

State of New York  
County of Fulton  
Town of Stratford

Minutes of the Stratford Regular Board meeting held on Thursday, September 11, 2014 at the municipal building located at 120 Piseco Rd.

Present:

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

Late:

Lorraine Rumrill	---	Councilwoman
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Absent

Leigh Anne Loucks	---	Assessor
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Supervisor Johnson called the regular meeting to order at 6:33 pm with the Pledge to the Flag.

Residents in attendance: Henry Eifert, Peter and Mary Szczebak, Allicia and Frank Rice, Heidi Christiansen, Sue Fogarty, Gary Ford, David Cool, Ken Thompson, Lori and Rick Gray, Jim and Carol King, and Jay Pierz.

## **REPORTS**

Code Enforcement Officer, Norman Wright read his report as follows:

August 14, 2014 through September 10, 2014

- Issued four Building Permits
- Issued two Certificates of Compliance
- Three meetings
- Six Inspections
- Two complaints
- There were many phone calls

The Treasurer distributed her reports for May, June and July. Supervisor Johnson stated it was good to see her back.

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

August 8, 2014 through September 10, 2014

The beginning of this period was quiet. No dogs or calls until 9-7-14.

On September 7, 2014 to September 9, 2014, I was involved in an animal neglect case. This is an ongoing case. Five dogs were owner surrendered to Brennan. One of the five dogs had to be taken to the Little Falls Vet Clinic for emergency treatment. This was billed to the town. The five dogs were not charged to the town. The following is the report on this situation:

I received a call concerning a horse running loose on 29A. I informed the caller that the horse most likely belonged to Dorothy Perkins. I was asked to show them where the residence was located, so they could bring the horse back to its owner.

When I got to 106 N. Avery Road the person that called me was already there. She said that there were dogs in poor condition and asked me to take a look. To the right, I found a lab x male and a pure Rottweiler female. Both had no visible food present. Their water was black and green colored. Their houses consisted of two bed liners and holes dug in the ground. No floors or bedding present. Large amounts of feces around both dog areas.

To the left was a young female Rottweiler x, thin body condition, with no shelter, water or food present. She was located by the back door. Across from her was an emaciated pure Rottweiler female, I could not see food or water for her. She had a dog house. Large amounts of feces present around both dogs.

Straight back from the first four dogs, in the woods were three female Lab/Rottweiler x dogs, they were in a wire pen with two small pieces of plywood nailed together to make an A frame shelter with no floor, just large enough for one dog. No food present, a bucket filled with black-green water was there for them to drink. The pen was wet and filled with large amounts of feces. They were all emaciated. As they ran back and forth in the pen, feces were sprayed on me.

Straight back from these dogs was a large Newfoundland x male in need of grooming. His housing consisted of a truck cap and holes in the dirt. No floor or bedding present. A large tumor hung from his bottom jaw. He seemed thin in appearance. Dirty water and no food present. Large amount of feces was around the dog's area.

To the far left in the woods was another wire pen that contained two male Lab/Rottweiler crosses. No shelter present. A bucket with black-green water was there for them to drink. Upon inspection, mosquito larvae were swimming in the bucket. The pen was wet and filled with feces with a piece of plywood on the ground. Both dogs were in fit shape.

The horse was in fit shape. The area where he was housed had plastic, in mud about three feet deep. There was an old cooler present to water the horse with black-green water in it. The open barn opening had the deep mud to get into the building. There was hay present but trampled into a few feet of manure in the building. There is a window there that the horse has access to with no protected covering to keep the horse from going thru. Also there was a ladder laying on a rock

inside the building that the horse had access to and could become tangled in and harm itself. No signs of fresh hay or water present.

Ranger John Ploss was present for all and called the Sheriff's Department for assistance in the matter at hand.

Sheriff Deputy Lennon and Peters arrived and proceeded to look for the owner of the dogs. Dorothy Perkins arrived and claimed ownership for some. The others were in her care for four months. She was instructed to be home at 12:30 the next day for questioning.

