

**State of New York
County of Fulton
Town of Stratford**

Minutes of the Stratford Regular Board meeting held on Thursday, December 10, 2020 at the municipal building located at 120 Piseco Rd.

Present:

Heather VanDenburgh	---	Supervisor
Allan Perkins	---	Councilman
Joan Ploss	---	Councilwoman
Tiffany Rutkowski	---	Councilwoman
Lorraine Rumrill	---	Councilwoman, arrived at 6:37 pm
Lawrence Staring	---	Highway Superintendent
Norman Wright	---	Code Enforcement Officer
Karen Jaquay	---	Dog Control Officer
Michael Albanese	---	Town Attorney, arrived at 6:40 pm
Diana Massicotte	---	Town Clerk

Absent:

Michael Sokira	---	BTI Director
David Galarneau	---	Sole Assessor
Moira Marshall	---	Town Historian

Residents in Attendance: Assemblyman Robert Smullen, Allicia Rice, Gary Rumrill, Peter and Mary Szczebak, and Melanie Staring.

Supervisor VanDenburgh called the regular meeting to order at 6:33 pm with the Pledge to the Flag.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Letter from the Association of Towns Annual Business Meeting Delegation, Gerald Geist, Executive Director, which read in part “I’m writing to remind your town to assign a delegate (and an alternate) to attend our Annual Business Meeting with the purpose of electing the president, five vice presidents and voting on the Association’s annual legislative platform.”

Received notice for virtual educational and networking event for 2021 Annual Meeting & Training School on February 14 – 17, 2021.

REPORTS:

Highway Superintendent Staring read his report as follows:

Finished winter sand hauling.
Patched large holes several roads.
Cut limbs and brush as needed.

Got all trucks set up for plowing.
Out twice plowing and sanding.
Repaired many problems on truck 8, Air Dryer not working, replaced.
Overheating, replaced thermostat and fan clutch.
Plow lift not working properly, parts are on order to fix.
Truck 9 went down with an oil leak last night, it was repaired this morning.
Weekly conference calls continue with FEMA, the three Edick Road Projects are working their way through the review process.
The Blacktop Project is going through review also.
I am finishing up the paperwork to submit the bridge project and the road project for Piseco Road.
We need to get an engineer involved with the Voorhees Road slide.

Superintendent Staring said he would talk to Bell regarding Voorhees Road slide.

Code Enforcement Officer Wright reports:

November 10 – December 7
Four Inspections
Issued two Certificate of Compliance
Many calls

Assessor's report for November reads as follows:

November 6 – Return phone calls. In field picking up new construction, entering new inventory on the database and changing assessments where necessary. Made two address changes.

November 20 – No calls received. Sorted file drawer worth of documents for disposal or retention. Entered change of address and continued work on building permits. Phone meeting with County Real Property Director about grievance times, sales, exemption renewals.

November 21 – No calls expected. Will report if messages received.

Dog Control Officer Jaquay read her report as follows:

November 12 – December 9
I received a call from the Town of Oppenheim DCO. He was out of town and needed assistance in picking up a stray and transporting it to Brennan. I was able to capture the stray and transport it the next day.

I received 2 calls from a resident complaining about a stray at their home on two different occasions. I found the owner and issued two separate appearance tickets. The owner will appear in January 2021 to answer charges pertaining to the charges.

I had one call about a dog without shelter out 24/7. Went to address and saw nothing. Will monitor.

I had a resident call about a lost dog. I was notified the dog returned home.

I had a call about a dog bite incident. Checked condition of dog and advised owner that the dog must be quarantined for 10 days and only the owner was to have contact with his dog till the end of quarantine.

The rest of the month was quiet.

Supervisor VanDenburgh advised DCO Jaquay that the door hangers were ordered.

BTI Director Michael Sokira no report

Judge Rissmeyer submitted a copy of his monthly report showing activity of \$568.00.

Town Historian No report.

Town Clerk Massicotte reported she received a letter from the Fulton County Solid Waste stating that electronics would not be accepted at the Transfer Station, electronics would have to go to Mud Road.

Clerk Massicotte stated that the resident whose dogs were boarded at Brennan has been paying the monthly invoice.

Supervisor's Report

Supervisor VanDenburgh asked Board if she could give the go ahead to install Verizon Fiber installation regarding the lines coming into the building.

Motion made by Councilwoman Ploss, seconded by Councilman Perkins to give permission to Supervisor to go ahead with the fiber installation with Verizon.

ADOPTED Ayes – 5 VanDenburgh, Ploss, Rutkowski, Rumrill and Perkins
Nays – 0

Motion made by Councilwoman Rutkowski, seconded by Councilwoman Ploss to add the dates and amounts of checks from FEMA to Resolution 32-2020.

