

Sate of New York  
County of Fulton  
Town of Stratford

Minutes of the Stratford Town Board meeting held on Wednesday, September 11, 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
Leigh Anne Loucks	---	Assessor
Peg Klages	---	Deputy Town Clerk

Late:

Lorraine Rumrill	---	Councilwoman
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Absent:

Norman Wright	---	Code Enforcement Officer
Lita Hillier	---	Bookkeeper

Supervisor Johnson called the meeting to order at 6:08 pm with the Pledge to the Flag.

Residents in attendance: Joe and Pearl Serbaniewicz, David Galarneau, Heidi Christiansen, Peter and Mary Szczebak, Gary Rumrill, Dick and Sue Fogarty, Allicia Rice, Carolyn Walker, Henry Eifert, Ken Thompson, Mary Beth Cammann, Donna Hasbrouck, Barbara Schwartz, and Gary Ford.

Supervisor Johnson stated there was an old resolution on the books that should have the wording changed to make the intent clearer. He discussed it with the Town Attorney who gave him the wording. Councilman Leavitt said he would feel more comfortable if there was a written letter from the Attorney. The matter was tabled until the next meeting.

On a motion made by Supervisor Johnson, seconded by Councilman Leavitt to move into executive session at 6:15 pm regarding a personnel matter.

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

Councilwoman Rumrill arrived during the executive session.

The meeting was called back from the executive session by Supervisor Johnson at 7:43 pm to the regular meeting.

There were three people interviewed for the position of sole Assessor. One Monday night and two tonight. The vote was four to one in favor of Leigh Anne Loucks being appointed Sole Assessor for the next six years.

## **REPORTS**

Code Enforcement Officer - No report.

No Treasurer's Report.

The Dog Control Officer, Karen Jaquay, submitted her report which Supervisor Johnson read as follows:

August 9, 2013 to September 10, 2013

- 8/22 – Stray cat call, directed caller to local cat rescues.
- 8/23 – Animal neglect call. Went to residence in question and found all animals in good health but unlicensed. Gave order to comply, dog owner had all vaccinated and licensed.
- 8/24 – One stray picked up and brought to shelter on same day.
- 8/25 – dog bite call. Dog is licensed and vaccinations are up to date.
- 8/26 – Met with AG and Mkts for the yearly DCO inspection and passed.
  
- 8/28 – Received a call for a possible dog abandonment issue. Went to residence in question and found three dogs in the house. Water and food visible thru the window, left notice requesting the owners to contact me within 24 hours. No calls from owners. Went back and found owners had removed all the dogs to an undisclosed location.

The Assessor reported as follows:

There are four SCAR hearings left, which will be heard on October 7, 2013 and October 10, 2013. There were two which were dismissed, one because the owners didn't qualify to file a SCAR and the second one was dismissed because the owner sent the SCAR forms to the Town Clerk and the forms were not forwarded to me until September 7, 2013, after I requested them from her. The resident was very irate, as he stated the inside information was addressed to the Assessor's Office, but nonetheless, the case was dismissed. There should be better procedures in place, so that the paperwork is forwarded to the Departments in which it pertains to. Determinations on all cases will be mailed at the convenience of the Hearing Officer.

All Board Members have a letter from the Hearing Officer who presided over the case designated at the top of the correspondence. I requested that this letter be written after I was informed statements had been made by certain Board members that resident's SCAR forms had been compromised/destroyed during the hearing. If there are any further questions with regard to that hearing, the Hearing Officer's name and phone number are listed.

The Supreme Court petition has been answered by the Assessor's Office separately from the Town Board and BAR, per Supervisor Johnson's request. No further court dates have been set, as far as I know.

There was a hearing scheduled originally for September 23, 2013, which was denoted on the petition when it was originally received by my office and the Town Attorney. At some time on or around August 9, 2013 the Town of Stratford was notified that the hearing had been rescheduled, via a letter to the Town Clerk. The Town Clerk failed to notify myself or the Town Attorney with regard to this change. Fortunately, the hearing was cancelled, but the Deputy Town Clerk notified me of that at approximately 3:45 pm on August 20, 2013. I feel there should be a better procedure in place to be sure that necessary paperwork is distributed to the departments which it pertains to, so as the Town is represented in the manner that it should be.

