

State of New York  
County of Fulton  
Town of Stratford

Minutes of the Stratford Regular Board meeting held on Thursday, August 13, 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
Lita Hillier	---	Bookkeeper

Absent:

Michael Sokira	---	BTI Director
Peg Klages	---	Deputy Town Clerk

Supervisor Johnson called the regular meeting to order at 6:33 pm with the Pledge to the Flag.

Residents in attendance: Carolyn Walker, Dorothy Eifert, Evelyn Hagstrom, Richard Ostrander, Sue and Dick Fogarty, Peter and Mary Szczebak, Allicia Rice, Paul Riley, John Ploss and Ken Thompson.

**REPORTS**

The Code Enforcement Officer read his report as follows:

July 9, 2015 through August 12, 2015  
Issued three building permits  
Eleven inspections  
Two meetings  
Issued two stop work orders  
Many phone calls

Couple wants to build a guest cottage. It has been approved by the APA with the following conditions: This building cannot be rented, can only be used on occasional basis, only by guest of the resident, cannot be more than 2000 square feet or less. CEO wanted to present this information to the Board for their recommendation. Property is a three acre lot. The cottage will consist of bedrooms and place to shower. The main residence is too close to water to add on to house, but per APA, they can build a guest house.

**RESOLUTION #10-15 TO ALLOW GUEST HOUSE ON THREE ACRE PROPERTY**

**WHEREAS**, the Stratford Town Board decided at the Town Board meeting on August 13, 2015 and

**WHEREAS**, APA has approved construction of guest cottage on this property at Stewart Landing Road, and

**WHEREAS**, there is a lawfully existing single family dwelling on the property, guest cottage is used on an occasional basis, used only by guest of the family, contains one-half or less of the enclosed floor space of single family dwelling or 2000 square feet, whichever is less, cannot be rented,

**RESOLVED**, to approve guest cottage, as long as APA guidelines are followed,

**OFFERED BY:** Councilman Ploss, seconded by Councilwoman Rumrill

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

Bookkeeper, Lita Hillier handed out the June Treasurer’s report. Lita stated that the Standard Work Day and Reporting Resolution for Elected and Appointed Officials was completed and would be posted outside the Town Clerk’s office for thirty days and then sent to the New York State Comptroller.

**RESOLUTION #11-15 TO ESTABLISH STANDARD WORKDAY FOR ELECTED AND APPONTEED OFFICIALS**

**BE IT RESOLVED**, the Stratford Town Board at the Town Board meeting on August 13, 2015 desires to follow Regulation 31.4 of the NYS Retirement Law to establish standard workdays and reporting for elected and appointed officials who are members of the NYS Retirement System; and be it further,

**RESOLVED**, for the purpose of determining days worked, for fewer than six (6) hours for part time officials or more than (8) hours for full time officials shall be established as a standard workday; and be it further,

**RESOLVED**, the following officials shall keep a three-month (3) record of work activities and those records shall be submitted to the Town Clerk of the Town of Stratford to be posted for public review for a period of thirty (30) days.

Robert Johnson, Supervisor  
Lorraine Rumrill, Councilwoman  
Leigh Ann Loucks, Assessor

**OFFERED BY:** Councilman Perkins, seconded by Councilwoman Ploss

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

Assessor, Leigh Anne Loucks, reported as follows:

SCAR Hearings: Received three notices for Small Claims Assessment Review for 2015. To date, only one has been scheduled.

Refunds Issued: I have received notice of the refunds sent to the parties involved in the lawsuit. These refunds are for Town/County taxes paid, with a separate refund being issued by the school district. That information has been requested by several property owners, and has been released, as County Treasurer Terry Blodgett consulted with the County Attorney and it was deemed public record.

Lawsuit Information: Several residents have requested and have been given any information pertinent to the settled lawsuit as deemed public record by the Town Attorney.

Highway Superintendent Goodwin reported as follows:

Shimmed 1500 ft. on Piseco Rd.  
Black patching on Piseco and Seeley Roads.  
Cut shoulders on Mallett, Hadcock, Bickford, Kelley and Cemetery Rds.  
Installed culvert pipe on Middlesprite Rd.  
Dug rocks out on Gleason Rd. intersection.  
Ditching on Mike Smith Rd.  
Next week Hanson will be in to do hot top on Bickford Road.  
By end of month should have stone on Gleason, Piseco and Bliss Roads.  
Have mowing machine repaired.

Highway Superintendent Goodwin asked about box for truck. Supervisor Johnson stated he would check into it with Bookkeeper Lita.

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

July 10, 2015 through August 10, 2015

I was able to trap and take to Brennan Humane Society the female pitbull. It was not lactating and did not appear to have had puppies recently. Thanks to the Town of Mayfield we were able to capture the dog without injury to the animal or myself.

I have ordered a large animal trap for the Town of Stratford at this time. Thank you for your support in this matter.

The rest of the month has been quiet.

Town Clerk Massicotte announced that hunting licenses are now available.

**PUBLIC SPEAKING**

Alicia Rice directed a question to Superintendent Goodwin asking about the section that was paved on Piseco Road. Why was there about a thirty foot patch in the middle? It didn't need patching, stone will be put over the top by the end of the month. Has to set two weeks, then he will put oil and stone over it. She asked what did the town refund regarding litigation. Supervisor Johnson said less than \$4,000.00. The lawyer has been paid as his bill is submitted. The money is taken from the Fund Balance.

Supervisor Johnson said there will be a lawsuit against Maxwell's insurance. The County Attorney and Town Attorney will be filing the lawsuit together for recovery of the damages that he has caused the Town because of his inappropriate reveal. The County will reimburse us for a portion of Maxwell's fees for representing us in the lawsuit.

Resident asked about barn. Superintendent Goodwin said they had a coon problem a while back. End of barn was closed which prevented needed air flow. Engineer came out to check on barn problems. Said the trusses on barn will not hold weight that is put on them. The septic system is a health problem and leach field is in driveway where trucks are driving over it. The electrical system is 150 amps and should be 200 amps.

The wood that is cut down along the road belongs to the resident. If they do not want it then the Town can take it. Peter Szczebak asked about the width of the road. Superintendent Goodwin said some were 25 ft from center and some are 15 ft. from center.

**OLD BUSINESS**

Supervisor Johnson brought in two-manual report for Smart Waters; A Regional Model for Water and Wastewater Services in Fulton County, NY and Appendices A through D. If anyone is interested in looking at the information it will be in the Town Clerk's office. It is also online.

**NEW BUSINESS**

The Primary will be held on our meeting night so our regular meeting will take place Wednesday, September 9 at 6:30 pm.

There was a bear attack at Stewart Landing area of Ferris Lake Wild Forest. Older gentleman was walking his unleashed dog, when the dog ran into the bear. Owner tried to separate them and the bear turned on him. Owner was taken to hospital with bites, scratches and puncture wounds. Dog was taken to Vet.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Motion made by Councilwoman Ploss, seconded by Councilwoman Rumrill to approve the regular Board meeting minutes of July 9, 2015.

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

**AUDIT OF CLAIMS**

Motion made by Councilwoman Rumrill, seconded by Councilwoman Ploss to approve the bills on Abstract #8.

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

General Fund – Abstract 8	Voucher Nos. 109 through 131	\$ 22,645.24
Highway Fund - Abstract 8	Voucher Nos. 97 through 117	\$ 13,193.07

With no further business, on a motion by Councilwoman Rumrill seconded by Councilman Perkins, the meeting was adjourned at 7:47 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Diana Massicotte, Town Clerk