

State of New York
County of Fulton
Town of Stratford

Minutes of the Stratford Regular Board meeting held on Thursday, July 9, 2015 at the municipal building located at 120 Piseco Rd.

Present:

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

Absent:

Lita Hillier	---	Bookkeeper
Michael Sokira	---	BTI Director

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

Residents in attendance: Carolyn Walker, Dorothy Eifert, Richard Ostrander, Gary Rumrill, Sue and Dick Fogarty, Gary Ford, Peter and Mary Szczebak, Heidi Christiansen, Doriene Wester, Allicia and Frank Rice, Ann and Joseph Pierz, Paul and Cathy Riley, Ken Thompson and Jim Hein.

REPORTS

The Code Enforcement Officer read his report as follows:

June 11, 2015 through July 8, 2015
Issued five building permits
Four inspections
Two meetings
Many phone calls

No Treasurer's report.

Assessor, Leigh Anne Loucks, reported as follows:

Law suit settled between town and six residents. There was a \$904,000 deduction on these six parcels as stipulated by the Town Board with Town Attorney.

I had requested a meeting with the Supervisor and Board with Town Attorney to discuss updating the tax roll for 2016 so it would be a fair and equitable roll for everybody. There was a discussion with four board members that that was not going to happen. The Town is going to have a tax shift from those six parcels of \$22,779.86 to the remaining property of the Town. The meeting was cancelled.

Supervisor Johnson said that as Supervisor it was his responsibility to set up meetings with the attorney. If we had a meeting, it would be with the whole Board in Executive Session and you said you did not want that. That option was given to the Assessor that has to be clear first. I told the lawyer that we were not going to pay him any more lawyer fees, the lawsuit was settled. You received a \$2,000,000 reduction in your state property. To begin with the State property was never assessed properly or high enough. The State keeps coming back to charge the residents the difference they keep reducing every year. While I am in the Supervisor's position, I do not feel that the residents should have to have their property assessed any higher. I don't care if there was \$22,000 difference because there is a lot more than that with the State. It is not just the money you are getting in from your residents, you have to look at the whole picture of the revenue stream; such as the sales tax revenue is up from \$50,000 to \$60,000. If we had never done this reval, which we should have never done; we should have done just the update. The only ones who are getting hurt are the people who are paying, Right now three hundred parcels got ripped off as far as I am concerned. I am fed up with the reval. I told you from the beginning it was not a good idea. We have had three revals in this town since I have lived here and every one of them was no good. Each one failed and it is because of the state. I am not blaming you because you have a situation with the guy that did the reval because you cannot make contact with him. The money we spent on this reval, could have been given to the taxpayers as a reduction in taxes.

Supervisor Johnson received resounding applause for his remarks.

Assessor stated that the town now has 6 parcels at the 2012 assessment values and 1146 parcels at the 2013 assessment values. I have six meetings with people that have asked for paperwork to grieve their assessments. So it is not going to stop.

Supervisor Johnson said it is not going to hurt the Town in the long run. There are 16 or more parcels for sale on the lake. We don't want these people to leave, they are 2nd and 3rd generation. These are people who pay their taxes. They do not plan on selling their property right away. You need to find common ground. The State is always going to entice us to change our assessments, but if you keep track of the buildings that are being built and adding to your tax roll, keep track of your expenditures in your budget, you will be able to manage our town. People from the outside have no concept of the land or property values. We have values on vacant land now that are way too high. We do not have any police protection, you have to travel 20 to 25 miles to any amenities. It is my feeling that we should have a small truck as first responder at the lakes because as good as our Volunteer Fire Department is; it takes too long to respond at the lakes.

Supervisor Johnson feels our taxes in the town are fair but when you add the School taxes and County taxes, it becomes a burden on the residents.

Highway Superintendent Goodwin reported as follows:

- Two quotes on Oregon Bridge.
- Bliss Rd. - Tore up black top, getting ready for oil and stone.
- Gleason Rd. – Ripped up black top
- Mallet Hill and Piseco Rd. – cutting brush
- Piseco Rd. – ditching, have to do some brush cutting
- Bickford Rd. – getting ready for black top

Supervisor Johnson read the following notice that was posted in the newspapers:

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, pursuant to Section 103 of the General Municipal Law of the State of New York, the undersigned will receive sealed bids at the office of the Town Clerk for Asphalt Concrete Paving. Proposals must be submitted on the official bid form only.

Formal bids and specifications may be obtained at the Town of Stratford Highway Department between the hours of 6:30 am and 5:00 pm Monday through Thursday.

The Town Clerk will receive bids until 6:30 pm on July 9, 2015. Bids will be opened and read aloud during the regular Town Board Meeting, beginning at 6:30 pm on July 9, 2015.

The Town Board reserves the right to reject any or all bids.

Superintendent of Highways
Town of Stratford, New York

Bid amount from Hanson Aggregates for Bickford Road \$51, 922.50 was only bid received.

RESOLUTION #8-15 TO ACCEPT THE BID FROM HANSON AGGREGATED NEW YORK LLC FOR ASPHALT CONCRETE PAVING

WHEREAS, the Stratford Town Board decided at the Town Board meeting on July 9, 2015 and

WHEREAS, the Supervisor read the bid from Hanson Aggregated New York LLC for Asphalt Concrete Paving and

WHEREAS, it was decided to do Bickford Road for \$51,922.50

RESOLVED, that the bid from Hanson Aggregated would be accepted as stated.

