

**State of New York  
County of Fulton  
Town of Stratford REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
Municipal Building, 120 Piseco Road  
October 10<sup>th</sup>, 2019**

**Present:**

Allicia Rice	Supervisor
Allan Perkins	Councilman
Richard Fogarty	Councilman
Joan Ploss	Councilwoman
Lorraine Rumrill	Councilwoman
Heather VanDenburgh	Town Clerk
Norman Wright	Code Enforcement Officer
Moira Marshall	Town Historian

**Absent:**

Charles Goodwin	Highway Superintendent
Michael Sokira	BTI Director
Karen Jaquay	Dog Control Officer

Number of Residents in Attendance: 11

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

**Reality Check: youth action component of the Bureau of Tobacco Control Presentation**

Rachel Johnson introduced the Board to the local Reality Check group and explained its origins. It is an adult-mentored, youth-led, anti-tobacco group with the aim to educate and prevent youth tobacco use. The rise in e-cigarette and flavored vaping products aimed at children has caused the incidence of tobacco use in younger people to rise. Three of their youth members (Alexis, Trisha, and Will) spoke and explained their reasons for involvement, and the positive changes they've made in the Dolgeville/Manheim communities such as helping the townships pass meaningful policies that prevent more tobacco retailers from entering the community and reducing the use of tobacco advertisements aimed at underage children. Reality Check asked if the Stratford Board would consider similar policies within their township and offered help crafting them to meet the needs of our community. They passed out pamphlets to share with the public. The Board and public held a Q&A with Reality Check about tobacco use in Dolgeville Central School. DCS is considering vape detectors, and the highest risks for vaping/tobacco use are students between 7-9<sup>th</sup> grade. The presentation was concluded and the Board thanked Reality Check for their insight. They left at 6:57pm.

**Stratford Volunteer Fire Department Budget Presentation**

Chief Vedder read a statement to the Board, and stated that currently the SVFD has 15 members, with 4 of them being interior firefighters. Due to the ambulance issues in Stratford, the SVFD now answers every EMS call, as they are all CPR/AED certified. They are looking into a first responder's course as well. They are first on scene when electric poles and trees are down. They are requesting a \$10,000 a year budget increase, from \$60,000 to \$70,000. They would like to lock this increase in a 3-year contract instead of yearly, preventing them from requesting an increase for 3 years. They explained the reports they gave the Board members, and the equipments requirements they must adhere to per NYS. Councilwoman Rumrill

asked them if they have appealed to the Stratford public with a donation letter to raise funds. She also asked for a simple monthly report the Board could review that lists how many calls and reasons for those calls. Councilman Fogarty asked if the Board could vote on the SVFD budget request on Monday, October 14<sup>th</sup> during the budget meeting. All agreed.

#### **NO CORRESPONDANCE.**

Highway Superintendent Goodwin's report was reviewed by the Town Board (See attached) A daily inspection sheet for the highway trucks was provided by Super. Goodwin. The new truck delivery is scheduled for October 24<sup>th</sup>, and the closing at the bank will be on Friday, October 25<sup>th</sup>. The total cost of the truck is \$238,179.00, and will be funded by a 5-year loan at 2.8% through Adirondack Bank. Utica Mack will be paid this month for the base truck, and Tracy Road Equipment will be paid when the attachments (plow) are installed. Council. Fogarty asked about the tree in the park. Hwy. employee Ben R. damaged his chainsaw when he attempted to cut it down. The tree had been filled with concrete. He asked Super. Rice if the Board would consider accepted \$700 for the highway log splitter instead of \$800 for the damages to his chainsaw. Council. Fogarty asked if we could get quotes for a company to grind out the stump.

#### **RESOLUTION 28-19 Change of Terms of Sale of Highway Department Wood Splitter**

**RESOLVED** that the Stratford Town Board agrees to change the purchase terms of Resolution 26-19, to sell Ben Rutkowski the Highway Department wood splitter for the purchase price of \$700.00 rather than the previously agreed price of \$800.00.

**FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Stratford Town Board takes no responsibility for the damages to Ben Rutkowski's chainsaw.

