

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

Minutes of the Stratford Regular Board meeting held on Thursday, August 13, 2020 at the municipal building located at 120 Piseco Rd.

**Present:**

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

**Absent:**

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

**Residents in Attendance:** Allicia Rice, Sonia Rissmeyer, Gary Rumrill

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

**CORRESPONDENCE:**

Information received from NYMIR.

**REPORTS:** Given prior to August 13 meeting to be reviewed by the Town Board.

**Highway Superintendent** Staring read his report as follows:

Finished shoulder cutting job on Powerhouse road.  
Cut shoulders on Avery Road from Mallett Hill Road to 29A.  
Now cleaning and reestablishing ditches as needed.  
Placed light and medium stone fill at West Shore Road culverts that were washing out.  
Fixed washout on Dugway Road, reshaped road to direct water to the sides.  
Removed beaver dam at culvert on Irish Settlement Road three times.

**EQUIPMENT:** Radiator failed in the Ford Tractor used for mowing, removed and replaced.  
Several air leaks on Truck 8, replacing rotted parts to get it ready for NYS Inspection due this month.  
New truck had to go to Utica Mack for warranty work. Bracket on the exhaust.

The Dealer for the new pickup received the truck Tuesday, August 11. The truck must go to the upfitter for the plow and other accessories. We should get the truck at the end of the month.

FEMA: Temporary work has been obligated.

Debris removal is in the pre-obligation queue.

Hawes Road Project is working its way through the process.

I am putting paperwork together to submit the Edick Road Project.

The repairs to Piseco, Seeley and Hadcock Roads should be submitted by the end of the month.

The contractor is working on the Piseco Road Bridge, they are setting forms and placing rebar. He plans on pouring concrete for the footer early next week.

Resident on West Shore Road wants to put power across road, Superintendent Staring said he preferred they go under the road with conduit. Another resident would like to put pipes across end of driveway. He is willing to buy pipes and material and have the Town install. Attorney Albanese will check into procedure. Checking on adding driveways to Building Permits.

Superintendent Staring checking on quarter mile of rough road to see if it should be fixed, has it reached ten year limit.

Supervisor VanDenburgh asked the Superintendent Staring to notify her and the Fire Department when he closes roads and she would put it on face book.

**Code Enforcement Officer Wright reports:**

July 7 – August 10

Issued two permits – deck, septic system

Issued one Certificate of Compliance

Issued one Certificate of Occupancy

Nine inspections

One Court appearance

Many calls

**Assessor No Report**

**Dog Control Officer Jaquay read her report as follows:**

July 7, 2020 to August 13, 2020

I picked up an unidentified dog on County Hwy 119. Owner contacted me and licensed dog in the town of Stratford and paid a \$10 impound fee to the town.

I was called by Fulton County Sheriff dispatch about a dog bite incident on a campsite located on Stewarts Landing Road. A resident was walking his dog when a Pittbull dog attacked his dog and the result was the resident received a puncture wound. He refused to press charges and refused to seek medical treatment for the wound. I searched for the dog and owner and found them packing to leave. I then collected the information on status of vaccinations and license. The owner and dog are residents of Gloversville.

I then contacted the Gloversville Clerk to verify all was current with the dog. She verified all was current.

I was then contacted by a Fulton County investigator about this issue. I was informed this was not the first time and advised to look further into this issue.

I then contacted the Gloversville animal control officer. Who told me the owner of this dog was mandated under a court ruling to leash and muzzle said dog when in public? I requested a copy of the court order and received it the following day.

I am researching now how to properly issue a dangerous dog appearance ticket.

This is still pending.

I received a call about dogs running off leash at Pleasant lake and becoming a nuisance. I was asked to write up an add-on to a letter to be sent to all homeowners of Pleasant Lake advising them that this is a violation of the town laws. I said yes to this request.

The rest of the month quiet.

Supervisor VanDenburgh acknowledged receipt of the Municipal Shelter Inspection Report completed on 7/15/2020. We received a satisfactory report.

**BTI Director** Michael Sokira's report read as follows:

I don't have much to report this month other than we did monitor for larvae and did find a few of them in certain creeks. I was planning on coming to this month's meeting but I'll be out of town so I'll definitely be at the September meeting with a full end of season report. I have to get everyone's reports so I can compile that information.

**Judge** Rissmeyer submitted a copy of his monthly report showing receipt of \$590.00.

**Town Historian** Marshall's report read as follows:

Received a request for information on local Native American tribes in or near Stratford and is currently researching it. Had request from County Historian for information.  
Preparing the 2021 calendar fliers to go up this week. Working on cemetery records.

Town Clerk Massicotte encouraged residents to complete the Census form. Fulton County shows only 17.7% of residents have responded. The Census will determine Congressional Representation and Federal funding for the next ten years. It only takes 10 minutes to complete.

We have a new Forest Ranger – David Mally, 518 424-7805.

Town Clerk Massicotte read the following: the State Archives is revising and consolidating its local government records retention and disposition schedules and issuing a single, comprehensive retention

schedule for all types of local governments on August 1, 2020. Local governments have to adopt a resolution before utilizing the new schedule.

