

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

Minutes of the Stratford Regular Board meeting held on Thursday, July 8, 2021 at the municipal building located at 120 Piseco Rd.

Present:

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

Absent:

Karen Jaquay	---	Dog Control Officer
--------------	-----	---------------------

Residents in Attendance: Five.

Supervisor VanDenburgh called the regular meeting to order at 6:35 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:

The Supervisor read a letter from Fulton County Solid Waste announcing that long-time Stratford Transfer Station attendant has resigned and Bob Stalnaker has been hired to replace him.

She also read a letter from Cynthia Youker concerning the dispute among landowners concerning the easement on the private road known as Aqueduct Road. She said while she is sympathetic to their concerns that since it involves only private property, the town cannot intercede. The Town Attorney confirmed that it is a dispute that is a civil matter between the property owners involved and will need to be resolved by the courts.

REPORTS:

Highway Dept.: Highway Superintendent Staring reported the ditching has been completed on Seeley Road and they have all materials hauled for the milling and chip sealing. He noted that rising oil prices have resulted in increases for some road materials.

He also reported the town experienced a heavy rain and wind event on June 21 that resulted in several downed trees on Seeley, Piseco, Edick and Stewart Landing roads. He also noted that Truck 8 was down with leaking wheel seals. That has been repaired and now it is at Dunham's with a broken spring.

FEMA calls continue, he said. The bridge project and the projects beyond the bridge have been obligated at a total cost of \$193,811.14 with the federal share being \$145,358.35 and the State and Town shares being \$24,322.39. There are two projects in review, the Edick Road Culvert over Stony Brook and

the blacktop projects with a total cost of \$56,635.27. Remaining to be done are Voorhees Road and the four large culverts.

He reported that he had requested quotes from three companies, Viking, Henderson and Tracey Road Equipment, to replace the dump body on Truck 9, but only got back a quote from Viking of \$59,635.50 for a stainless steel body. It was the consensus of the council that due to the high cost and to comply with the town's procurement policy that town will have to advertise for competitive bids and open them at the August Council meeting.

He also reported that he had quotes from Di-Highway for \$14,831 and Jeffords Steel for \$19,943.15 for the steel beams needed to address the red flag from the state on the Irish Settlement Road Bridge.

Motion made by Supervisor VanDenburgh, seconded by Councilwoman Ploss to approve the purchase of the steel beams from Di-Highway.

ADOPTED Ayes – 5
Nays – 0

BTI Director: He reported water levels on the creeks they treat have increased but they are finding only a few larvae. They will continue to monitor the water and treat as needed.

Code Enforcement Officer Wright: During the month of June he attended two meetings, issued three building permit, made three inspections, and handled many phone calls.

Town Assessor: June 11 (2-7 p.m.) – He called Fulton County Real Property Office and ordered a full set of maps. He said he had noticed that the maps he had don't reflect several tax map number changes.

Began reviewing the inventory breakdown for waterfront properties and he said he will be changing the way waterfront properties are valued which should provide more consistency in land values. He also noted he will taking a continuing education class he week of July 11-15 at his own expense.

June 25 (2-7 p.m.) – He received and verified the Final Assessment Roll. Copy is in the town hall. He began the process of following waterfront and other land sales for use in developing land tables for the projected 2023 reassessment.

Town Justice: Judge Rissmeyer submitted a copy of his monthly report showing receipts of \$425 to turn over to the State Comptroller's office.

Town Historian: She reported she has been trying to find out who owns the Round Top Cemetery and other cemeteries in the town that have been abandoned. The only maintenance work is the mowing of the grass by Town Highway Dept. workers. The town attorney said he will research the issue and find out who "owns" the cemeteries that have been abandoned.

Town Clerk: Clerk reported he is still searching for a deputy clerk.

