

**State of New York
County of Fulton
Town of Stratford REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
Municipal Building, 120 Piseco Road
January 9, 2020**

Present:

Heather VanDenburgh	Supervisor
Allan Perkins	Councilman
Lorraine Rumrill	Councilwoman
Joan Ploss	Councilwoman
Tiffany Rutkowski	Councilwoman
Lawrence Staring	Highway Superintendent
Diana Massicotte	Town Clerk
Norman Wright	Code Enforcement Officer
Karen Jaquay	Dog Control Officer
Moira Marshall	Town Historian

Absent:

Michael Sokira	BTI Director
David Galarneau	Sole Assessor

Residents in Attendance: Gary Rumrill, Melanie Staring, Jay Pierz, Dave Marshall, Peter and Mary Szczebak, Helen Neet, Judith Dopp, and Ben Rutkowski.

Supervisor VanDenburgh called the Regular Board Meeting to order at 6:31pm with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Correspondence

There was an invitation from MOVAC to the Town Board Members and Town Clerk and guests to their annual banquet on January 14 at the Mohawk American Legion. RSVP to Chief Donald Kane.

Highway Superintendent Staring's report was reviewed by the Town Board

The trucks have been out plowing and sanding 7 out of 9 days I have been on the job, Saturday and Sunday were the other 2 days.

Cleaning light fixtures in garage, breaking up chunks in sand pile and mixing some salt during hours not involved with S&I.

Charlie had worked out a deal with the Town of Arietta to take over the rental of a bulldozer when they finished with it on the Piseco Road. With that machine and the town excavator, the road was made passable for snowmobiles and 4 wheelers. Much more work will be required in the spring. The machine was rented for one week @ \$850.00

Cummins Northeast is working on a rebuild of the ECM on the 2002 Freightliner. This should put the truck back in service.

Supervisor VanDenburgh stated that the USDA Grant confirmation was received Tom Bielli, District Conservationist and Blake Glover, State Conservationist. We will continue our assistance

to the town by providing a damage survey report and cost estimate. Will contact us when ready for that step so we can accompany them on the site visits.

We have two avenues for Voorhees Road which can work in conjunction with one another, the USDA Grant between the property owners at the bottom of the hill and the statement of repair versus mitigation. This will be a mitigation because the road itself is intact. The landslide damages next to it will be mitigated. FEMA will take care of all other repairs to roads, bridges, etc.

Code Enforcement Officer Wright's report was reviewed by the Town Board.

The report dated from December 10 through January 6 stated there was one inspection, one meeting and a few calls. One gentleman called and said there was a sign on his property that it was for sale. Code Enforcement Officer Wright suggested that when looking at property be sure that it really is for sale. Time sheet was attached.

Dog Control Officer Jaquay's report was reviewed by the Town Board.

The report dated from December 12, 2019 to January 8, 2020 as follows;

I received only one call at the start of January. It was from a concerned resident about some dogs that they thought were abandoned. I made some calls and found the owners. I arranged to meet with them at their Stratford residence. Both dogs were fat and healthy. With dishes filled with food and water. The owner is driving back and forth daily to feed and care for these animals. Their new residence is in the Town of Dolgeville. They are moving the dogs by this weekend to their new residence.

The rest of the month I have been on call.

The was no BTI report this month.

There was no report from Judge Rissmeyer as the office is in transition.

Town Historian Moira Marshall

A motion was offered by Councilwoman Ploss, seconded by Councilwoman Rumrill, to approve and adopt the Historical Collections Management Policy presented by Moira.

5 AYES VanDenburgh, Perkins, Rumrill, Ploss and Rutkowski
0 NAYS

Town Clerk Massicotte stated she had started collecting taxes, transfer station permits and dog licensing.

Supervisor's Report: Supervisor VanDenburgh stated she purchased the QuickBooks software for \$300 which she is not asking for reimbursement but hopes it will be included in the budget for next year. She will slowly migrate our system over to QuickBooks. She asked for a motion to purchase some checks to see her through until the system is in place.

A motion was offered by Councilwoman Rumrill, seconded by Councilman Perkins, to approve purchasing checks for the system not to exceed \$300 for all accounts.

