

State of New York
County of Fulton
Town of Stratford

Minutes of the Stratford Regular Board meeting held on Thursday, October 12, 2017 at the municipal building located at 120 Piseco Rd.

Present:

Alicia Rice	---	Supervisor
Allan Perkins	---	Councilman
Joan Ploss	---	Councilwoman
Richard Fogarty	---	Councilman
Lorraine Rumrill	---	Councilwoman
Charles Goodwin	---	Superintendent
Diana Massicotte	---	Town Clerk
Norman Wright	---	Code Enforcement Officer

Absent:

Janet Dickson	---	Deputy Town Clerk
Karen Jaquay	---	Dog Control Officer

Supervisor Rice called the regular Town Board meeting to order at 6:31 pm with the Pledge to the Flag.

Residents in attendance: Jay Pierz, Harry Jaquay, Heidi Christiansen, Gary Rumrill, Peter Szczebak, Lydia Barnes, Elizabeth Barnes, Donald Vedder and Ken Thompson.

REPORTS

Highway Superintendent Goodwin reported as follows:

- Put pipe in on Landing Road and took rocks out of road and black patched.
- Put shoulder down on Allen, Mallett Hill and Hadcock Roads.
- Oil and stone on Allen, Mallett Hill and Hadcock roads.
- Black patch hole on Seeley Road.
- Fixed shoulder machine, belt broke.
- Fixed 2002 Freightline #7 radiator.
- Mowed some of East Shore Road. Mower broke, had to fix it.
- Sweeping stone off Mattell Hill, Hadcock and Allen roads.
- Hauled sand in for winter.
- Had pickup fender and rocker panel fixed and painted.
- Mowed Town Park and Town Hall.

Supervisor Rice asked Superintendent Goodwin to comment on chips. It is a reimbursement after checks are posted.

MOVAC was present. Greg Eisenhut and Brad Vrooman presented updated information. They have been traveling to townships, Oppenheim, Stratford, Salisbury Center and Dolgeville to clarify information regarding their operation. MOVAC is 50163 non-profit organization that started in 1979. 2012 they made a move to put on full time staff. In 2016 S&S Ambulance approached MOVAC to merge with them. They have three 24 hour day crews on seven days a week. Two in Mohawk and one in Dolgeville. Monday through Friday 9:00 – 5:00 and 3:00 – 11:00 and Saturday and Sunday 8:00 – 6:00. They have 6 ambulances, flight car. BLS (basic life system) EMT and ALS (advanced life system) with paramedics. Can operate to save a life.

There is full crew in Dolgeville 24 hours a day. If crew goes out, another is sent from Mohawk to back fill. A lot of trips to Albany, Syracuse and New York City. Nothing is left unattended. Still moving forward to purchase the S&S properties. The crew will fluctuate between Dolgeville and Salisbury Center. CON is transferred from S&S to MOVAC. Then assets are transferred. Attorney General has to sign off on it. S&S is still active in the business end of it. Supervisor Rice asked about response time. Will have a mutual agreement with ambulance in Fulton County. Ed Rzeszot said response time is better because there is crew on site in Dolgeville. He will be on the Board with George Comstock. They run 25 to 30 calls a day. Supervisor Rice asked how familiar were the drivers. The paramedic is in charge. Always open to meeting with fire department. The ground crew is in charge of calling a helicopter if needed.

MOVAC will not be taking over any fire service. They are only an emergency medical service. Hope to put paramedics through rescue programs so there will be more personnel available if needed.

Gary Rumrill asked if they had a land line. They do. There is a communication issue. They will be working on it to get everyone on the same page. Supervisor asked about the cost. MOVAC is obligated by law to accept whatever the insurance will pay and cannot rebill patient. Private insurance have different contractual rates. MOVAC is obligated to accept the contractual amount and bill for the co-pay. They cannot go after the balance.

For special events they will have to charge \$100 per hour, these calls cannot be done for free. The fire department will not be charged for standby coverage during a fire. Suggested multiplying the population by \$1.00 for a contribution. The town will get back a contract that says MOVAC is providing emergency services. They charge \$30 for a lift assist. Harry Jaquay asked how they charge. They charge by the medical service and \$20.00 per mile.

