

**State of New York
County of Fulton
Town of Stratford REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
Municipal Building, 120 Piseco Road
July 12th, 2018**

Present:

Alicia Rice	Supervisor
Richard Fogarty	Councilman
Joan Ploss	Councilwoman
Lorraine Rumrill	Councilwoman
Allan Perkins	Councilman
Heather VanDenburgh	Town Clerk
Charles Goodwin	Highway Superintendent
Norman Wright	Code Enforcement Officer
Michael Sokira	BTI Director
Karen Jaquay	Dog Control Officer
Nicholas Macri	Town Attorney
Kelly Wilder	Bookkeeper

Absent:

ALL PRESENT

Town Officials Not Required to Attend:

Leigh Anne Loucks	Assessor
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Number of Residents in Attendance: 11

Supervisor Rice called the Regular Board Meeting to order at 6:33pm with the Pledge of Allegiance, and welcomed back Councilman Perkins.

Correspondence: Supervisor Rice received notification from the Department of Conservation that a contract was recently awarded for repair/maintenance work on Stewart's Landing Dam. Be advised that the lowering of the water levels on Stewart's Lake will begin on Monday, September 10, 2018.

Highway Superintendent Goodwin's report was reviewed by the Town Board. (See attached).

Supervisor Rice received a letter from Steven Abdoo of the Member Lake Stewardship Committee requesting additional 15MPH signs on West Shore Road. Superintendent Goodwin replaced (1) 15mph sign with wear, and placed another closer to the intersection near SR 29A. He also stated that West Shore Road currently has 15mph signs on it. Councilman Fogarty asked if orange flags could be hung diagonally from the speed limit signs as you enter both East and West Shore Road to make them more visible. Superintendent Goodwin agreed. Supervisor Rice stated she would look into this, and will call DOT to see if there are any regulations regarding the flags before placing them.

Superintendent Goodwin will have a \$190,000 CHIPS budget, and submitted a proposal to black top West Shore Road (1.7 miles), Stewarts Landing Road (1.2 miles), and if funding allows, a portion of Cemetery Road. He stated that the Town will save \$20,000 by transporting the stone ourselves instead of using Carver to truck it in. Copies of the proposal and quotes were made by TC VanDenburgh and given to the Board Members to review. The Board Members requested more time to review the documents, at which time the meeting moved on to CEO Wright.

Code Enforcement Officer Wright's report was reviewed by Town Board (See attached). CEO Wright had a complaint made against him to the state regarding the Abare property and that he wasn't doing his job. This property has had multiple complaints over the years, and although there has been a slight improvement, the Town has done all it can to rectify it. The DEC and APA have inspected the property and have found no contamination or other environmental dangers. Supervisor Rice currently has no way to compel the owners to clean it up.

There was no Assessor report for June 2018.

Dog Control Officer Jaquay's report was reviewed by Town Board (See attached). DCO Jaquay reports that the French Mastiff (which was adopted by a family living on CR 104 last month) was found dead with a wound to its head. She is unsure whether the dog was hit by a car or shot. She also spoke of a property owner on Youker Road that required a special permit from the Town Clerk's office for harboring (5) or more dogs on the premises. She requested CEO Wright inspect this property instead of herself for personal safety reasons, and Supervisor Rice suggested that the Sheriff be present if CEO Wright should need to go.

BTI Director Sokira's report was review by the Town Board (See attached).

CONTINUATION OF DISCUSSION ON HIGHWAY ROADWORK PROPOSAL: Superintendent Goodwin clarified certain parts of his quote. After a discussion, the Board Members and Superintendent Goodwin decided to put off the decision until the next board meeting in August 9, but both are open to reconvening at a special meeting in between if one should be called. Superintendent Goodwin hopes to start work in September, so the August Town Board meeting is the latest that he can wait for Town Board approval.

NYS RETIREMENT: Bookkeeper Wilder attended the meeting and explained that NYSLRS requires the resolution to accept retirement calendars and sometimes requests the actual calendars. To avoid any further confusion, Bookkeeper Wilder will be sending in both the resolution and the calendars at once.

