

State of New York  
County of Fulton  
Town of Stratford

Minutes of the regular meeting of the Stratford Town Board held on Tuesday, February 7, 2012 at the municipal building located at 120 Piseco Rd.

Present:

Robert Johnson Jr.	---	Supervisor
Allan Perkins	---	Councilman
Bernard Leavitt	---	Councilman
Dawn Youker	---	Councilwoman
Lorraine Rumrill	---	Councilwoman
Mark Snowman	---	Superintendent
Diana Massicotte	---	Town Clerk

Supervisor Johnson called the meeting to order at 6:30 with the Pledge to the Flag.

Residents attending – Allicia Rice, Dorothy and Henry Eifert, Judy Snowman, Jeanie Cool, Mary and Peter Szczebak.

**PUBLIC SPEAKING**

Supervisor Johnson asked that anyone wishing to speak direct their comments to the Board only.

Allicia Rice announced that the School Board would be meeting on February 14. She mentioned the new Open Meeting Law and passed out some information to the Board that she copied off the internet.

Supervisor Johnson announced that the Town of Stratford would be going through a full audit.

Leigh Anne Loucks thought there should be a tighter rein on the chips fund. Discussion followed regarding which fund money from chips was applied last year. We had more left than expected. It could legally be applied to other accounts. Superintendent Snowman said that he was on top of it. Leigh Anne asked if the minutes could be put online. The Board said the Clerk could put them online after approved by the Board. Leigh Anne asked Bookkeeper Lita if the software program she used was charged to the Town annually. Lita said she would check into it.

Councilman Leavitt said he wanted to go on record that he had not been involved in the personnel matters.

**REPORTS**

Lita handed out the Treasurer’s Report for the month ending January 31, 2012.

Assessor Loucks gave her report as follows:

She attended a continuing education class in Johnstown on January 27. The state will pay everything but two percent. She said the exemption forms were due on or before March 1, 2012. The forms can be mailed as long as they are postmarked for that date.

Assessor Loucks stated that the resolution for the reevaluation is completed and was signed by the Supervisor and Town Clerk. The resolution will be forwarded to NYSRPTs. Once NYSORPTS responds, then she will write an RFP and submit it to the Town Board for approval and distribution. Currently there are five parties interested in the project.

Assessor Loucks has purchased a new computer which was budgeted for and is at the County having the RPS program installed.

Supervisor Johnson read the CEO's report as follows:

The Code Enforcement Officer issued two certificates of compliance. He made several follow up inspections and several code related phone calls. The annual Code Enforcement Report for the State has been completed and mailed. The CEO referred an individual to the APA for a project to be built on the Lake. He has begun driving around and compiling a list of violations and will begin writing tickets in March as weather permits. The CEO will be out of town February 11 and 12, March 1 and 2 and March 6 through March 14.

Supervisor Johnson mentioned that the Town Junk Yard Law was in effect.

Superintendent Snowman handed out his report for the month of January which listed the daily work schedule for the men and what was accomplished. He said he spoke with the Fulton County Sheriff's Department, after having no response from the owner of a camper trailer which was parked along the road. Sheriff responded and talked with the owner. The camper was removed from Avery Road by owner on January 31, 2012.

Superintendent Snowman said the new dump trailer was purchased on January 16, 2012 and registered January 23, 2012.

Superintendent Snowman mentioned he had looked into buying a new Excavator for the Town. He asked Lita if they could use the money that was left in Chips towards the purchase price. Lita suggested Superintendent Snowman call the District Manager for Chips and see if chips money could be put into one of the highway accounts through an electronic authorization from the Supervisor. Bookkeeper Lita said there were certain accounts, once budgeted, money could not be transferred per Highway Law. She will check into it.

The five quotes he received are as follows:

Montano Co., Inc. Saugerties, NY	\$133,640
Nortrax Equipment Co.	\$193,500

Monroe Tractor Syracuse, NY	\$146,626
Vantage Equipment, LLC Syracuse, NY	\$190,000
Caterpillar Nashville, TN	\$185,000

After much discussion, The Board decided on purchasing the excavator. Superintendent Snowman said the machine should last at least twenty years. Money has been put aside for this purchase in the 2012 Annual Budget. Superintendent Snowman said he will check to see which is more cost effective to the town on disposing old equipment, selling for parts or scrap metal.

**RESOLUTION 8-2012**  
**RESOLUTION TO PURCHASE 2012 HYUNDAI 170W-9 WITH BLADE AND TWO**  
**OUTRIGGERS**

On a motion by Councilwoman Rumrill, seconded by Councilman Perkins the following resolution was **ADOPTED** Ayes 5 Johnson, Rumrill, Youker, Leavitt, Perkins  
Nays 0

**WHEREAS**, the town of Stratford Town Board on the recommendation of Superintendent Snowman to purchase an excavator for the Highway Department,

**RESOLVED**, to purchase a 2012 Hyundai 170w-9 excavator with blade and two outriggers wainroy swinger coupler 30” excavating and 48” ditching buckets with a three year, 3,000 hour bumper to bumper warranty for the quoted price of \$133,640 from Montano Co.

