

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

Minutes of the Stratford Regular Board meeting held on Thursday, March 11, 2021 at the municipal building located at 120 Piseco Rd.

**Present:**

Heather VanDenburgh	---	Supervisor
Allan Perkins	---	Councilman
Joan Ploss	---	Councilwoman
Lorraine Rumrill	---	Councilwoman
Lawrence Staring	---	Highway Superintendent
Norman Wright	---	Code Enforcement Officer
Michael Albanese	---	Town Attorney
Lawrence Neely	---	Town Clerk

**Absent:**

Tiffany Rutkowski	---	Councilwoman.
Karen Jaquay	---	Dog Control Officer
David Galarneau	---	Sole Assessor
Moira Marshall	---	Town Historian
Michael Sokira	---	BTI Director

**Residents in Attendance:** None due to COVID.

Supervisor VanDenburgh called the regular meeting to order at 6:40 pm with the Pledge to the Flag.

**CORRESPONDENCE:**

An email from Allicia Rice of the Stratford Volunteer Fire Company was read inviting members of the Town Board and the staff of the Town Highway Department to attend a CPR Training Class on Wednesday, May 12, at 6:30 p.m. at the fire station

**REPORTS:**

Highway Superintendent Staring reported town crews dealt with several snow events through the month. Town had an additional 108 tons of salt delivered.

Truck 9 (2014 Freightliner) is back in service. The rest of the trucks and equipment held up well, no serious breakdowns. They have been getting some of the equipment out of the snow and getting it ready for the spring and summer.

Highway Superintendent said he want to purchase a fuel transfer tank with a pump. Now the men carry fuel in 5-gallon cans when they have equipment on the road. The transfer tank would be a safer way to carry fuel. He also wants to purchase a tool box and chainsaw for his truck to save him time and eliminate frequent trips back to the Town Garage. He also requested a Demo saw for cutting pavement when making street and culvert repairs. He estimated the cost of these items to be approximately \$2,200.

Additionally, he said he would like a small used roller and a hot box. He said the town presently has no means to get hot patching material to town for street repairs. He said the hotbox would also enable them to start repairs earlier in the spring, allowing them to warm cold patch materials to make them more workable. He said he thought he could find a roller for \$4-5,000.

Weekly calls to FEMA continue, the first section of Edick Road repairs has been obligated and the town should be getting FEMA reimbursement soon. He said he is finishing up the paperwork on the projects on Piseco Road.

FEMA has indicated an alternate project for the Windfall Creek culvert and road is OK, if the town decides to abandon that section of the road.

He said the Hawes Road Bridge may be considered a historic structure. He is awaiting final word on that.

**Code Enforcement Officer Wright** reported:

During the month of February he had one inspection, two meeting, issued two permits (one addition and one storage shed), completed the Secretary of State Report and handled a few calls.

**Assessor's report for February reads as follows:**

Feb. 5 (2-7 p.m.) – Return one phone call. Prepared a new change of address form that has to be notarized. So far in 2021 he has gotten three change of address request for address and all three will not be made because the person making the request is not currently shown as the owner. He also processed some exemption applications and renewals.

Feb. 6 (8-9:30 a.m. at home only) – No calls received.

Feb. 19 (2-7 p.m.) – Returned phone calls. Added exemptions, sales and address changes. Spoke to one caller who wanted to join an old lawsuit against the town regarding assessments. Told him it was not possible and suggested he submit information on his property for review.

Confirmed that town's 2021 level of assessment, which will become the equalization rate. The equalization rate will drop from 97 to 95.5 for 2021. Stratford is somewhat lucky because many other towns are seeing larger rate declines.

Feb. 20 (8-9:30 a.m. at home only) – No calls received.

**BTI Director:** No report

**Dog Control Officer:** No report

**Town Justice:** Judge Rissmeyer submitted a copy of his monthly report showing receipts of \$0.

**Town Historian** No report.

**Town Clerk:**

Clerk reported that he would be adjusting the official office hours beginning in April to Tuesdays from 2-6 p.m. and Saturdays from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m.

**Town Supervisor:**

Supervisor VanDenburgh recommended the town continue to advertise for someone to clean the town office building.