Supervisor Rice stated that she pursued the possibility of charging back residents if the Town cleaned up the property, but the Real Property Tax Office said that demolition and cleanup cannot be put on property taxes.

CEO Norman Wright's report as follows:

September 12, 2017 – October 9, 2017

Eleven inspections

One meeting

Issued five permits for deck, pole barn, 2 septic and garage

Issued one Appearance ticket

Issued one Stop Work Order.

Many phone calls

Supervisor Rice read the Dog Control Officer's report as follows:
September 13, 2017 through October 10, 2017

Appeared in court for a pending case and was told it was postponed. I am still waiting to find out when to appear on this case.

I met with the inspector from Ag and Mkts for our yearly inspection. I am happy to say we passed. I was also informed by the inspector that we were not to fill out any paperwork for the cruelty case that is pending this week.

I MET WITH THE Fulton County District Attorney to go over my testimony concerning the cruelty case from this year.

I will be meeting on Thursday with the DA to go over everything again.

Did a small amount on the dog census.

I received a call for a dog loose on Piseco Road. Dog was picked up and posted on Pawsboost alert page. This goes out to shelters, DCO's, Vets and public. I received a call from the owner and she redeemed the dog the next day at my residence. She supplied copies of current license, rabies and photo ID of owner. Copies were made of everything and attached to all paperwork.

The rest of the month I was on call.

Supervisor Rice thanked the CEO and DCO for their calendars.

Supervisor Rice reported that Town Clerk Massicotte made up a special dog permit and sent it to Karen, she returned it with comments. Supervisor Rice asked Town Clerk Massicotte to incorporate the remarks and present it at the next meeting.

No report from BTI Director but there will be one next meeting.

No Assessor's report.

Supervisor's Report

The Town Board met to discuss budget, there will be another budget workshop meeting to discuss the budget on October 24 at 5:30 pm. The public hearing date for the budget will be November 9.

Supervisor Rice read resolution from county for the Town to adopt as follows:

RESOLUTION 13-2017

RESOLUTION BY TOWN BOARD TO ACCEPT THE FOLLOWING:

RESOLUTION SUPPORTING STATEWIDE CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT BALLOT PROPOSAL #3 THAT CREATES A LAND ACCOUNT TO ADDRESS SPECIFIC PUBLIC HEALTH AND SAFETY CONCERNS FOR USE BY TOWNS, VILLAGES, AND COUNTIES HAVING NO VIABLE ALTERNATIVE OTHER THAN USING FOREST PRESERVE LAND.

WHEREAS, the NY State Forest Preserve lands, in many instances, border local and state highways where local government needs to use a portion of land to straighten a dangerous road, replace a culvert to prevent floods, create a safer bike path, drill a water supply well, or install broadband and other critical infrastructure, and

WHEREAS, the proposed Amendment will create a land account with up to 250-acres of State Forest Preserve land eligible for use by towns, villages, and counties that have no viable alternative to using State Forest Preserve land to address specific public health or safety concerns, and

WHEREAS, as in exchange for the land removed from the State Forest Preserve, another 250-acres of land, will be added to the State Forest Preserve, subject to NY State legislative approval, and

WHEREAS, the proposed Amendment also will allow bicycle trails and certain public utility lines to be located within the width of specific highways that cross the State Forest Preserve while minimizing removal of trees and vegetation, and

WHEREAS, the NY State Constitution has been amended to allow such projects in the past, requiring approval by two separately elected NY State Legislatures and a Statewide Referendum, and

WHEREAS, there exists currently a NYS DOT landbank for NY State road projects which has a long-standing record of success, and

WHEREAS, if approved by the voters of New York State, Ballot Proposal #3 would eliminate the time-consuming and costly bureaucratic process for completing important road maintenance, utility installation and bicycle path creation projects in the Adirondacks and Catskills, a process not faced by communities in any other region of New York State, and

WHEREAS, the Amendment has wide bi-partisan support from local governments, environmental protection organizations, business groups, recreational enthusiasts, and others for two simple reasons; It's for public good and it's rooted in plain old common sense, and

WHEREAS, this Amendment represents the best possible solution to long standing or continuing issues, which local government leaders have worked for many years to resolve, and

WHEREAS, Ballot Proposal #3 on November 7, 2017 warrants the support of all the voters of New York State.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Town of Stratford Town Board does hereby support Ballot Proposal #3 on November 7, 2017, which is deemed critically important to our communities, the State Forest Preserve, the environment and the People of the State of New York, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this resolution shall be forwarded to NYSAC and the Adirondack Association of Towns and Villages.

