

State of New York
County of Fulton
Town of Stratford

Minutes of the Stratford Regular Board meeting held on Thursday, December 14, 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:

Karen Jaquay	---	Dog Control Officer
Janet Dickson	---	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: Harry Jaquay, Heidi Christiansen, Gary Rumrill, Peter and Mary Szczebak, Dorothy Eifert, Heather VanDenburgh, Nicholas and Sonia Rissmeyer, Ken Thompson and Jay Pierz.

CORRESPONDENCE

Letter from BOCES regarding the Drug and Alcohol Program Participants regarding expanded drug testing panel. The new rule expands the substances that are screened for in the drug test to include four synthetic opioid drugs.

An email was received from the Broadband Program Office regarding Internet access in Stratford. The majority of the Census Blocks within the Town of Stratford were eligible for funding in Phase 3 of the new program. Census Blocks are the geography used by the Office to assess unserved and underserved areas. The Broadband Program Office is reviewing applications for Phase 3 and anticipates announcing the awards in the near future.

A letter from the Adirondack Trust Insurance Agency was received announcing that their new name will be AMSURE.

Newsletters were received from NYMIR and NYSLRS.

Letter was received from the Fulton Public Health Department regarding lead poisoning which can be found in older housing where lead-based paint may have been used. The Federal Residential Lead Based Paint Hazard Reduction Act 42U.S.C. 4852d, requires sellers and landlords of most residential housing built before 1978 to disclose all available records and reports concerning lead based paint and or lead

based paint hazards including the test results to purchasers and tenants at the time of sale or lease or upon lease renewal. This disclosure must occur even if hazard reduction or abatement has been completed.

REPORTS

Highway Superintendent Goodwin reported as follows:

- Men back on 8 hour days.
- Plowed and sanded roads.
- Fixed wing wall on pipe by Leo Aubin.
- Nationalgrid took down trees on Avery Road and we cleaned up the trees from road.
- Put new starter in 2002 Freightline.
- Had to fix sander on F550 Ford 2014.
- Put in new modual and wire harness kit in Sander.
- Put two new tires on Truck #2007 Sterling 10 wheeler and put four new tires on Truck #2017 Freightline.
- Put heating oil tank in cold store barn.
- Clean up wood back of barn.
- Put roof over door in back of barn.
- Took pickup to Whitesboro to fix plow light on plow and pickup.
- Cut trees out on Bickford Road on November 19 – Ben Rutkowski – 2 hours overtime

McCarthy and Sons has been working on the barn. Removed chimney below roof line and installed new tin in two areas. CEO Wright talked with contractor regarding the best way to fix stove pipe and flash properly and build a cricket.

Supervisor Rice stated that work does not have to be put out for bid if under \$20,000.

Motion made by Councilwoman Ploss, seconded by Councilman Perkins to have McCarthy and Sons do the extra chimney work.

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

Councilman Fogarty asked what we were paying Shepard Oil for diesel. Highway Superintendent Goodwin said the price is \$2.18.

CEO Norman Wright's report as follows:
November 7, 2017 – December 13, 2017

- Issued six permits – 2 wood stoves, shed, demo, chimney, pavilion
- Issued 4 Certificates of Compliance
- Issued 3 Certificates of Occupancy
- Eight inspections
- Many phone calls

Supervisor Rice asked CEO Wright about the property on Highway 29A. He said that the property owner took down the front wall and would have the sides down this weekend. He will have to take debris to Mudd Road.

Dog Control Officer read her report as follows:

November 8, 2017 through December 5, 2017

The dog that was stolen from a resident has returned. I was informed by another resident that he had dated pictures of this dog on his property unattended by his owner. I will be issuing appearance tickets to the owner of said dog. This is a repeat of previous tickets.

I continue to receive calls about sightings of a dog running loose on County Road 104. I put in a call to the DA's office and was informed the Humane Society was having no luck capturing this dog. They also gave the ok for other people to try and capture this dog.

Took stray cat calls and advised the callers that we only do dogs.

The rest of the month has been quiet.

Spent several days going thru old paper work.

No Assessor's report.

BTI will be quiet until Spring.

Supervisor's Report

Supervisor Rice stated that County budget was passed. The tax rate is 8.14%.

Supervisor Rice thanked Jann Dickson for all her work in putting on the Children's Christmas party with the help of Ora, Diana, and Jean. She also wanted to thank Jann for her help as Deputy Town Clerk.

Supervisor Rice said that Scott Seeley was responsible for the beautiful wreath that hangs outside the office.

