Board Members for review.

PROTECT THE ADIRONDACKS: Packets were provided to all Board Members for review.

Reports:

Highway Superintendent Goodwin's report was reviewed by the Town Board (See attached).

Supt. Goodwin reports that the weather has been too wet to brush the sand off of the roads effectively. He hopes the weather will improve soon so they can continue clearing them. He stated the West Shore Road/Stewart Landing Road paving projects that are slated for this year will be cheaper than the quote he provided to the Board last year if we jump on the projects quickly.

USE OF CHIPS: Super. Rice received an email from David Clements, NYS DOT Senior Transportation Analyst, confirming that CHIPS money can be used for repairs to the Highway Garage, but Pave NY funds cannot be. Supt. Goodwin stated that he has \$190,363.92 leftover from 2018 CHIPS and will receive \$138,601.18 in CHIPS funding for 2019, for a total of \$328,965.10. He provided a quote of \$238,179.26 for a new Mack Granite 64FR plow truck, and different payment plans from Key Government Finance based on interest rate. He stated it would be about 90 days to receive the truck, but we wouldn't have it completely in-service for plowing until February or March 2020. CM Fogarty questioned the approx. \$7,000 difference in the amortization schedule between interest rates; Super. Rice will get clarification.

RESOLUTION 11-19: Down payment of a Mack Granite 64FR Plow Truck

RESOLVED that the Stratford Town Board approves the use of CHIPS Highway funding to place a \$51,386.74 down payment to Key Government Finance on the purchase of a Mack Granite 64FR plow truck.

Offered by Councilwoman Ploss, seconded by Councilman Perkins

5 AYES

Rice, Fogarty, Perkins, Ploss, Rumrill

0 NAYS

The Board discussed auctioning the outdoor wood burner at the Highway Department and using the funds raised from that to help with Highway Department repairs.

RESOLUTION 12-19: Auctioning of Highway Department Outdoor Wood Burner

RESOLVED that the Stratford Town Board approves the listing of the Highway Department's outdoor wood burner for a starting bid of \$8,000 on the Auction Network.

Offered by Councilwoman Rumrill, seconded by Councilwoman Ploss

5 AYES

Rice, Fogarty, Perkins, Ploss, Rumrill

0 NAYS

NYMIR conducted a safety visit and found that the highway department's fuel shed needed electrical repairs to keep them up to code. The Board reviewed a quote from Tom's Electric for \$2,600 to complete the needed repairs. CM Fogarty asked about getting quotes and using CHIPS money to do all needed electrical upgrades to the entire Town Barn instead of just this project. Super. Rice stated that the grant for repairs to the highway department is at the final stage, on the Senate Finance Committee's desk awaiting approval. It was decided to get a quote from Tom's Electric for all the electrical upgrades/repairs in conjunction with the repairs needed in the fuel shed.

RESOLUTION 13-19: Highway Department Fuel Shed Electrical Repairs

RESOLVED that the Stratford Town Board approves the quote of \$2,600 received from Tom's Electric to begin repairs on the Highway Department fuel shed.

Offered by Councilwoman Rumrill, seconded by Councilwoman Ploss

5 AYES

Rice, Fogarty, Perkins, Ploss, Rumrill

0 NAYS

PISECO ROAD BRIDGE: On May 6th or 7th, 2019, Fulton County put 8 ton weight restriction signs on a bridge on Piseco Road. Architect Andy Bell is trying to contact Mark Yost for more information- we need the blueprints for this bridge. We are awaiting a certified letter regarding its red-flag status, and will need to hold a special meeting in the future once more information is gathered as to the status and potential remedies we can pursue.

Code Enforcement Officer Wright read his report to the Town Board (See attached). CEO Wright issued a stop-work order on one property, and Super. Rice again encouraged the public to contact CEO Wright if they suspect someone is building or working on a property without a permit.

There was no Assessor report for this month.

DCO Jaquay read her report to the Town Board (See attached). She amended her report verbally to state that she finally got access to inspect the dog under quarantine for a bite, and the dog looked well. She will return again to inspect the dog in the near future. She is currently working on dog bite protocol and how to compel the owners to provide her access to view the dog under quarantine.

BTI Director Sokira's report was reviewed by the Town Board (See attached). Dir. Sokira stated that Stratford goes through an average of 35 gallons a year. We had 18 gallons leftover from last year. He ordered another 35 gallons of Vectobac due to the increased usage from the high water levels.

