

State of New York
County of Fulton
Town of Stratford

Minutes of the Stratford Regular Board meeting held on Thursday, January 12, 2017 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
Janet Dickson	---	Deputy Town Clerk
Karen Jaquay	---	Dog Control Officer

Absent:

Leigh Anne Loucks	---	Assessor
Michael Sokira	---	BTI Director

Supervisor Rice called the regular Town Board meeting to order at 7:10 pm with the Pledge to the Flag.

Residents in attendance: Harry Jaquay, Gary Ford, Gary Rumrill, Peter Szczebak, Jay Pierz, Dorothy Eifert, and Ken Thompson.

Supervisor Rice read the letter from Marc Butler as follows:

“Although we are still researching the issue of state land assessments, I wanted to let you know our staff continues to work on the matter.

Apparently, the assessments are a hodge-podge of historic agreements between the state and the various municipalities in which the state owns property. I wonder if you have any records of what agreement was made with the state many years ago? If so, that may hold a key as to how your assessment is determined.

Also, it seems that many other communities share your concern over this issue. I brought your specific case up at the annual meeting of the Adirondack Association of Towns and Villages (AATV) and they agreed to make it a policy issue to arrive at a reasonable answer to your questions.

Although progress has been slow, most of all I want to assure you that I continue in my attempt to find answers to your very valid questions.

Warmest regards for the holiday season, and I hope to get back to you with more definitive answers.”

Supervisor Rice has been trying to contact the Adirondack Association of Towns and Villages and will still pursue them for answers.

REPORTS

Highway Superintendent Goodwin reported as follows:

- Lots of snowplowing and sanding
- Small repair on equipment
- Used a lot of fuel for equipment and sand
- Trying to get ice off roads.
- Started wood furnace.

Highway Superintendent Goodwin answered Councilman Fogarty’s questions regarding the men being called in to do the roads. Councilwoman Ploss asked if each man had his own truck. Superintendent Goodwin said he tries to keep the guys in the same truck.

Will be taking the Freightliner to Yorkville. Happier with service from Yorkville.

Highway Superintendent submitted list of bridges in Stratford.

Tom Vennard has done some research on the bridges and is in touch with the Supervisor. Supervisor Rice met up with the regional DOT director. He asked for the numbers on the bridges and would see what funding would be available to us.

CEO Norman Wright’s report as follows:

December 6, 2016 – January 9, 2017

- No inspections
- No meetings
- Issued two permits
- Issued one Certificate of Compliance
- Some Phone calls
- No voucher this month
- Sent in six page report to the Secretary of State.

NYS law states that there will be no more unregistered vehicles in the yard. CEO Wright said that he could act on this law if the town decided to make it a town law. We allow only one unregistered car in the yard.

CEO Wright said when he issues tickets, they do not seem to go anywhere. He has two tickets he is working on now for the last year.

Supervisor Rice said she would investigate how much authority the Town Board has over the Judge.

CEO Wright would like to get a phone for his office and a digital camera. Supervisor Rice said there was funding in his contractual account.

Karen Jaquay, Dog Control Officer gave her report.

December 6, 2016 through January 10, 2017

Had one call for two lost dogs. Owner found.

Chased a stray beagle for one hour, lost him in the woods on County Road 119.

Rest of the month was quiet.

DCO said she has some of the same issues that the CEO has regarding tickets. She suggested maybe we should make the laws more clear cut.

BTI Director Sokira was teaching the pesticide classes in December.

Supervisor Rice read the Assessor's report.

Second exemption form applications will be mailed by the end of the week. Should any residents need their forms and documents picked up, they can let the office know and I will make arrangements to get their paperwork.

I have been in contact with the state and NYS Assessor's Association to gather information regarding the SOL values and paid tax amounts. While the taxable amount has changed, the exact impact it has had on the Town and its tax base is not clear, as the amounts that have changed have been in the Transition Assessment, which is not a stable value as the regular assessed values and aggregate values are that are reflected on the tax roll.

The Town Board is in receipt of a letter addressing the statements made at previous board meetings by some of the current board members, with regard to my job duties and responsibilities. These statements have been made in the open meeting, and therefore I am including this letter in my report, so that it becomes part of the minutes of the meeting.

Supervisor Rice stated she received a letter on behalf of Leigh Anne from her attorney and didn't feel she should read it in public because there was a confidential note on the fax.

