

State of New York  
County of Fulton  
Town of Stratford

Minutes of the Stratford Regular Board meeting held on Thursday, June 9, 2016 at the municipal building located at 120 Piseco Rd.

Present:

Allicia 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
Peg Klages	---	Deputy Town Clerk

Absent:

Michael Sokira	---	BTI Director
Janet Dickson	---	Deputy Town Clerk

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, Heidi Christiansen, George and Jane Dieffenbacher, Ken Thompson, Joseph Pierz, Mary Beth Salamone, Gary Rumrill, Rick Gray, Gary Ford, Jim Hine and Carolyn Walker.

Supervisor Rice stated that the Municipal Shelter Inspection Report for the James A. Brennan Memorial Humane Society was completed on May 16, 2016. The town is considered in compliance.

There was correspondence from Robert Sullivan, Caroga Town Supervisor requesting salaries and hours worked to use in preparation of the budget. He will share the information compiled with all towns that respond. The Board agreed that the Supervisor could provide the information.

A notice of Proposed Premium Rate Change was received from CDPHP which if approved, the change will go into effect 2017.

**REPORTS**

Highway Superintendent Goodwin reported as follows:

Working on Truck # 8, put on new box, will be working on it for about two more weeks.  
Cutting brush and ditching Mallet Hill Road.  
Hauling No. 4 gravel.

Installed pipe on Stewart Landing Road and did ditching of Stewart Landing Road. The road was too soft for doing ditching on the black top.  
Brush cutting on the Hadcock Road.  
Had to fix excavator.  
Mowed cemetery.  
Black patching roads.  
Checking bids for hot top.

Superintendent Goodwin said that according to the state, a road has to be a 14' road not a 10' road. They said No. Avery Road was not a town road and they took it off the map last year. Supervisor Rice stated she gave the information to the attorney to check out. Code Enforcement Wright said the road is legal as long as the residents on the road are there seasonally. He said there are different codes for residential and seasonal.

CEO Norman Wright read his report as follows:

May 1 through June 6

Four inspections  
Three meetings  
Issued 4 permits  
Issued one order to remedy  
Issued one appearance ticket  
Court – May 3 and 17.  
Many Phone calls

Assessor Loucks had no report. She was asked if she kept a calendar of what she did during the month as the rest of the employees. Assessor Loucks stated that according to her attorney, her job description is set up by the state and the calendar is not mandated for her job. Supervisor Rice said she would like to see it in writing

Karen Jaquay, Dog Control Officer, no report.

Supervisor Rice read BTI Director's report as follows:

Treated quite a few creeks before the low water conditions.  
During the low water conditions we were not seeing much larvae.  
We will continue to monitor streams for at least the next few weeks.

Supervisor's report:

Still no word on Stewarts Landing Dam gate.

Sheriff promised he would show a presence during summer.

Thursday was a Public Safety meeting. Sheriff stated they were understaffed. The Sheriff asked about camping and camp fires. Supervisor Rice called Forest Ranger Thompson and got his cell phone number

to give to Sheriff. The Sheriff's men were at the dam on the weekend. They will be there off and on during the summer.

Councilman Fogarty stated police could ticket if anyone had a fire at the dam. Ranger Thompson said he posted the area but the signs have been removed.

Supervisor Rice said she would contact DeSantas of the DEC regarding the dam and set up a meeting to meet with him.

There will be no June elections.

There is a Code Enforcement page on our website.

The Seniors will be holding their safety day, August 20.

Internet Service - Supervisor Rice attended the County Supervisor's meeting. There is an internet coming down the road. Hopefully we can get in on the next round.

Email policy – Emails must be sent to all Board members. Just send general information as just about everything can be foiled, except personal information. Supervisor Rice will look into it and bring it up at next meeting. Councilman Fogarty felt the email should stay private among the Board and not be forwarded. Councilman Fogarty suggested that emails be foiled among the board members and not forwarded to anyone else. Supervisor Rice suggested that complaints come through the complaint form and not by email. Will discuss next meeting.

Complaint Policy – There are Policy and Procedure complaint forms and personnel complaint forms. Supervisor Rice said we do have a complaint form, but not a procedure for following through with the complaint. Councilman Fogarty suggested that they be given to the Town Clerk. Clerk Diana said she forwarded the complaints to the Supervisor. Will continue discussion next month.

Councilman Fogarty felt the Town Clerk should come into executive session to take notes. If the Town Clerk takes minutes, then they can be foiled. If there is a decision made, the Board comes back to the meeting and passes the motion, if necessary.

Supervisor Rice stated that she felt any information should go through her to the Attorney. Employees should not contact the lawyer without permission from the Supervisor. Councilman Fogarty made a motion that the Board or the Supervisor should be able to call the Town Attorney anytime. Supervisor Rice stated that the attorney preferred that only the Supervisor contact him unless the Supervisor authorized the person to contact the attorney. This discussion was tabled until next meeting.