On September 8, 2014, the Fulton County Sheriff asked that the Town Vet (Little Falls Vet Clinic-Dr. Sarah Snell) be present to evaluate and do a body score on all animals. One dog had to be taken to the clinic for emergency care.

I was able to get help from the Caroga Lake DCO and the head of Brennan in removing some of the animals. They were owner surrendered. Three dogs were missing. Dorothy Perkins said the owners came and took them away.

The case is still pending and more or all dogs may be taken and charges pressed.

On September 8, 2014, I picked up a stray/unidentified dog. This was brought to the shelter on September 9, 2014.

Supervisor Johnson read Assessor Loucks report as follows: There are currently three Small Claims Assessment Review hearings outstanding. At this time there is a tentative date in October for them to be heard.

Regular office hours will resume on September 16, 2014.

Superintendent Goodwin said Stewart Landing Road was blacktopped in one straight run. Superintendent Goodwin said he was sorry for the inconvenience to the residences on this road. Hauled shoulder material to Stewart Landing Road. Hope to get to the shoulders within the next two weeks. Trees cut on Kelly Road. Working on dump truck box.

The following report was given by Frank Rice, Secretary of the Stratford Volunteer Fire Company, Inc.:

### **Membership**

The Stratford Fire Company continues to conduct formal meetings, which are open to the public, on the first Tuesday of each month at 7:30 pm, with the exception of July. The Company has recruited three new members since our last report yielding twenty-four active members. In addition, the Company also includes twenty non-active members and three honorary retired members.

### **Training**

Training remains the highest priority within the Company and since our last report, two members have completed Fire Fighting 1, one of which continued to gain National Certification, three members

have completed Fire/Police Training, seven have completed Swift Water Rescue Awareness, and nine have completed CPR training. In addition to State Certified trainings, the Company conducts monthly in-house trainings such as Landing Zone Setup, Radio Communications, and Water Supply Operations.

## **Incidents**

The Stratford Fire Company has thus far this year responded to twenty-one incident calls and the chimney fire season hasn't yet begun indicating that this year's total number of responses will exceed last year's.

The particulars of all incidents are recorded by both Fulton County Fire Dispatch and Stratford Fire Company. Each major incident is reviewed and discussed with Steve Santa Maria, the new Fulton County Fire Coordinator, and at each instance this year the Stratford Fire Company has been again applauded for its professionalism, rapid response, and number of responding personnel.

## **Activities**

The Stratford Fire Company has unanimously agreed to continue an outstanding relationship with the Town by providing a water supply at nominal cost with the Town Road Department. The Company has also contracted and installed a new concrete driveway apron with added steel reinforcement to support the heavy load of the vehicles. The Company has also procured a commercial laundry washer required by Occupational Safety and Health Administration and National Fire Protection Agency Standards to remove any foreign particulates including, ash, soot, and carcinogens from each member's turnout gear when needed. And lastly, the Company, with the assistance of both the Pleasant Lake and Stewarts Landing Associations, has established year round water source locations in each community and is actively conducting drills at each location for their protection. The Company also continues to be active supporters and participants in the Southern Adirondack Fire Prevention Team.

## **Future Considerations**

The Stratford Fire Company continues discussions concerning its major long range plans of renovating the second floor area as a temporary lodging area during extreme weather disasters, procuring suitable work station clothing and dress uniforms, and the replacement of the current outdated engine in use.

## **Summary**

The Stratford Fire Company continues to serve the Town to the best of its abilities. It continues to function within all National, State, and County guidelines and standards. It continues to function in a safe and productive fashion as the members continue to volunteer their time and in some cases donating their expenses.

Each member is provided the mandatory two year physical exam by a State certified physician. Each member is assigned the necessary turn out gear which is valued at approximately \$3,500 and must be replaced every ten years. Each vehicle, each air pack, hose, fire extinguisher, rope and ladder must have yearly certified inspections. The Company must also adhere to suggested guidelines of maintaining funds available for the unexpected repair or replacement of equipment or vehicles.