Stratford Historian Moira Marshall gave a verbal report. She has been doing research these last few months, and met with other historians. She reported that Caroga's historian does a calendar with pictures and thought that Stratford could do something similar. She is also in touch with Maria McCashion from NYS archives and is discussing computer software to help inventory historical records to make them easily searchable. She asked the Town Clerk to join her in that meeting. She also suggested a Facebook historical page for Stratford, as a way to share old pictures and facts of our township.

Justice Arena's report for this month was reviewed by the Town Board (See attached). Super. Rice explained that Stratford receives a percentage of the fine collected by Justice Arena, depending on the offense. In April 2019, Justice Arena collected \$300 but Stratford only received \$15 of that fine.

The Town Clerk's report for this month was reviewed by the Town Board (See attached).

Supervisor's Report: Super. Rice reminded the public that even after the burn ban is over on May 15, you still need to get a burn permit from Michael Thompson. His number is (518) 775-3155.

BAR APPOINTMENT: Peg Klages has resigned from the BAR, and Lawrence Neely might not make the BAR this year due to medical issues. This would leave one member, and we need at least 2 to hold grievance. BAR training was the afternoon before the Town Board meeting, so Super. Rice contacted the Board and asked them if they would consider Lynn Stalnaker for appointment to the BAR. Then she could complete

the training that day, and be appointed that evening to the BAR. All board members agreed to allow her to go to training before appointing her.

RESOLUTION 14-19: Appointment of Lynn Stalnaker to the BAR

RESOLVED that the Stratford Town Board appoints Lynn Stalnaker to the Board of Assessment Review to finish out Peg Klages BAR term.

Offered by Councilwoman Ploss, seconded by Councilwoman Rumrill

5 AYES

Rice, Fogarty, Perkins, Ploss, Rumrill

0 NAYS

Super. Rice thanked the Stratford Fire Dept. and all who were involved the night of her husband's passing, and the community for the support she received during that time.

NYMIR: The new policy came in, and Super. Rice offered the binder to the Board Members. The safety visit was done, as mentioned in the Highway report. NYMIR recommended the removal of local street "Children at Play" signs.

RESOLUTION 15-19: Removal of "Children at Play" Street Signs

WHEREAS, Stratford's insurance company, The New York Municipal Insurance Reciprocal (NYMIR) commenced a safety visit to our township, and

WHEREAS, There are several "Children at Play" signs located on various streets in Stratford, NY, as a warning to drivers to drive safely through certain areas, and

WHEREAS, NYMIR offered several compelling reasons to remove signs, including but not limited to: giving families a false sense of safety in allowing their children to play in and/or near the street, increasing the Town's liability due to the vagueness of the sign being a distraction to a driver, as well as studies concluding that these signs do not reduce traffic speeds and injury, and

WHEREAS, after reviewing the above facts, NYMIR made the recommendation to remove Stratford's "Children at Play" signs along with an informational sheet with alternative signage for areas that are more specific to the driver; therefore let it be

RESOLVED that the Town of Stratford will remove all "Children at Play" signs currently located around the township as they are shown to be ineffective and in some cases prove to be a larger liability to the township.

Offered by Councilwoman Rumrill, seconded by Councilwoman Ploss

5 AYES

Rice, Fogarty, Perkins, Ploss, Rumrill

0 NAYS

NYMIR also gave us information on LENS, an automated reporting system on driver's licenses. If there are any changes to a driver's record, a report will be sent to the Town. This is recommended to help monitor any unsafe employee drivers that might be a liability to the Town. It is free for Stratford to register and use. NYMIR also reviewed our 1980 "Prior Notice of Defect Law" and stated that it was inadequate and needs updating. This law protects the town from lawsuits in the event that there is a defect that was unknown to officials. The defect/complaint must be given in written form to the Town

Clerk or Superintendent of Highways, and go without repair before a citizen can pursue damages. **A PUBLIC HEARING ON A NEW PRIOR NOTICE OF DEFECT LAW WILL BE HELD ON JUNE 13, 2019 AT 6:30PM AT THE STRATFORD TOWN HALL DURING THE REGULAR TOWN BOARD MEETING.**

LED STREET LIGHTING: After review, Super. Rice stated that NYPA is our only option to upgrade our street lighting to LED. She will prepare a fact packet for the Board to review next meeting before committing to the upgrade.

