

**State of New York
County of Fulton
Town of Stratford REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
Municipal Building, 120 Piseco Road
December 12th, 2019**

Present:

Alicia Rice	Supervisor
Allan Perkins	Councilman
Lorraine Rumrill	Councilwoman
Charles Goodwin	Highway Superintendent
Heather VanDenburgh	Town Clerk
Norman Wright	Code Enforcement Officer
Moira Marshall	Town Historian

Absent:

Richard Fogarty	Councilman
Joan Ploss	Councilwoman
Michael Sokira	BTI Director
Karen Jaquay	Dog Control Officer
David Galarneau	Sole Assessor

Number of Residents in Attendance: 10

Supervisor Rice called the Regular Board Meeting to order at 6:30pm with the Pledge of Allegiance.

PROCLAMATION FOR STRATFORD VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY 60 YEAR ANNIVERSARY

WHEREAS, the Town of Stratford has a proud heritage of many citizens who have volunteered their time and talents to help the town and friends and neighbors in need; and

WHEREAS, today the Town of Stratford is proud to recognize the Stratford Volunteer Fire Company on their 60 Year Anniversary, and express appreciation for the countless times throughout those years that they have put themselves in harm's way for the benefit of others; and

WHEREAS, the Stratford Volunteer Fire Company was established in 1959 by a dedicated group of citizens concerned that the Town needed a volunteer fire department to help neighbors in need; and

WHEREAS, the charter members of the Stratford Volunteer Fire Company built a strong foundation which developed into an organization that has served the community in a myriad of ways, with selfless volunteers willing to respond at a moment's notice to whatever emergency arises; and

WHEREAS, these volunteers not only give of their time to respond to emergencies, but they also commit themselves to hours of training in order to better serve the public in their time of need; and

WHEREAS, these volunteers are committed to answering the call to all kinds of emergencies, from storm damage to vehicle accidents to fires; and

WHEREAS, as the Stratford Volunteer Fire Company is celebrating its 60 years of service to the community which they serve, they will undoubtedly face any emergency with the courage and selflessness that the residents in Stratford have witnessed on countless occasions throughout their long history;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town of Stratford congratulates the Stratford Volunteer Fire Company on their 60 Year Anniversary, and sincerely thank all of the volunteers for their commitment to protecting the citizens in the community they serve.

PROCLAMATION FOR ALLAN PERKINS, CHARTER MEMBER OF THE STRATFORD VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY

WHEREAS the Town of Stratford, New York, takes great pride in acknowledging significant contributions by its residents; and

WHEREAS Allan Perkins has made such significant contributions, serving this community faithfully for many years; and

WHEREAS Allan Perkins has served as a volunteer firefighter since nineteen hundred fifty-nine, serving this community during countless emergencies;

WHEREAS Allan Perkins is a charter member of the Stratford Volunteer Fire Company founded in nineteen hundred fifty-nine, and has served as its president for many years to the present; and

WHEREAS Allan Perkins was also a founding member of the Southern Adirondack Fire Prevention Team, the fire company's commitment to fire prevention education, has served on the team for more than 35 years and continues to do so;

WHEREAS Allan Perkins has devoted 60 years to using his firefighting knowledge and expertise to serve the residents of Stratford and to sharing that knowledge and expertise with the many volunteer firefighters who have served with him;

WHEREAS Allan Perkins has shown remarkable dedication and commitment to the roles he has undertaken in the community, tirelessly serving the Town of Stratford;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT, on this twelfth day of December, 2019, as we recognize the sixtieth anniversary of the Stratford Volunteer Fire Company, the Town Board and the residents of the Town of Stratford do hereby take this opportunity to honor Allan Perkins in grateful appreciation for his devoted service to the community.

CORRESPONDANCE: BOCES Drug and Alcohol Program changed their billing system again, and will be returning to their previous billing practice. Tests will be billed as performed.