**RESOLUTION# 10-2021**

**RESOLUTION FOR THE ACCEPTANCE OF FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AID FROM DAMAGES PERTAINING TO THE OCTOBER 31, 2019 STORM**

**WHEREAS**, the Stratford Town Board hereby accepts the following check amounts from NYS/FEMA pertaining to the damages that have been repaired thus far from the October 31, 2019 storm:

February 11, 2021    Check #08065150    \$1,653.00  
February 12, 2021    Check #08066553    \$2,372.23

Motion to accept offered by Supervisor VanDenburgh, seconded by Councilwoman Rumrill

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

Supervisor VanDenburgh recommended the Board rescind **Resolution# 35-2021** accepting the contract from Adirondack Park Local Government Review Board as that is historically not the group that has represented the town in matters coming before the Adirondack Park Agency.

**RESOLUTION# 11-2021**

**RESOLUTION TO RESCIND RESOLUTION# 35-2021 APPROVING THE CONTRACT BETWEEN THE TOWN OF STRATFORD AND THE ADIRONDACK PARK LOCAL GOVERNMENT REVIEW BOARD**

**WHEREAS**, the Stratford Town Board wishes to rescind Resolution #35-2021, the Town Board hereby adopts a resolution to formally rescind its previous resolution approve the agreement between the Town of Stratford and the Adirondack Park Local Government Review Board.

Motion to accept offered by Supervisor VanDenburgh, seconded by Councilwoman Ploss

**ADOPTED**    Ayes – 4        VanDenburgh, Ploss, Rumrill and Perkins  
                  Nays – 0

Quickbooks monthly budget update report given to Board. Supervisor VanDenburgh reported the AUD had been filed and is awaiting audit. She also reported information from Albany indicates that the Town of Stratford will receive \$60,000 in local government financial aid from the federal government as part of the American Rescue Plan recently adopted by Congress.

**RESOLUTION# 12-2021**

**RESOLUTION TO MAKE END OF THE YEAR BUDGET TRANSFERS**

The Stratford Town Board approves the following budget transfers to amend the budget for appropriations to be paid as described:

<b>DECREASE:</b>	<b>INCREASE:</b>	<b>AMOUNT:</b>
DA5142.1, Snow Removal PS	DA5110.1, General Repairs PS	\$24,380.75
A4540.4, Ambulance Contractual	A1355.1, Assessor PS	\$888.96
A1670.4, Central Printing Contractual	A1620.4, Building Contractual	\$81.72
A1670.4, Central Printing Contractual	A1330.4, Tax Collection Contractual	\$7.49
A1670.4, Central Printing Contractual	A1220.4, Supervisor Contractual	\$225.71
A1670.4, Central Printing Contractual	A1220.41, Payroll Service Contractual	\$24.97
A9010.8, State Retirement	A8160.4, Solid Waste Contractual	\$1678.88
A9010.8, State Retirement	A9030.8, General Social Security	\$3,059.27
A9010.8, State Retirement	A9055.8, Disability Insurance	\$155.65

Supervisor VanDenburgh noted that in previous years, dating back to 2015, the town has been forced to transfer funds from the Highway Fund to the General Fund and vice versa, to be able to meet expenses. That borrowing has been carried on the books and not repaid. There had been discussions in 2020 of making transfers to eliminate the borrowing, but the uncertainty created by COVID put it on hold. She said end of the year balances at this time can easily allow for the transfers to get the borrowing off the books.

Motion to make the transfers was offered by Councilwoman Ploss, seconded by Councilwoman Rumrill

**ADOPTED** Ayes – 4 VanDenburgh, Ploss, Rumrill and Perkins  
Nays – 0

**AUDIT OF CLAIMS**

Motion made by Supervisor VanDenburgh, seconded by Councilwoman Ploss, to approve payment of February’s bills.

March 2021 General Fund	Voucher Nos. 20 – 23	\$ 73,931.84
March 2021 Prepaid Fund	Voucher Nos. 18 – 23	\$ 3,544.99
Feb. 2021 Highway Fund	Voucher Nos. 14 - 19	\$ 12,191.15

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

**PUBLIC SPEAKING**

None due to COVID restrictions

**OLD BUSINESS**

Councilwoman Lorraine Rumrill questioned whether Lawrence Neely, recently named to fill out the remainder of Diana Massicotte’s term as town clerk, could also serve on the Board of Assessment Review. Town Attorney Michael Albanese said he didn’t think there would be a conflict, but he would research the matter and report back to the board.

**NEW BUSINESS**

A motion by Supervisor VanDenburg, seconded Councilwoman Ploss to open next month’s meeting up to the public

**ADOPTED**    Ayes – 4        VanDenburgh, Ploss, Rumrill and Perkins  
                  Nays – 0

With no further business, on a motion by Supervisor VanDenburg, seconded by Councilwoman Ploss, the meeting was adjourned at 7:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lawrence Neely, Town Clerk