

State of New York
County of Fulton
Town of Stratford

Minutes of the Stratford Regular Board meeting held on Wednesday, February 12, 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
Norman Wright	---	Code Enforcement Officer

Absent

Lita Hillier	---	Bookkeeper
Leigh Anne Loucks	---	Assessor

Supervisor Johnson called the regular meeting to order at 6:24 pm with the Pledge to the Flag.

Residents in attendance: Heidi Christiansen, Henry and Dorothy Eifert, Sue Fogarty, Emma Baulch, Paul Riley, Judy Snowman and Ken Thompson.

REPORTS

The Code Enforcement Officer, Norman Wright, reported as follows:

January 9, 2014 through February 12, 2014

Issued one Building Permit

Issued one Appearance Ticket

Completed three inspections

There will be two new houses going up this year.

CEO Wright asked if there were any questions. There were questions regarding the level of buildings. CEO Wright stated the following:

Type 5A can be 55 feet, two-story only, the outside walls are noncombustible.

Type 5B can be 40 feet, two-story only, 2x6 wood walls, plywood, back to back.

CEO Wright stated that depending where you lived in town, you might have to go through the APA. The APA controls lakes and creeks regarding building permits. Once they approve the application, then the CEO can issue a town building permit.

Supervisor Johnson read the Dog Control Officer's reports for January and February as follows:

December 13, 2013 to January 16, 2014

Two dog calls.

Call about instructions on how to start an investigation into animal cruelty. Called the person several times and left a message. Received no call back.

An owner called about his two dogs that jumped the home fence. They have not been located as of 1/16/14.

January 17, 2014 to February 12, 2014

As of the last report only one call came in about proper housing for dogs in winter. Advised caller on the subject.

Supervisor Johnson read the Assessor's report as follows:

There are eight exemption forms still outstanding. Reminders are going out again by the end of this week, as well as phone calls.

The office is still operating on the office hours of Tuesdays 12:30 – 2:30 and any other time by appointment.

Superintendent of Highways reported as follows:

The men are sanding and plowing. They are repairing trucks and equipment as needed.
Cutting trees for wood furnace.

The EPA stopped into the Garage to check on water problem.
May have to dig well in the Spring.

Supervisor Johnson said there was about \$20,000.00 in the fund for Highway projects. Superintendent Goodwin would like to fix the heating system in the barn as the system does not heat efficiently.

PUBLIC SPEAKING

Bus Driver Cherie, who drives for the Dolgeville Central School, read a statement regarding an incident January 15 on Piseco Road. She stated she called the Highway Department to have them come and sand the road as it was quite slippery. They came and sanded. Superintendent followed in his truck, told the bus driver the road was clear. She took offense because of the tone of his voice. Superintendent Goodwin said he was sorry if she took offense from his remark.

Emma Baulch announced the sledding party for children on February 22 from 12:00 to 3:00 to be held on hill by the old school. She asked for \$150.00 donation. Councilwoman Ploss asked how the money would be used. Emma replied that it would go toward the food and prizes and music if David Hazzard couldn't play. Supervisor Johnson said he did not feel comfortable paying for music since the Band Concerts did not receive money from the town. The Board felt that a CD would work just as well for the children.

Motion made by Councilwoman Rumrill, seconded by Councilwoman Ploss to approve the funds for the sledding party on February 22, 2014.

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

The BTI Update from Mike Sokira was passed to all Board members. The following actions have taken place in the administration of the Bti program for the town:

1. Upgraded from a 5b pesticide technician to a 5b commercial applicator. This was necessary to run the town's pesticide program.
2. Applied to the DEC for a pesticide business registration as our last registration expired in 2013.
3. Applied to the DEC to become a pesticide training instructor. Will need to develop and submit lesson plans to the DEC after receipt of training instructor approval, before any training can occur. Currently, Peter Szczebak and I are the only applicators for the town. Will need to add more pesticide applicators to insure a successful outcome for the town.
4. Applied to the DEC for a permit to apply Bti to area streams. The last permit was expired in 2012. This included new area treatment maps, an environmental assessment and notification of 375 riparian owners. (letters sent out 1/29/14). The cost to the Town for this application is \$100.00 with a separate yearly invoice coming later from the DEC Dept of Water for \$100.00 as part of the State Pollution Discharge Elimination System Pesticide General Permit.
5. The DEC requested that I submit the annual Aquatic Insect Control Report (due November 15) as they did not receive it. The report was mailed to the DEC on 1/14/14. The report states that 19.24 gallons of VectoBac 12AS were used to treat area streams.
6. All pertinent information, including the treatment area map, the permit, the Business Registration, the NYSDEC contact information, the National Pesticides Information Center phone number and my contact information will be posted in the town hall after receipt of the permit.

Ken Thompson asked about the new truck. Supervisor Johnson said he was almost done with the paper work. The Town will make two payments for the truck. The first year the Town will pay \$30,000.00, and the following year the Town will pay \$31,000.00.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion made by Councilwoman Rumrill, seconded by Councilwoman Ploss to approve the Board meeting minutes of January 9, 2014.

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

OLD BUSINESS

Sue Fogarty suggested that the Board have the Town Attorney draw up a letter to send to the School Board requesting that voting take place in our town, making it easier for the residents. Supervisor Johnson said he would give the information to the Attorney to see if anything could be done.

RESOLUTION 9-14 HIRING STRATFORD RESIDENTS

WHEREAS, the Stratford Town Board held its Regular meeting on February 12, 2014 and

WHEREAS, if any job position became available within the town and

WHEREAS, if an applicant is a registered voter and resident of Stratford and

WHEREAS, an applicant is qualified for the open position, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that for all open positions after this Resolution is adopted, the residents of Stratford shall have the right to be considered among all other applicants for said open positions, as long as they are qualified; and this Resolution supersedes Resolution #8-11.

Offered by: Councilman Perkins, seconded by Councilwoman Rumrill

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

Sue Fogarty asked why we had to have this resolution in the first place. Supervisor Johnson said that residents complained to him regarding the hiring practices of the Town. The Highway Department positions come under the civil service, so the Town has to follow civil service rules. The applicant has to fill out an application which by law is kept on file. The Highway Superintendent can hire personnel in an emergency situation, other than that, the Town Board has control over the budget.

NEW BUSINESS

Councilman Perkins said that Frank Rice was in the hospital.

Motion made by Councilwoman Ploss, seconded by Councilwoman Rumrill to move into executive session to discuss the Highway position.

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

Meeting at rest at 7:45 pm.

Supervisor Johnson called the meeting to order at 8:38 pm. The Board discussed the employment history of applicant. No resolution decided.

Motion made by Councilwoman Ploss, seconded by Councilman Perkins to have Superintendent Goodwin install second heater in Garage.

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

AUDIT OF CLAIMS

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

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

General Fund	Voucher Nos. 13 through 38	\$25,876.34
Highway Fund	Voucher Nos. 7 through 21	\$18,219.62

With no further business, on a motion by Councilwoman Youker, seconded by Councilwoman Ploss, the meeting was adjourned at 8:49 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Diana Massicotte, Town Clerk