

**State of New York
County of Fulton
Town of Stratford**

Minutes of the Stratford Regular Board meeting held on Thursday, June 11, 2020 at the municipal building located at 120 Piseco Rd. Meeting closed to all residents due to COVID-19 Virus.

Present:

Heather VanDenburgh	---	Supervisor
Allan Perkins	---	Councilman
Joan Ploss	---	Councilwoman
Lorraine Rumrill	---	Councilwoman
Tiffany Rutkowski	---	Councilwoman
Lawrence Staring	---	Superintendent
Norman Wright	---	Code Enforcement Officer
Michael Albanese	---	Town Attorney
Diana Massicotte	---	Town Clerk
Karen Jaquay	---	Dog Control Officer

Absent:

David Galarneau	---	Sole Assessor
Michael Sokira	---	BTI Director
Moira Marshall	---	Town Historian

Residents in Attendance: None

Supervisor VanDenburgh called the regular meeting to order at 6:32 pm with the Pledge to the Flag.

Attorney Albanese arrived to the meeting at 6:40 pm.

CORRESPONDENCE:

None

REPORTS: Given prior to June 11 meeting to be reviewed by the Town Board.

Highway Superintendent Staring read his report as follows:

Debris removal from Halloween Storm has been completed and the project submitted for reimbursement. The temporary work project is still awaiting final approval.

I continue to have weekly conference calls with FEMA and DHSES, we will be finalizing the Damage Inventory this week ahead of the deadline. I met with Fulton County Soil and Water about the culverts needing repair from the Halloween storm. I should get their report this week. I will get them back once we can cross the Piseco Road Bridge for a

drainage assessment for the road. I also met with NRCS (Natural Resource Conservation Service) about the Voorhees Road slide, I am awaiting their report.

Get lawn mowers ready for season and mow Town Park, Town Hall, Firehouse, Transfer Station and Town Barn weekly for now, will adjust as the season progresses.

In season prep of Roadside Mower, had fuel tank repaired, leak in rear axle repaired, lift cylinder was leaking, it was removed and sent out for repair.

All gravel roads were raked and smoothed, stone fill placed around culverts that have erosion problems. Crusher Run placed where needed. We hauled in Light and Medium Stone Fill to use on culvert repair as needed.

I received a complaint of a sink hole on Stewarts Landing Road. I found the pipe rotted and a 12" diameter hole in the pavement. There is a much larger void under the pavement that we filled to make safe temporarily until we can replace it. The vendor did not ship a coupler with the pipe, it is being shipped now, as soon as it gets here we will do the job.

There has been an issue with people moving the Barricade at the Piseco Road Bridge. We put it back in place and placed more gravel to limit the crossing to 4 wheelers. If the problem continues we will have to put up a gate.

I have quotes for renting the roller we need for the blacktop work we have to do. They range from \$400 to \$1,200.

Cornell Local Roads has been having webinars in place of their in person Highway Schools. I have been participating in the ones that will help me.

Fire Department cleared trees on Rt. 119, Seeley and Piseco Roads after wind storm. The Highway went out Monday and chipped. Superintendent Staring reported that there was a town culvert buried at Pleasant Lake where driveway meets road. Superintendent Staring felt there should be a permit to put in driveways. Supervisor VanDenburgh suggested incorporating it in the standard building permit. She will look in to it and bring it up at next meeting.

Councilwoman Rutkowski asked about the new pickup. Superintendent Staring stated that delivery should be end of July. Councilwoman Rutkowski asked about the USVA Reimbursement Program. Superintendent Staring is waiting for an answer.

Motion made by Councilwoman Rutkowski to start the next phase for FEMA, seconded by Councilwoman Ploss.

ADOPTED: Ayes 5 VanDenburgh, Perkins, Ploss, Rumrill and Rutkowski
Nays 0

Assessor's April Report read as follows:

Emails and phone calls for Stratford being received randomly throughout the days of the week, except Sunday. As of today, I have not received any calls or emails for Stratford. Hours of availability by home phone and email are posted.

Throughout the month of April all necessary data and exemption changes were posted. Legal notice was sent to the Leader-Herald regarding the publishing of the tentative assessment roll. The roll was prepared, and a copy delivered to the Town Hall.

I had very few calls or emails from Stratford residents. I did respond to them and there are no issues to report. Any new construction from 2019 has not been collected due to the pandemic. Normally, I would collect such items in March and early April. These permits will be reviewed for inclusion on the 2021 assessment roll.

