

State of New York
County of Fulton
Town of Stratford

Minutes of the Stratford Regular Board meeting held on Thursday, July 13, 2017 at the municipal building located at 120 Piseco Rd.

Present:

Alicia Rice	---	Supervisor
Allan Perkins	---	Councilman
Richard Fogarty	---	Councilman
Joan Ploss	---	Councilwoman
Lorraine Rumrill	---	Councilwoman
Charles Goodwin	---	Superintendent
Diana Massicotte	---	Town Clerk
Norman Wright	---	Code Enforcement Officer
Janet Dickson	---	Deputy Town Clerk
Michael Sokira	---	BTI Director

Absent:

Karen Jaquay	---	Dog Control Officer
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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: Carolyn Walker, Peter Szczebak, Gary Rumrill, Ken Thompson, Dorothy Eifert, Donald Vedder, David Cool, Jay Pierz, Rick Gray, Susan Fogarty, William Calwell, Heidi Christiansen, Curtis Heckwolf, Nike and Soccia Rissmeyer.

Supervisor Rice opened the hearing for the Dog Law to hear any input. Gary Rumrill said we already had a dog law and how would this new law affect residents who received tickets and nothing was done. Supervisor Rice said there were hearings held and the tickets were paid. This law would also limit the number of dogs a resident could have. The question was asked if the resident did not pay the fine how would the town collect. CEO Wright said the amount would be added to their taxes. The public hearing was closed.

Supervisor Rice asked the Town Clerk to explain the procedure. Town Clerk Massicotte stated she would send the law to the Town Attorney for his perusal, if it is ok, it is mailed to the State Secretary for filing, I will then be notified that the law is filed, then the town can enforce it.

Motion made by Councilwoman Rumrill, seconded by Councilman Perkins to accept Dog Law for the Town of Stratford.

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

Correspondence

Email from County Legislative Aide regarding shared services: consolidating justice courts.
Letter and Harassment Prevention Policies & Procedures Handbook from NYMIR.

Letter from New York Department of Public Service regarding a request from Niagara Mohawk Power Corporation to approve a proposed increase in its electric and gas delivery rates. They are looking for a rate increase of 22.8% delivery revenue. Public hearing dates are Tuesday, July 25 in Schenectady and Troy, Thursday, July 27, Lake Placid, Monday, July 31, Syracuse and Tuesday August 1, Buffalo.

REPORTS

Highway Superintendent Goodwin's report read as follows:

Took rocks out of Irish Settlement Road from Ephratah Town Line to Middle Sprite Road.

Mixed gravel in McGrown pit and worked on wing for Truck #8.

Cut shoulder on Irish Settlement Road with loader and grader and two trucks, working on air line on Truck #7.

Cut shoulder on Irish Settlement Road, working on mower and equipment in barn and mowed Town park and Town Hall.

Finish cutting shoulder on Irish Settlement Road. Cut shoulder on Crystal Lake Road and shoulder on Gleason Road, raked Irish Settlement Road from Ephratah Town Line to Oppenheim Town Line

Fix hole on Irish Settlement Road and crush run on Crystal Lake Road and Irish Settlement from Middle Sprite, 400 feet of Irish Settlement from black top west.

Hauled crush run to Irish Settlement Road to town line of Oppenheim then went to Youker Road.

Dug rocks out from road, finished up wing, mowed Town Hall and Town Park and barn and fire house, raked road and cut tree on Hadcock.

Cut shoulder on Youker Road. Went to Johnstown for ex parts for Truck #8. Boss went to Mohawk Freightline for parts for Truck #7.

Mowing roads. Two men off – Earl and Roy.

Cut brush on Mallet in cross and end Mallet Road by 119, clean up tree by dam and mowing cemetery. Working on Truck #'s 7, 8 and 9.

Cleaning up trees on sides of roads and mowing side roads and fixed lawn mower.

Cut shoulder on Powerhouse Road. Fix shoulder machine Hydraulic hose. Started cutting shoulder on Middlesprite Road from Country Road 119.