Superintendent Snowman handed out information regarding appointing Highway Department Employees. The question -- Who is responsible for the employment of highway department employees: the town board or the superintendent of highways? The answer -- Among the responsibilities conferred upon the town Superintendent of Highways by the Highway Law is the responsibility to: “within the limits of appropriations employ such persons as may be necessary for the maintenance and repair of town highways and bridges and to provide for the supervision of such persons.”

Supervisor Johnson read a memo from the Fulton County Department of Solid Waste dated January 30 which referenced the 2012 Policy Guidebook. There will be no Household Hazardous Waste collection day this year. Instead it will be held every two years starting in 2013. The regulations relating to electronics disposal are changing, and there will be a phased in ban on disposing of electronics as garbage by residents, effective in 2015. Old electronics can be dropped off at the DSW Electronics Trailer at the Mud Road facility.

**RESOLUTION 9-2012**

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING FULTON COUNTY TO SUBMIT A GRANT APPLICATION UNDER THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT EFFICIENCY GRANT PROGRAM TO PERFORM A MUNICIPAL HIGHWAY MAINTENANCE EFFICIENCY STUDY**

On a motion by Councilwoman Rumrill, seconded by Councilman Leavitt to support the following resolution was

**ADOPTED** Ayes 5 Johnson, Rumrill, Youker, Leavitt, Perkins  
Nays 0

**WHEREAS**, Fulton County is proposing to submit a grant application under the local Government Efficiency Grant Program to perform a Municipal Highway Maintenance Efficiency Study, and

**WHEREAS**, the proposed study would involve having an engineering firm evaluate how roads and bridges are maintained by the County and each of its municipalities, and

**WHEREAS**, the intent of the study would be to have the engineering firm assess if there is a more efficient less expensive method of maintaining roads and bridges throughout the County, and

**WHEREAS**, Fulton County has already issued a Request for Proposals and received cost proposals from engineering firms to perform this study, and

**WHEREAS**, the estimated cost of preparing the study is \$100,000.00, with the State Grant paying 90 percent of said cost, and

**WHEREAS**, Fulton County has included funds into its 2012 budget to cover the 10% local share cost, with no cost to local governments to perform said study; now, therefore be it

**RESOLVED**, that the Town of Stratford hereby authorizes Fulton County to submit a grant application under the Local Government Efficiency Grant Program to perform a Municipal Highway Maintenance Efficiency Study that will include an analysis of the roads and bridges currently maintained throughout the Town of Stratford, and be it further

**RESOLVED**, that certified copies of this Resolution be forwarded to the Town Highway Superintendent, Village Highway Superintendent, Planning Director, County Superintendent of Highways and Facilities, Administrative Officer/Clerk of the Board, all Chief-elected officers in each municipality in Fulton County, and to each and every other person, institution or agency who will further the purport of this Resolution.

**OLD BUSINESS**

Motion made by Councilman Perkins, seconded by Councilwoman Rumrill to move into executive session to discuss insurance for personnel.

Ayes 5 Johnson, Perkins, Rumrill, Youker, Leavitt  
Nays 0

Board went into executive session at 7:33 pm.

Motion made by Councilman Johnson, seconded by Councilwoman Rumrill to move back into regular meeting at 8:20 am.

Ayes 5 Johnson, Perkins, Rumrill, Youker, Leavitt  
Nays 0

The Board had discussed changing the insurance agent. Our new agent will be Rebecca Perkins of Haylor, Freyer and Coon, Inc.

**RESOLUTION 10-2012**  
**RESOLUTION TO ADOPT NEW INSURANCE AGENT**

On a motion by Councilwoman Rumrill, seconded by Councilman Perkins the following resolution was

**ADOPTED** Ayes 5 Johnson, Perkins, Rumrill, Youker, Leavitt  
Nays 0

**WHEREAS**, the Town of Stratford Town Board felt they needed an agent that was available locally,

**RESOLVED**, to hire agent Rebecca Perkins of Haylor, Freyer and Coon, Inc. to handle the insurance needs of the Stratford Highway Department.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Motions made by Councilman Perkins, seconded by Councilman Leavitt to approve the Board meeting minutes of January 12, 2012.

ADOPTED Ayes 5 Johnson, Perkins, Rumrill, Youker, Leavitt  
Nays 0

Motion made by Councilman Perkins, seconded by Councilwoman Rumrill to table the discussion regarding purchasing an outside boiler for the Highway Department because it will have to be advertised for bid.

Ayes 5 Johnson, Perkins, Rumrill, Youker, Leavitt  
Nays 0

**AUDIT OF CLAIMS**

Motion made by Councilwoman Rumrill, seconded by Councilman Perkins to approve the bills on Abstract #2.

ADOPTED Ayes 5 Johnson, Perkins, Rumrill, Youker, Leavitt  
Nays 0

**NEW BUSINESS**

Supervisor Johnson read a letter from Todd Vedder asking if the Board would approve a subdivision of 14.6 acres. The APA has approved the subdivision.

Motion made by Councilman Perkins seconded by Councilwoman Rumrill to approve the subdivision.

Ayes 5 Johnson, Perkins, Rumrill, Youker, Leavitt  
Nays 0

Supervisor Johnson read a letter from the New York Reciprocal Insurance which issued the town a check for \$606.25 for reimbursement.

With no further business, on a motion of Councilwoman Rumrill, seconded by Councilman Leavitt, the meeting was adjourned at 8:40 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Diana Massicotte  
Town Clerk