

State of New York
County of Fulton
Town of Stratford

Minutes of the Stratford Regular Board meeting held on Thursday, August 10, 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
Karen Jaquay	---	Dog Control Officer

Absent:

Michael Sokira	---	BTI Director
----------------	-----	--------------

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, Ken Thompson, Donald Vedder, Nick and Sonia Rissmeyer, Larry Neely, Harry Jaquay, Brock and Heather Rose Spears.

Supervisor Rice read the following Proclamation:

WHEREAS, Former Highway Superintendent of the Town of Stratford, Earl J. Youker, Sr. (Jim), passed away on Tuesday, July 25, 2017; and

WHEREAS Jim Youker faithfully served the Town of Stratford as Highway Superintendent for 20 years, from 1979 to 1998, overseeing many changes to the highway department and was a member of the Highway Superintendents Association of Fulton County; and

WHEREAS, Jim Youker contributed significantly to the life of this community through the Stratford Volunteer Fire Company as a former chief and fifty year member, East Canada Fish and Game Club, as a former President and Life time member, and the Snow Drifters Snowmobile Club; and now be it

RESOLVED that, at its meeting on the tenth day of August, 2017, the Stratford Town Board on behalf of the Town of Stratford posthumously honors his life and expresses its gratitude to Earl J. Youker, Sr. for his dedicated public service; now be further

RESOLVED, That this board on behalf of the Town of Stratford hereby conveys its expression of deepest sympathy to the entire family of Earl J. Youker, Sr., including his wife Dawn, his sons Earl J. Youker, Jr. and Jeremy Youker, his daughters Laurie Carpenter, Pamela Ward, Eileen Kadle, Julie Alling, and their families.

The town seal is on this Proclamation and will be given to family.

Correspondence

Six month report on drug testing, from Jefferson-Lewis Boces.

NYS Agriculture and Markets review of Brennan Humane Society.

Supervisor Rice read a portion of the letter from Carolyn Walker, Stratford Historical Society as follows:

We are a small group with two out-of-towners. We have made our money in the beginning with having a large auction followed by raffling off a handmade quilt donated by Rosalie Aubin Blanchard, scratch tickets, Stewart's gas cards, collecting cans and bottles, selling the community calendar, sold 1,000 cookbooks, mugs, t-shirts, sweat shirts and printed with old pictures at the Bicentennial in August 2005.

Out expenses: Every band we hire charges \$400 to \$600, the gazebo nights are free to the public. This July 12, nineteen people attended and July 26, twenty-one attended. Even with all the advertising, most of the people were from out of town, normally we had fifty – sixty attending. Since we lost our school, Stratford people with exceptions of a few loyals, do not usually become involved. I'm not speaking just about the Historical group, I mean with the firemen and lack of interest in running for town offices.

We do appreciate having a place to use for storage as well as use of the hall. We only meet from April to October on the fourth Thursday of the month at 6:00 pm. Everyone is welcome.

To give you an idea of what we have done to give back to the Town, a list follows:

We have had speakers on old local railroads, quarter horses, antique dolls, the Radley family including the powley place, Dutch barns, French Louie, trapper and guide plus two programs from people who had been to Moscow.

We purchased the aluminum flat pole out front, hired John Weber to remodel the kitchen, bought the gas stove and refrigerator. We arranged for the Bicentennial celebration in August 2005 which was well attended.

Hope this letter explains a little of what we are about. We are always open to new ideas and speakers that you think would interest everyone.

Letter received from NYS Department of Environmental Conservation, Charles Anderson. There will be a renovation of the Stewart's Landing Dam for fall of 2017. To facilitate the work in a timely manner the lake will be lowered earlier this fall than the normally scheduled date. Beginning October 1 the lake level will be lowered to 1539.8'. There will be a temporary fence around the area which will include the car top launch area.

REPORTS

Highway Superintendent Goodwin's report read as follows:

Hauled stone in for black topping.

Went to Salisbury to run loader for black topping.

Checked road from storm for washout and trees down, washout by Mike Jodway.

Haul stone, run loader for Salisbury. Fixed washout by Mike Jodway.

Five loads crush run, one load stone.

Fixed 544E Loader, put 8 new bolts and washer front axle to frame.

Fixed 624 loader, fix tailgate in truck #7, fix hole on Piseco Road by Dale Keck. Need new pipe.

Fix lawn mower. Push up stone pile.

Mowing side of road on north side. Got parts for lawn mower.

Haul crush run and stone dust. Mowing on north end. Put new battery in 661c Ford Mower. Grease up loader and clean wood stove out.

Black topping in Salisbury, three trucks. Mowing on Voorhees, Bickford and Kelly Roads.

Mow town park and town hall. Checking roads out at fire house and check trucks out.