TRAINING ON SEXUAL HARASSMENT PREVENTION: TC VanDenburgh discussed the sexual harassment seminar she attended "Train the Trainer." Stratford passed Resolution 6-19, Town of Stratford Sexual Harassment Policy, but they still need to appoint two persons to take complaints and head up investigations. We also need to put together a 20-30 minute interactive sexual harassment seminar and have all town employees complete it by the end of September to be in compliance with the law.

AMBULANCE SERVICE: Fulton County is looking into options regarding countywide ambulance service due to the closures of JAVAC and FCAC. GAVAC out of Fort Plain is the only backup that MOVAC has in our area at the moment.

Financial Report:

County sales tax distribution: Stratford's first quarter sales tax share was \$4,943.22 less than 2018's first quarter sales tax share. During budgeting, Stratford anticipated lower revenue from sales tax so budget-wise we are fine. The Town and County taxes paid between January-March are what finance our Highway Dept, and the sales tax distribution is what finances the general town bills. Super. Rice reports that Stratford is "up-to-date" on all AUD's and is awaiting NYS response.

MAY ABSTRACTS:

2019 GENERAL FUND	VOUCHERS 47-57	\$ 3,928.55
2019 PREPAID FUND	VOUCHERS 52-63	\$ 5,525.22
2019 HIGHWAY FUND	VOUCHERS 48-59	\$ 3,571.44

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

5 AYES Rice, Perkins, Fogarty, Ploss, Rumrill

0 NAYS

PUBLIC SPEAKING: Commenced at 7:52pm

G. Rumrill spoke about the incident at the Perkins residence. N. Rissmeyer complained about the lack of lighting at the Cty. Hwy 104 and Cty. Hwy 119 intersection and asked if reflectors or private lighting could be placed on signs- Supt. Goodwin said he would give N. Rissmeyer the NYS DOT number so he could ask them. A discussion on the Prior Notice law and the LENS program occurred. N. Rissmeyer asked if community service could be an option instead of fines, Super. Rice will ask Justice Arena. Super. Rice also thanked the local residents who take their time to pick up the garbage on the edges of our roads. S. Seeley spoke about CEO Wright's visit with the Fulton County Sheriff's office on a complaint of noxious odors coming from his farm. He apologized for the situation and stated that he had 72 hours to remedy the problem and has done so. He has attempted to get CEO Wright back to his farm to confirm that he has complied with the order but has been unable to contact CEO Wright, and stated he was frustrated.

PUBLIC SPEAKING: Closed at 8:17pm

OLD BUSINESS: Attorney Macri stated that it was fine for the Stratford Seniors to piggyback off of our government use of the Mid-York Library printing system as long as it's indicated that the Town of Stratford donated this use. It was also decided to allow the Stratford Historical Society the same use.

RESOLUTION 16-19: Allow the use of Stratford's Discounted Printing with the Mid-York Library System

RESOLVED that the Stratford Town Board approves the use of Stratford's discounted printing prices through the Mid-York Library System for the Stratford Seniors Club and the Stratford Historical Society as long as it's indicated that the Town of Stratford provided this donation.

Offered by Councilman Fogarty, seconded by Councilwoman Rumrill

5 AYES

Rice, Fogarty, Perkins, Ploss, Rumrill

0 NAYS

NEW BUSINESS:

RESOLUTION 17-19: Renovation of Town Hall Men's Bathroom Flooring

RESOLVED that the Stratford Town Board will allow Nicholas Rissmeyer to donate his time to pull up the flooring in the men's room of the Town Hall, and to allow Town Clerk VanDenburgh to lay a new floor in the men's bathroom, and

FURTHER RESOLVED, that Custodian Aubin will be responsible for the removal of the toilet and vanity before laying the floor and the reinstallation of the toilet after the flooring is completed.

Offered by Councilwoman Rumrill, seconded by Councilwoman Ploss

5 AYES

Rice, Fogarty, Perkins, Ploss, Rumrill

0 NAYS

A motion to go into Executive Session for Contract Negotiations and Pending Legal Matters was made at 8:24pm by Councilwoman Ploss, seconded by Councilwoman Rumrill.

5 AYES

Rice, Fogarty, Perkins, Ploss, Rumrill

0 NAYS

{Multiple residents left at various times after Board Members went into Executive Session}

A motion to return to the regular meeting was made at 9:23pm by Councilwoman Ploss, seconded by Councilwoman Rumrill.