Highway Superintendent Goodwin's report was reviewed by the Town Board (See attached) Supt. Goodwin is working with Fulton County to pursue a DEC permit to allow him to cross the East Canada Creek. Engineer Andy Bell was able to evaluate Windfall Bridge. The new plow truck went to Syracuse to outfit it with plowing equipment, with an anticipated in-service date of March 2020. Supt. Goodwin stated that it "looks positive" for the snowmobile trails to be open this season even with all of the bridge damage. Edick to Powley Rd. is open, Hawes Road is open, and Powley/Piseco will be half open to snowmobilers. We have yet to receive information from FEMA. CHIPS funding is due after December 16th, and we are anticipating \$220,000. It was suggested by Super. Rice to put Highway Dept. repairs/DASNY grant on hold until we understand how the reimbursement process works with FEMA. We will have to pay for repairs first and FEMA will reimburse us, which could become costly.

Code Enforcement Officer Wright's report was reviewed by the Town Board (See attached).

Dog Control Officer Jaquay's report was reviewed by the Town Board (See attached).

There is no BTI report this month.

Town Historian Moira Marshall verbally conveyed her report this month. The donation policy she presented to the Board in November will be discussed in January.

Justice Arena’s report for this month was reviewed by the Town Board.

Assessor Galarneau’s report for this month was reviewed by the Town Board. (See attached)

Town Clerk VanDenburgh had nothing to report this month. Tax season begins January 1, 2020.

Supervisor’s Report: Supervisor Rice wishes to acknowledge, thank, and/or congratulate the following people that she has worked with during her tenure:

- Leigh Anne Loucks, previous Assessor and newly appointed Assessor David Galarneau.
- Carolyn Walker, previous Historian and newly appointed Historian Moira Marshall.
- Dominic Arena, appointed Justice until 12/31/19 and newly elected Justice Nicholas Rissmeyer.
- Charles Goodwin, current Highway Superintendent until 12/31/19 and highway employee for 44 years, and newly elected Highway Superintendent Lawrence Staring.
- Michael Sokira, for running the BTI program and being our “map man.”
- Richard Fogarty, current councilman until 12/31/19 and newly elected councilwoman Tiffany Rutkowski.
- Diana Massicotte, previous Town Clerk and current Deputy Clerk
- Heather VanDenburgh, current Town Clerk until 12/31/19 and newly elected Town Supervisor.

Super. Rice is currently investigating whether it is cheaper to cover employees with a NYMIR Governmental Crime insurance policy rather than a fidelity bond. We also have 5 town computers that will need anti-virus software and a more clarified policy for use of town technology.

Financial Report

Super. Rice stated that the Highway Department fund is depleted, but we are awaiting a \$220,000 CHIPS reimbursement check within a week or two, and more money will be forthcoming once the 2020 tax season begins.

DECEMBER ABSTRACTS:

2019 GENERAL FUND	VOUCHERS 122-130	\$ 3,828.56
2019 PREPAID FUND	VOUCHERS 141-158	\$ 8,735.16
2019 HIGHWAY FUND	VOUCHERS 139-152	\$ 35,281.85

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

3 AYES Rice, Perkins, Rumrill

0 NAYS

2 ABSENT Fogarty, Ploss

PUBLIC SPEAKING: Commenced at 7:14pm

Lawrence Staring thanked Superintendent Goodwin for all of his help. G. Rumrill asked a question about Voorhees Road.

PUBLIC SPEAKING: Closed at 7:20pm

OLD BUSINESS: Council. Rumrill questioned Super. Rice about the status of the street lights and their conversion to LED lights. Super. Rice stated she is attempting to get National Grid to fix their mistake and will contact the Public Service Commission if they do not install the LED lights as promised.

NEW BUSINESS: NO NEW BUSINESS.

With all business concluded, on a motion from Councilwoman Rumrill and seconded by Councilman Perkins, the December 2019 regular meeting was adjourned at 7:22pm.

3 AYES **Rice, Perkins, Rumrill**

0 NAYS

2 ABSENT **Fogarty, Ploss**

-Heather VanDenburgh, Town Clerk