

State of New York  
County of Fulton  
Town of Stratford

Minutes of the Stratford Town Reorganization and Regular Board meeting held on Thursday, January 9, 2014 at the municipal building located at 120 Piseco Rd.

Present:

Robert Johnson Jr.	---	Supervisor
Allan Perkins	---	Councilman
Lorraine Rumrill	---	Councilwoman
Dawn Youker	---	Councilwoman
Joan Ploss	---	Councilwoman
Charles Goodwin	---	Superintendent
Diana Massicotte	---	Town Clerk
Leigh Anne Loucks	---	Assessor

Absent

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

Supervisor Johnson called the regular meeting and reorganization meeting to order at 6:30 pm with the Pledge to the Flag.

Residents in attendance: Heidi Christiansen, Henry and Dorothy Eifert, Gary Rumrill, Joyce Ploss, Sue Fogarty, John Ploss and Ken Thompson.

Supervisor Johnson asked Town Clerk Massicotte to give the oath of office to the following officers:

Supervisor Robert E. Johnson  
Councilman Allan Perkins  
Councilwoman Joan Ploss

Supervisor Johnson stated that the reorganization meeting scheduled for January 2, 2014 was cancelled due to bad weather conditions and would be incorporated into the regular meeting.

**RESOLUTION #1-14**

**RESOLUTION TO MAKE NECESSARY 2013 YEAR-END BUDGET TRANSFERS AS FOLLOWS:**

<b>To:</b>	<b>A1920.4 – Municipal Assoc Dues</b>	<b>\$ 188.00</b>	
<b>From:</b>	<b>A1990.4 – Contingent</b>		<b>\$ 188.00</b>
<b>To:</b>	<b>A3620.4 – Code Enforcement C.E.</b>	<b>\$2,756.44</b>	
<b>From:</b>	<b>A1990.4 – Contingent</b>		<b>\$2,756.44</b>
<b>To:</b>	<b>A9055.8 – Disability Insurance</b>	<b>\$ 23.40</b>	

<b>From:</b>	<b>A9060.8 – Health Insurance</b>		<b>\$ 23.40</b>
<b>To:</b>	<b>DA5110.4 – General Repairs C.E.</b>	<b>\$22,719.08</b>	
<b>From:</b>	<b>DA9720.6 – Statutory Bond</b>		<b>\$22,719.08</b>
<b>To:</b>	<b>DA5130.2 – Machinery E.Q.</b>	<b>\$45,391.00</b>	
<b>From:</b>	<b>DA9720.6 – Statutory Bond</b>		<b>\$21,280.92</b>
<b>From:</b>	<b>DA9950.9 – Transfer to Capital Projs.</b>		<b>\$24,110.08</b>
<b>To:</b>	<b>DA5142.4 – Snow Removal C.E.</b>	<b>\$ 3,152.25</b>	
<b>From:</b>	<b>DA5142.1 – Snow Removal P.S.</b>		<b>\$ 3,152.25</b>

**Offered by: Councilwoman Rumrill, seconded by Councilman Perkins**  
**ADOPTED: Ayes 5 Johnson, Perkins, Rumrill, Youker, and Ploss**  
**Nays 0**

**RESOLUTION #2-14 TO AMEND THE 2013 HIGHWAY FUND BUDGET TO RAISE REVENUES AND APPROPRIATIONS TO USE BOND PROCEEDS RECEIVED FROM ADIRONDACK BANK TOWARD PURCHASE OF HIGHWAY TRUCK AS FOLLOWS:**

<b>DA510 – Estimated Revenues</b>	<b>\$130,000.00</b>
<b>(DA5731 – Bond Proceeds)</b>	
<b>DA960 – Appropriations</b>	<b>\$130,000.00</b>
<b>(DA5130.2 – Machinery E.Q.)</b>	

**Offered by: Councilwoman Rumrill, seconded by Councilwoman Ploss**  
**ADOPTED: Ayes 5 Johnson, Perkins, Rumrill, Youker, Ploss**  
**Nays 0**

**RESOLUTION #3-14 TO AMEND THE 2013 HIGHWAY FUND BUDGET TO RAISE REVENUES AND APPROPRIATIONS TO USE EXCESS CHIPS (CONSOLIDATED HIGHWAY IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM) AID RECEIVED FROM THE NYS THRUWAY AUTHORITY AS FOLLOWS:**

