

State of New York  
County of Fulton  
Town of Stratford

Minutes of the Stratford Regular Board meeting held on Thursday, August 11, 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
Charles Goodwin	---	Superintendent
Diana Massicotte	---	Town Clerk
Janet Dickson	---	Deputy Town Clerk

Absent:

Leigh Anne Loucks	---	Assessor
Norman Wright	---	Code Enforcement Officer
Peg Klages	---	Deputy Town Clerk
Michael Sokira	---	BTI Director
Karen Jaquay	---	Dog Control Officer

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

Residents in attendance: Dorothy Eifert, Heidi Christiansen, Ken Thompson, Joseph Pierz, Gary Rumrill, Rick & Lori Gray, Gary Ford, Peter Szczebak, Jean Doyle, Tina Torres and Jim Hine.

There was correspondence from the Fulton County Personnel Department regarding a revised job specification for Clerk.

**REPORTS**

Highway Superintendent Goodwin reported as follows:

- Black patch West Shore Rd.
- Cut shoulders on Edick Road.
- Dug Rocks out of Edick Road then went back, ditch from Town line to Stoney Brook Bridge
- Put culvert pipe in Hawes Road to Edick Road to stop the water washing out side of the bridge.
- Put Item #4 on road from Town Line to Stoney Brook Bridge.
- Mowing side of roads with Ford tractor
- Mowing the cemeteries.
- Haul crush run in for roads.

Tracy has a mowing machine Superintendent Goodwin would like to look at it.

County Superintendent Yost asked Superintendent Goodwin if Stratford would mow both sides of Highway 29A, suggested \$400 per mile. Superintendent Goodwin stated it should be \$500 per mile, there are 50 miles of roads. At present, we have to wait on a mowing machine. The County mows once a summer.

Supervisor Rice read the contract for snow removal and ice control -- \$5,000 per mile, total contract is \$44,550.

**RESOLUTION #24-16 TO ACCEPT CONTRACT FOR THE SNOW REMOVAL AND ICE CONTROL ON COUNTY ROADS FOR THE WINTER OF 2016-2017**

**WHEREAS,** The County Superintendent of Highways and Facilities of Fulton County has submitted a contract for the removal of snow and ice control from certain designated County Roads within the Town under Section 135A of the Highway Law, now therefore be it

**RESOLVED,** that pursuant to section 135A of the Highway Law, this Board does hereby accept the contract for snow removal and ice control as submitted and authorizes the Supervisor and Town Board to execute the contract.

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

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

Superintendent Goodwin would like to sell the Log Truck, Screener and dump trailer.

Motion made by Councilman Perkins, seconded by Councilwoman Ploss to approve putting up the Log Truck for \$7,500 and Screener for \$25,000 for auction.

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

Superintendent Goodwin stated that he talked to Steve Smith regarding the design of the Town Barn roof. He wanted to know how we wanted it designed.

Councilwoman Rumrill asked about the wood burner being installed correctly. Superintendent Goodwin said it had been installed correctly. It was suggested to have an Energy Audit done before we went any further with the barn.

**RESOLUTION #25-16 TO HAVE AN ENERGY AUDIT PERFORMED**

**WHEREAS,** the Stratford Town Board decided at the Town Board meeting on August 11, 2016 and

**WHEREAS,** it was discussed to have an energy audit before continuing with barn renovations,

**RESOLVED,** that an Energy Audit be performed on the Town Hall and Town Barn.

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

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

Supervisor read CEO Norman Wright's report as follows:  
July 11 through August 8

Seven inspections  
Two meetings  
Issued one permit  
Issued one ticket of compliance  
Issued one appearance ticket  
Two court appearances  
Many Phone calls

Karen Jaquay, Dog Control Officer, reported as follows:  
July 14 through August 11

I gave one failure to license ticket – case is pending.

Received one call for a lost dog. Looked for a couple of hours. Owner called back and dog returned home.

Would like to open a discussion at this time for a new census to be taken on the town dog population. Would like to issue non compliance tickets at that time to insure all will be licensed.

The rest of the month has been quiet.

**RESOLUTION #26-16 TO ALLOW THE DOG CONTROL OFFICER TO CONDUCT A DOG CENSUS AND ISSUE NON COMPLIANCE TICKETS AT THAT TIME**

**WHEREAS**, the Stratford Town Board after discussion at the Town Board meeting on August 11, 2016, and

**WHEREAS**, it was decided to allow the Dog Control Officer to conduct a Dog Census and if dog owners have not licensed their dogs,

**RESOLVED**, that the Dog Control Officer could issue non compliance tickets at that time.

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

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

Assessor's Report as follows:

Meeting with various residents by appointment. Her hours are 9:00 am to 11:00 am, Tuesdays.

Supervisor Rice reported as follows:

Supervisor Rice asked that everyone sign up for newsletter by email as soon as possible.

Supervisor Rice asked if two members of the Board would put together a complaint policy and an email policy to be presented at meeting. Councilwomen Ploss and Rumrill are working on putting together an email policy and Councilmen Perkins and Supervisor Rice passed out a form to the Council regarding the complaint policy which will be discussed at the next meeting.

