

State of New York
County of Fulton
Town of Stratford

Minutes of the Stratford Regular Board meeting held on Thursday, November 13, 2014 at the municipal building located at 120 Piseco Rd.

Present:

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

Absent

Michael Sokira	---	BTI Director
Leigh Anne Loucks	---	Assessor

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

Residents in attendance: Brian Alling, Dorothy Eifert, Allicia and Frank Rice, Heidi Christiansen, Sue Fogarty, Ken Thompson, Paul Riley, Peter and Mary Szczebak, David Cool, Carolyn Walker, Peter Jaikin, J. Perz, Donald Vedder, and Todd Vedder.

REPORTS

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

October 9, 2014 through November 12, 2014

- Issued one Building Permits
- Three appearance tickets
- Seven Inspections
- One complaint, unsafe chimney
- There were many phone calls

The Treasurer distributed her report for September and October.

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

October 9, 2014 through November 12, 2014

On November 6, 2014, I picked up an unidentified stray dog on Youker Road. This was at 8:00 pm. It was taken to Brennan Humane Society on November 7, 2014 in the am. This was DL1806. The rest of the month was quiet.

Supervisor Johnson read the Assessor, Leigh Anne Loucks' report as follows:

The Small Claims Assessment Review hearings have been completed and the determinations received.

Exemption forms have been mailed out and are returnable through March 1, 2015. Reminders will go out again in early January for any resident who has not filed at that time. If any resident is in need of having their forms picked up, please have them call the office and leave a message, and I will make arrangements. Also, if you know of anyone turning 65 during the year 2015, please have them contact the office to determine their eligibility for Senior exemptions.

Highway Superintendent, Charles Goodwin, gave his report as follows:

Finished transporting sand for winter.
Made turnaround on Kelly Place for Bus.
Trucks ready for winter.
Cut wood for boiler.
Cutting more brush.
Removed picnic tables from walkway. Superintendent said they are unsafe and should be replaced. Supervisor Johnson recommended that the picnic tables be cut up and thrown in the dumpster. He suggested next year new ones could be made up of pressure treated wood.

Bookkeeper Hillier suggested rescinding the proposed Local Law and resolution to hold a public hearing. If the local law is on the table and you override the tax cap, no rebates would be issued.

Motion made by Councilman Perkins, seconded by Councilwoman Ploss to rescind Resolution 16-2014 on the proposed Tax Cap Law No. 3 public hearing, to Override the Tax Levy Limit.

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

PUBLIC SPEAKING

Resident asked what the Town was doing about the old school. Supervisor Johnson said it was an ongoing process. There is a lot of ground work to accomplish. He would have to get permission from the residents and check into grants.

Motion made by Councilwoman Rumrill, seconded by Councilwoman Ploss to open the meeting for discussion on the preliminary budget.

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

Discussion began at 6:45 pm.

Alicia Rice asked about increase in Highway building, Superintendent Goodwin said they were planning to repair the Town Garage Roof in 2015. She questioned the amount in the Town Clerk's equipment, Clerk Massicotte said she needs new computer. She also asked about BTI program, Supervisor Johnson said Director Sokira wanted to hire two more people. She asked about CEO's salary which was double. Supervisor Johnson said he told the CEO he would compare other town salaries of about the same size to see what the going salary was for CEO's. He said he did not get the raise yet which would be discussed at the reorganization meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

More discussion on the Stewart Landing Dam. If it is gated, residents would still be able to use the area to launch small boats.

Discussion regarding Code Enforcement position.

NEW BUSINESS

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion made by Councilwoman Rumrill, seconded by Councilman Perkins to approve the Board meeting minutes of October 9, 2014.

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

Clerk Massicotte announced that the Leavitts are putting on a free Thanksgiving Dinner for anyone who will be alone for the holiday.

The Annual Children's Christmas Party for Stratford residents will be held December 6, from 1:30 pm to 4:00 pm.

Clerk Massicotte reported that there had been a problem with the toilet over the weekend, but Leo came in on Sunday to fix the problem. There is too much sand coming in the water line and the filters have to be changed quite often.

Clerk Massicotte asked about renting the hall to other than Stratford residents. Supervisor Johnson said the more the hall is used the more wear and tear. Supervisor Johnson said when the hall was built, it was with the understanding that the residents of Stratford would have the use of it. The Board decided to leave the rental of the hall for residents only.

Supervisor Johnson said they had to go into executive session.

Motion made by Councilman Perkins, seconded by Councilwoman Ploss to move into Executive Session to discuss personnel matter with Code Enforcement Officer at 7:35 pm.

Ayes 5 Johnson, Perkins, Rumrill, Ploss and Youker

Nays 0

Supervisor Johnson called the meeting back to order at 8:28 pm.

Hearing no more discussion on the 2015 Budget, Motion made by Councilwoman Ploss, seconded by Councilwoman Rumrill to close the public hearing at 8:31 pm.

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

Motion made to open meeting for the 2015 Budget workshop, Motion made by Councilwoman Rumrill, seconded by Councilman Perkins at 8:32 pm.

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

Bookkeeper Hillier discussed some of the changes that were made. The tax cap was actually over by \$4,233.00, but after Supervisor Johnson had a discussion with Superintendent Goodwin it was decided to decrease Line item, DA5130.2 from \$35,000.00 down to \$29,000.00. In light of this fact, the Budget is under the tax cap by \$1,757.00. This is why the hearing for the tax cap law and law were rescinded.

The County did not put in the corrections for the State land. Once they put the state land corrections in, our assessed evaluation went down to \$1,934,799.00. This added to the tax rate, bringing the Highway rate up two cents, from \$3.10 to \$3.12 and the Fire Fund from \$.50 to \$.52. Bookkeeper Hillier said she has not received the new assessed evaluation for the Fire district.

The preliminary assessed evaluation was \$117,668,162.00 which has decreased to \$115,251,722.00. This changes the tax rate but we are under the tax cap.

Motion made to close meeting for the 2015 Budget workshop, Motion made by Councilwoman Rumrill, seconded by Councilwoman Ploss at 8:32 pm.

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 #11.

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

General Fund	Voucher Nos. 201 through 223	\$ 8,406.65
Highway Fund	Voucher Nos. 134 through 149	\$31,364.95

Supervisor Johnson said they made some suggestions to the Code Enforcement Officer during the executive session. Supervisor Johnson said that we had a good town and hoped we could all work together for the common good.

RESOLUTION 17-2014

ADOPTION OF 2015 BUDGET

Offered by Councilman Perkins, Seconded by Councilwoman Rumrill.

ADOPTED	Ayes	4	Johnson, Perkins, Leavitt, and Rumrill
	Nays	1	Youker

WHEREAS, the Stratford Town Board held its regular meeting on November 13, 2014,

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED, that this governing body adopts the final budget at a total of \$1,034,438.00 which includes the fire district of \$60,000.00.

With no further business, on a motion by Councilman Perkins seconded by Councilwoman Ploss, the meeting was adjourned at 8:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Diana Massicotte, Town Clerk