<b>DA510 – Estimated Revenues</b>	<b>\$18,331.93</b>
<b>(DA3501 – CHIPS Aid)</b>	
<b>DA960 – Appropriations</b>	<b>\$18,331.93</b>
<b>(DA5112.2 – CHIPS)</b>	

**Offered by: Councilwoman Rumrill, seconded by Councilwoman Ploss**  
**ADOPTED: Ayes 5 Johnson, Perkins, Rumrill, Youker, and Ploss**  
**Nays 0**

**RESOLUTION #4-14 Naming Appointed Positions for the year 2014**

**WHEREAS, the Stratford Town Board held its Reorganizational meeting on January 9, 2014 and**

**WHEREAS**, the following information was examined and reviewed by the Stratford Town Board, now therefore be it

**RESOLVED**, that the following persons are hereby appointed as officials in the Town of Stratford for the year 2014:

Code Enforcement Officer	--	Norman Wright
Registrar of Vital Statistics	--	Diana Massicotte
Dog Control (Animal Control Officer)	--	Karen Jaquay
Health Officer	--	To be determined
Historian	--	Carolyn Walker
Building Maintenance Staff	--	Leo Aubin
Building Janitorial Staff	--	April Carpenter
Sole Assessor	--	Leigh Anne Loucks
Attorney to the Town	--	Allen R. Day
Deputy Town Supervisor	--	Allen Perkins
Deputy Highway Superintendent	--	Earl J. Youker Jr.
Deputy Town Clerk/Tax Collector/ Sub-Registrar	--	Margaret Klages

**Offered by: Councilman Perkins, seconded by Councilwoman Rumrill**  
**ADOPTED: Ayes 5 Johnson, Perkins, Rumrill, Youker, and Ploss**  
**Nays 0**

**RESOLUTION #5-14 Naming Elected Officials and their Positions for the year 2014**

**WHEREAS**, the Stratford Town Board held its Reorganizational meeting on January 9, 2014 and

**WHEREAS**, the Stratford Town Board did examine and review the list of the elected officials and their titles, now therefore be it

**RESOLVED**, that the following are hereby listed as the elected officials, in the Town of Stratford for the year 2014 as follows:

Supervisor	--	Robert E. Johnson Jr.
Highway Superintendent	--	Charles Goodwin
Town Clerk/Tax Collector	--	Diana Massicotte
Town Justice	--	Douglas Gardner
Councilman	--	Allan R. Perkins
Councilwoman	--	Lorraine Rumrill
Councilwoman	--	Dawn R. Youker
Councilwoman	--	Joan Ploss

**Offered by: Councilwoman Rumrill, seconded by Councilwoman Ploss**  
**ADOPTED: Ayes 5 Johnson, Perkins, Rumrill, Youker, and Ploss**  
**Nays 0**

**RESOLUTION #6-14 to set yearly salaries and hourly rates for the year 2014**

**WHEREAS**, the Stratford Town Board held its Reorganizational meeting on January 9, 2014 and

**WHEREAS**, the town board desires to set the salaries of Elected, and Appointed Officials in the Town of Stratford, Now therefore be it

**RESOLVED**, that the following yearly salaries and hourly rates as amended for elected and appointed officials, in the Town of Stratford for the year 2014:

**Salary Elected & appointed Officials to be paid monthly**

(1) Supervisor	\$ 12,000.00
(1) Town Clerk/Tax Collector	\$ 10,390.00
(4) Town Board Members	\$ 1,600.00 ea.
(1) Budget Officer/Bookkeeper to Supervisor	\$ 4,674.00
(1) Payroll Clerk	\$ 1,809.00
(1) Town Justice	\$ 5000.00
(1) Dog Control Officer	\$ 2,850.00
(1) Code Enforcement Officer	\$ 9,200.00

**Salary Appointed Officials to be paid bi-annually:**

(1) Attorney to the Town (paid by voucher)	\$ 4,500.00
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**Salary Appointed Officials to be paid annually:**

(1) Historian	\$ 175.00
(1) Assessment Review Board Chairman (paid by voucher)	\$ 235.00
(4) Assessment Review Board Members (paid by voucher)	\$ 165.00 ea.
(1) Deputy Superintendent of Highways	\$ 1,000.00
(1) Registrar of Vital Statistics	\$ 546.00
(1) Deputy Supervisor	\$ 700.00