Supervisor Rice stated that all of the sales tax collected outside of Johnstown and Gloversville is split between the County and the towns in Fulton County. The County getting 50% and the towns split the balance according to their evaluation. We are up to \$216,000 so we are holding our own.

Letter from Mary Beth Salamone stating resignation from her position on Board of Assessment Review, after her five year term ends in 2017.

Supervisor Rice reported that she spent the day at Pleasant Lake attending an Adironcack Watershed Institute meeting which she found very informative.

Supervisor Rice gave a rundown regarding the financial report saga, explaining just what she has had to do and the order in which the financial reports had to be filed. Bookkeeper Kelly had to start from the beginning with W-2 forms and work from there. Councilman Fogarty felt that the information that is put into the financial report should all be put on file.

Town Clerk Massicotte made the following announcements:

There will be a Republican Primary September 13 from 12:00 – 9:00. We will be voting for State Senator: James Tedisco or Christian Kluge and Assemblyman: Marc Butler or Patrick Vincent.

Hunting licenses are available.

Senior's Info Day is August 20 from 10:00 – 2:00.

Stratford Seniors had to cancel the Barber Shop Quartet, August 30.

Lorraine Rumrill, Historical Society, announced they would be having a raffle - selling two \$50.00 Stewarts Money cards which would be drawn on September 10 at the Music Festival. Tickets are 2 for \$2.00 or 3 for \$5.00. There will be a chicken barbeque and bake sale.

Supervisor Rice will set up date with Attorney Macri to discuss policy for contacting him.

Motion made by Councilwoman Rumrill, seconded by Councilwoman Ploss to change DA3501 amount on revenues of Highway Fund to \$146,772.20.

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

Supervisor Rice requested that all budget forms from Department Heads be in by the next meeting.

**AUDIT OF CLAIMS**

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

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

General Fund – Abstract 8	Voucher Nos. 85 through 87	\$ 417.79
Highway Fund - Abstract 8	Voucher Nos. 107 through 120	\$3,977.62
Prepaid Fund - Abstract 8	Voucher Nos. 102 through 116	\$4,995.79

There has been discussion regarding a reval, but there will be no decision until after a public hearing. The data collection does not need to be redone. Councilman Fogarty stated that we need to have input from the community.

**PUBLIC SPEAKING**

Heidi Christiansen read the following letter which was addressed to the Town Board:

I'd like to ask our town board to consider delaying any vote on a town wide reassessment until a special public hearing has been held with our State Senator and State Assemblyman present. The purpose of this hearing would be to allow interested town residents to ask our representatives what, if anything, can be done about the unfair assessment burden that is placed on property owners in our town by the state's failure to pay their full share of taxes on the land that they own in Stratford which constitutes approximately 70% of the total land area of our town.

Also, such a public hearing would allow residents to ask our representatives to explain how a \$300K home in our small town pays almost twice as much in taxes as a similar home in much more affluent lake areas, such as Bolton Landing on Lake George. The lack of businesses in our area, along with a very large percentage of state land in combination, make the tax burden on individual owners excessive and unfair.

Our current equalization rate is still above 100%. I think that any town board deliberation process to determine whether a new town wide reassessment is needed can be done in a timely and thoughtful manner, and must include the opportunity for town residents/owners to meet with our state representatives, and allow them to explain the rationale behind these very inequitable issues facing our town's assessed property.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Councilwoman Rumrill felt we should have a public hearing. Supervisor Rice will call Senator and Assemblyman to set up date before end of August and put information on website and in newspapers.

Dr. Pierz said the State benefits from all the tourism in the Adirondack Park to the tune of \$1.2 billion. He felt the state should pay their fair share in taxes. Adirondack Land Alliance which includes everyone in the park would be another vehicle to go to Albany.

Dr. Pierz gave a report on the workshop held by the Adirondack Watershed Institute. They started on land to show residents what they look for in invasive species by pulling up weeds, the second part they went on the lake in boats to check water temperatures and oxygen in water. As the water gets cooler it brings oxygen to bottom of lake. The big concern is runoff from road salt that is used in the winter. They are dealing with State to lower amount of salt used.

Resident mentioned we should look into solar farms. The CEO has knowledge regarding solar farms.

Gary Rumrill asked if there was still a SETA Program which helped hiring personnel to work in towns.

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Motion made by Councilwoman Ploss, seconded by Councilwoman Rumrill to approve the Board meeting minutes of July 14, 2016.

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

### **OLD BUSINESS**

Supervisor Rice announced that Emma Baulch is the new cleaner.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

Since Councilwoman Ploss and Councilman Fogarty cannot attend the September meeting, it was decided to change the meeting to the following Thursday, September 15.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Ploss, seconded by Councilman Perkins to change the September meeting to September 15.

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

The meeting would be put in the paper and on the website and the board in the park.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Rumrill and seconded by Councilwoman Ploss to move into executive session at 8:06 pm so Supervisor Rice can give the Board handouts and an explanation regarding possible litigation.

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

Meeting was called back in session at 8:26 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 Councilwoman Ploss, seconded by Councilwoman Rumrill, the meeting was adjourned at 8:27 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Diana Massicotte, Town Clerk