Offered by: Councilman Perkins, seconded by Councilwoman Rumrill

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

Two quotes received for bridge work from Stephen Miller General Contractors, Inc. and R&B Construction LLC.

Stephen Miller General Contractors, Inc. Bid:

Scope of work: Steel repairs.

1. Install 5/16" plate 13" wide x 20' long on bottom flange of G3 and G4 midspan.
2. Install 1/4" plate 31" deep x 12" long both sides of web at bearing area on G2-G5.

Work Complete ----- \$17,110.00

Clarifications/Exclusions:

1. All plate A36 steel.
2. All welding by a NYSDOT certified welder.
3. Includes prevailing wages.
4. Price based on this project being tax exempt.
5. Excludes work related to unforeseen conditions.
6. This proposal may change if not accepted within 14 days from this date.

R & B Construction, LLC

Bridge on Piseco Lake Rd. over Canada Creek

Cover plate 3 stringers G1-G2-G4 with 20' x 12-1/2" x 1/2" plate.

5/16" continuous weld each side of the stringer for a total of 120' of weld.

Patch plate G2-G3-G4-G5 with 30" x 12" x 1/4" plate both sides of the stringer

Each cover plate on both sides of the stringer will be fully welded for a total of 56' of weld.

We will clean all areas where the plates will be against the stringers and where they are to be welded.

Bid amount -----\$18,880.00

RESOLUTION #9-15 TO ACCEPT BID FROM R & B Construction, LLC

WHEREAS, the Stratford Town Board decided at the Town Board meeting on July 9, 2015 and

WHEREAS, to accept the bid from R & B Construction, LLC to perform necessary bridge work on Piseco Lake Rd. over Canada Creek,

RESOLVED, to accept bid of \$18,880.00

OFFERED BY: Councilman Perkins, seconded by Councilwoman Ploss

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

Report from Karen Jaquay, DCO, read by Supervisor Johnson as follows:

June 12, 2015 through July 9, 2015

Received a call about a dog bite incident. The bite happened in our town, the owner of the dog lived in another town. I helped the Public Health Dept. in Fulton County locate owner and dog. This was to help a Town of Stratford resident avoid having to go thru rabies shots.

I received a call for an unidentified female lactating dog at large. I am still trying to locate and capture this dog. I put in a call to the Town of Mayfield DCO, asking to borrow their dog trap. I will be picking up this trap tonight, July 9. I am hoping to capture this dog soon and hopefully be able to locate the litter.

At this time, I would like to put in a request to purchase a large dog trap for the town instead of borrowing. I feel this would help in many ways. It would help catch unidentified dogs running at large with less chance of injury to DCO and Animals. Attached to this report is a place to buy the trap. Thank you for considering this request.

Supervisor Johnson read Michael Sokira, BTI Director, report as follows:

Submitted the Technicians job expectations document, updated with inputs from last month's Board Meeting, for Board approval.

Not finding larvae. We are done treating for this year.

I need to make updates to the treatment area map to include some other streams for next year.

I will update the board on this year's pesticide usage and creeks treated as soon as I compile all the information.

PUBLIC SPEAKING

Resident asked if the worker hired a year ago has his equipment operator license. Superintendent Goodwin said he made an appointment for September. He has to take his test using manual equipment as the license specifies whether you can drive manual or automatic. The Stratford equipment is manual. Supervisor Johnson said he was hired to be head mechanic.

Heidi Christiansen stated that residents did not have to wait until May to take their grievances to the Assessor. It can be done any time between now and Grievance Day in May.

Resident questioned assessment and asked what could be done. BAR member, Paul Riley, stated that the BAR is designed to review what was assessed. Unless you provide a preponderance of evidence that the assessment is incorrect, the BAR can do nothing to lower assessment. If the assessment is wrong, the BAR has no problem lowering the assessment. If not satisfied, the next step is Small Claims Court.

Resident asked about taxes paid by State. Supervisor Johnson stated they set the rate they want to pay for taxes. Supervisor Johnson said he would see what the County says about the State's share of taxes.

Sue Fogarty felt the State should pay their fair share. She said she would be willing to be on the committee to address this problem in Albany.

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

Supervisor Johnson received one bid for the Stratford Town Barn Roof. After talking with CEO Wright, Supervisor Johnson feels compelled to put a bid out for an engineer to make sure it is done correctly. We have \$25,000 set aside. Hold the bidding for roof until next year and put whole project out for bid.

Motion made by Councilwoman Rumrill, seconded by Councilwoman Ploss to approve the purchase of a dog crate for the DCO.

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion made by Councilwoman Ploss, seconded by Councilwoman Rumrill to approve the regular Board meeting minutes of June 11, 2015.

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

AUDIT OF CLAIMS

Motion made by Councilman Perkins, seconded by Councilwoman Ploss to approve the bills on Abstract #7.

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

General Fund – Abstract 7 Voucher Nos. 94 through 108 \$ 3,932.33

Highway Fund - Abstract 7 Voucher Nos. 83 through 96 \$10,621.82

With no further business, on a motion by Councilwoman Rumrill seconded by Councilwoman Ploss, the meeting was adjourned at 7:33 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Diana Massicotte, Town Clerk