RESOLUTION 24-18, FOR STATE RETIREMENT FOR THE PURPOSE OF REPORTING TO NEW YORK STATE AND LOCAL RETIREMENT SYSTEM

BE IT RESOLVED that the Town Board of the Town of Stratford has determined for Town Clerk, Heather VanDenburgh (1) that the hours for the Town Clerk are 69 hours per month, (2) that the term for the elected Town Clerk of the Town of Stratford expires Dec 31, 2019, and that a three month calendar of hours and activities has been received and maintained by the Town Clerk.

BE IT RESOLVED that the Town Board of the Town of Stratford has determined for Bookkeeper, Kelly Wilder (1) that the hours for the Bookkeeper are 23 hours per month, (2) that the term for appointed Bookkeeper expires Dec 31, 2019, and that a three month calendar of hours and activities has been received and maintained by the Town Clerk.

Offered by Councilwoman Ploss, seconded by Councilman Rumrill

**ADOPTED: 5 AYES
0 NAYS**

Rice, Fogarty, Perkins, Ploss, Rumrill

Supervisor Rice's Report:

Town Barn, Letter from State Senator Tedisco: Supervisor Rice read Senator Tedisco's letter, stating that

he "... ha[s] tentatively secured a grant of \$150,000, subject to State Agency approval, to assist the Town of Stratford with the upgrading of the Town Barn." He included the requirements and noted the process could take approximately (1) year to complete. This grant would require that the Town of Stratford pay for the costs up front, and be reimbursed once the appropriate authority approves these repairs. It is advised that the Town get agency approval (with a contract, "grant disbursement agreement") with DASNY. A discussion on what repairs needed priority ensued. These priorities were listed:

- 1. Drainage surrounding the Town Barn building to avoid further water issues
- 2. New floor with drainage/holding tank
- 3. Upgrade to 200amp electric with a standby generator
- 4. Roof repair
- 5. Upgraded heating system
- 6. Install a well

A discussion about the phone line going through the property was discussed as well, and it was suggested that Verizon be contacted about moving the line. Quotes for Town Barn repairs will need to be updated. Supervisor Rice thanked Senator Tedisco for helping us to find funding to rehabilitate our Town Barn.

Town Attorney Macri then discussed the Town securing a Bond Anticipation Note (BAN), which is a short-term loan for municipalities. If Stratford qualifies, we could borrow the \$150,000 for up to (5) years (but can be prepaid without a penalty) at approximately 3.85% current municipality interest rate through Adirondack Bank. He stated a Municipal Bond could be pursued, but they are generally for more than \$1 million, and require much more work to secure. Once the Town Board gets their quotes together for the work needed on the Town Barn, Attorney Macri will draft a resolution for Board approval. Attorney Macri asked the Board Members if they had any questions, and Councilman Fogarty asked whether the Board Members were able to call him with questions they might have. Attorney Macri stated this was a Board/Supervisor decision. A motion was made by Councilman Fogarty to allow Board Members to call the Town Attorney anytime they feel it's warranted. Supervisor Rice objected to this motion. A discussion ensued between Attorney Macri, Supervisor Rice, and Councilman Fogarty regarding how other townships use Attorney Macri's services. Councilman Fogarty stated he would like clarification from "time to time" when making decisions regarding the Town. Supervisor Rice stated that she'd rather the Board ask their questions to the Town Attorney in front of her. Councilman Fogarty renewed his motion. Supervisor Rice continued to express her objections.

Resolution 25-18, STRATFORD TOWN BOARD AND TOWN ATTORNEY COMMUNICATIONS

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Stratford Town Board Members are hereby allowed to call the Town of Stratford Attorney whenever guidance is necessary.

Offered by Councilman Fogarty, seconded by Councilman Ploss

ADOPTED: 3 AYES **Fogarty, Ploss, Rumrill**
2 NAYS **Rice, Perkins**

Supervisor's Report: On July 10th, Supervisor Rice attended a Shared Services panel.

LED Street Lighting: NYPA gave a presentation, which discussed aggregating all the street lights in Fulton County to get a reduced price along with a countywide contract.