5 AYES
0 NAYS

VanDenburgh, Perkins, Rumrill, Ploss and Rutkowski

Annual Report to Town Council from Donald Vedder, Fire Chief

For the year 2019, the Stratford Volunteer Fire Company handled a total of 31 incidents as follows:

- 17 incidents of trees down, many across power lines
 - 1 chimney fire
 - 8 EMS assistance calls
 - 3 motor vehicle accidents
 - 1 bridge flooding
 - 1 automatic alarm

The 17 incidents of trees down involved multiple locations and many manhours spent cutting up trees and moving them out of town and state roads to open them to traffic and marking downed power lines with safety cones.

Since November the Fulton County 911 Center is dispatching our company to all EMS calls within the township to assist with manpower and often guide ambulances to the incidents.

Supervisor VanDenburgh stated that it is mandatory for the town to bond the Justice. The bond we now carry only covers the Supervisor and the Town Clerk. We paid the fidelity bond through Mainstream America, the Justice will be added.

Supervisor VanDenburgh checked our antivirus and antimalware on the Supervisor's computer and found a few things in it and so she put malware bytes on it. She found a sale on malware for five licenses for the year for \$80. It monitors all the computers 24/7 in the background.

Financial Report

Three vouchers each for Nationalgrid and Verizon were lost in the mail. New checks were issued. If checks come through, it will show as a credit on the next bill.

Supervisor VanDenburgh reported that she received the sales tax money back (\$56.48) for the Assessor's computer. This has been ongoing since September.

DECEMBER ABSTRACTS:

2019 GENERAL FUND	VOUCHERS 131-138	\$ 2,635.47
2019 PREPAID FUND	VOUCHERS 159-171	\$ 2,824.55
2019 HIGHWAY FUND	VOUCHERS 153-163	\$ 8,546.69

END OF YEAR ABSTRACT:

2020 GENERAL FUND	VOUCHERS 1 - 8	\$ 8,091.16
2020 PREPAID FUND	VOUCHERS 1 - 7	\$ 5,398.40
2020 HIGHWAY FUND	VOUCHERS 1 - 4	\$ 2,000.00

A motion was offered by Councilwoman Ploss, seconded by Councilwoman Rumrill, to approve the payment of end of year and January 2020 vouchers.

5 AYES
0 NAYS

VanDenburgh, Perkins, Rumrill, Ploss, Rutkowski

PUBLIC SPEAKING: Commenced at 7:10pm

A resident expressed a concern regarding the old Helterline sawmill on Rt 104, when would it be cleaned up. Code Enforcement Wright said he would check it out. The property on Route 29A is in court.

Allicia Rice announced that there would be a school meeting here in Stratford on Wednesday, January 15 at 6:00. Jessica Radley will be running the meeting. The discussion will be regarding the Capital Project which will not affect taxes. All will be explained at the meeting.

A resident asked whether the Hawes Road Bridge was inspected. Superintendent Staring said there was an engineer that looked at it and gave them recommendations how to fix it. There is an Engineer report on all the bridges.

Councilwoman Rutkowski asked about Highway fund. Chips money was carried over to 2020. Asked about Barn repairs. Money will be used for repair of bridges. When money is reimbursed it will go to barn repairs.

Broadband should be installed by the end of the year.

Resident asked about house being built on the other side of Hawes Road. Owner said town was responsible. The town is under no obligation to fix road.

Judy Dopp said it was good to see young faces on the Board.

PUBLIC SPEAKING: Closed at 7:20pm

OLD BUSINESS: Supervisor VanDenburgh plans to call Nationalgrid regarding the Led lights.

NEW BUSINESS: Supervisor VanDenburgh and Superintendent Staring will be going over to County Management Emergency Office to discuss the FEMA. Will know better how much money we will have when we see what FEMA and the state are going to cover.

Supervisor VanDenburgh said she would like to have the books of the Town Clerk and Justice audited Tuesday, January 14, 2020 if ok with Board. Town Clerk will post information.

With all business concluded, on a motion from Councilwoman Rumrill and seconded by Councilman Ploss, the December 2020 regular meeting was adjourned at 7:27pm.

5 AYES
0 NAYS

VanDenburgh, Perkins, Rumrill, Ploss and Rutkowski

Diana Massicotte, Town Clerk