

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

Minutes of the Stratford Regular Board meeting held on Thursday, May 8, 2021 at the municipal building located at 120 Piseco Rd.

Present:

Heather VanDenburgh	---	Supervisor
Allan Perkins	---	Councilman
Tiffany Rutkowski	---	Councilwoman
Joan Ploss	---	Councilwoman
Lawrence Staring	---	Highway Superintendent
Norman Wright	---	Code Enforcement Officer
Michael Albanese	---	Town Attorney
Lawrence Neely	---	Town Clerk
Michael Sokira	---	BTI Director
Moirra Marshall	---	Town Historian
Lorraine Rumrill	---	Councilwoman.
Karen Jaquay	---	Dog Control Officer

Absent:

David Galarneau	---	Sole Assessor
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Residents in Attendance: Six.

Supervisor VanDenburgh called the regular meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. with the Pledge to the Flag. She noted that the meeting was also broadcast on YouTube from a link on the township’s home page. She also noted the passing of Leo Aulbin’s wife.

CORRESPONDENCE: None

REPORTS:

Highway Dept.:

Highway Superintendent Staring reported town crews dealt with two weather events requiring salting and/or plowing during April. Crews also raked the seasonal roads and made some repairs.

The Highway 284 agreement between the Town Supervisor, Highway Superintendent and Town Council members and the County Superintendent was reviewed. It calls for the resurfacing of portions of Seeley, Piseco, Vorhees and Powerhouse roads; repair or replacement of four culverts and general repairs to 16 miles of town roadways. In addition to local funds and state funding with FEMA reimbursing 75% of the cost of repairs to previous storm events

RESOLUTION #17-2021

APPROVAL OF HIGHWAY 284 AGREEMENTS

Resolved, that the Stratford Town Board approves the Highway 284 Agreement for 2021.

Offered by Town Supervisor VanDenburgh, seconded by Councilwoman Ploss

AYES – 5 NAYS - 0

The Highway Superintendent said he had obtained to estimates for a used hydraulic thumb drive for the excavator. He said the price quote of \$5,545 from the vendor that sold the town the excavator was the lowest and the other price quote was \$7,000. He said town employees could install it and with misc. parts the total cost would be closer to \$6,000. It was the consensus of the board that the purchase would be appropriate, but he would need to follow purchasing policy and obtain at least 2 estimates.

RESOLUTION #18-2021
PURCHASE OF THUMB DRIVE

Resolved, that the Stratford Town Board authorizes the purchase of a used thumb drive for the excavator by the Town Highway Superintendent for the amount of \$5,545 from Montano.

Offered by Town Supervisor VanDenburgh, seconded by Councilman Ploss Allen

AYES – 5

NAYS - 0

The Highway Superintendent said he still is pursuing finding a used hot box and used roller.

Code Enforcement Officer Wright:

During the month of April he attended two meetings, issued three building permits (a swimming pool, pole barn and porch roof) and handled a few calls. He said he Man 3 inspections, accompanied the dog control officer on one call and handled many phone calls.

Assessor’s report for April:

April 2 (2-7:15 p.m.) – Spent most of his time in the field looking at new construction

April 3 (8-9:30 a.m.) – (at home only) No calls received.

April 16 – Did not work due to death in the family

April 17 (8-9:30 a.m.) – (at home only) No calls received.

April 24 (8:15 a.m. – 11:45 a.m.) – Completed new construction inventory and valuation. Entered requested address changes and responded to a taxpayer request for an assessment review.

April 30 (2-7 p.m.) Published a Tentative Assessment Roll. Sign the oath and made a copy of roll for the town clerk. Mailed out all change of assessment notices.

He noted he will be conduction property inspections throughout the township.

BTI Director:

He reported completing the updating of maps to reflect landowners’ decisions about access to creeks and posted them. Ordered and received 20 gallons of VectoBac 12AS. Most of the creeks on his list have treated at least once. They are finding a lot of larvae in the water. They will continue to monitor the water and treat as needed

Dog Control Officer:

She reported spending 4 days trying to find a loose dog reported to be in poor condition near the Piseco Road campsite, but was unable to locate it.

Issued several appearance tickets and has been to court and will be returning to court later in the month.

She has two kennel permits issued with the inspections completed on one.

Received a call about a lost dog that was later found by the owner.

Answered a call about a beagle running at large. She found the dog and the caretaker and the dog was returned to its visiting owner.