Tax Collection Software: Fulton County will be having a meeting in the future for the 30 Tax Collectors in

Fulton County to discuss the possibility of migrating to the Systems East Software.

Contract Assessing through the County: Supervisor Rice discussed the possibility of County Assessing Services instead of having a local assessing unit. This will set up one office for Real Property Tax Service within Fulton County for all townships. The cost for each township will “probably” be based on the number of parcels, which could mean that Stratford could potentially save money by allowing Fulton County to take over this service for us. Supervisor Rice also indicated that if Stratford supported this measure and it succeeded, that we wouldn’t have to go through another revaluation. Fulton County provided a resolution (See attached) and requested that any townships interested should pass the resolution so the County can get a better idea of whether to proceed. According to Supervisor Rice, 7 townships out of 10 have expressed interest, and (2) have elected assessors, which is a different process. It was decided to wait until after Public Speaking to put a motion on the table for this resolution.

RESOLUTION 26-18, CONTRACT WITH STRATEGIC LABOR SERVICES, INC

BE IT RESOLVED that the Town of Stratford approves to contract with Strategic Labor Services with Butch Ventura as our representative for union negotiations.

Offered by Councilman Fogarty, seconded by Councilwoman Rumrill

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

Broadband: Supervisor Rice and TC VanDenburgh are working on the letter to send to our officials regarding our concerns with the Verizon broadband coverage.

FINANCIAL REPORT: Bookkeeper Wilder updated the Board on the 2016 AUD progress, and stated once the 2016 is posted, she can begin the 2017 AUD which should be a much easier process. Councilman Fogarty gave Bookkeeper Wilder an example Monthly Financial Statement, and asked her if she was able to create something similar for the Board Members. She said she would get quotes on budgeting software that would allow her to create one.

PAYMENT OF BILLS: There were no questions/comments on July’s bills.

JULY ABSTRACTS

2018 GENERAL FUND	VOUCHERS 60-70	\$ 1,383.65
2018 PREPAID FUND	VOUCHERS 92-106	\$ 8,254.98
2018 HIGHWAY FUND	VOUCHERS 83-93	\$ 4,873.05

A motion was offered by Councilwoman Ploss and seconded by Councilman Perkins to approve the payment of these vouchers.

5 AYES **Rice, Fogarty, Perkins, Ploss, Rumrill**
0 NAYS

PUBLIC SPEAKING: Commenced at 7:45pm

Two residents disagreed and one agreed with the Contract Assessing resolution. Another broadband discussion occurred with more outside information given by Attorney Macri. BTI Director Sokira talked with a resident about treating the swamp/pond at the end of Hadcock near CR 119, and stated that he would need permission from the owner to treat. Another resident expressed interest in having solar

panels installed on their property, but was told that Stratford only has single phase electric lines and he would need three-phase lines to send electric back to the grid. A public discussion about Judge Gardner was had with Attorney Macri. A resident asked about the Stratford Seniors signs for the auction on their property, and stated that he didn't mind them, but wished they had asked before placing them in his front yard.

Heidi C. left at 8:32pm

PUBLIC SPEAKING: Closed at 8:34pm

OLD BUSINESS:

Kitchen Floor estimate by Mr. Pohlig. The flooring quote was discussed, and the Town Board decided to wait for one more quote before deciding.

Pledge to Reduce Road Salt Resolution: Supervisor Rice clarified a few points about the Pledge, which was presented to the Board in the June meeting. This resolution is to help lobby NYS to reduce road salt use.

RESOLUTION 27-18 Pledge to Reduce Road Salt

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING OF MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENTS IN THE ADIRONDACKS REGARDING THE APPLICATION OF ROAD SALT FOR WINTER MAINTENANCE AND DE-ICING

The purpose of this Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) is to describe an agreement among the municipal governments in the Adirondack Park regarding a program to address the levels of chlorides in Adirondack ground and surface waters by reducing the application of road salt for winter road maintenance and de-icing practices. This MOU is not a binding commitment, but is rather a pledge of intent of the municipalities signing this document to work in good faith to create an effective program to reduce the levels of road salt application in recognition of the following:

WHEREAS, there has been a measureable increase in the use of road salts in the Adirondacks to assist in winter road maintenance and de-icing; and,

WHEREAS, within the Adirondacks there are a total of approximately 10,555 lane miles of local, county, state and federal roads and an estimated 192,700 metric tons of salt is used per year; and,

WHEREAS, there are numerous studies documenting the significant increases in road salt in Adirondack surface waters resulting from road runoff; and,

WHEREAS, median lake chloride concentrations in watersheds without paved roads were nearly identical to background (natural, untouched) concentrations and lakes in watershed with paved roads show chloride concentrations that are, on average, 14 times higher than watersheds without paved roads; and,

WHEREAS, recent concentrations of chlorides in many Adirondack lakes are at thresholds that can alter the composition of the phytoplankton, periphyton and macroinvertebrate communities altering the food web and hence potentially changing the biological productivity; and,

WHEREAS, continued increases in salt loading in the watershed may also affect the physical circulation of the lake by increasing vertical density gradients that are more difficult to mix; and,

WHEREAS, elevated salt concentrations in potable water is a health concern to individuals who drink water from private wells in some parts of the Adirondacks because increased sodium consumption is

linked to high blood pressure and if salt levels are allowed to continue rising at the current rate, within the next one to two decades, the lake's water will become a health hazard; and,

WHEREAS, road salt application is linked to leaching of calcium and magnesium from soil, which makes Adirondack lakes more hospitable for aquatic invasive species colonization; and,

WHEREAS, some of the most obvious toxic effects of road salt are observed in roadside vegetation where high concentrations of salt accumulates and persists and damage is observed with the browning of foliage, premature defoliation, suppression of flowers and die back of terminal roots and the erosion problems that occur when vegetation is affected; and,

WHEREAS, road salt is responsible for the increased corrosion of road infrastructure and vehicles.

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY

AGREED that the undersigned Towns, Village and Counties recognize the significant adverse impacts of excessive application of road salt for winter maintenance and de-icing; and it is further

AGREED that the undersigned Towns, Village and Counties intend to reduce the salt loading into Adirondack Lakes through the reduced application of road salt; and it is further

AGREED that the undersigned Towns, Village and Counties will curtail the increase of road salt through proven methods of road salt application (as demonstrated in New Hampshire and Vermont) and through utilizing Best Management Practices); and it is further

AGREED that the undersigned Towns, Village and Counties will, subject to research supporting their use, consider alternative de-icing materials that minimize the application of road salt; and it is further

AGREED that the undersigned Towns, Village and Counties help to document the effectiveness of alternative road salt materials and/or substitutes; and it is further

AGREED that the undersigned Towns, Village and Counties will investigate and consider equipment to better manage and monitor the application of road salt; and it is further

AGREED that the undersigned Towns, Village and Counties will have highway department superintendents, collect data using consistent methods on the quantities and application rates of road salts within their jurisdictions, as well as truck loading and route distribution information in using this data for improved application methods and it is further

AGREED that the undersigned Towns, Village and Counties will have highway department supervisors assess and tailor road salt application rates based on level of surface, road grades and proximity to water bodies and runoff systems; and it is further

AGREED that the undersigned Towns, Village and Counties will establish an education and training program for all highway department employees on the impacts of road salt in the Adirondacks and proven methods to reduce road salt application; and it is further

AGREED that the undersigned Towns, Village and Counties intend to designate sections of public roads as "Priority Abatement Areas" where roads are located along or in close proximity to Adirondack Lakes and/or tributaries that are determined to be critical runoff areas impacting water quality; and it is further

AGREED that the undersigned Towns, Village and Counties will participate in an annual “Road Salt Summit” to discuss new technologies, application methods, best management practices and research aimed at minimizing the usage of road salt for winter maintenance and de-icing; and it is further

AGREED that the undersigned Towns, Village and Counties will together achieve road salt reductions that through ongoing scientific monitoring; and it is further

AGREED that this Memorandum of Understanding may be signed in counterparts.