There were two FOIL requests which were brought up during court proceedings in the last week. The first was a FOIL submitted by Attorney Linda Clark, Esq. on July 11, 2013, which I received a copy of on August 28, 2013. That copy came from the office of Linda Clark, the Town Clerk notified me of the FOIL request on August 31, 2013. Since the FOIL request included a large amount of information from the Assessor's office, I find it very troublesome that I was not made aware of this request for almost two months. It also was a factor in the property owner's case since it was made to look like the Assessor's office was withholding public information, which I was not. It is difficult to provide someone with information when not aware that they are looking for it. The second FOIL request was from a resident who also took great offense to the fact that his FOIL was submitted on July 27, 2013, and he still had not even been responded to.

Again these are issues the Assessor's office has no control over, but became an issue I was expected to defend.

The Assessor's office will be closed September 17-24, 2013. The email address has been changed to townofstratfordassessor@gmail.com.

Superintendent Goodwin gave the following report:

Men worked on the shoulders on Red House Road, cut brush on Dugway and Avery Road. They will be hauling sand next week. Superintendent Goodwin read quotes on bridge work as follows:

Repair the wing wall on Edick Road. Sand bag to detour the water away from the wall. Shotcrete (pneumatically projected concrete) the laid up stone around the void. Anchor in Re-rod and galvanized mesh. Shotcrete out to the original face of the wing wall.

This job with labor, equipment, and materials will cost: \$3,310.00

Repair the headwall on the concrete culvert on Piseco Road. Jack hammer the headwall and catch the concrete before it goes in the creek. Drill and anchor in re-rod. Form up the headwall and pour it with class A concrete.

This job with labor, equipment and materials will cost: \$18,250.00

**RESOLUTION 21-2013**

**RESOLUTION BY TOWN BOARD ACCEPTING THE QUOTES FOR BRIDGE REPAIR ON EDICK AND PISECO ROADS**

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

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

**WHEREAS**, that the Town Board of the Town of Stratford has \$47,000.00 to fund the project,

**AND WHEREAS**, the Town Board of the Town of Stratford accepted the quotes from R & B Construction, LLC,

**RESOLVED**, that work for bridge repair on Edick and Piseco Roads may commence as soon as possible.

**PUBLIC SPEAKING**

Carolyn Walker asked if lights could be put in for the back of the building.

**OLD BUSINESS**

Superintendent Goodwin stated that Ranger Ploss suggested the Highway Department not do any work on Hawes Road until the logger was finished.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Supervisor Johnson contacted Fulton County Superintendent of Highways Mark Yost regarding the height of grass along the main highway to see if they had scheduled mowing.

Supervisor Johnson stated he would like the Town to think about developing the Town land for a park for the area children.

**RESOLUTION 22-2013**

**RESOLUTION BY TOWN BOARD ACCEPTING LOANS UNDER THE STRATFORD HOME REPAIR PROGRAM**

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

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

**WHEREAS**, that the Town Board of the Town of Stratford hereby approves the loans under the Stratford Home Repair Program for applicant numbers:

SHR-001-13, SHR-002-13, SHE-003-13

**RESOLVED**, as recommended by the Fulton County Community Heritage Corporation (FCCHC) on the attached Loan Summary and Recommendation form with Funds to be made available from funds currently held by FCCHC that were recovered from properties previously assisted with NYS Community Development Block Grant funds and sold during the regulatory period,

**AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that assistance to project number SHR-004-13 be provided if it is determined by FCCHC that sufficient funds remain after payment of all necessary construction, administration and program delivery costs.

**RESOLUTION 23-2013**

**RESOLUTION BY TOWN BOARD ACCEPTING TODD AND ERIN VEDDER'S CERTIFICATION FOR SUBDIVISIONS INVOLVING REGULATED WETLANDS**

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

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

**WHEREAS**, the Town Board of the Town of Stratford hereby accepts the two lot subdivision described in General Permit 2011G-1 Certification, and

**WHEREAS**, the project site is located on Seeley and Piseco Roads in the Town of Stratford, Fulton County, Tax Map No. 21.-1-10.211,

**RESOLVED**, as authorized by the Adirondack Park Agency, the Town Board of the Town of Stratford accepts Todd and Erin Vedder's subdivision.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

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

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

**AUDIT OF CLAIMS**

Motion made by Councilwoman Rumrill, seconded by Councilman Perkins to approve the bills on Abstract #9

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

General Fund	Voucher Nos. 153 through 174	\$ 5,398.62
Highway Fund	Voucher Nos. 111 through 121	\$112,602.12

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

Respectfully submitted,

Diana Massicotte, Town Clerk