However, as State and Federal grants become more and more scarce, the Company is hard pressed to meet these required standards and regulations within its present budgetary constraints. As tax payers, each Fire Company member appreciates the efforts of the Stratford Town Board to avoid unnecessary increases in the taxes they collect, and each Fire Company member is proud to provide this valuable and professional service to the Town at a cost well under the current budgets of our surrounding comparable fire districts. It is the hope of the Stratford Fire Company that the Stratford Town Board will understand and appreciate that the safety and protection of our residents is paramount and that our request for increased funding be therefore granted.

Supervisor Johnson said we were suppose to receive some money from the grants the County received. It was suppose to be for equipment. Mr. Rice said they would check into it.

BTI Director, Mike Sokira gave the following report:

DEC November Report finalized for 2014 – Used 13.5 gallons of BTI to treat 24.7 miles of streams.

Map posted in office highlighting streams that were treated.

Looking to hire one or two more applicators for the 2015 season. Will advertise and schedule class in early February.

Updating stream sheets and treatment process to better evaluate treatment success.

Will order 30 gallons of BTI in February 2015.

### **PUBLIC SPEAKING**

Peter Szczebak said Stewart Landing Road looked good.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

Supervisor Johnson asked Heidi Christiansen if they were working on the ordinance, she said they were.

Resident asked about the school. Supervisor Johnson said they were looking into it. He would like to see it set up as a recreational area. There would be a possibility of a sand and gravel pit. We would be eligible for a grant up to \$400,000. The Town could purchase the school for \$85,000. Supervisor Johnson said he will have Town Clerk Massicotte send out an informational letter to all residents, enclosing a card for a yes or no reply. Since the school is a condemned building, the County would help with the removal of debris. The owner said he took a lot of asbestos out of the building. The agreement would be made up by our Town Attorney. Supervisor Johnson said this is an ongoing procedure.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

Supervisor Johnson said he had minutes from the DEC which shows he did address the issues at the Stewart Landing boat launch. “Bob Johnson discussed the misuse of Stewart Landing area and perhaps more control is needed. He discussed the situation with Ranger Ploss.” Bob offered to finish the boulder placement to restrict unauthorized vehicles to reduce the partying and litter issue. Residents want boulders there so people cannot back down to launch their big boats. The big concern it the invasive species and how to control it. Supervisor Johnson said there are residents who live on Stewart Landing

that have to have access in order to put in their boats. He suggested that if it was gated, that would help eliminate outside access of the big boats which hopefully would help eliminate the invasive species. It would be a limited access gate, with the Stewart Landing residents and Fire Department having keys to the gate. The Landing would still be available to those who want to picnic, swim or launch small boats; such as kayaks or canoes.

Resident thought that the Governor passed a bill requiring that every boat launch in the state will have to have a boat wash station. Supervisor Johnson said he would check into it.

Supervisor Johnson asked Budget Director Hillier when she would like to have a budget workshop. She said she has to present the budget to the Board by October 1. It was decided to have a Budget workshop September 22 at 6:30 pm.

Councilwoman Rumrill arrived at the meeting at 7:40 pm because she had to attend a 9/11 ceremony at the Salisbury Fire Department.

Clerk Massicotte announced that Saturday, September 13, the Historical Society is putting on an all-day band concert. The Stratford Seniors will be selling pies.

The issue at Pleasant Lake regarding the septic problem has been resolved. Supervisor Johnson said that the Town should consider adopting a policy regarding the yearly pumping of septic systems by landlords who rent their property. CEO Wright said it would increase his workload having to inspect the septic systems of all rental properties in the town.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Motion made by Councilman Perkins, seconded by Councilwoman Ploss to approve the Board meeting minutes of August 14, 2014.

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

**AUDIT OF CLAIMS**

Motion made by Councilwoman Rumrill, seconded by Councilwoman Ploss to approve the bills on Abstract #9.

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

General Fund	Voucher Nos. 163 through 181	\$ 4,893.00
Highway Fund	Voucher Nos. 102 through 117	\$11,162.11

With no further business, on a motion by Councilman Ploss seconded by Councilwoman Rumrill, the meeting was adjourned at 7:55 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Diana Massicotte, Town Clerk