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

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

**0 NAYS**

Code Enforcement Officer Wright's report was reviewed by the Town Board (See attached). He stated it has been a very busy month. Council. Fogarty asked about the Plac property on State Route 29A. He asked why the CEO Wright hasn't followed up on the resolution guidelines regarding the safety fencing around the property. CEO Wright stated that he has to notify Mr. Plac that the fence fell and he was no longer in compliance. After a discussion, it was decided that Mr. Plac had enough warnings about the condition of the property and Super. Rice said CEO Wright needs to ticket him.

Dog Control Officer Jaquay's report was reviewed by the Town Board (See attached). There was a question whether DCO Jaquay could send a ticket in the mail to avoid confrontation with the accused. The Board was fine with her sending tickets as long as a return receipt was requested to ensure proof of delivery.

The was no BTI report this month. Direction Sokira is still recruiting for applicators. TC VanDenburgh will repost the notice on Facebook. Please call Director Sokira at 315-429-3657 if interested in becoming an applicator.

Town Historian Moira Marshall verbally conveyed her report this month. She and Deputy Historian Hasbrouck took an archiving course in Cooperstown. She stated that they need a formal policy about acceptance of historical records when they are donated to the Town, so it is clear who owns the record.

Justice Arena's report for this month was reviewed by the Town Board.

Town Clerk VanDenburgh verbally conveyed her report this month. TC VanDenburgh helped order and set up the new Assessor computer. She had to make an emergency purchase of a new office monitor when hers would no longer turn on. She also got a quote on new CEO quadruplicate forms (Application for Construction Inspection) when CEO Wright notified her that his forms were no longer transferring the writing to the duplicates. Unfortunately, she could not find the original voucher for when these forms were purchased, indicating that they are most likely a decade old, and would not be under warranty. She also stated that after many months of going over our gigabyte limit on our Viasat internet plan, she called up Viasat to see what plans are available for the Town offices. She upgraded the plan usage from 10 GB to 12gb per month with no price increase. The next plan option offered is \$84.95/month for 40 GB of usage per month, if the Board wishes to consider it.

Councilman Perkins made a motion to increase the internet package. This motion was rescinded.

Supervisor's Report: Super. Rice reports that there were 6 applicants for the position of Sole Assessor, and 5 were interviewed. One was allowed to answer questions via email. The Board unanimously agreed to appoint David Galarneau as Stratford's Sole Assessor. He has maintained the Town of Bleecker at 100% equalization rate for the past 16 years, has all the qualifications necessary, and has a good track record of working with communities.

#### **RESOLUTION 29-19 APPOINTMENT OF SOLE ASSESSOR**

**RESOLVED** that the Town Board of Stratford hereby appoints David Galarneau to the position of Sole Assessor, for a six-year term that will end in September 2025;

**FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Town Board of Stratford and David Galarneau have agreed upon a six-month probationary period.

**Offered by Councilwoman Rumrill, Seconded by Councilwoman Ploss**

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

**0 NAYS**

The 2020 Brennan Humane Society contract was provided to all Board members for review.

#### **RESOLUTION 30-19 2020 BRENNAN HUMANE SOCIETY CONTRACT**

**RESOLVED** that the Town Board of Stratford accepts the terms of the James A. Brennan Memorial Humane Society Contract Agreement for the fiscal year 2020.

**Offered by Councilwoman Ploss, Seconded by Councilman Fogarty**

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

**0 NAYS**

Stratford currently has 18 street lights, and 7 of them are non-working. National Grid assured Super. Rice that they would replace all non-working bulbs with new LED bulbs at no cost to the Town. They stated it would be 14 days for National Grid to come out and replace.

### RESOLUTION 31-19 RESCIND June 13, 2019 NYPA MOTION

**RESOLVED** that the Town Board of Stratford hereby **rescinds** the following motion made on June 13, 2019:

*A motion to authorize the New York Power Authority (NYPA) to proceed with the full turn-key solution of the LED street light project was made by Councilman Perkins, seconded by Councilman Fogarty.*

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

**0 NAYS**

**FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Town Board has agreed to use National Grid's "Upstate New York Outdoor Lighting 'Opt-In' LED Luminaire Replacement Program as a replacement LED street light program.