**Salary Elected & appointed Officials to be paid weekly:**

(1) Sole Assessor	\$ 14,710.00
(1) Superintendent of Highways	\$ 34,505.00

**Appointed Employees to be paid hourly:**

Motor Equipment Operators (Highway; full-time)	\$ 15.17
Laborers per hr (Highway; full-time)	\$ 9.45
Senior Mechanic	\$ 16.81
Senior Equipment Operator	\$ 16.81
(1) Deputy Town Clerk -Not to exceed \$3,000.00 per year	\$ 10.30
(1) Laborer (Janitorial & Maintenance Staff)	\$ 10.30

**Offered by: Councilwoman Rumrill, seconded by Councilman Perkins**

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

**RESOLUTION ON #7-14 stating Organizational Business - Miscellaneous for the year 2014**

**WHEREAS**, the Stratford Town Board held its Reorganizational meeting on January 9, 2014 and

**WHEREAS**, the following information was examined and reviewed by the Stratford Town Board, now therefore be it

**RESOLVED**, that the following information is hereby offered for the purpose of conducting business in the Town of Stratford for the year 2014:

Financial Institution:

Supervisor- Adirondack Bank Little Falls, NY 13365

Town Clerk/Tax Collector- M&T Dolgeville, NY 13329

That the Regular meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Stratford will be held on the second Thursday of each month at 6:30 p.m. at Town Hall 120 Piseco Road.

Official newspapers are the Evening Times and the Leader Herald.

That the Supervisor is authorized to do the following: Invest money anytime that there is money to invest. Pay fixed bills such as telephone, electric, gasoline, oil, salaries, contract, insurance, etc., when due. Pay monthly salaries of elected officials on the Thursday following the Board Meeting.

That Gas Mileage for the year 2014 will be \$0.56 per mile.

**Offered by: Councilwoman Ploss, seconded by Councilwoman Rumrill**

**ADOPTED: Ayes 5 Johnson, Perkins, Rumrill, Youker, and Ploss**

**Nays 0**

**AUDIT OF CLAIMS**

Motion made by Councilwoman Rumrill, seconded by Councilman Perkins to approve the bills on Abstract #13.

Ayes - 5 Johnson, Rumrill, Perkins, Youker, Ploss

Nays - 0

General Fund	Voucher Nos. 246 through 261	\$2,261.50
Highway Fund	Voucher Nos. 168 through 175	\$3,484.39

**REPORTS**

Assessor reported as follows:

Exemption forms are being returned, somewhat slower than in previous years. A second form (reminder) will be going out on January 15th. Please tell anyone who needs their forms picked up, to contact the office to make arrangements.

I was made aware of the assessed valuation discrepancy with regard to the budget for 2014. In the future, instead of requesting the information from Fulton County, a printout of the Tax Roll totals and Exemption Impact Report should be requested from the Assessor's Office, at the beginning of the budget process and then again prior to the Public Hearing (the valuation may change if there have been SCAR or court ordered reductions). Fulton County has had a county-wide database for almost two years, so both their office and the Assessor's office will have the same totals and impact reports. Following this procedure may alleviate future problems.

The office hours will be changing, within the next couple of weeks. At this time, the office is open every Tuesday, 12:30 to 2:30 and any other time by appointment. If a clerk of the office is appointed, there will be additional hours. At this time it was suggested by the Town Board to have the office open two days a month (when the Town Clerk is open) and a Saturday as needed. If anyone has any questions/comments/suggestions let me know.

I have spoken to Robert Harris, with regard to his assistance in reviewing and maintaining the 100% valuation of the Town of Stratford. He will be forwarding me an outline of his services and cost by the 15th of January.

Supervisor Johnson asked the Assessor what Saturday she would be there. She asked the Town Clerk which Saturday she would be open, Clerk Massicotte said she would be open the second Saturday of the month year round.

Superintendent of Highways reported as follows:

The heaters will be put in the wall on Tuesday. New F550 truck was delivered at Christmas, Charlie Stahl is mounting box on truck. The pickup out of body shop, but engine light was on, so checking on that. The men worked on Truck 8, trying to fix box hinge. Wood was cut for the wood stove.