Town Justice:

Judge Rissmeyer submitted a copy of his monthly report showing receipts of \$150.

Town Historian:

She reported handling several inquiries.

Town Clerk:

Clerk reported that Deputy Clerk Traci Cooper has resigned as deputy so he will be seeking a replacement.

Town Supervisor:

RESOLUTION# 19-2021

RESOLUTION TO APPOINT A BUILDING CLEANER AND DEPUTY CLEANER

Resolved, the Stratford Town Board appoints Nikki Harper as the new building cleaner

Motion to accept offered by Supervisor VanDenburgh, seconded by Councilwoman Ploss

ADOPTED Ayes - 5
Nays - 0

RESOLUTION# 20-2021

RESOLUTION TO APPOINT MICHAEL ALBANESE, ESQ. FOR CONTRACT NEGOTIATIONS

Resolved, that the Stratford Town Board appoints Michael Albanese, Esq. as the representative for the Town of Stratford regarding contract negotiations with members of the Stratford Highway Department;

It is further resolved, that Mr. Albanese will be paid the agreed upon flat rate of \$3,000.00 for contract negotiations and a rate of \$150.00 per hour for mediation services.

Motion to accept offered by Councilwoman Rutkowski, seconded by Supervisor VanDenburgh

ADOPTED Ayes - 5
Nays - 0

The Supervisor reported that she had been informed that the repaving of a portion of County Road 119 had been moved up to this year.

Also, the Supervisor reported the town had received a settlement of \$10,000 from NYMIR, its insurance agent, regarding the collapse of the gazebo on the Community Center Ground. She also noted that Rob Daley had expressed an interest in removing the remnants of the gazebo at no cost the town and she had discussed the possibility with the Town Attorney who opined that the town should obtain a signed a hold harmless agreement to relieve the town of any responsibility of damages or injury during the removal.

RESOLUTION# 21-2021

RESOLUTION TO ALLOW ROB DALEY TO REMOVE THE OLD GAZEBO

Whereas the gazebo on the Town of Stratford Community Center lawn has collapsed and is damaged beyond repair and needs to be removed to eliminate the hazard and Rob Daley has to agreed to remove the remnants from the site at no cost to the town in exchange for the scrap lumber and has agreed to hold the town harmless in the event of an injury or damages stemming from the removal, the Stratford Town Council accepts his offer.

Motion to accept offered by Supervisor VanDenburgh, seconded by Councilwoman Ploss

ADOPTED Ayes - 5
Nays – 0

The Supervisor reported that the first quarter sales tax receipts were \$74,699.60 and increase of \$6,330.41 or 9.3% over the first quarter of the previous year’s receipts.

The QuickBooks monthly budget update was given to the Board by the Supervisor.

AUDIT OF CLAIMS

Motion made by Councilman Perkins, seconded by Councilwoman Rumrill to approve payment of May’s bills.

May 2021 General Fund	Voucher Nos. 30 – 41	\$ 3,745.90
May 2021 Prepaid Fund	Voucher Nos. 31 – 37	\$ 3,651.89
May 2021 Highway Fund	Voucher Nos. 30 - 41	\$ ---5,794.08

ADOPTED Ayes – 5
Nays – 0

PUBLIC SPEAKING:

Several people spoke about the need to honor the contributions of time and talent by longtime residents of the community. Liz Barnes (?) spoke about the need for the adoption by the town of regulations governing the design and placement of fences in the town.

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS

Town Supervisor VanDenburgh suggested that the town replace the collapsed gazebo with a covered pavilion that could be made available for use by town residents. No decision was made.

Town Supervisor VanDenburgh suggested that the Town Council consider reversing its decision June 3, 2020 to close the community center to the public due to the COVID-19 pandemic in compliance with the CDC recommendations on a limited basis. A motion by Supervisor VanDenburgh, seconded by

Councilwoman Rumrill, to allow the Pleasant Lake Association to use the facility on July 3 and Sept. 11 with attendance not to exceed 50% capacity was approved unanimously. A motion by Supervisor VanDenburgh, seconded by Councilwoman Rutkowski, to allow the Stratford Senior Citizens to resume using the facility meetings so long as any food is picnic-style and there be no cooking in the kitchen, was approved unanimously.

With no further business, on a motion by Supervisor VanDenburgh, seconded by Councilwoman Ploss, the meeting was adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lawrence Neely, Town Clerk