Town Supervisor:

RESOLUTION #22-2021

RESOLUTION FOR STATE RETIREMENT FOR THE PURPOSE OF REPORTING TO NEW YORK STATE AND THE LOCAL RETIREMENT SYSTEM

BE IT RESOLVED that the Town Board of the Town of Stratford has determined for Assessor David Galarneau, (1) that the hours for the Assessor are 16 per month, or 2.7 days per standard workday, (2) that the term for the Assessor of the Town of Stratford expires September 30, 2025, and (3) that a three month calendar of hours and activities has been received and maintained by the Town Clerk. Motion to accept offered by Supervisor VanDenburgh, seconded by Councilwoman Rumrill

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

The Supervisor reported that the town is eligible for \$60,000 in federal funds under the American Rescue Plan Act. She said she had applied for the funding and the town will be getting \$30,000 per year for this year and next year. No decision was made on how the funds will be spent.

FINANCIAL REPORT:

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.

July 2021 General Fund	Voucher Nos. 49-60	\$ 4,541.20
July 2021 Prepaid Fund	Voucher Nos. 45-50	\$ 3,701.74
July 2021 Highway Fund	Voucher Nos. 52-61	\$ 52,820.30

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

PUBLIC SPEAKING:

State Assemblyman Robert Smullen was the only speaker. He spoke about funding in the state budget to survey the rural areas of the state that have no broadband access. He said the recent COVID-19 pandemic has taught us how important access to broadband is. He said he would stay after the meeting adjourns to discuss any issues with the constituents present.

OLD BUSINESS:

Town Supervisor VanDenburgh said in reviewing the information the town has about the location of the town hall and out buildings, the town may not own as much land it is currently mowing and maintaining. She suggested that a survey be done of the site to determine how much land actually belongs to the town. She said she would explore the subject and report back to the council next month.

NEW BUSINESS:

Several Highway Department Employees have requested to participate with the New York State Deferred Compensation Plan. A resolution authorizing the plans was presented to the council.

RESOLUTION #23-2021

ADOPTION OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK DEFERRED COMPENSATION PLAN

WHEREAS, the Town of Stratford wishes to adopt the Deferred Compensation Plan for Employees of the State of New York and Other Participating Public Jurisdictions (the “Plan”) for voluntary participation of all the eligible employees: and

WHEREAS, the Town of Stratford is a local public employer eligible to adopt the Plan pursuant to Section 5 of the State Finance Law*; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Stratford has reviewed the Plan established in accordance with Section 457 of the Internal Revenue Code and Section 5 of the State Finance Law of the State of New York; and

WHEREAS, the purpose of the Plan is to encourage employees to make and continue careers with the Town of Stratford by providing eligible employees with a convenient and tax-deferred method of saving on a regular and long-term basis and thereby provide for their retirement;

NOW, THEREFORE, it is hereby:

RESOLVED, that the Town of Stratford hereby adopts the Plan for the voluntary participation of all eligible employees; and it is further

RESOLVED, that the appropriate officials of the Town of Stratford are hereby authorized to take such actions and enter such agreements as are required or necessary for the adoption, implementation, and maintenance of the Plan; and it is further

RESOLVED, that the Administrative Services Agency is hereby authorized to file copies of these resolutions and other required documents with the President of the State of New York Civil Service Commission.

Adopted this 8th day of July, 2021, at an open meeting of the Town Council of the Town of Stratford by a unanimous vote on a motion by Supervisor VanDenburgh, seconded Councilwoman Tiffany Rutkowski.

ADOPTED Ayes - 5 - VanDenburgh, Rutkowski, Perkins, Ploss, Rumrill

Nays - 0

With no further new business, on a motion by Supervisor VanDenburgh, seconded by Councilwoman Ploss, the council voted unanimously to go into executive session at 7:12 p.m. to discuss a personnel matter.

A motion by Supervisor VanDenburgh, seconded by Councilwoman Rumrill, to re-enter the regular meeting at 7:50 p.m. was approved unanimously. There being no further business to discuss, a motion by Supervisor VanDenburgh, seconded by Councilman Perkins, to adjourn the meeting was unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Lawrence Neely, Town Clerk