Offered by Councilwoman Ploss, seconded by Councilwoman Rumrill

Ayes: 5 **Rice, Fogarty, Perkins, Ploss, Rumrill**

Nays: 0

NEW BUSINESS:

The Stratford/Fulton County transfer station system was discussed. Supervisor Rice wanted the public to know that for every \$100,000 their property is assessed, that they pay less than \$14 + \$2 per decal to use our transfer station. The \$2.00 decal cost barely reimburses the town for the printing cost. Supervisor Rice stated other townships pay \$10 or more for their decals. TC VanDenburgh stated she would like to see clearer guidelines for 2019 stickers, as many camps have requested 4-5 stickers. She would like the board to consider a limit of 2 stickers per household in 2019.

CONTINUATION ON COUNTY CONTRACT ASSESSING PROPOSAL: No Board Member offered a motion to support the “Resolution requesting that the Board of Supervisors create a property valuation unit within the Fulton County RPTSA to perform contracted assessing at the option of Local Assessing Units.”

Supervisor Rice adjourned the meeting at 8:53pm without further motions.

-Heather VanDenburgh, Town Clerk

REGULAR MEETING
July 12, 2018
AGENDA

1. Call to order
2. Correspondence
3. Reports
 - Highway Superintendent
 - ✓ Email about West Shore Road
 - Codes Enforcer
 - Assessor
 - Dog Control Officer
 - BTI Director
 - Supervisor's report
 - ✓ Shared services: Assessment, tax collection software, LED street lighting
4. Resolution to endorse contract assessing by county
5. Resolution to contract with Strategic Labor Services, Inc.
6. Retirement calendars
7. Town barn - letter from State Senator Tedisco
8. Broadband
9. Financial report
10. Monthly budget update report
11. Payment of bills
12. Public speaking
13. Old Business
 - Kitchen floor Estimate from Pohlly
 - Pledge to reduce road salt resolution
14. New Business
 - Transfer station decals
15. Adjournment

Highway Report 7/10/18

CUT shoulders on STEWART Landing RD. And
EAST Shore And West Shore

PUT culvert pipe on STEWART Landing RD

CUT Bausch on Stone paved RD

Did Ditching on STEWART Landing RD from
Down up to Dead End in spot

Had Ben pulling Bower Pass's out

Mowed Cemetery Town Hall And Town Park
And Town Barn

Had Ben working shoulder machine on BELTS

And O'Hall Bousch Run in

CAT Bausch on Mike Smith RD.

PUT Dead End sign up on STEWART Landing RD

And put up 25 mph on curve sign's

put up 15 mph on West Shore RD

Superintendent *Charles Jordan*

Ceo report.

June 12th - July 9th

5 inspections

4 meetings

Issued 7 permits- septic system, 3
renewals, camp, deck, garage, addition

Issued 1 c of c

Issued 1 appearance ticket.

School 1 day

many calls

Town Of Stratford DCO Report For

June 14, 2018 to July 11, 2018

1. I handed in my report late last month.
2. Had a notice of a cat bite and followed Fulton County Public protocol.
3. Went to court for a dog control violation. It is rescheduled for the 17th of this month. This will be the third time for this case.
4. On the 29th of June the cat bite case was closed.
5. I received a call about 2 dogs running at large at 9:30 pm. I went looking and was unable to find them. I then received a call at 12am that one dog was found. I picked it up. The next day I was informed that the owner lived on Mallett hill road. I went to their residence and saw the other dog was home. I asked if the dogs had current rabies and if they were licensed. Rabies up to date, licenses were not. Per protocol I had to take the one dog to Brennan. The owner went to the town clerk and licensed both. Then went and picked up their dog at Brennan.
6. I have gone to the house on County Highway 104 to check the status of the last French Mastiff. No one was at home. I will continue to go and will leave a notice to contact me with an update.
7. I made several phone calls to residents on dog control issues. License, Kennel permits. Hope to have all resolved by August.
8. The rest of the month was quiet.

Town Of Stratford DCO

Karen Jaquay

BTI

1. Not finding larvae. We were done treating on June 30th for this year.
2. I will update the Board on this years activity when I finish compiling all the information for the November DEC report
3. Our Aquatic Insect Permit is good until April 7, 2020.