

State of New York
County of Fulton
Town of Stratford

Minutes of the Stratford Regular Board meeting held on Thursday, December 8, 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
Norman Wright	---	Code Enforcement Officer
Michael Sokira	---	BTI Director

Absent:

Leigh Anne Loucks	---	Assessor
Janet Dickson	---	Deputy Town Clerk
Karen Jaquay	---	Dog Control Officer
Peg Klages	---	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: Gary Rumrill, Peter Szczebak, Carolyn Walker, Dorothy Eifert, and Ken Thompson.

Received receipt for filing of local law on tax cap override from Macri's law office.

REPORTS

Highway Superintendent Goodwin reported as follows:

- Checking roads.
- Fixed pot hole on Bliss Road.
- Finish putting truck #7 together for sand and plow snow.
- Used up black patch to fix hole on roads.
- Put steel plate in bucket loader.
- Mowed Avery and Stewart Landing Roads to cut brush back.
- Been plowing and sanding roads.
- Put wood in the wood shed for the wood boiler.
- Put new wires and harness on pickup plow.

Highway Superintendent Goodwin submitted roads for black topping and oil stone next six years.

Councilman Fogarty asked if we owned the land where the land fill station is located. Supervisor Rice said she would check on ownership and who is responsible for plowing.

CEO Norman Wright's report as follows:

November 8 – December 5, 2016

- Five inspections
- Four meetings
- Issued two permits
- Issued three Certificates of Compliance
- School two days
- Many Phone calls

CEO Wright asked about the Christman property whether the town had any questions. Owner wants to reopen store. If she doesn't change anything it would be grandfathered in. They will have to go through the State Board of Health. CEO is sending letter to her lawyer stating that we have no zoning laws but they would have to go through the APA.

Supervisor Rice read Karen Jaquay, Dog Control Officer's, reports.

November 9 to December 5, 2016

I had one call for a dog running at large on 119. Looked for a couple of days and did not find it.

I had a second call about another dog running on Piseco Road. I looked for two days and was not able to find this dog either.

The rest of the month was quiet.

I would like to request at this time to delay the census till the spring of 2017. This is due to family medical issues.

There was no Assessor's report. Supervisor Rice said she would like to have an executive session at the January meeting with the Assessor. Councilman Fogarty stated he would like to discuss the work calendar with Assessor.

BTI Director Sokira read his Year- end report as follows:

Used 18 gallons of VectoBac 12AS. We have 7 gallons left over for 2017.

Treated 24-1/2 miles of streams.

Mid/late spring saw low water conditions which contributed to lower BTI usage. Same thing happened in 2015.

Corey DeBonte did not treat in 2016. His registration will expire in April 2017 and he will be off our business registration.

Nicole Wainwright will need to re-register in 2017.

I will need to re-register in 2017.

The business registration will need to be renewed in 2017. There is no charge for this.

Stratford and Caroga are offering a 30 hour pesticide training class again this year. I have two individuals that have completed 15 hours of the class to date. Two more classes are scheduled in December and that will complete the 30 hour course requirements. They will both need to be registered if they pass the tests.

We are good on our Aquatic Insect Permit until 2020. There are changes being made to the application process for the permit which will require a downstream modeling for pesticide discharge.

All mandatory reporting has been completed to the DEC for 2016.

Supervisor's Report

The County budget passed on November 28. Stratford's county levy went down a couple of cents.

Supervisor Rice sent letters to Assemblyman Marc Butler and James Tedisco, State Senator-Elect, regarding Stratford's tax base declining over the past four years. "Two thirds of Stratford is state owned land, and as you can see, that land is a significant portion of our total assessment. Of the \$7,413,210 decline, \$5,013,540 is due to a drop in assessments on state land. Stratford's budget for 2017 is \$943,359 and to meet this budget we had to significantly override the tax cap. These decreases in state owned land assessment are having a serious negative impact on our finances. The trend in those assessments, also, does not look good for the future."

Also mentioned the bridge repairs. We are looking for grant money. We have ten bridges.

Supervisor Rice stated she received a call to attend governor's conference about economic sustainability for the Mohawk Valley. She was encouraged to go and will attend Tuesday.

Supervisor Rice stated she sent a letter to Mark Yost, Superintendent of Highway and Facilities for the County requesting a stop sign at the intersection of County Highway 104 and 119 and an evaluation of visibility when making a left turn from 104 onto 119, possibly requiring tree removal.

Supervisor Rice asked Clerk Massicotte about the Children's Party. She said there were 40 children that signed up and about 32 attended. She felt they all had a great time.

Still have not received the Chips check. The 2015 Financial Report is not yet complete. Lita said she is working on it, as the numbers do not match. Kelly has to have the 2016 report in by March. The Board felt she should have the lawyer write another letter.

Received a letter from the IRS, but was already taken care of by Kelly.

Supervisor Rice said she would check the unemployment insurance.

Councilman Fogarty thanked Superintendent Goodwin for all his work to save money for the town.

AUDIT OF CLAIMS

Motion made by Councilwoman Ploss, seconded by Councilwoman Rumrill to approve the bills on Abstract #12.

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

General Fund – Abstract 12	Voucher Nos. 128 through 142	\$ 5,665.56
Highway Fund - Abstract 12	Voucher Nos. 171 through 179	\$ 3,563.51
Prepaid Fund - Abstract 12	Voucher Nos. 152 through 166	\$ 4,641.74

OLD BUSINESS

None

PUBLIC SPEAKING

Dorothy Eifert asked about lowering speed limit on all town roads. Supervisor Rice said she was working on it with DOT.

CEO Wright said the residents couldn't download the permit.

Superintendent Goodwin asked if he could clean out the building between the Fire Department and the Barn to use for any extra small equipment.

Councilman Fogarty asked about the old school. CEO Wright said it was condemned.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion made by Councilman Perkins, seconded by Councilwoman Ploss to approve the Board meeting minutes of November 10, 2016

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

NEW BUSINESS

The reorganizational and regular meetings will be held on January 12, 2017 at 6:30.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Diana Massicotte, Town Clerk