

**State of New York  
County of Fulton  
Town of Stratford REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
Municipal Building, 120 Piseco Road  
February 13, 2020**

Present:

Heather VanDenburgh	Supervisor
Allan Perkins	Councilman
Lorraine Rumrill	Councilwoman
Joan Ploss	Councilwoman
Tiffany Rutkowski	Councilwoman
Lawrence Staring	Highway Superintendent
Diana Massicotte	Town Clerk
Norman Wright	Code Enforcement Officer
Michael Sokira	BTI Director

Absent:

David Galarneau	Sole Assessor
Karen Jaquay	Dog Control Officer
Moira Marshall	Town Historian

Residents in Attendance: Gary Rumrill, Melanie Staring, Peter and Mary Szczebak, Allicia Rice, and Brittany Cool.

Supervisor VanDenburgh called the Regular Board Meeting to order at 6:31pm with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Correspondence

Received information regarding Fulton County Sales Tax Distribution.

Received the Dog Control Officer Inspection Report completed on February 3, 2020. The report indicates that the DCO services were rated "Satisfactory".

Highway Superintendent Staring's report was reviewed by the Town Board

Since Superintendent Staring has been using his personal truck, she told him to keep track of mileage to be reimbursed. Had some delivery issues with Shepard Oil and feels we should look into another supplier.

There will be a discovery meeting Thursday with FEMA in Stratford at 10:30. There are two roads to decide which to fix, Voorhees Road or Piseco Poly Road. Councilwoman Ploss asked about going around Voorhees Road on the other side, but it has to be fixed from the creek up. FEMA will cover paving of the Voorhees Road. We are responsible for 25% of cost. We have 30 months to finish major projects from start to finish. Councilwoman Rutkowski asked if we have the money. Supervisor VanDenburgh said we would have to go to the bank. The meeting next Thursday with FEMA is open to anyone who would like to attend. It is a possibility to use Chips money to fund the projects.

There will be a Town Meeting on February 24 at 6:00 pm to discuss FEMA and other Highway issues.

The Town Board gave Superintendent Staring many thanks for all his good work.

Code Enforcement Officer Wright's report was reviewed by the Town Board.

The report dated from January 7 through February 10 stated there were four inspections, two meetings, issued one c of c, issued one order to remedy and issued one permit and many calls.

The house on Route 104 he is working on. He Gave the owner the option of dismantling it and selling it. It has lots of good material. The property on 29A is still in court.

Dog Control Officer Jaquay's report was reviewed by the Town Board.

The report dated from January 9, 2020 through February 10, 2020 as follows;

January 22, I received a call at 10:45 pm about a dog running at large. Picked up said dog and found an owner's name and phone number on the collar. I called and left a message. The owner picked up his dog at my house with proof of current rabies and license issued in the Town of Oppenheim.

January 28, 2020, I received a call about a dog at large chasing caller's ducks. I found the owner and issued a warning. The dog owner has complied.

February 3, 2020, I went for my yearly inspection in Johnstown with Ag & Mkts. We passed with no violations.

February 7, 2020, I received a call from a resident about their two huskies that broke their collars and were lost. Took all their info and as I was posting this on social media the owner called back and said they came home.

The rest of the month was quiet.

The BTI report was reviewed by the Town Board

1. Renewed the Aquatic insect permit. It is good until 2025.
2. Renewed the pesticide certification for two of us. Good for three years.
3. Had three in attendance for the 30 hour pesticide class held in January. Their test is scheduled for February 19 in Utica. The application for the test included three checks of \$100 for the test cost and three checks for \$450 for their certification costs. These were requested soon after the class to hold seats for the test. The students will receive the results (pass or fail) immediately after handing in the test. If they do not pass the test, the \$450 check is returned.
4. Our pesticide business license will be renewed in March. Cost for agencies is \$0 and it is good for five years.
5. I will be ordering more pesticide in March and equipment needed for any new applicator that passes the test.

Judge Rissmeyer reported to Supervisor VanDenburgh that \$200 was collected in fines. He is still learning how to pull reports for Board review.

## Town Historian Moira Marshall

The Town Council received a report from the Town Historian covering what she accomplished during 2019.

Councilwoman Rumrill needs information when the Historical Society started to get tax exempt number to set up account.

The Historical grant is for everything, such as; new building, climate control system.

Councilwoman Rutkowski wanted to go on record saying if we get the grant for the Historical Society, then we should look into a grant for the rest of the town needs.

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Town Clerk Massicotte stated taxes, transfer station permits and dog license fees were being collected. The Tax Warrant of \$500,429.19 was paid in full to the Supervisor. She announced that she had appointed Claudia Johnson as her Deputy Town Clerk. She stated she is well qualified for this position with a financial background.

The Town Board received Assessor David Galarneau's report for December 2019. He is doing a great job.

Supervisor's Report: Supervisor VanDenburgh stated the End of Year transfers would be presented at the March 12, 2020 meeting to ensure the 2019 AUD accuracy. QuickBooks checks ordered (\$229.97 for 1,000 checks), budget report provided by QuickBooks. Submitted account debit change to Lifetime Benefit Solutions.