**Offered by Councilman Fogarty, Seconded by Councilwoman Ploss**

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

**0 NAYS**

Super. Rice also provided a statement of work to upgrade all the lights in the Town Hall (interior and exterior) to LED, by Potentia Management Group LLC. The Town Barn was not eligible for this program.

The proposed upgrades would cost \$1,435, with all incentives included. Super. Rice requests that the Board give her a response by October 14<sup>th</sup> at the budget workshop.

### Financial Report

#### Resolution 32-19 Board-Approved Financial Transfers

**RESOLVED** that the Town Board of Stratford approves the following transfers:

##### DECREASE

A1990.4, Contingency Contractual      \$1500.00

A1110.4, Court Contractual      \$ 925.97

##### INCREASE

A1355.1, Assessor Personnel      \$1500.00

A1355.4, Assessor Contractual      \$ 705.98

A3620.4, Safety Inspection Contractual      \$ 219.99

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

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

**0 NAYS**

Super. Rice presented her binder of bank statements/cancelled checks and reconciliation sheets to the Board. Council. Ploss checked the reconciliation sheets.

#### OCTOBER ABSTRACTS:

2019 GENERAL FUND	VOUCHERS 101-109	\$ 2,744.27
2019 PREPAID FUND	VOUCHERS 112-124	\$ 7,212.75
2019 HIGHWAY FUND	VOUCHERS 111-127	\$ 225,246.53

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

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

**0 NAYS**

**PUBLIC SPEAKING: Commenced at 8:07pm**

A member of the public recommended that Stratford's fencing codes be created or updated. Super. Rice stated she would look into what other local townships do regarding their fencing codes. CEO Wright stated that for fencing, it defaults to APA zoning laws because Stratford has no zoning laws. There was talk on an AED device in the Town Hall; Super. Rice will look into costs. N. Rissmeyer explained how to convert existing light ballasts to LED.

**PUBLIC SPEAKING: Closed at 8:33pm**

OLD BUSINESS: Super. Rice will ask Custodian Aubin to disassemble red office chairs from Town Hall to dispose of. They will discuss the purchase of new chairs at the budget meeting.

NEW BUSINESS: NO NEW BUSINESS.

With all business concluded, on a motion from Councilwoman Rumrill and seconded by Councilman Fogarty, the October 2019 regular meeting was adjourned at 8:38pm.

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

**0 NAYS**

*-Heather VanDenburgh, Town Clerk*

1. Call to order
2. Presentation: Reality Check: youth action component of the Bureau of Tobacco Control
3. Correspondence
4. Reports
  - Highway Superintendent
  - Codes Enforcer
  - Assessor
  - Dog Control Officer
  - BTI Director
  - Judge
  - Historian
  - Town clerk
  - Supervisor
5. Appointment of assessor
6. Brennan Humane Society contract
7. LED street lighting update
8. Budget preparation
  - Presentation by Stratford Volunteer Fire Company
9. Financial report
10. Monthly budget update report
11. Payment of bills
12. Public speaking
13. Old Business
14. New Business
15. Adjournment

Highway Report 10-2-19

Det. S. Kowalski Down on West Shore Road  
Bus. Checking RD And Hall Sand 11  
And blocking on Highway  
And Doing Some Black Patching on Jet Holes

Highway Superintendent

Chad Loefer

## CEO report

SEPT-10TH- oct7th

Issued 7 permits- 2 new homes-renewal-  
garage-2 roofs- chimney  
Issued 1 c of c  
Issued 1 order to remedy  
7 inspections  
school 3 days

MANY CALLS

Town Of Stratford DCO Report For

Sept. 12, 2019 To Oct,10, 2019

1. I went to court for 2 cases and all parties were following the State and town laws.
2. Made some calls. To Ag and Mkts about the issue of appearance tickets. The discussion was about the laws on mailing or handing out tickets. As long as the town lawyer and board allows the mailing of appearance tickets, Ag and Mkts will have no issues in this matter.
3. The rest of the month was quiet.

Town Of Stratford DCO

Karen Jaquay