Cut shoulder on Middle Sprite from Oppenheim Line to County 119.

Mowed Town Hall and Park. Black patch hole on Seeley Road and West Shore Road. Worked on Town pickup, put new shocks and spark plugs in.

Len and Earl Checked Roads, put cone on washout, two hours.

7:00 am to 4:00 pm, fixed washout, hauled crush run to fix washout, put pipe back on driveway because beaver dam went out.

Shut down for the 4th July.

Fixed washout on side roads, Stewart Landing Road and Youker Road, raked roads.

Raked roads and mowed Town Park and Town Hall, four men off.

Put pipe back in by Mike Jodway on Piseco Road from washout and fixed pipe on Gleason Road and Irish Settlement Road. Went for parts for Truck #9 2014 Freightliner and mowing Dugway, two men off.

Superintendent Goodwin he planned to put in culvert pipe on Stewart Landing Road mile above dam in September.

Supervisor Rice stated that there was an amendment to the Highway Funds agreement for Seeley Road, Mallet Hill Road, and Hadcock Road for single chip sealing.

Motion made by Councilman Fogarty, seconded by Councilwoman Rumrill to accept the provisions of Section 284 of the Highway Law to amend Highway agreement in the amount of \$153,732.12.

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

Supervisor Rice brought up speed limits. Superintendent Goodwin did some research regarding the cost of putting up speed limit signs from County Highway 119 to dam on Stewart Landing road.

Speed Sign 45	12 Signs	\$1,800.00
Speed Sign 40	14 Signs	\$2,100.00
Speed Sign 35	16 Signs	\$2,400.00

CEO Norman Wright's report as follows:
June 6, 2017 – July 10, 2017

Eight inspections
One meeting
Issued four permits
Many phone calls
Two ongoing court cases

Councilman Fogarty asked if Norm could list what the permits were for each month. Supervisor Rice thanked Norm for his calendar.

Supervisor Rice read Dog Control Officer's report as follows:
June 8, 2017 through July 11, 2017

Received a call for a stray dog on 7/3/17 in the evening. Picked a small white, female Husky. Kept the dog till 7/5/17 8:00 am. No calls on dog, so I took it to Brennan.

I received a complaint on a dog running at large off owner's property on 7/4/17. Wrote and delivered appearance ticket by July 11.

Owner of Husky called and was directed to Brennan to retrieve dog. Was advised they should have called DCO first instead of waiting two days.

The rest of the month I was on call.

BTI report read by Mike Sokira as follows:

Treatment of creeks stopped for this black fly season on Monday, July 3, 2017. After monitoring several creeks, we found no larvae present.

The first reports to the DEC are due November 15, 2017. I will update the town on pesticide usage, creeks treated and amount of budget spent, as soon as I compile the report.

Overall, I believe this season was quite successful. Many creeks were treated several times throughout the town as well as some creeks were treated for the first time.

No Assessor's report. Supervisor Rice said that after grievance day the state owned property assessments in town went down \$381,620, the taxable property went down \$1,099,252 in assessments. Councilman Fogarty stated that in actual money the loss is \$4,123.39.

Supervisor's Report

Supervisors met to discuss shared services. Fulton County Shared Services panel met Monday night. The 2018 NYS Budget mandates that counties can be in a shared service panel, discuss ways to save money and submit a plan in October. Every county has to do this. There will be three public hearings. Hopefully we can submit a plan at the next meeting. All Superintendents were asked to submit a report regarding sharing equipment. Another interest was consolidating Justice Courts in New York State. Two or more contiguous towns may establish a single justice court. This new court would be composed of justices elected from each town. If two towns joined they would still have to keep separate books.

Talked about hiring contract assessors in the County department. The town could contact the county to hire an assessor on per parcel basis. The BAR would stay local. The Supervisors talked about updating assessments on a continuous basis. This would be put into effect in 2019 when all Assessors would be coming up for reappointment.