**RESOLUTION #25-2020 FOR RETENTION AND DISPOSITION SCHEDULE FOR NEW YORK LOCAL GOVERNMENT RECORDS (LGS-1)**

**BE IT RESOLVED** by the Stratford Town Board of Stratford, New York that *Retention and Disposition Schedule for New York Local Government Records (LGS-1)*, issued pursuant to Article 57-A of the Arts and Cultural Affairs Law, and containing legal minimum retention periods for local government records, is hereby adopted for use by all officers in legally disposing of valueless records listed therein.

**FURTHER RESOLVED**, that in accordance with Article 57-A:

- a) Only those records will be disposed of that are described in *Retention and Disposition Schedule for New York Local Government Records (LGS-1)*, after they have met the minimum retention periods described therein;
- b) Only those records will be disposed of that do not have sufficient administrative, fiscal, legal, or historical value to merit retention beyond established legal minimum periods.

**Offered by: Supervisor VanDenburgh, seconded by Councilwoman Rutkowski**

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

The Board of Elections called to see if we would be having the General Election on November 3 at the Stratford Community Center.

Motion made by Councilwoman Rutkowski, seconded by Councilwoman Ploss to have the General Election November 3, 2020 at the Stratford Community Center.

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

Supervisor VanDenburgh asked the Board what date they would like to have the Sexual Harassment meeting which is held yearly for all employees. It was decided to have the meeting on Wednesday, September 9 at 3:00 pm.

The Superintendent’s Verizon cell phone has been shut down because the Superintendent has his own.

There was an anonymous complaint regarding the property on Hadcock Road and 119. Supervisor VanDenburgh reported that the resident is making an effort to clean up the property.

There was a rumor going around that DEC was shutting down Stewart Landing. That is all it was, a rumor.

Sue Fogarty reported to Supervisor VanDenburgh that political signs have gone missing. It is a felony offense.

**FINANCIAL REPORT**

Monthly budget update report was given to the Town Board. The Town received \$69,301.34 from the second quarter sales tax distribution.

Budget requests forms have been handed out. The Supervisor would like them back by September 1, 2020.

Budget workshop meeting set for Wednesday, September 23 at 6:30 pm.

**RESOLUTION #26-2020 FOR BUDGET TRANSFERS**

**BE IT RESOLVED,**

To: A3520.4	Human Society Contractual	\$ 300.00	
From: A500	Fund Balance		\$ 300.00
To: A5010.4	Highway Supt. Contractual	\$500.00	
From: A500	Fund Balance		\$500.00

**Offered by: Supervisor VanDenburgh, seconded by Councilman Perkins**

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

**AUDIT OF CLAIMS**

Motion made by Councilwoman Ploss, seconded by Councilwoman Rutkowski to approve the August bills.

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

2020 General Fund	Voucher Nos. 94 - 102	\$ 4,073.26
2020 Prepaid Fund	Voucher Nos. 59 – 63	\$ 4,646.71
2020 Highway Fund	Voucher Nos. 54 - 62	\$ 4,891.06

**PUBLIC SPEAKING**

Public Speaking opened at 7:14.

Gary Rumrill addressed the Board with personal concerns. He also asked Highway Superintendent Staring if he could take the log that is in the ditch by his property. Highway Superintendent said he had no problem.

Attorney Albanese commented on Public Speaking: Comments could be made but the Board could not be cross examined, nor did the Board have to respond. Formal complaints should be submitted to the Supervisor or Town Clerk.

Alicia Rice commented on crossing road with utilities. Supervisor VanDenburgh said she would give the resolution to Attorney Albanese to check information. East Shore Road loops around so the 911 numbers are incorrect. Heidi Christiansen met with Sheriff Department regarding problem with numbering. The numbers cannot be changed. Signs can be put up with numbers on at beginning of loop. Superintendent Staring will look into it. There were problems with MOVAC not being in Dolgeville. Mark Sousa – County EMS will get certificate of sense of need and will have control over incidents in County.

Public speaking closed at 7:45 pm.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

Councilwomen Rutkowski said all were doing a good job especially with COVID problems. She was impressed with the Office of Aging handing out Farmer Market coupons to Seniors. She asked that all support local businesses.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

Supervisor VanDenburgh presented the Shared Services Code Enforcement agreement with the Town of Bleecker for the Board to read over. It will be brought up at the next meeting.

Supervisor VanDenburgh asked Attorney Albanese if Town pays for mileage and a compensated rate for second CEO opinion that we are ok with whatever we are paying out that we can bill the homeowners. He acknowledged that we would have to go over the fee rates on our building permit.

Councilwoman Rumrill mentioned to CEO Wright that there was a garage falling down on Route 29A and a trailer caving in on the Perkins property. CEO Wright said he has been working on the Perkins property and would look into the other problem.

Councilwoman Rutkowski asked how far the Town could go regarding properties. Attorney Albanese said all complaints should be in written form. Eventually the town could take care of problems, but would need an engineer report and then could do demolition, cost could be put on tax bill. Very expensive endeavor for town. The Town would need a Resolution and local law regarding dilapidated buildings.

With no further business, on a motion by Supervisor VanDenburgh, seconded by Councilwoman Ploss, the meeting was adjourned at 7:50 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Diana Massicotte, Town Clerk