

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

Minutes of the Stratford Regular Board meeting held on Thursday, June 10, 2021 at the municipal building located at 120 Piseco Rd.

Present:

Heather VanDenburgh	---	Supervisor
Allan Perkins	---	Councilman
Tiffany Rutkowski	---	Councilwoman
Joan Ploss	---	Councilwoman
Lawrence Staring	---	Highway Superintendent
Norman Wright	---	Code Enforcement Officer
Michael Albanese	---	Town Attorney
Lawrence Neely	---	Town Clerk
Michael Sokira	---	BTI Director
Moirra Marshall	---	Town Historian
Lorraine Rumrill	---	Councilwoman.
Karen Jaquay	---	Dog Control Officer

Absent:

David Galarneau	---	Sole Assessor
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Residents in Attendance: Four.

Supervisor VanDenburgh called the regular meeting to order at 6:31 p.m. with the Pledge to the Flag. She noted that the meeting was also broadcast on YouTube from a link on the township's home page

CORRESPONDENCE: None

REPORTS:

Highway Dept.:

Highway Superintendent Staring reported patching of section of Seeley Road and Stewarts Landing Road; have hauled crusher run for Seeley Rd.; finished the ditching on Seeley Rd.; needs to haul stone for the roads; and Power house and Seeley roads will be paved in Aug. by a contractor.

All cemeteries were mowed prior to Memorial Day; had to have mowing tractor swing cylinder repaired. The deck is broken on the Craftsman riding mower. The mower is so old and rusty that it is not worth fixing. Town crews have been using the mower they got from the fire department. Staring said he has priced a new riding mower, but the cheapest was \$4,800. He said a 36-inch mower would be best and he will keep looking.

FEMA calls continue. The Piseco Bridge and the two Piseco Road projects are in final review. He said he will be filing extensions for Voorhees Road and the Kelly, Red House, Piseco and Dugway roads culverts. Andy Bell is checking with the land surveyor on the status of Voorhees Rd. and R&B has completed repairs on the Edick Road culvert.

The state DOT issued a safety flag for a guiderail bracket on the Irish Settlement Road Bridge that required immediate repairs to keep the bridge open. The town also got a Yellow Flag for the two outside fascia beams on the bridge. The beams were not replaced when the bridge was repaired in 2018.

Code Enforcement Officer Wright:

During the month of April he attended one meeting, issued one building permit, made 7 inspections, answered 2 complaints and handled many phone calls. Supervisor Heather VanDenburgh reported one of the complaints was about roadway access on the aqueduct. She said, and the town attorney confirmed, the issue is a civil matter between land owners and does not involve the town.

Town Assessor:

May 1 (1:30-5:30 p.m.) – Reviewed the assessment roll and prepared statement for he is data collecting this summer

May 14 (10 a.m.- 2 p.m.) – Met with county Real Property Director regarding property transfers and mapping changes. Organized files in the office

May 21 (2-8 p.m.) – Met with Board of Assessment Review to discuss upcoming Grievance Day (only 1 or 2 grievances expected).

May 22 (1:30-5:30 pm.) – No calls or taxpayer visits. Began review of building permits from 2020 to determine completion and updating valuation due to new construction

May 28 (12-8 p.m.) Grievance Day: Reviewed grievance petitions submitted. Only 2 people showed up.

Dog Control Officer:

She reported receiving a call about an abandoned fawn. She said she took it to a wildlife rehabilitator. She said she collected a \$10 impoundment fee from the owner for a loose dog she picked up.

Went to court on an appearance ticket she had issued. The judge ruled in the town’s favor.

BTI Director:

He reported water levels on the creeks they treat have been low. They are finding only a few larvae. They will continue to monitor the water and treat as needed

Town Justice:

Judge Rissmeyer submitted a copy of his monthly report showing receipts of \$593.

Town Historian:

She reported the Stratford Historical Society will meet June 23.

Town Clerk:

Clerk reported he has interviewed one candidate for deputy clerk and has another tentatively scheduled for later this month.

He also asked the board about the clerk’s office being used as a pick-up point for street numbering signs that can be purchased from the fire department. The consensus was there would be no objections so long as the money for the signs is paid directly to the fire department and not collected by the clerk’s office.

Town Supervisor:

Town Supervisor Heather VanDenburgh read a “*Proclamation Honoring the Life of Diana Massicotte.*” The proclamation honoring the former town clerk, who died May 30, 2021, cited her 11 years of service to the town in the Town Clerk’s office and many other significant contributions to the community as a member of the Stratford United Methodist Church and as a member and “Sunshine Lady” of the Stratford Senior Citizens group. It also conveyed the Town’s deepest sympathy to her entire family.

FINANCIAL REPORT:

The Supervisor reported that the mortgage tax receipts for Jan. 1 through June 10, 2021 were \$7,193.71.

The QuickBooks monthly budget update was given to the Board by the Supervisor.

AUDIT OF CLAIMS:

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

June 2021 General Fund	Voucher Nos. 42-48	\$ 3,745.90
June 2021 Prepaid Fund	Voucher Nos. 38-44	\$ 4,368.53
June 2021 Highway Fund	Voucher Nos. 42-51	\$ 24,690.95

ADOPTED Ayes – 5
Nays – 0

PUBLIC SPEAKING:

Property owner Paul Kosinski questioned what the rules were regarding the need for a building permit for 12’ x 12’ utility buildings.

OLD BUSINESS: None

Town Supervisor VanDenburgh suggested that the town replace the collapsed gazebo with a covered pavilion that could be made available for use by town residents. Several ideas were discussed as ways to honor residents for their contributions by a plaque or engraved bricks. It was the consensus of the board to proceed with planning for a pavilion. VanDenburgh said she would consult with the Codes Officer to determine where a site adjacent to the Community Building could be located and how big and get some cost estimates.

NEW BUSINESS: None

With no further business, on a motion by Supervisor VanDenburgh, seconded by Councilwoman Ploss, the meeting was adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lawrence Neely, Town Clerk