Supervisor's Report

Went to the Mohawk Valley Sustainability Conference. She met the DOT Regional Director. She is trying to have face to face meetings with individuals she meets and follows up with an email.

2015 Financial Report to be finished in the next week.

End of the Year transfers:

Resolution #6-17

Resolution to make necessary 2016 Year End Budget Transfers as follows:

To:	A1110.1 – Town Justice Personnel	\$ 0.11	
	A1110.4 – Town Justice Contractual	\$ 70.02	
	A1355.1 – Assessor Personnel	\$ 0.52	
From:	A1220.4 – Supervisor Contractual		\$ 70.65
To:	A1410.2 – Town Clerk Equipment	\$2,000.00	
From:	A1410.11 – Deputy Clerks PS		\$ 81.90
	A1410.4 – Town Clerk Contractual		\$ 898.10
	A1410.41 – Town Clerk Software Maintenance		\$1,020.00
To:	A3620.2 – Safety Inspection Equipment	\$ 82.62	
From:	A3620.4 – Safety Inspection Contractual		\$ 82.62
To:	A5010.4 – Hwy Supt. Contractual	\$ 243.22	
From:	A5010.2 – Hwy Supt Equipment		\$ 243.22
To:	A9040.8 – Workers Compensation (County)	\$ 100.77	
From:	A9060.8 – Hospital and Medical Insurance		\$ 100.77
To:	DA5112.2 – Capital Outlay Improvements	\$26,921.71	
From:	DA5130.2 – Machinery Equipment		\$26,921.71
To:	DA5142.1 – Snow Removal PS	\$23,424.96	
From:	DA5142.4 – Snow Removal Contractual		\$23,424.96
To:	DA9030.8 – Social Security	\$ 2,117.50	
From:	DA9010.8 – State Retirement		\$ 2,117.50
To:	DA9089.8 – Uniforms	\$ 500.00	
From:	DA9060.8 – Hospital and Medical Insurance		\$ 500.00

Motion made by Councilwoman Rumrill, seconded by Councilman Perkins to approve the end of the year transfers.

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

Councilman Fogarty asked where the values for the vehicles came from. Supervisor Rice stated that NYMIR puts the values on the equipment.

Councilman Fogarty would like a list of the hours or mileage for the equipment.

RESOLUTION #7-17

WHEREAS Town Law 62(1), 123 requires the annual accounting by each officer who has received or disbursed any moneys, be it

RESOLVED that annual financial accounting of the Town Clerk was accepted

Offered by: Councilwoman Rumrill, seconded by Councilman Ploss

Adopted: Ayes 5 Rice, Perkins, Ploss, Rumrill, Fogarty
Nays 0

RESOLUTION #8-17

WHEREAS Town Law 62(1), 123 requires the annual accounting by each officer who has received or disbursed any moneys, be it

RESOLVED that the annual financial accounting of the Justice’s records were audited.

Offered by: Councilwoman Rumrill, seconded by Councilman Ploss

Adopted: Ayes 5 Rice, Perkins, Ploss, Rumrill, Fogarty
Nays 0

AUDIT OF CLAIMS

Motion made by Councilwoman Rumrill, seconded by Councilman Fogarty to approve the bills on Abstract #1.

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

General Fund – Abstract 1	Voucher Nos. 1 through 16	\$11,551.59
Highway Fund - Abstract 1	Voucher Nos. 1 through 16	\$10,139.04
Prepaid Fund - Abstract 1	Voucher Nos. 1 through 15	\$ 7,155.58

OLD BUSINESS

None

PUBLIC SPEAKING

Peter Szczebak asked if the blades on the trucks were replaceable. Highway Superintendent Goodwin said they were replaceable.

Jay Pierz stated that the owners of Ayers Lake gated their land and posted it.

Gary Rumrill agreed with Karen and Norman regarding tickets. The Judge is elected and accountable to the public.

Supervisor Rice suggested that if anyone was dissatisfied with any elected official, you can vote him out at the next election.

Dorothy Eifert asked about town roads.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion made by Councilwoman Ploss, seconded by Councilwoman Rumrill to approve the Board meeting minutes of December 8, 2016

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

NEW BUSINESS

None

Motion made by Councilwoman Ploss, seconded by Councilwoman Rumrill to move into executive session to discuss a personnel matter at 8:24.

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

Meeting called back to order at 9:37.

With no further business, on a motion by Councilwoman Ploss, seconded by Councilwoman Rumrill, the meeting was adjourned at 9:39 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Diana Massicotte, Town Clerk