Councilman Fogarty asked if towns had first choice on equipment that was up for sale in towns. Superintendent Goodwin said the towns were notified but the equipment was pretty well worn.

October 2 the water would be lowered at Stewart Landing because DEC will be working on the dam until May 15.

Broadband status – Had over 250 signatures and the packet was mailed to the companies and to Senator Tedesco.

Status of Financial Report for 2015, 2016. The state accepted the former bookkeeper's report even though there were errors. Kelly, bookkeeper, is working on the 2016 report.

Norm ordered the truss signs that are to be displayed on structures that have engineered trusses.

Motion made by Councilwoman Rumrill, seconded by Councilwoman Ploss to correct the pay of the chairman of the BAR which should have been \$300 per the budget and authorized the Supervisor to pay her the balance.

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

Supervisor Rice stated we had three options to take of barn, No. 1 repair – replace roof, remediate mold, repair floor with drain, remove south side extension, wood burner not right size, well and drainage around the building – \$150,000; No. 2 repair and upgrade changing one bay to scissor trusses and change electrical service, standby generator, exterior entrance to the office plus repairs designated in No. 1 - \$250,000; and No. 3 new barn – over \$500,000. We are on Tedesco's list for financial help - \$175,000 to \$200,000. We are not eligible for a grant from Safe Water because one requirement is that we employ 25 employees.

Supervisor Rice asked for comments from Board. Councilman Fogarty figured a new barn would cost about \$700,000. Councilman Fogarty said the roof was leaking around chimney. We should take chimney down and take off south side extension. Councilwoman Ploss suggested maybe we could start some of the repairs. CEO Wright said the roof was always going to leak if the same material was used.

AUDIT OF CLAIMS

Motion made by Councilman Ploss, seconded by Councilwoman Rumrill to approve the bills on Abstract #7.

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

General Fund – Abstract 7	Voucher Nos. 75 through 85	\$ 1,716.20
Highway Fund - Abstract 7	Voucher Nos. 104 through 117	\$ 11,632.89
Prepaid Fund - Abstract 7	Voucher Nos. 103 through 123	\$ 10,065.65

OLD BUSINESS

Councilman Fogarty handed out a packet regarding Superintendent's job description to each member of the board.

PUBLIC SPEAKING

Residents discussed concerns about repairs or new building for barn. Don Vedder stated the building was over 50 years old. He gave a very informative report on the problems with the barn and repairs that would be extensive. Felt a new barn would be more feasible if town would approve through a referendum. He felt that there would be no major problems for years to come. Heidi Christianson asked

about the funding. The board was looking into steel buildings. Peter Szczebak suggested a two-story building.

Supervisor Rice explained that the money for the Highway Department is controlled by the Board. The Superintendent is in charge of running the department.

CEO said if they tie into the building everything would have to be brought up to codes or he would not sign off on it.

Jann Dickson felt the board need to think of the retired taxpayers in town before they spend money on new barn. People are struggling now.

There was also a suggestion regarding leasing a building.

Gary Rumrill said there was no traffic control when the men were out repairing the road after the storm.

Speed Limit - Resident felt speed limits on our roads was a great idea but there is no one to enforce the speed limits, he felt that caution signs might be a better way to go. Dorothy Eifert said that a yellow sign cannot be enforced but the white signs could be enforced. Supervisor Rice said she would check into putting a speed limit sign on curve sign with DOT.

Dorothy Eifert asked how many times can a building permit be renewed. CEO said they can keep renewing if necessary.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion made by Councilman Perkins, seconded by Councilwoman Ploss to approve the Board meeting minutes of June 8, 2017 with two corrections.

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

NEW BUSINESS

Motion made by Councilwoman Ploss, seconded by Councilwoman Rumrill to move into executive session to discuss personnel matter at 9:03.

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

Meeting called back into session.

With no further business, on a motion by Councilwoman Ploss, seconded by Councilwoman Rumrill, the meeting was adjourned at 9:26 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Diana Massicotte, Town Clerk