

State of New York  
County of Fulton  
Town of Stratford

Minutes of the Stratford Town Board meeting held on Thursday, June 13, 2013 at the municipal building located at 120 Piseco Rd.

Present:

Robert Johnson Jr.	---	Supervisor
Allan Perkins	---	Councilman
Bernard Leavitt,	---	Councilman
Dawn Youker	---	Councilwoman
Diana Massicotte	---	Town Clerk
Charles Goodwin	---	Highway Superintendent
Norman Wright	---	Code Enforcement Officer
Leigh Anne Loucks	---	Assessor
Peg Klages	---	Deputy Town Clerk

Absent:

Lorraine Rumrill	---	Councilwoman
Lita Hillier	---	Bookkeeper

Supervisor Johnson called the meeting to order at 6:33 pm with the Pledge to the Flag.

Residents in attendance: Dorothy and Henry Eifert, Heidi Christiansen, Peter and Mary Szczebak, Gary Rumrill, Sue Fogarty, Alicia Rice, Ken Thompson, Jim and Carol King, Nick Miller III and Mary Beth Cammann.

**REPORTS**

Assessor reported as follows:

Grievance Day was held at the Town Hall Wednesday, May 29, 2013 from 4:00 pm to 8:00 pm. Twenty-six property owners were present with twelve complaints being adjourned and fourteen being heard. Adjournments were requested, as allowed by Real Property Tax Law, for anyone who filed a complaint form after May 25, 2013. There were ten requests for adjournment from non-resident property owners. There were seven owners who filed complaints but did not show up for grievance or request an adjournment. There are three adjournments still pending, as they are scheduled for next Tuesday. They are the last to be heard with the deliberations of the BAR to take place after the fact. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the BAR members: Brian Alling, Mary Beth Cammann and Peg Klages, as they have worked diligently and thoroughly. All determination letters will be mailed out no later than June 30, 2013, as allowed by NYSORPTS.

Final roll will be filed with the Town Clerk on or around July 1, 2013. Property owners will have 30 days from the date of the filing of the Final Roll to file SCAR and Article 7 proceedings.

The Town Clerk was notified by NYSORPTS, which I believe she has forwarded to the Town Board that my term as Assessor will come to an end on September 30, 2013. I respectfully request the Town Board to make a determination as to whether or not I will be reappointed so that if necessary I am able to explore other opportunities.

Code Enforcement Officer Norman Wright issued four permits totaling \$187.00, completed five inspections and issued one Certificate of Compliance. Many phone calls were made. CEO met with Town Attorney and the Judge to make sure the tickets were made out properly.

Supervisor Johnson reported that the only recommendation from the Judge was to follow the Town Law. Supervisor Johnson said the only concern he had that once all avenues are exhausted, the Highway Superintendent under the supervision of the Sheriff could go in and clean up the properties. Supervisor Johnson does not want to subject the Town employees to this and suggested that if it comes to this recommended that the Town could put the cleanup out to bid.

The Town Clerk distributed the Treasurer's Report.

The Dog Control Officer, Karen Jaquay, submitted two reports which Supervisor Johnson read as follows:

April 11, 2013 to May 7, 2013:

There were no strays picked up this month. There was one lost dog call.

The April 27 Rabies Clinic resulted in 52 dogs and cats vaccinated. The charge was \$5.00 per animal. The vet charged \$150.00 for 1-1/2 hours of work and \$5.00 per vaccine. The total cost was \$410.00 paid by check to Little Falls Veterinary Clinic. My suggestion is if we are to continue this clinic, we will need to increase the fee to lessen the town's costs. The clinic ran smoothly. All dogs and cats were leashed or crated and under the owner's control.

May 8, 2013 to June 11, 2013

There were no stray dogs picked up this past month.

One call for two missing dogs by local resident. Dogs were not found.

One complaint for two dogs running at-large. Dog owner was issued a warning and instructed to keep dogs contained per Town law.

Superintendent Goodwin gave the following report:

Delivery on the new Plow Truck should be the end of June.

The men worked on East Shore Road and Kelly Road. Painted the Ford truck that they just picked up.

