

State of New York
County of Fulton
Town of Stratford

Minutes of the Stratford Regular Board meeting held on Thursday, April 10, 2014 at the municipal building located at 120 Piseco Rd.

Present:

Robert Johnson Jr.	---	Supervisor
Allan Perkins	---	Councilman
Lorraine Rumrill	---	Councilwoman
Joan Ploss	---	Councilwoman
Charles Goodwin	---	Superintendent
Diana Massicotte	---	Town Clerk
Norman Wright	---	Code Enforcement Officer
Lita Hillier	---	Bookkeeper
Michael Sokira	---	BTI Director
Peg Klages	---	Deputy Town Clerk

Absent

Dawn Youker	---	Councilwoman
Leigh Anne Loucks	---	Assessor

Supervisor Johnson called the regular meeting to order at 6:34 pm with the Pledge to the Flag.

Residents in attendance: Heidi Christiansen, Henry and Dorothy Eifert, Emma Baulch, Jordan Aubin, Carolyn Walker, Gary Rumrill, Judy Snowman, Ken Thompson, David Cool, Paul Riley and Allicia Rice.

REPORTS

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

March 14, 2014 through April 10, 2014

- One Eviction
- Three Appearance Tickets
- One order to remedy violation
- Two Building Permits
- Eight Inspections

Supervisor Johnson read the Assessor's Report as follows:

The 2014 Tentative Roll is on schedule for filing with the Town of Stratford Town Clerk on or around May 1, 2014, as mandated by NYSRPTL. The Tentative Roll will be placed online via the Town website after it is filed with the Town Clerk.

Grievance Day for the Town of Stratford will be held on Wednesday, May 28, 2014, from 4:00 pm to 8:00 pm at the Stratford Town Hall. RP524 forms are available on the Town website and will be available in the office and can be filed with the Assessor's Office at any time after the filing of the Tentative Roll. The Assessor will be in attendance with the Tentative Roll the following dates and times:

Saturday, May 3, 2014 from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm
Thursday, May 8, 2014 from 4:00 pm to 8:00 pm
Tuesday, May 13, 2014 from 12:30 pm to 4:30 pm
Tuesday May 20, 2014 from 12:30 pm to 4:30 pm

The Tentative Roll will be available for public inspection at all times the Town Hall is open.

The Town was notified of a resignation from the Board of Assessment Review in July 2013 (by fax and email to the Town Clerk), and to date the issue has not been addressed. The members of the BAR are under the jurisdiction of the Town Board and a replacement needs to be appointed as soon as possible. There is a training session set at the Fulton County Real Property Office prior to Grievance Day and the newly appointed person should be included in that training.

Peg Klages stated that the training was May 8, 2014. Paul Riley was interested in applying. Clerk Massicotte said she would see Paul Riley received the forms.

Supervisor Johnson read the Dog Control Officer's report as follows:

March 14, 2014 through April 9, 2014

A ticket was issued for a second offense of running at large. Supporting deposition was included with ticket. Owner of dog will appear in court on April 15, 2014.

Stray, unidentified dog picked up and taken to Brennan on March 22, 2014.

March 26, 2014, went to town printer and had supporting depositions printed.

Superintendent Goodwin gave his report as follows:

Hopefully no more plowing.

Ran out of sand two weeks ago. Hauled sand in.

Sweeper back together, started sweeping roads Monday. Raking roads

Working on fall equipment, sanding and painting.

Will be picking up dirt at intersections.

Hired Wade Allen, working into mechanic position, has mechanical skills. He is below pay scale for equipment operator, he has to meet certain criteria to step up to be equal to motor equipment operator, then he will go through different training modules to get up to speed regarding the work. Mr. Allen has

90 days to first step, then another 90 days to meet the Superintendent's criteria and get a CDL to get motor equipment operator pay scale. Mr. Allen is a town resident and has quite a bit of experience and Superintendent Goodwin said he was adapting pretty well.

The Highway Department will be updated for First Aid April 25, 2014.