Supervisor VanDenburgh let Brandow know that there seems to be a leak in the propane tank. She can't get an answer. The Council suggested that Snyder's might be a good option. We need the propane tank which is used for the generator. Information will be discussed at the meeting on the 24<sup>th</sup>.

Supervisor VanDenburgh wants to set up interview appointments with the following attorneys.

Attorney Albanese is the Town Attorney for Northampton and Ephratah, zoning law and contract negotiations.

Leah Everhart is the lawyer for Johnstown; good but expensive.

Carmel Greco is lawyer for Northville.

The New York Municipal Insurance Reciprocal Insurance (NYMIR) Proposal dated January 9, 2020 was received for review. There is an increase in the policy.

Procurement Policy – "Best Value" clause discussion by the Board. Have to have a local law to invoke "Best Value" clause in Procurement Policy.

## **Financial Report**

Bank hold placed on check No. 3361 from Highway checking account dated July 12, 2019 was reissued.

Motion made by Councilman Allen Perkins, seconded Councilwoman Joan Ploss that the NationalGrid/Verizon checks 4290-4295, dated December 3, 2019 that were not received be left in

limbo and new checks be issued. Reason being that if the checks show up, they would be credited to our monthly account.

**5 AYES**                    **VanDenburgh, Perkins, Rumrill, Ploss, Rutkowski**  
**0 NAYS**

Monthly budget update report:

Received fourth quarter 2019 sales tax distribution of \$76,967.84, \$292,768.64 total.

Received full tax warrant of \$500,429.19 from Town Clerk to fund Highway program as of February 3, 2020.

2020 GENERAL FUND	VOUCHERS 9 - 25	\$ 90,714.65
2020 PREPAID FUND	VOUCHERS 8 - 19	\$ 8,313.11
2020 HIGHWAY FUND	VOUCHERS 5 - 17	\$ 11,125.45

**A motion was offered by Councilwoman Ploss, seconded by Councilwoman Rumrill, to approve the payment of February 2020 bills.**

**5 AYES**                    **VanDenburgh, Perkins, Rumrill, Ploss, Rutkowski**  
**0 NAYS**

**PUBLIC SPEAKING: Commenced at 7:45 pm**

Peter Szezebak suggested a round-about to bypass bridge on Voorhees Road by using Kelly Road.

Gary Rumrill complimented Highway Superintendent Staring on the fine job he is doing. Asked which had the most value, the plow or the pickup. Suggested plow could be put on the Superintendent's pickup.

Allicia Rice stated that there was a vote coming up February 25 on Capital Project for School. Business Manager for the school, Jessica Radley, will come to Town to discuss and answer any questions regarding the School Budget in May.

Boces has the option to purchase the Remington Elementary School for \$1. Vote will be March 31.

Public speaking Closed at 8:05 pm.

**OLD BUSINESS:** Councilwoman Rutkowski asked about the LED streetlight replacements. She offered to call Nationalgrid.

Supervisor VanDenburgh stated she would be installing the Malware Bytes Anti-Virus on all Town computers.

The Mid-York Library Mailers are in the works.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**RESOLUTION #6-20 ADDITION TO HALL RENTAL POLICY**

**WHEREAS**, the Stratford Town Board held its Regular meeting on February 13, 2020, and

**WHEREAS**, the policy for renting the hall to organizations for free was discussed; and

**WHEREAS**, it was decided to allow free access to hall usage by DCS for informational meetings, Historical Society, Historian and Seniors; now therefore be it

**RESOLVED** that the Stratford Town Board stated everyone else will pay the \$75.00 for use of the Hall.

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

**ADOPTED:   AYES               5**  
                  **NAYS                0**

**Motion was made by Councilwoman Rutkowski, seconded by Councilwoman Ploss to return the \$75 hall rental fee to DCS.**

**5 AYES               VanDenburgh, Perkins, Ploss and Rutkowski**  
**1 NAY                Rumrill**

Supervisor VanDenburgh and Emma Bauch are working on cleaning out the kitchen of all unnecessary items.

**Motion was made by Councilwoman Rumrill, seconded by Councilwoman Ploss to go into executive session at 8:31 pm for employment discussion of Code Enforcement Officer.**

**5 AYES               VanDenburgh, Perkins, Rumrill, Ploss and Rutkowski**  
**0 NAYS**

**Motion was made by Councilwoman Rumrill, seconded by Councilman Perkins to leave executive session at 9:04 pm.**

**5 AYES               VanDenburgh, Perkins, Rumrill, Ploss and Rutkowski**  
**0 NAYS**

**With all business concluded, on a motion from Councilwoman Rumrill and seconded by Councilman Perkins, the February 2020 regular meeting was adjourned at 9:04 pm.**

**5 AYES               VanDenburgh, Perkins, Rumrill, Ploss and Rutkowski**  
**0 NAYS**

*Diana Massicotte, Town Clerk*