Code Enforcement Officer Wright's reports:

May 11 – June 8

Issued three permits – Pole barn, septic system, and garage

Issued two Certificates of Compliance

Four inspections

Two meetings

Many calls

Supervisor VanDenburgh stated she was working on a Shared Services Agreement with the Town of Bleecker for the Code Enforcement Officer. The Resolution will be presented at the next meeting.

Dog Control Officer Jaquay reported as follows:

May 12, 2020 to June 9, 2020

1. I received a call at 9:00 pm about a white Pitt/Boxer running loose on 29A by Seeley Road. Drove around till 10:00 pm looking for said dog. Was unable to locate it. The next day I was driving down Mallett Hill Road toward 29A and saw a dog that matched the description of the dog from the night before. He was tied to the front of a home. I stopped and questioned the owner and he stated the dog was given away, escaped the new owner's residence and returned home. Upon questioning learned they had 4 dogs and were waiting for the clerk to reopen to get them licensed. Will check back to see if they complied.
2. I received a call about 2 dogs that were left at home with the owner away and not coming back for awhile due to being incarcerated in another county. Upon investigation I found out that the two friends that had volunteered to care for the dogs were unable to. I contacted out Town Supervisor and was given the Town Lawyer's number to get advice on how to proceed. He in turn faxed a form to the jail with the request that the dog owner read and sign giving me permission to enter his property and remove both dogs. I was able to remove the dogs without incident and transport them to Brennan Humane Society in Gloversville, NY. Owner was released six days later and licensed both dogs. Ticket pending for failure to license.

3. I received a call from Oppenheim Trail Blazers Club, on Crystal Lake Road that a dog was at their club with no owner present. I picked up a female American Bull dog. This was in the evening and transported the dog to Brennan Humane Society in Gloversville, NY. The owner came to me the next evening stating his dog got loose and was lost. He had been diligently searching for his dog. The description he gave matched the dog taken to the shelter. He stated he was staying up here and was a new resident. I questioned him about the length of time he has been in town and he stated 2 months. I informed him according to law his dog had to be licensed in the Town of Stratford before he would be able to pick up his dog. The dog is now licensed in our Town.
4. A concerned resident had stopped around 9:00 pm at my residence to inform me of two dogs loose on County Road 119 and chasing cars and were almost hit. I went to the residence of the owners of these dogs. He was not at home. I went back the next morning and did not find the owner at home. Both dogs were loose on his property. I left a notice to have him call me. He called me that evening and stated he just bought his home and would make sure both dogs were contained from now on. They were not licensed in our Town. He stated he would do it immediately. He called me back and had gotten rid of one dog and licensed the other.

DCO Jaquay stated that it cost the Town \$300 to house the dogs at the Humane Society. The owner stated he would make payments on the bill. Attorney Albanese stated he should pay the money upfront. The amount should be incorporated into the ticket.

BTI Director Michael Sokira's report read as follows:

1. Low water conditions the last couple weeks of May. Not using much pesticide as we are not finding much larvae.
2. We will continue to monitor creeks in June. Expecting to find larvae from the second species of Black Flies soon.
3. All things considered, the amount of adult

Judge Rissmeyer submitted a copy of his monthly report showing some activity. He has collected \$1,300 for the year so far.

Town Historian Marshall's report read as follows:

1. Updating and digitizing the Cemetery Records for Stratford. Previously the Cemetery records were updated in 1939 and 1978. Digitizing provides an easier way to share the information, the ability to quick search. The update will include:
 - Adding all records to an excel file
 - Creating a digitized Map of each cemetery
 - Revalidate the information from the 1978 records
 - Adding information that may be unreadable on the stone such as date of death
 - Adding pictures that include how the cemetery looks today and the stones

- Searching obituaries to determine if anyone has been missed and may not have a stone
- 2. Starting the collection of names and information for all Stratford Citizens that have served our country.
- 3. The purchase and donation to the Stratford History Collection. The book “Like Grass before the Scythe: The life and death of Sgt. William Rimmel 121st New York Infantry”. William Rimmel and his family were German Immigrants that settled in Stratford, NY. The book is a collection of letters written by Rimmel to his family and provides an insight to his military career and the Civil War. Of additional interest the book mentions other Stratford residents who are in military service. The book also provides insights to his family in Stratford.

Town Clerk Massicotte reported that the tax settlement with the County was complete for 2020. She reminded everyone that the Democratic Presidential Primary will be held on June 23, 2020 in Oppenheim. She asked the Board about renting the Community Center. Supervisor VanDenburgh said the Hall could not be rented until after the end of June and maybe longer.