Offered by: Councilwoman Rumrill, seconded by Councilman Perkins

Adopted: Ayes - Rice, Rumrill, Perkins, Ploss and Fogarty

Nays - 0

Supervisor Rice gave the Board the Financial report and monthly budget update report.

The tax cap is based on the tax levy. We are allowed to increase the tax levy 1.84%. We may not see an excess of tax money this year. Supervisor Rice said they are trying not to exceed the cap. She would like the Board to pass a resolution to override the tax levy limit.

RESOLUTION 12-2017

RESOLUTION BY TOWN BOARD TO HOLD PUBLIC MEETING ON NOVEMBER 8, 2017

WHEREAS, the Board will hear any discussion on the proposed Law No. 2, To Override the Tax Levy Limit established in General Municipal Law Section 3-c,

RESOLVED, that the Stratford Town Board does hereby require that notice be put in the newspaper five days before next regular Board Meeting.

Offered by: Supervisor Rice, seconded by Councilman Perkins

Adopted: Ayes Rice and Perkins
Nays Rumrill, Ploss and Fogarty

Resolution is not passed. Supervisor Rice stated she was very upset.

AUDIT OF CLAIMS

Motion made by Councilwoman Ploss, seconded by Councilwoman Rumrill to approve the bills on Abstract #10

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

General Fund – Abstract 10	Voucher Nos. 102 through 112	\$ 5,448.87
Highway Fund - Abstract 10	Voucher Nos. 155 through 172	\$ 32,683.54
Prepaid Fund - Abstract 10	Voucher Nos. 144 through 154	\$ 4,937.97

When the checks clear, then we will receive the chips money. Information that FEMA required has been sent in from snowstorm in 2017. When there is enough damage County wide, it is submitted to FEMA.

OLD BUSINESS

Board has quotes received for estimates on Town Barn which were forwarded to Tedesco’s office. To build new Town Barn for under \$500,000 based on the estimates received. To repair the current barn would cost more than half of this amount.

PUBLIC SPEAKING

Gary Rumrill asked about property on Route 29A, Code Enforcement Officer Wright said he walked around the property and it was not a hazard to the public.

Heidi Christiansen asked about repaving the West Shore road. Superintendent Goodwin stated he was checking into the cost of double sealing it.

Don Vedder asked about permits for roofs. Supervisor Rice said she checked with the lawyer and he said we should rescind resolution. The resolution for reshingling roof stated that the permit was free. Will look into it. The cost of reshingling and changing plywood is \$25.00 for permit.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion made by Councilwoman Ploss, seconded by Councilwoman Rumrill to approve the Board meeting minutes of September 14, 2017.

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

Councilman Fogarty wanted it on the record that anyone who is qualified should be considered to be on BAR. Supervisor Rice she would like each section of the town represented. In reality we do not need anyone until May but Supervisor Rice would like to resolve it by December.

NEW BUSINESS

Councilman Fogarty asked if chimney repair is being looked at. Superintendent Goodwin is working on getting estimates. Councilman Fogarty said he would assist Superintendent Goodwin in getting estimates. Would like to move chimney up to the peak before snow flies.

Councilwoman Rumrill stated she would like to see outside lights in the back of the building.

Superintendent Goodwin asked what was happening with getting new picnic tables. Councilman Fogarty said he would provide three tables.

Motion made by Councilwoman Ploss, seconded by Councilwoman Rumrill to go into executive session to discuss a personnel matter.

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

Board went into executive session at 8:45 and returned to regular meeting at 9:05.

With no further business, on a motion by Councilwoman Ploss, seconded by Councilman Perkins, the meeting was adjourned at 9:05 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Diana Massicotte, Town Clerk