Supervisor Rice thanked Clerk Massicotte for all her help and support. Clerk Massicotte received a standing ovation which completely overwhelmed her.

Regarding derelict property, the DEC has found no contamination in the streams. The APA has checked property and there is nothing they can do. The Health Department can only step in under certain criteria.

Supervisor Rice stated she would like to have a meeting to go over all out policies, such as; Harrassment and Procurement.

Insurance renewals have been completed.

The new employee will receive a buyout prorated for medical insurance.

AUDIT OF CLAIMS

Motion made by Councilman Perkins, seconded by Councilwoman Rumrill to approve the bills on Abstract #12

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

General Fund – Abstract 12	Voucher Nos. 128 through 143	\$8,311.39
Highway Fund - Abstract 12	Voucher Nos. 189 through 205	\$7,130.53
Prepaid Fund - Abstract 12	Voucher Nos. 166 through 181	\$8,102.11

OLD BUSINESS

None

PUBLIC SPEAKING

Nick Rissmeyer asked about cell service had a few suggestions such as having someone put up a cell tower. This has to be accomplished privately.

Sonia Rissmeyer said she was a bit concerned about using live traps to catch dogs because of the cold weather plus the fact the animal might be in it for a long period of time.

Gary Rumrill asked about the Cold War law. Supervisor Rice said the tax exemption would continue under the new law.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion made by Councilwoman Rumrill, seconded by Councilwoman Ploss to approve the Board meeting minutes of November 9, 2017.

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

NEW BUSINESS

RESOLUTION 16-2017

RESOLUTION SUPPORTING POLICE BENEVOLENT ASSOCIATION OF NEW YORK STATE, INC. (PBA OF NYS) PROPOSAL TO INCREASE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION FOREST RANGER STAFFING TO A STATEWIDE TOTAL OF 175

Offered by Councilwoman Ploss, Seconded by Councilwoman Rumrill

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

WHEREAS, NYS forest rangers have provided care, custody and control of the Forest Preserve and all DEC managed lands throughout the state since 1885, protecting the valuable natural resources and the people who recreate there; and

WHEREAS, forest rangers are unequalled stewards of the land who are police officers, wildland firefighters and wilderness first responders that patrol these lands year round; and

WHEREAS, the addition of over 1 million acres of DEC managed lands the last several decades without staffing increase has caused the ratio of DEC managed lands per ranger to grow from 1 ranger per 28,516 acres in 1970 to 1 ranger per 53,752 acres today; and

WHEREAS, the dramatic increase in recreational use on state lands has led to a corresponding increase in the number of search and rescue operations. In both 2015 and 2016 forest rangers participated in over 300 incidents annually. Those numbers had not been surpassed in the rangers' previous 130 years of existence; and

WHEREAS, Adirondack communities rely heavily on tourism associated with state land recreation which, gratefully, has been well-promoted by this administration; and

WHEREAS, forest rangers are essential to providing a safe and positive recreational experience for tourists utilizing state land; and

WHEREAS, the current level of forest ranger staffing, 135 statewide including supervisors, is not adequate to fulfill their unique mission given the amount of land they patrol and the number of incidents they respond to; and

WHEREAS, the proposal by the PBA of NYS to increase forest ranger staffing has wide public and bi-partisan support from local governments, business groups, environmental groups and outdoor recreation clubs for a simple reason: It protects the people from the land and the land from the people;

WHEREAS, this proposal represents the best solution to address the increase in public lands and those utilizing it; and

WHEREAS, forest rangers are critical to the Town of Stratford since 70% of the land in the Town is state owned.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Board of the Town of Stratford does hereby support the PBA of NYS proposal to increase forest ranger staffing to 175 rangers statewide, which is deemed critically important to our community, state land, the environment and the People of the State of New York; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a certified copy of this Resolution shall be forwarded to the PBA of NYS, 11 North Pearl Street, Suite 1200, Albany, NY 12207.

The new cold War Veterans law will be presented at next meeting. The Board decided that there would be no time limits on new law.

Motion was made by Councilwoman Ploss, seconded by Councilwoman Rumrill to go into executive session to discuss personnel matter at 7:55.

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

Meeting was called back to order on a motion by Councilwoman Rumrill, seconded by Councilwoman Ploss at 8:05.

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

With no further business, on a motion by Councilwoman Rumrill, seconded by Councilman Perkins, the meeting was adjourned at 8:06 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Diana Massicotte, Town Clerk