5 AYES

Rice, Fogarty, Perkins, Ploss, Rumrill

0 NAYS

With all business concluded, on a motion from Councilwoman Ploss and seconded by Councilman Fogarty, the May 2019 regular meeting was adjourned at 9:23pm.

5 AYES

Rice, Perkins, Fogarty, Ploss, Rumrill

0 NAYS

-Heather VanDenburgh, Town Clerk

Town of Stratford Regular Board Meeting

PO Box 186

Stratford, NY 13470

PHONE: (315) 429-8612 FAX: (315) 429-0527

DATE: May 9, 2019

PLEASE SIGN IN

[illegible]

Ceo report.

APRIL 8 TH- MAY-6 TH

2 MEETINGS

ISSUED 1 PERMIT - NEW HOME

SCHOOL 1 DAY

5 INSPECTIONS

Highway Repair 5/2/19
Doing abt. Same as Road's
Cleaning up flow equipment And
painting on place's weight And Truck
flow From And Back
Doing abt. Raking on Diet Road's
Cleaning up Sand in to station And
Stick works
10T's mixed on same Diet Road's

Highway Superintendent
Charles Jones

Town Of Stratford DCO Report For

April 12th, 2019 To May 9th, 2019

1. Went to court for a local violation of the dog control. The person ticketed was a no show.
2. I was called by the Fulton County Sheriffs dept to assist in removal of two dogs from a residence for a violation of Ag and Markets law of failure to vaccinate against rabies and failure to license said dogs. Both were taken to Brennan. Owner was issued an appearance ticket.
3. Went to court this month for 2 appearance tickets. One was postponed till next month and the other for this month.
4. Received a call from Fulton county Public health for a dog bite in the town of Stratford. Informed the owner that the dog had to be quarantined for a period of ten days. I also informed the owner that I had to see the dog and shot record. As of this date I have been unable to see the dog.
5. I made a call to Ag and Markets about how to proceed with the dog bite issue. Was advised they do not handle this issue. So, I then called Public Health and was told if I was unable to see this dog the victim would have to undergo a series of rabies shots. So, I then called the Fulton County Sheriff dept. Advised them of the situation and they gave me 2 numbers one not available and the other disconnected. I called her mother and left a message. Will go to the dog owner's residence again today.
6. I am still searching for an answer of the rabies protocol in Fulton county for failure to produce the dog for viewing during confinement period.

Town Of Stratford DCO
Karen Jaquay

Town of Stratford
Town Clerk - Heather VanDenburgh
120 Piseco Road
PO Box 186
Stratford, NY 13470
PHONE: (315) 429-8612 FAX: (315) 429-0527

May 9, 2019 Town Clerk Regular Meeting Report

I completed the women's bathroom floor installation on Saturday, May 4th, 2019. A silent benefactor came forward to pay for the flooring supplies, so I am only requesting the mileage reimbursement to pick up the flooring from Lowes in Herkimer. I also have another full box of flooring that the Town Board may reimburse me for if they'd like to keep it for the men's room.

I've had a lot of questions regarding the rabies vaccination clinics this summer. The next Fulton County rabies vaccination clinic is on June 19, 2019, between 6:00-7:30pm in Johnstown. The fee is \$5 per animal. Stratford residents are encouraged to get their animals up to date on their rabies vaccinations. If this date doesn't work for you, please call my office and I'll be happy to direct you to different dates throughout the summer.

Respectfully Submitted,

Heather VanDenburgh

Board Meeting Notes

May 2019

BTI

1. All applicators have been out treating. Lots of high water early this year. Larvae are plentiful.
2. Ordered another 20 gallons of VectoBac12AS.
3. Received most property access requests back from new real estate owners. One did not give us permission to access their property. The area treatment map has been updated to reflect that.
4. We will be continuing treatments to our assigned creeks.

Justice Court Fund Internet Reporting - Report

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Justice Information	
Municipal Name	Town of Stratford
Justice ID	1738140
Justice Number	144
Justice Name	Dominic Arena

Thank you for submitting your monthly Justice Report. You will receive an email with the status of your report. Please print and retain this page for your records as confirmation of your filing.

Submission Log	
05/01/2019 04:20:42 PM	/ Dominic Arena / Town of Stratford / Submitted Document

Report Information	
Date Filed	05/01/2019
Report Period	04/2019
Report Amount	\$300.00
Date Check Sent to CFO	05/01/2019
Report Activity	Yes