The Grader is down, men working on the transmission. Superintendent Goodwin had John Deere look at it. They said if it was the transmission it would cost approximately \$30,000.00. He felt it wasn't worth it since the grader is 33 years old.

Superintendent Goodwin asked the Board if the Highway Department could rent a grader for the time being, the cost would be \$4,500.00 per month from Chris Eaton.

Motion made by Councilman Perkins, seconded by Councilwoman Youker to allow the Highway Department to rent a grader for \$4,500.00 per month for possibly two months.

**ADOPTED** Ayes 4 Johnson, Perkins, Leavitt, and Youker  
Nays 0

Oppenheim is interested in buying the old sweeper. The Highway Department does not use it any more.

Motion made by Councilman Perkins, seconded by Councilman Leavitt to sell the sweeper to Oppenheim Highway Department.

**ADOPTED** Ayes 4 Johnson, Perkins, Leavitt, and Youker  
Nays 0

**RESOLUTION #17-13 to Raise the Highway Department Improvement Account DA5112.2 to \$112,830.44**

**WHEREAS**, The Stratford Town Board decided at the Town Board meeting on June 13, 2013 and

**WHEREAS**, the Supervisor had discussed the amount of chips for this year with the Superintendent

**RESOLVED**, that the Highway Department's Improvement Account DA5112.2 be raised from \$89,000.00 to \$112,830.44.

**Offered by: Councilman Perkins, seconded by Councilman Leavitt**

**ADOPTED: Ayes 4 Johnson, Perkins, Leavitt, and Youker**  
**Nays 0**

**PUBLIC SPEAKING**

Alicia Rice said she responded to the Post Office Survey and hoped that all residents would. She suggested that a petition be started to present to the Post Office officials that the Town would like the Post Office to continue operating at the 7.5 hours as it does now. There will be a meeting with the Postal Service July 15, 2013 at 5:00 pm for all residents. Ms. Rice asked Town Clerk Massicotte if she would post this information.

Motion made by Councilwoman Youker, seconded by Councilman Perkins to support the petition to keep the Stratford Post Office operating at 7.5 hours.

**ADOPTED** Ayes 4 Johnson, Perkins, Leavitt, and Youker  
Nays 0

Leigh Anne Loucks mentioned that the resident who is trying to clean up his property was turned away from the Transfer Station because he was over the limit. Supervisor Johnson said the Town would be fined for taking more than the limit.

Gary Rumrill asked Superintendent Goodwin for fill when the Highway Department was fixing the culvert on Avery Road.

**OLD BUSINESS**

The bids for the removal of the tree in the Town Park were read by Supervisor Johnson as follows:

Miller Tree Expert and Landscape Company  
7112 St. Hwy. 29  
Dolgeville, NY 13329

Tree removal in Town Park, take down,  
Chip all brush,  
Leave all wood where it falls,  
Leave stump cut 12” to 18” above ground. \$750.00

Congdon Logging & Tree Service  
Salisbury Center, NY

Remove and cut down. \$700.00

Rick’s Tree Service  
45 North Helmer Avenue  
Dolgeville, NY 13329

Cut one Tree in Town Park,  
Chip brush,  
Leave wood \$500.00

The contract was awarded to Rick’s Tree Service.

**RESOLUTION #18-13 Statutory Installment Bond Resolution**

**WHEREAS**, the Town of Stratford, New York requires a 2014 snow plow truck with conventional style cab and chassis with Hydraulic Plow Equipment and dump body, which cost is authorized to be paid from the proceeds of obligations issued pursuant to the Local Finance Law.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:**

1. The specific object or purpose is to finance the purchase of a 2014 snow plow truck with conventional style cab and chassis with Hydraulic Plow Equipment and dump body.

