

State of New York  
County of Fulton  
Town of Stratford

Minutes of the Stratford Regular Board meeting held on Thursday, March 10, 2016 at the municipal building located at 120 Piseco Rd.

Present:

Alicia Rice	---	Supervisor
Allan Perkins	---	Councilman
Richard Fogarty	---	Councilman
Lorraine Rumrill	---	Councilwoman
Joan Ploss	---	Councilwoman
Diana Massicotte	---	Town Clerk
Charles Goodwin	---	Superintendent
Leigh Anne Loucks	---	Assessor
Norman Wright	---	Code Enforcement Officer
Janet Dickson	---	Deputy Town Clerk
Peg Klages	---	Deputy Town Clerk

Absent:

Michael Sokira	---	BTI Director
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Supervisor Rice called the regular Town Board meeting to order at 6:30 pm with the Pledge to the Flag.

Residents in attendance: Dorothy Eifert, Susan Fogarty, Heidi Christiansen, Jay Pierz, Mary and Peter Szczebak, Gary Ford, Ken Thompson, Carolyn Walker, Barbara Schwartz, Nancy Farquhar and Gary Rumrill.

Supervisor Rice asked department heads to have their monthly reports in to her the Tuesday before the monthly meeting so they can be put in the packets.

## **REPORTS**

Highway Superintendent Goodwin reported as follows:

- Sanding and plowing roads
- Pump on broom sent out to be fixed.
- Five ton road signs put up.
- Getting trucks for Spring, Summer and Fall.

Supervisor Rice asked Superintendent Goodwin what the priorities were for barn repairs:

The first priority is the septic system. The engineering is done. The Board would like a formal report. Superintendent Goodwin will have information ready next month to put out to bid.

Second Priority is roof replacement which was budgeted in 2016. If a new roof is going on the Town Barn, the roof should have a three foot overhang in front of the Town Barn when the roof is put on to eliminate the water from coming back in the barn. Supervisor Rice will check to see where the money for the roof comes from. We will need a formal report. This will have to be put out to bid.

Getting the cement out in front of barn and putting a downhill slope to stop the water from coming back in barn.

Getting the overhead doors fixed on the bottom of the doors.

Would start looking into power in the barn, being fixed 200 amp system and putting sturdy generator in for the overhead doors and the heating system

Heating system, I would put boiler system in the barn. You have the radiator in place for the boiler system. Should be looked into. The outdoor wood furnace does not work properly.

Going to work on the water problem in the back of barn, driveway, so the water does not run into the barn this year.

Councilman Fogarty suggested that some of the repairs could be done in-house.

Supervisor Rice stated that it costs us \$50.00 per month maintenance plus testing on WIN (drug and alcohol testing) policy. She said she would look into something more cost effective if available.

CEO Norman Wright read his report as follows:

February 12 through March 8

Issued one demo permit  
Issued two building permits  
Three inspections  
Two meetings  
Phone calls

Supervisor Rice stated that Avery Road could be widened but not paved by the town per opinion from Office of Comptroller.

There is training on lead poisoning for the Health Office and the CEO.

\$20.00 will be added to the building permit when engineered trusses are used. The cost is for placards that have to be displayed permanently next to electric box.

Assessor Loucks reported as follows:

Approximately 70 exemption applications processed for the 2016 tax roll.

Properties issued building permits in the last year, will be reviewed within the next week. There are a number of permits that were issued last year that I have yet to get copies.

Will be attending training classes in Johnstown.

Supervisor Rice read the Dog Control report as follows:

February 16, 2016 through March 10, 2016

Pending DCO appearance ticket outcome – owner complied to all requirements of the law of containment.

The dog picked up the previous month was owner redeemed from the shelter.

Received a call about an unidentified dog running at large on 3-3-16 at 8:00 pm. Dog was captured and taken to the shelter on 3-4-16 in the am.

The rest of the month has been quiet.

Supervisor Rice read BTI Director, Michael Sokira's report as follows:

Elizabeth Hastings is our new pesticide applicator.

Ordered and received 25 gallons of pesticide.

Mailed out letters about the town's black fly control program to 41 new land owners, to ask for access to fast flowing water (if any) on their property.

We have approval from the DEC to begin treating creeks on March 14.

Supervisor Rice asked Mike Sokira to come to our next meeting to give a short talk on BTI programming.

There is a burn ban in effect from March 16, 2016 through May 16, 2016.

Supervisor Rice stated that if 911 is out of order, they contact someone in our fire department and they will go to station to handle calls. The Fire Department number is: 315 429-6307.

Our new Town Attorney is Nicholas Macri from Herkimer. He will be at our April meeting.

The Town Board discussed ways to communicate with all residents. Not everyone has internet and the newspaper does not cover our town. They will look into a mailing to keep everyone informed.

Supervisor Rice talked about job descriptions for the employees of the town.