They are still having a water problem. He called John Rachon about water filter system.

Supervisor Johnson read the Code Enforcement Officer's report as follows:

December 12, 2013 through January 8, 2014

Issued one Demolition Permit

Completed three inspections

No Report from Dog Control Officer.

Supervisor Johnson read a thank you note from Emma Baulch for the Children's Christmas party. All had fun.

Supervisor Johnson read the Contract for Fire and/or Emergency Protection. The Agreement made the 9th day of January, 2014 between the Town of Stratford, Fulton County, New York, hereinafter designated as the Town and The Stratford Volunteer Fire Company of Stratford, Fulton, New York, hereinafter designated as the Fire Company.

**PUBLIC SPEAKING**

Gary Rumrill asked Superintendent Goodwin if they were going to hire a mechanic. He felt they should promote from within. He also asked about the mining permit.

Supervisor Johnson said that Superintendent Goodwin is an exemplary employee. He is working as a mechanic and snowplowing. He is assessing the help for position of mechanic.

Alicia Rice reported that the school board would be meeting February 5 to discuss the capital improvement project. She encouraged all to attend.

Resident asked what you would need a building application for; Supervisor Johnson stated he would have to see the Code Enforcement Officer. In certain areas you have to go through the Adirondack Park Agency for permission to build.

Brian Alling reported that the firemen that had volunteered are in training. He complimented Superintendent Goodwin for the good job in keeping the roads being cleared.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Motion made by Councilwoman Rumrill, seconded by Councilwoman Ploss to approve the Board meeting minutes of December 12, 2013.

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

Supervisor Johnson welcomed Councilwoman Joan Ploss to the Town Board.

**OLD BUSINESS**

None

**NEW BUSINESS**

Superintendent Goodwin said the new truck would be delivered February 1. The 1955 Ferguson with wood splitter was put online for \$3,400.00.

Alicia Rice asked about the adjustment on the budget. The rate was left at \$3.48 per thousand.

Motion made by Councilman Perkins, seconded by Councilwoman Ploss to move into executive session to discuss BTI replacement.

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

Meeting at rest at 7:35 pm.

Supervisor Johnson called the meeting to order at 7:55 pm. The Board had discussed hiring Michael Sokira as Director of BTI replacing Candace Dean. There will be two Pesticide Applicator Technicians from Stratford and two from Caroga.

**RESOLUTION 8-14 TO APPOINT MICHAEL SOKIRA AS DIRECTOR OF THE BTI PROGRAM**

**WHEREAS**, the Stratford Town Board held its Regular meeting on January 9, 2014 and

**WHEREAS**, the Town Board reviewed the qualifications of Michael Sokira who has worked as an Applicator for three years, now therefore be it

**RESOLVED**, that the Town Board has appointed Michael Sokira as Director of the BTI Program for the year 2014:

**Offered by: Councilman Perkins, seconded by Councilwoman Ploss**

**ADOPTED: Ayes 5 Johnson, Perkins, Rumrill, Youker, and Ploss**

**Nays 0**

Supervisor Johnson said we are in need of a Health Director if anyone has any suggestions, please let the Board know.

Town Clerk Massicotte said she had snowmobile trail maps for Fulton-Montgomery Counties in the office if anyone is interested.

Supervisor Johnson asked Town Clerk Massicotte if she had given all the Board members a copy of the budget, she said she would see they all received one.

Supervisor Johnson announced that their insurance carrier, MIR, gave the town a new flag. There was discussion regarding using it outside the Town Office. Superintendent Goodwin stated the rope broke on the flag pole and would be taken care of in the Spring.

**AUDIT OF CLAIMS**

Motion made by Councilwoman Rumrill, seconded by Councilman Perkins to approve the bills on Abstract #1.

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

General Fund	Voucher Nos. 1 through 12	\$10,785.58
Highway Fund	Voucher Nos. 1 through 6	\$ 6,757.73

Supervisor Johnson announced that because he has a meeting conflict, the February meeting would be held Wednesday, February 12 instead of Thursday.



With no further business, on a motion by Councilwoman Ploss, seconded by Councilwoman Rumrill, the meeting was adjourned at 8:16 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Diana Massicotte, Town Clerk