ADOPTED Ayes – 5 VanDenburgh, Ploss, Rutkowski, Rumrill and Perkins
Nays – 0

RESOLUTION 32-2020 - revised

RESOLUTION TO ACCEPTANCE OF FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AND FROM DAMAGES PERTAINING TO THE OCTOBER 31, 2019 STORM

WHEREAS, the Stratford Town Board hereby accepts the following check amounts from FEMA pertaining to the damages that have been repaired thus far from the October 31, 2019 storm:

June 30, 2020	\$ 4,360.85	
September 14, 2020	\$ 9,923.40	
October 2, 2020	\$14,233.35	
Total amount		\$28,517.60

Offered by: Supervisor VanDenburgh, seconded by Councilwoman Rumrill

ADOPTED Ayes - 5 VanDenburgh, Ploss, Rutkowski, Rumrill and Perkins
 Nays – 0

Supervisor VanDenburgh announced that NYMIR Online University – Cyber Security Training for Supervisor, Clerk, and Assessor is required for insurance.

FINANCIAL REPORT

RESOLUTION 33-2020

RESOLUTION FOR THE FOLLOWING BUDGET TRANSFERS

WHEREAS, the Stratford Town Board hereby approves the following budget transfers to amend for appropriations to be paid as described below:

DA9730.6, Debt Principal BAN	\$2,290.40	DA9730.7, Debt Interest BAN	\$2,290.40
DA5142.1, Snow Removal PS	\$2,388.94	DA9730.7, Debt Interest BAN	\$2,388.94
DA500, Highway Fund Balance	\$4,825.00	DA5120.4, Bridges Contractual	\$4,825.00
A1450.4, Elections Contractual	\$2,079.09	A1620.1, Building PS	\$ 250.00
		A1110.4, Justice Contractual	\$ 17.80
		A1010.4, Town Board Contractual	\$ 200.00
		A1910.4, Unallocated Insur Contract	\$ 348.23
		A8160.4, Refuse & Garbage Contract	\$1,263.06
A1410.4, Town Clerk Contractual	\$ 500.00	A1340.4, Tax Collection Contract	\$ 500.00

Offered by: Supervisor VanDenburgh, seconded by Councilwoman Rutkowski

ADOPTED Ayes - 5 VanDenburgh, Ploss, Rutkowski, Rumrill and Perkins
 Nays – 0

Quickbooks monthly budget update report given to Board.

Mortgage Tax received - \$5,430.10.

AUDIT OF CLAIMS

Motion made by Councilwoman Ploss, seconded by Supervisor VanDenburgh to approve the December bills.

ADOPTED Ayes – 5 VanDenburgh, Ploss, Rutkowski, Rumrill and Perkins
 Nays – 0

2020 General Fund	Voucher Nos. 141 - 152	\$ 6,345.85
2020 Prepaid Fund	Voucher Nos. 84 - 91	\$24,909.69
2020 Highway Fund	Voucher Nos. 98 - 108	\$29,452.20

PUBLIC SPEAKING

Public Speaking opened at 6:59. Podium set up for speakers, each speaker allowed five minutes. Council members can discuss but not required to respond.

Gary Rumrill asked about assessments and Small Claims Court. Attorney Albanese stated that the judge has the power to adjust assessment claims. The town board has no say in the matter.

Peter Szczebak asked if we could keep our old phone number and would we get a discount if power went out. Supervisor VanDenburgh stated that that would be between the resident and Verizon.

Assemblyman Smullen talked about COVID regarding schools, telecommunicating and commerce. There are some structural problems with budget. Federal government is working on the stimulus package, hopefully will pass by end of year. It is borrowed money. Will negotiate in Albany regarding budget cuts to make budget balance. There will be a major push next year to install broadband through upstate New York. Assemblyman Smullen made it clear that upstate New York needs the broadband for school, medical and business and he is pushing to accomplish this.

Supervisor VanDenburgh asked about a cell tower in our area. Assemblyman Smullen stated there are some issues with APA regarding towers in the Park.

Public speaking closed at 7:20 pm.

OLD BUSINESS

Councilwoman Rutkowski stated that there were 19 homes that signed up for the lights contest. Judging will be held on December 19. The ride around town to see lights is about 45 minutes. First prize will be \$50 at Stratford store. She wished everyone a Merry Christmas.

NEW BUSINESS

Supervisor VanDenburgh suggested that the meetings in January will be closed to the public because of COVID. The Reorganization meeting will be held on January 6, 2021 at 6:30 and the Regular meeting will be held January 14, 2021 at 6:30.

Motion made by Supervisor VanDenburgh, seconded by Councilwoman Ploss to close the January meetings.

ADOPTED Ayes – 5 VanDenburgh, Ploss, Rutkowski, Rumrill and Perkins
 Nays – 0

With no further business, on a motion by Supervisor VanDenburgh,, seconded by Councilwoman Ploss, the meeting was adjourned at 7:32 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Diana Massicotte, Town Clerk