

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

Minutes of the Stratford Regular Board meeting held on Thursday, July 9, 2020 at the municipal building located at 120 Piseco Rd.

Present:

Heather VanDenburgh	---	Supervisor
Allan Perkins	---	Councilman
Joan Ploss	---	Councilwoman
Tiffany Rutkowski	---	Councilwoman
Norman Wright	---	Code Enforcement Officer
Michael Albanese	---	Town Attorney
Diana Massicotte	---	Town Clerk

Absent:

Lorraine Rumrill	---	Councilwoman
Lawrence Staring	---	Superintendent
Karen Jaquay	---	Dog Control Officer
David Galarneau	---	Sole Assessor
Michael Sokira	---	BTI Director
Moira Marshall	---	Town Historian

Residents in Attendance: Alicia Rice, Sonia Rissmeyer, Ben Rutkowski

Supervisor VanDenburgh called the regular meeting to order at 6:30 pm with the Pledge to the Flag.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Email from NYMIR regarding Sexual Harassment training Zoom webinar information July 14 at 9:00.

Resident received a letter from National Grid regarding cost for new pole. Supervisor VanDenburgh suggested residents contact the Public Service Commission if they receive a letter like this.

Letter from CDPHP regarding Notice of Proposed Premium Rate Change. If approved, the percentage change to our group's premium is 2.2%.

Email from NYSTCA regarding Small Town America Civic Volunteer Award. If anyone is interested in nominating anyone in town, Supervisor will give them information.

REPORTS: Given prior to July 9 meeting to be reviewed by the Town Board.

Highway Superintendent Staring's report read as follows:

June was a fairly busy month. We ditched approximately 3/10 mile on the Bickford Road, approximately 2/10 mile on the Middlesprite Road. Cut shoulders on approximately 3/10 mile on the Irish Settlement Road and 6/10 on the Powerhouse Road.

Spread Crusher run on Bliss and Dugway Roads as needed.

Replaced 2 of 3 rotted drainage pipes on Bliss Road.

Cut overhanging trees and limbs on Seasonal Roads as needed.

FEMA Projects, The Temporary Work has been paid. The Debris Removal work is in its Final Review. The Shoulder and Asphalt Damage Repair Project is complete for Piseco, Seeley, and Hadcock Roads. The washouts on the Seasonal Portion of Edick Road have been repaired. The Hawes Road Damage has also been repaired.

I am in the process of submitting The Shoulder and Asphalt Damage and the Hawes Road Damage Projects. Once I have them submitted, I will submit the Edick Road Damage.

I am still waiting for the report from Fulton County Soil and Water for the large culverts they looked at in May. I'm also waiting for USDA NRCS Report for Voorhees Road.

R&B Construction will be starting work on the Bridge Monday 7/13.

The new Pickup has been built and the Dealer expects to receive it by the end of the month, we should be able to take delivery by mid August.

Superintendent Staring said that he is checking with other towns regarding wording of driveway culvert installations. Supervisor VanDenburgh said when she receives information from Superintendent, she will forward it to Attorney Albanese.

Motion by Supervisor VanDenburgh, seconded by Councilman Perkins to have Andy Bell hire a surveyor to survey Edick Road culvert.

ADOPTED Ayes - 4 VanDenburgh, Ploss, Rutkowski and Perkins
Nays - 0

A bid for the 2011 Dodge Highway Pickup received from Bruce Lyon was opened and read.

Motion by Councilwoman Rutkowski, seconded by Councilwoman Ploss to reject the bid of \$500.

ADOPTED Ayes - 4 VanDenburgh, Ploss, Rutkowski and Perkins
Nays - 0

Code Enforcement Officer Wright reports:

June 9 – July 6

Issued four permits – renewal, Pole barn, camp, carport

Issued one Certificate of Compliance
Issued one Certificate of Occupancy
Ten inspections
Many calls

There has been problems with a property on Pleasant Lake. Supervisor VanDenburgh suggested residents talk over their project with the Code Enforcement Officer before going ahead with their project.

Assessor's June Report read as follows:

June 12 – Respond to phone messages. Limited number of emails received in prior weeks.

Researched issue regarding Mr. Buckwalter's property and the "abandoned" road claim. There are two points, one of which I cannot resolve, which is "Did the Town legally and officially abandon the North end of Avery Road?"

The other issue is access to Mr. Buckwalter's property. Based on researching highway law, it is my understanding that property owners still have the right to access their property over an abandoned road.

Grievance day was very quiet. Only one person showed up.

Verify Property transfer information, enter address changes.

Finding and cleaning up data edits. Towns usually have hundreds or thousands of inventory edits. The cleaner your file is, the better values will be, especially in a reassessment. Even when edits are cleaned up and minimized, they have a tendency to increase over time.

June 13 – On call at home for taxpayers. One call received regarding an address correction.

June 26 – Pick up final assessment roll and sign reports for the County and State on easements.

Continue purging of documents from files. Process should be completed soon. Continue cleaning up inventory edits.

Organizing and preparing to do building permit field work. Will be out in the field in July collecting building permit information and assessing it for the 2021 assessment roll.