Supervisor Rice stated that the Financial Report for 2015 could not be turned in until the 2013 and 2014 were accepted.

Councilman Fogarty asked about the \$60,000 for the Fire Department. He felt there should be a paper trail. Supervisor Rice said the \$60,000 comes out of property taxes. She said she would put in a voucher for the S&S and Fire Department contracts.

**AUDIT OF CLAIMS**

Motion made by Councilman Perkins, seconded by Councilwoman Ploss to approve the bills on Abstract #3.

**ADOPTED** Ayes - 5 Rice, Rumrill, Ploss, Fogarty and Perkins  
Nays – 0

General Fund – Abstract 3	Voucher Nos. 23 through 36	\$2,291.81
Highway Fund - Abstract 3	Voucher Nos. 27 through 39	\$5,695.37

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Motion made by Councilwoman Rumrill, seconded by Councilwoman Ploss to approve the Board meeting minutes of February 11, 2016, with one correction, Leigh Anne Loucks was not present.

**ADOPTED** Ayes - 5 Rice, Rumrill, Fogarty, Ploss and Perkins  
Nays – 0

**PUBLIC SPEAKING**

Resident Nancy Farquhar had a complaint regarding the Assessor She had difficulty reaching her for information on filing for the Star Program. This is her first time submitting information for the Star program. Assessor Loucks does not have a list who is eligible for Star the first time they can apply. After the first year, Assessor Loucks sends out information to those who need to apply. Councilman Fogarty asked Assessor Loucks if she could wave deadline for Ms. Farquhar. Assessor Loucks said she could not and has never waved it for anyone. It would cause many problems because there would be no deadline. Supervisor Rice said she felt uncomfortable handling the situation in public and would have the Board go into Executive session.

Supervisor Rice said there was a process to go through to make complaints. There is a form which would be presented to the Supervisor and Board. Supervisor Rice stated she would check with the Town Lawyer to see how complaints should be handled.

Sue Fogarty stated that the money for the roof was in the 2016 Budget under buildings. It had been discussed at the workshop.

Sue Fogarty wanted to know who the administrator of the drug testing is; Supervisor Rice checked with DOT and was told it went through the Highway Superintendent.

Peg Klages asked why we hired a lawyer from Herkimer County. Supervisor Rice stated that the lawyer can be from any County.

Gary Rumrill asked about maintenance of properties. Supervisor Rice said it was the job of the CEO to investigate under the Town Junkyard law. CEO will need a heads up if there is a problem. When CEO Wright receives a complaint, he investigates it. CEO Wright gives them a warning, a ticket to comply, if not, they will get a ticket to appear in court.

Peter Szczebak mentioned the mosquito problem is escalated when junk is lying around properties. Supervisor Rice stated that the only pesticides allowed on state land were BTI.

Dorothy Eifert said there is a program in place that will pick up metal.

Gary Rumrill asked about Veterans exemption. Assessor Loucks said there was Cold War and eligible funds for tax exemptions on property. She said she would check on the percentage for Stratford.

Jann Dickson said she had to cancel the Easter Egg Hunt because there was no response. She will try again next year.

Supervisor Rice got a debit card from Adirondack Bank to pay for needed supplies that are purchased online. This is so the money does not come out of the individual pocket. It was decided that cleaning materials could come from Highway Department because Superintendent Goodwin orders it by the case.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

#### **RESOLUTION ON #14-16 TO RAISE COST OF BUILDING PERMIT FOR ENGINEERED TRUSSES**

**WHEREAS**, the Stratford Town Board at its regular Town Board meeting held on March 10, 2016 and

**WHEREAS**, the following information was examined and reviewed by the Stratford Town Board, now therefore be it

**RESOLVED**, that the cost of a building permit be raised by \$20.00 when construction includes engineered trusses.

**Offered by:** Councilwoman Rumrill, seconded by Councilwoman Ploss

**ADOPTED:** Ayes 5            Rice, Perkins, Ploss, Rumrill, Fogarty  
                 Nays 0

It was suggested we share with Caroga Lake the hiring of a Health Officer.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### **RESOLUTION ON #15-16 TO RECEIVE REPORTS TWO DAYS BEFORE MEETING**

**WHEREAS**, the Stratford Town Board at its regular Town Board meeting held on March 10, 2016 and

**RESOLVED**, that the committees hand in their reports the Tuesday before the monthly Board Meeting so they can be put in packets.