The previous Bookkeeper failed to file the fourth quarter for 2015. We received a certified letter from the NYS Division of Labor indicating such with a penalty. Kelly has filed the NY45 and Supervisor Rice faxed a document protesting the penalty.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Ploss to send a certified letter to Lita Hillier to file the 2014 financial report with a deadline to file by June 14, and Kelly to do the 2015 Financial Report, seconded by Councilwoman Rumrill.

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

**AUDIT OF CLAIMS**

Motion made by Councilwoman Ploss, seconded by Councilwoman Rumrill to approve the bills on Abstract #6.

**ADOPTED** Ayes - 4 Rice, Rumrill, Ploss, and Fogarty  
Nays - 0

General Fund – Abstract 6	Voucher Nos. 60 through 68	\$1,783.68
Highway Fund - Abstract 6	Voucher Nos. 68 through 84	\$9,812.96
Prepaid Fund - Abstract 6	Voucher Nos. 76 through 89	\$7,692.59

**PUBLIC SPEAKING**

Carolyn Walker announced that the Historical Society would be holding a town wide garage sale on August 6. It would cost \$3.00 to put your name on the map. The Board gave her permission to hold the sale at the Community Hall. She announced that the Historical Society is collecting data for the calendars. There will be two band concerts in July.

Gary Rumrill asked if the Dog Control Office was also responsible for horses, since she does go out on calls concerning them. He wanted to know if residents are charged when they are issued a ticket. Supervisor Rice said she would contact the Sheriff and the Humane Society. Councilman Perkins suggested that we ask the Judge to come to our next meeting.

Jay Pierz announced that the boat wash was almost complete at Caroga Lake, next to the golf course.

Resident asked about the ditches which he thought were a bit deep. Superintendent Goodwin said the ditches are dug so the water runs down to the pipes.

Superintendent Goodwin asked if the Town was going to replace the picnic tables.

Resident Ford felt he was being harassed by an anonymous resident. The Assessor asked Norm to check out the property. He felt they should call before walking his property. Supervisor Rice said if the CEO receives a complaint, he has to follow up and had the right to come on the property as part of his job. He also asked Superintendent Goodwin about the ditches along the roads and how to access his property. Superintendent Goodwin said the Town has put pipe in the ditch but if there is a second driveway he suggested the resident buy his own pipe because it is expensive for the Town.

Resident felt the salary of the Supervisor was unfair because he felt the job is a full time job and should be paid full time wages.

Resident Walker asked if the Board would look into the acoustics of the meeting room. Supervisor Rice suggested bringing it up at budget time.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Motion made by Councilwoman Ploss, seconded by Councilman Perkins to approve the Board meeting minutes of May 12, 2016.

**ADOPTED**    Ayes - 4        Rice, Rumrill, Ploss and Perkins  
                  Nays – 0  
                  Abstain – 1    Fogarty

**OLD BUSINESS**

Supervisor Rice discussed with the Town Attorney regarding how SCAR information should be sent to Assessor. The State statute indicates that the Assessor is to be directly served. An option would be certified mail.

Our health officer will be Dr. Glenn. His salary will be \$500 for the year. It is based on the population.

Motion made by Councilwoman Ploss, seconded by Councilman Rumrill to appoint Dr. Glenn as our Health Care Officer for the year at a salary of \$500.

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

Supervisor Rice received information from Jefferson-Lewis BOCES which provides administrative services for drug and alcohol testing for schools and municipalities throughout New York State. The total cost would be \$565.00 per year based on 50% random drug testing rate and 10% random alcohol testing.

Motion made by Councilwoman Ploss, seconded by Councilwoman Rumrill to join the Jefferson-Lewis BOCES Drug and Alcohol Program based on 50% random drug testing and 10% random alcohol testing, total cost \$565.00 per year.

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

**NEW BUSINESS**

Supervisor Rice stated that she received April Carpenter’s resignation effective June 30, 2016.

Motion was made by Councilwoman Ploss, seconded by Councilwoman Rumrill that April Carpenter’s resignation be accepted.

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

Motion was made by Councilwoman Rumrill, seconded by Councilwoman Ploss to advertise for custodian, preference given to Stratford residents.

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

A motion was made by Councilwoman Rumrill, seconded by Councilman Perkins to move into executive session to discuss pending litigation at 8:28 pm.

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

Meeting was called back in session at 9:08 pm on a motion by Councilwoman Rumrill, seconded by Councilwoman Ploss.

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

With no further business, on a motion by Councilman Perkins, seconded by Councilwoman Rumrill, the meeting was adjourned at 9:10 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Diana Massicotte, Town Clerk