Stock pile miller from crusher. Mow town barn, fire house, park and town hall. Put sign for black topping and check roads.

Black topping Allen and Mallett Hill Roads. Hauled from Salisbury and Fairfield.

Highway Superintendent went to Johnstown on FEMA regarding past snowstorm.

Black top Hadcock Road.

CEO Norman Wright's report as follows:

July 11, 2017 – August 7, 2017

Two inspections

Two meetings

Issued two permits for porch and mobile home repair

Issued one Certificate of Occupancy

Issued one Stop Work Order.

Many phone calls

Family is cleaning up place on 119, there was a big blowup within family, now family not allowed on property. Given another ticket. Supervisor Rice will check with Town Attorney regarding how the Town should proceed to clean up property. Homeowner will be billed, if not paid, the amount will be added to taxes. Superintendent Goodwin said the town should check with the landfill to clean up property.

Councilman Fogarty asked if there was a permit issued to take down buildings. A demolition permit is issued. A copy is given to the Assessor. There is no charge for permit.

Councilwoman Rumrill asked if the property on 29A was safe for the owner to work on improvements. CEO Wright said if the property becomes unsafe, he will notify owner that he has to tear it down.

Dog Control Officer read her report as follows:

July 12, 2017 through August 8, 2017

Started census. Avery Road and Hadcock Road done. Started County Road 119.

Received a call on a dog bite from Fulton County Sheriff's office. Followed protocol and advised owner that dog is to be only out to relieve itself. To be handled by only one person and is not allowed to come in contact with any other animals or people. The owner was told to continue this till 8/10/17. At that time, I will return and check dog. Owner advised to then take dog to vet for a rabies shot and to update license with Town Clerk.

Will be returning to court on 8/8/17 for a dog control violation for a third time.

I brought a body cam to help with dog control. This verifies all I see and do for DCO violations.

Received two calls for lost dogs. Not found.

Rest of month quiet.

Supervisor Rice thanked the CEO and DCO for their calendars.

Supervisor Rice said the BTI Director is finished until November when he starts training again.

No Assessor's report.

Supervisor's Report

Fulton County committee looking into Shared Services regarding contract assessing. Gave towns only two months to come up with a plan that shows savings. Almost all the assessors times are up in 2019.

Regarding speed limit – DOT stated that speed could be posted on the curve signs which are yellow and not ticketed. Signs by Stewarts Landing would cost about \$50.00 per sign. Will start with two signs at curves near dam on Stewarts Landing. Councilman Fogarty asked if a deadend sign could be put up near Bliss Road.

Councilman Fogarty asked if there could be a workshop to discuss job descriptions for appointed employees only. There are manuals that are printed for elected officials. It was decided to meet Wednesday, August 23 at 6:30.

Supervisor Rice stated if anyone had a complaint, they were to fill out a form which is at the Town Clerk's Office and return to either the Town Clerk or Supervisor.

Broadband status – Had over 250 signatures which were mailed to five companies. The bidding ends on August 15.

Supervisor Rice stated that she handed out the budget request forms to department heads to have in by September 14. She asked for dates for the budget workshop so she could notify the Bookkeeper. It was decided to have a budget meeting on October 10 at 6:30.

AUDIT OF CLAIMS

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

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

General Fund – Abstract 8	Voucher Nos. 86 through 95	\$ 2,379.92
Highway Fund - Abstract 8	Voucher Nos. 118 through 128	\$ 13,135.55
Prepaid Fund - Abstract 8	Voucher Nos. 124 through 132	\$ 3,522.45

OLD BUSINESS

Senator Tedesco and Aide suggested getting estimates on new barn and repairs from contractors. There is no deadline. If there is a hardship, the money will be paid up front rather than by reimbursement. Supervisor Rice and Superintendent Goodwin working on getting estimates from contractors.

PUBLIC SPEAKING

Discussion on broadband.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion made by Councilwoman Rumrill, seconded by Councilwoman Ploss to approve the Board meeting minutes of July 13, 2017.

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

NEW BUSINESS

Superintendent Goodwin said there is a small problem on Avery Road. Forester is helping him out at end of October. He will drop two pine trees for us. It is on the right of way. Supervisor Rice will pursue with town attorney regarding the town’s responsibility of taking down trees.

Superintendent Goodwin said that Lenny Blood would be retiring August 27. Superintendent Goodwin said he has a man in mind.

Councilwoman Rumrill announced that the Historical Society Band Concert would be held September 9 from 1:00 to 8:00.

Supervisor Rice said there were risers in the shed and wanted to know what the town wanted to do with them. Neither the Seniors nor the Historical Society need them. It was suggested to either sell them or give them away.

With no further business, on a motion by Councilwoman Rumrill seconded by Councilman Perkins, the meeting was adjourned at 7:50 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Diana Massicotte, Town Clerk