**Offered by: Councilwoman Ploss, seconded by Councilman Fogarty**

**ADOPTED: Ayes 5            Rice, Perkins, Ploss, Rumrill, Fogarty**  
**Nays 0**

**RESOLUTION ON #16-16 TO REQUIRE ALL APPOINTED EMPLOYEES KEEP AND FILE A MONTHLY CALENDAR OF HOIURS AND ACTIVITIES**

**WHEREAS**, the Stratford Town Board at its regular Town Board meeting held on March 10, 2016 and

**RESOLVED**, that all appointed employees keep and file a monthly calendar of hours and activities.

**Offered by: Councilwoman Rumrill, seconded by Councilman Fogarty**

**ADOPTED: Ayes 5            Rice, Perkins, Ploss, Rumrill, Fogarty**  
**Nays 0**

**RESOLUTION ON #17-16 THAT THE SALARY OF THE BTI DIRECTOF FOR 2016 WILL BE \$3700 AND HOURLY WAGE OF THE BTI APPLICATORS WILL BE \$10.85**

**WHEREAS**, the Stratford Town Board at its regular Town Board meeting held on March 10, 2016 and

**WHEREAS**, the following information was examined and reviewed by the Stratford Town Board, now therefore be it

**RESOLVED**, that the salary of the BTI Director for 2016 will be \$3,700 exclusive of hours worked as an applicator and the hourly wage of the BTI applicators will be \$10.85.

**Offered by: Councilman Perkins, seconded by Councilwoman Ploss**

**ADOPTED: Ayes 5            Rice, Perkins, Ploss, Rumrill, Fogarty**  
**Nays 0**

Supervisor Rice read the contract with S&S Volunteer Ambulance Service for 2016 as follows:

THIS AGREEMENT, made on this first day of February 2016 between the Town of Stratford, municipal corporation located in the County of Fulton and State of New York; hereinafter referred to as the party of the first part, and the Board of Directors of the S&S Volunteer Ambulance Service Incorporated, located in the Towns of Salisbury and Dolgeville, County of Herkimer and in the State of New York, hereinafter referred to as the party of the second part, WITNESSETH:

WHEREAS, there has been duly established in the Town of Stratford, an ambulance service district, known as the S&S Volunteer Ambulance Service District, and WHEREAS, the Town Board of the said Town of Stratford, duly authorized a contract with the party of the second part for ambulance

service to the said district upon the terms and provisions set forth, WHEREAS, this contract has been duly authorized by the Board of Directors of the S&S Volunteer Ambulance Service Inc., party of the second part.

NOW, THEREFORE, the party of the first part does engage the party of the second part to furnish ambulance service to the said district, and the party of the second part agrees to furnish said ambulance service in the manner following, to wit:

1. The ambulance service of the party of the second part shall, at all times during the period of this agreement, be subject to call for attendance upon any emergency occurring in the said district, and when notified by E911 or phone by any persons within the district, shall respond and attend upon such emergency, without delay, with suitable ambulance equipment at the disposable to the party of the second part. Normal service hours shall be 24 hours per day 7 days a week including legal holidays.
2. In consideration of furnishing aid and the use of apparatus as aforesaid, to the party of the second part shall receive any monetary donations that the party of the first part deems appropriate.
3. This agreement shall be in effect as of February 1, 2016 and terminated on January 31, 2017. IN WITNESS HEREOF, the parties have duly executed and delivered this agreement to the day and year written above.

Councilman Fogarty asked if the Town received a report from the ambulance service for calls during the year. Supervisor Rice said she hadn't seen one, but would ask.

Highway Department wanted to consider other options for dental plan, such as, a savings plan. Board will not renegotiate at this time.

**RESOLUTION ON #18-16 TO KEEP DENTAL AND VISION PLAN ALREADY IN PLACE**

**WHEREAS**, the Stratford Town Board at its regular Town Board meeting held on March 10, 2016 and

**WHEREAS**, the following information was examined and reviewed by the Stratford Town Board, now therefore be it

**RESOLVED**, that the Board decided that if the two employees on the vision and dental plan wanted to drop it, they could but it would not be renegotiated.

**Offered by: Councilwoman Ploss, seconded by Councilwoman Rumrill**

**ADOPTED: Ayes 5            Rice, Perkins, Ploss, Rumrill, Fogarty**  
**Nays 0**

**RESOLUTION ON #19-16 TO APPROVE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE POSITION OF A SECOND DEPUTY CLERK**

**WHEREAS**, the Stratford Town Board at its regular Town Board meeting held on March 10, 2016 and

**WHEREAS**, the following information was examined and reviewed by the Stratford Town Board, now therefore be it

**RESOLVED**, to request approval from the Fulton County Personnel Department for the establishment of the position of a second Deputy Clerk.

**Offered by: Councilwoman Rumrill, seconded by Councilwoman Ploss**

**ADOPTED: Ayes 5            Rice, Perkins, Ploss, Rumrill, Fogarty**  
**Nays 0**

Motion made by Councilman Perkins, seconded by Councilwoman Ploss to move into executive session at 8:30 to discuss complaints.

**ADOPTED    Ayes - 5            Rice, Rumrill, Ploss, Fogarty and Perkins**  
**Nays – 0**

Meeting called back to order at 9:30.

With no further business, on a motion by Councilwoman Ploss seconded by Councilwoman Rumrill, the meeting was adjourned at 9:35 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Diana Massicotte, Town Clerk