June 27 – On call at home for taxpayers. No calls received.

Dog Control Officer Jaquay report's as follows:

June 10, 2020 to July 6, 2020

I received no calls and issued no appearance tickets from our last meeting till the writing of this report. It has been very quiet.

She felt Judge Rissmeyer did a great job.

Motion by Supervisor VanDenburgh, seconded by Councilwoman Ploss to bill resident Dominic Magliano \$25.00 per month until \$300 boarding fees are paid.

ADOPTED Ayes - 4 VanDenburgh, Ploss, Rutkowski and Perkins
Nays – 0

BTI Director Michael Sokira’s report read as follows:

1. Not much to report as low water conditions continued through June. Some larvae present in a few streams.
2. We will continue to monitor creeks in July. We can legally treat until July 30.

Judge Rissmeyer submitted a copy of his monthly report showing no activity. The Court has reopened for in-person appearances on July 7.

Town Historian Marshall’s report read as follows:

1. I am going to work with Donna and create a submission for the Trans Adirondack Route Book.
2. Looking to see if we can finalize the letter confirming the existence of the Stratford Historical Society so that we can request Tax Exempt status.
3. Received a request for information on the Rockwell family. I am researching this request.
4. Cemetery records. I am working on the Cemetery records spreadsheet. It is a work in progress. To make the spreadsheet more robust we are including links to Find a Grave and Ancestry for each Cemetery and person listed. Find a Grave is a site where photo’s obits and other information are added for each grave. Donna has been a submitter to this site for years along with others in the area. The same for Ancestry which provides Family tree information for each person. Donna has been working to create a Stratford Ancestry tree and each entry that is in Ancestry will be added to the spreadsheet. This spreadsheet will be an asset to the Historical Society for Genealogy. I am adding information to the spreadsheet for myself on reason for death so that I can see if there are trends to epidemic’s, etc. And also adding Veteran info for the Veteran project we are working on.

Town Clerk Massicotte gave out her Quarterly Report. She mentioned the Office of the Aging will be in the Community Parking Lot on Wednesday, July 22 from 10:30 – 12:30 to hand out Farmer Market Coupons to the Seniors.

Town Clerk Massicotte announced that her Deputy Claudia Johnson cannot continue in this position as she has a new job. I put notice on website for Deputy replacement.

Supervisor VanDenburgh said there are free masks and sanitizer available in the Town Clerk’s Office.

Supervisor VanDenburgh reported as follows:

1. She thanked Gary Tricot in Dolgeville for providing face masks.

2. The school budget will be live streamed on July 14. Voting will be in person on July 28.
3. Received FEMA reimbursement check for Category B work.
4. Due to receive second quarter Sales Tax Distribution sometime in July.
5. Fulton County Public Works passed a resolution to pave the remainder of County Route 119 in their 2021 - 2023 capital project.
6. The 2011 Dodge pickup was deleted from NYMIR policy down to basic liability creating \$143 credit.
7. Working on creating Rules of Order for Town Meetings which I hope to present next month.
8. Sexual Harassment training will commence sometime in September. Next meeting we will set a time and date.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Monthly budget update report was given to the Town Board.

AUDIT OF CLAIMS

Motion made by Councilwoman Ploss, seconded by Councilman Perkins to approve the July bills.

ADOPTED Ayes - 4 VanDenburgh, Ploss, Rutkowski and Perkins
 Nays – 0

2020 General Fund	Voucher Nos. 79 - 78	\$ 4,630.54
2020 Prepaid Fund	Voucher Nos. 52 – 58	\$ 3,554.41
2020 Highway Fund	Voucher Nos. 51 - 53	\$ 1,223.30

PUBLIC SPEAKING

Ben Rutkowski said the Town Council was doing a great job.
 Sonja Rissmeyer thought that Mike Sokira did a good job on exterminating the flies. She asked about Broadband. Supervisor VanDenburgh said they were working on it.

Alicia asked if anyone could apply for a position in Stratford whether they lived here or not. A resolution was passed in 2014, stating that anyone could apply for a position that is appointed not elected.

OLD BUSINESS

Motion made by Supervisor VanDenburgh, seconded by Councilwoman Rutkowski to correct typographical error on page 2 of the June 2020 minutes, should be as USDA not USVA.

ADOPTED Ayes - 4 VanDenburgh, Ploss, Rutkowski and Perkins
 Nays – 0

NEW BUSINESS

Motion made by Councilwoman Ploss, seconded by Councilman Perkins to move into executive session to further discuss the Pleasant Lake property at 7:04 pm.

ADOPTED Ayes - 4 VanDenburgh, Ploss, Rutkowski and Perkins
Nays – 0

Motion made by Supervisor VanDenburgh, seconded by Councilwoman Ploss to leave executive session at 7:56 pm.

ADOPTED Ayes - 4 VanDenburgh, Ploss, Rutkowski and Perkins
Nays – 0

With no further business, on a motion by Councilwoman Ploss, seconded by Councilwoman Rutkowski, the meeting was adjourned at 7:56 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Diana Massicotte, Town Clerk