Motion by Councilwoman Ploss, seconded by Councilwoman Rutkowski to fix typographical error on March 2020 Meeting Minutes to reflect a transfer of \$900 from General Fund Balance A500 to Justice Contractual A1110.4.

ADOPTED Ayes - 5 VanDenburgh, Rumrill, Ploss, Rutkowski and Perkins
Nays – 0

Motion by Councilwoman Rutkowski, seconded by Councilwoman Ploss to fix typographical error on May 2020 Meeting Minutes to reflect roll call vote on Local Law 1-2020.

ADOPTED Ayes - 5 VanDenburgh, Rumrill, Ploss, Rutkowski and Perkins
Nays – 0

Town Clerk Massicotte stated that according to the Town Clerk’s manual the roll call vote should be taken by the Town Clerk.

Supervisor VanDenburgh reported as follows:

1. Implemented safety protocol pursuant to SOH for Phase II reopening. Looking to enter Phase III reopening on June 12, 2020.
2. Fulton County reported at June 8, 2020 meeting that sales tax revenue for the last 4 – 6 weeks is approximately 30% less than this time in 2019, equating an approximate \$18,000 decrease in our 2nd quarter sales tax revenue.
3. Checked with Fulton County to see if we could open the July meeting, may be a possibility.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Monthly budget update report was given to the Town Board.

RESOLUTION #23-2020 FOR BUDGET TRANSFERS TO BALANCE LINE ITEMS WITHIN THE 2020 BUDGET

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Stratford Town Board approves the following transfers to balance line items within the 2020 budget:

To:	DA5120.4	Bridges Contractual	\$8,000.00	
From:	DA500	Fund Balance		\$8,000.00
To:	DA1910.4	Unallocated Insurance	\$ 393.42	
From:	DA500	Fund Balance		\$ 393.42
To:	A1910.4	Unallocated Insurance	\$ 125.35	
From:	A500	Fund Balance		\$ 125.35

Offered by: Councilman Perkins, seconded by Councilwoman Ploss

**ADOPTED: Ayes 5 VanDenburgh, Perkins, Ploss, Rumrill and Rutkowski
Nays 0**

Motion made by Councilwoman Ploss, seconded by Councilwoman Rutkowski to amend Resolution 24-2020 for State Retirement for the purpose of reporting to New York State and Local Retirement System to reflect Lorraine Rumrill's term ends December 31, 2023.

**ADOPTED: Ayes 5 VanDenburgh, Perkins, Ploss, Rumrill and Rutkowski
Nays 0**

RESOLUTION #24-2020 FOR STATE RETIREMENT FOR THE PURPOSE OF REPORTING TO NEW YORK STATE AND LOCAL RETIREMENT SYSTEM

BE IT RESOLVED that the Stratford Town Board has received and accepts the Standard Work Day and Reporting Resolution RS 2417-A from Bookkeeper Wilder. This resolution is for Elected and Appointed Officials dated June 11, 2020 and is applicable to Town Supervisor Heather VanDenburgh, Councilwoman Lorraine Rumrill and Bookkeeper Kelly Wilder.

Offered by: Councilwoman Ploss, seconded by Councilwoman Rutkowski

**ADOPTED: Ayes 5 VanDenburgh, Perkins, Ploss, Rumrill and Rutkowski
Nays 0**

AUDIT OF CLAIMS

Motion made by Councilwoman Ploss, seconded by Councilwoman Rumrill to approve the bills with the exception of Voucher 71 on the General Abstract which was voided, was duplicated on Abstract #6.

**ADOPTED Ayes - 5 VanDenburgh, Rumrill, Ploss, Rutkowski and Perkins
Nays - 0**

2020 General Fund	Voucher Nos. 59 - 78	\$ 5,983.29
2020 Prepaid Fund	Voucher Nos. 45 – 51	\$ 3,543.55
2020 Highway Fund	Voucher Nos. 43 - 50	\$11,004.01

NYMIR voucher lowered highway pickup to liability only until new truck comes in.

PUBLIC SPEAKING

CANCELLED

OLD BUSINESS

Councilwoman Ploss provided the Town with a no-touch thermometer which will be kept in the kitchen with the appropriate sanitizing materials.

NEW BUSINESS

None

With no further business, on a motion by Councilwoman Ploss, seconded by Councilman Perkins, the meeting was adjourned at 7:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Diana Massicotte, Town Clerk