2. The cost of the 2014 snow plow truck with conventional style cab and chassis with Hydraulic Plow Equipment and dump body is an aggregate maximum cost of One Hundred Ninety-three Thousand and No/100 (\$193,000.00) Dollars.
3. We hereby authorize the issuance of a Statutory Installment Bond in the maximum amount of One Hundred Thirty Thousand and No/100 (130,000.00) Dollars. To the extent that the Town has funds available, additional Town of Stratford funds will be applied for the purchase of said 2014 snow plow truck with conventional style cab and chassis with Hydraulic Plow Equipment and dump body.
4. The Statutory Installment Bond is a general obligation of the Town of Stratford payable both principal and interest by a general tax upon all of the real property in the Town, and annual appropriation shall be made in each year sufficient to pay the principal and interest on such obligation becoming due and payable in each year.
5. The following determinations are hereby made:
  - a. The period of probable usefulness of the 2014 snow plow truck with conventional style cab and chassis with Hydraulic Plow Equipment and dump body is five (5) years.
  - b. The subdivision of Paragraph a. of Section 11.00 of the Local Finance Law which is applicable in the circumstances is subdivision 32.
  - c. The proposed maturity of the obligation authorized by this resolution will not be in excess of three (3) years.
6. The Town of Stratford is subject to the provisions of Local Finance Law Section 104.10 (3) and the Supervisor of the Town of Stratford is hereby authorized to make an application to the State Comptroller for approval of the issuance of the Statutory Installment Bond.
7. The Town of Stratford, New York is authorized to issue its statutory Installment bond in an amount not to exceed One Hundred Thirty Thousand Dollars (\$130,000.00) and it shall mature on or before the last day of July 31, 2016, and shall be paid in annual principal and interest installments as follows:
  - a. July 31, 2014                    \$43,333.00 plus \$3,900.00 Interest
  - b. July 31, 2015                    \$43,333.00 plus \$3,900.00 Interest
  - c. July 31, 2016                    \$43,333.00 plus \$3,900.00 Interest

The bond shall be issued in registered form. The bond shall bear interest at a rate not exceeding 9% per annum payable annually. Both the installments of principal and interest on this bond will be evinced by notation on the bond at the time of the payment. The bond shall be in substantially the form required by Section 62.10 of the Local Finance Law.

8. The Supervisor of the Town of Stratford, New York is hereby authorized to prepare such bond and to sell the bond at private sale not less than par and accrued interest within the limitations set forth in this resolution. The Supervisor shall deliver the bond to the purchaser thereof only against cash

or a certified check. The powers delegated to the Supervisor by the Town Board of the Town of Stratford, New York by this resolution shall be exercised in conformity with the provisions of the Local Finance Law.

9. The bond to be issued hereunder shall be a qualified tax exempt obligation under the Internal Revenue Code of 1986. It is reasonably anticipated that the total qualified tax-exempt obligations issued by said Town will not exceed Ten Million Dollars (\$10,000,000.00) in any calendar year.

10. This resolution shall take effect immediately.

**Offered by: Councilman Perkins, seconded by Councilman Leavitt**

**ADOPTED: Ayes 4 Johnson, Perkins, Leavitt, and Youker  
Nays 0**

Resident asked if the assessment could go higher than 100%. Assessor Loucks said probably not. Supervisor Johnson said the State gives the final say regarding the tax rate. The State will accept 100% assessment.

Ms. Klages asked about the custodian. Supervisor Johnson said the custodian is yet to be determined. Diane Keck will be in therapy for approximately six months, but is doing well.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Supervisor Johnson reported that Assessor Loucks found the Community Center door unlocked. Whoever rents the hall or uses the building for meetings will have to be more diligent about checking the doors before leaving.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Motion made by Councilman Perkins, seconded by Councilman Leavitt to approve the Board meeting minutes of May 8, 2013.

**ADOPTED Ayes 4 Johnson, Perkins, Leavitt, and Youker  
Nays 0**

**AUDIT OF CLAIMS**

Motion made by Councilman Perkins, seconded by Councilman Leavitt to approve the bills on Abstract #6

Ayes - 4 Johnson, Perkins, Leavitt and Youker  
Nays - 0

General Fund	Voucher Nos. 92 through 114	\$16,527.04
Highway Fund	Voucher Nos. 68 through 82	\$12,119.50

With no further business, on a motion by Councilman Leavitt, seconded by Councilman Perkins, the meeting was adjourned at 7:40 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Diana Massicotte, Town Clerk