Superintendent Goodwin said he had a quote on repairing the truck box for \$16,000 with \$8,000 down. The quote on the new box was \$28,000. Supervisor Johnson asked if we could get by with the old one this summer. Superintendent Goodwin said that would not be a problem.

Billie's truck box is in bad shape. Superintendent Goodwin said he was putting the truck back in the auction with the bucket truck. Superintendent Goodwin said the Highway Department was working on a ten hour day work schedule.

Supervisor Johnson said the workers started out with the Union at certain pay brackets. There is a Memorandum of Agreement to come before the Board to sign which will be included in the union negotiations.

Gary Rumrill asked where he could obtain an application for a position at the Highway Department. He can obtain one from the Superintendent or the Town Clerk

Budget Director Hillier handed out the Treasurer's reports for January, February and March. She asked if there were any questions. The Board stated they would look them over and if any questions, would get back to her. Supervisor Johnson said that she and Garth were in our prayers.

BTI Director, Mike Sikora, gave his report as follows:

1. Completed teaching the 30 hour Pesticide Certification course for two new applicators. Waiting to hear if they passed their DEC exams.
2. Some residents, with fast flowing streams on their property, did not receive a letter. In order to update our database, I have sent out letters to everyone in town who did not receive a letter on the first go around, asking if they have fast flowing water on their property to let us know. The letter was also seeking permission to treat on their property. For all other residents, it was an informational letter stating we were going to begin treating early spring. About 500 letters were sent yesterday, April 9, 2014.
3. All the required information has been posted on the wall in the Town Hall. This includes:
 - a. Area Coverage maps.
 - b. DEC and BTI contact information.
 - c. Pesticide hotline/Poison control hotline.
 - d. Business Registration.
 - e. Permit.
 - f. Pesticide label.

4. Completed a pesticide inventory. There are 12½ gallons in the shed. Will need to order more this month.
5. Will need to order supplies and equipment for our new applicators. Waiting results on their test results.

Supervisor Johnson introduced Jordan Aubin, a Dolgeville senior, who was observing the meeting for a school project.

Clerk Massicotte announced that the Mosquito Dunks were available to whoever wanted them.

PUBLIC SPEAKING

A resident asked if the Smart Water Report which will be released Monday, April 14, 2014, will affect the town. Supervisor Johnson stated the Town of Stratford would more likely be tied into Herkimer County because the water flows south. The County has cited several sites that could be potential sites for a fresh water supply. Supervisor Johnson asked the County if they do a county wide smart water project, will it be tied into our tax levy. There will be nothing on our tax levy. The project is to have water and sewer available for potential companies coming into the area. The town would get an extra revenue resource out of the tax base.

Resident asked about the water at the Highway Department. There is still sand in the water. Supervisor Johnson stated they would have to find out why there is sand in the water before the Town goes ahead with new well.

Gary Rumrill asked about the school. Supervisor Johnson said he was checking on it to see if the asbestos was out of the school. There are eleven acres with the parcel. Supervisor Johnson stated that there were grants for recreational use. He would like to see a nice area for the residents.

OLD BUSINESS

Supervisor Johnson reminded everyone that there would be a meeting at the Community Center regarding meth labs and heroine on April 24, 2014 at 6:30 p.m.

NEW BUSINESS

Supervisor Johnson stated he received a letter from Ag and Markets saying the Brennan Human Society had violations and they have thirty days to comply.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion made by Councilman Perkins, seconded by Councilwoman Rumrill to approve the Board meeting minutes of March 13, 2014.

ADOPTED Ayes 4 Johnson, Perkins, Rumrill, and Ploss
 Nays 0

AUDIT OF CLAIMS

Motion made by Councilwoman Rumrill, seconded by Councilwoman Ploss to approve the bills on Abstract #4.

Ayes - 4 Johnson, Rumrill, Perkins, and Ploss
Nays – 0

General Fund	Voucher Nos. 51 through 78	\$ 6,920.32
Highway Fund	Voucher Nos. 33 through 42	\$13,189.95

With no further business, on a motion by Councilwoman Ploss seconded by Councilwoman Rumrill, the meeting was adjourned at 7:57 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Diana Massicotte, Town Clerk