

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

Minutes of the regular Stratford Town Board meeting held on Thursday, September 9, 2021 at the municipal building located at 120 Piseco Rd.

**Present:**

|                     |     |                          |
|---------------------|-----|--------------------------|
| Heather VanDenburgh | --- | Supervisor               |
| Allan Perkins       | --- | Councilman               |
| Tiffany Rutkowski   | --- | Councilwoman             |
| Joan Ploss          | --- | Councilwoman             |
| Lorraine Rumrill    | --- | Councilwoman             |
| Lawrence Staring    | --- | Highway Superintendent   |
| Lawrence Neely      | --- | Town Clerk               |
| Norman Wright       | --- | Code Enforcement Officer |
| Moira Marshall      | --- | Town Historian           |

**Absent:**

|                  |     |                     |
|------------------|-----|---------------------|
| Michael Albanese | --- | Town Attorney       |
| Michael Sokira   | --- | BTI Director        |
| Karen Jaquay     | --- | Dog Control Officer |
| David Galarneau  | --- | Town Assessor       |

**Residents in Attendance:** Five

Supervisor VanDenburgh called the regular meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. with the Pledge to the Flag.

**CORRESPONDENCE:** None

**REPORTS:**

**Highway Dept.:** Highway Superintendent Staring reported that the reprofiling and chip sealing on Seeley, Piseco and Powerhouse roads has been completed with the assistance of crews and trucks from Oppenheim, Ephratah, Johnstown and Salisbury. Stratford crews assisted in Oppenheim and Salisbury.

One drainage pipe on Mallett Hill Road that failed has been replaced, but there is another that also needs to be replaced. The Irish Settlement Road bridge has been repaired and the red flag from the state should be removed as soon as all the paperwork is completed.

The Ford and the Mack are back in service. The Ford had problems with the DEF system and Mack had the transmission and clutch replaced under warranty.

The FEMA calls continue. He is still awaiting the final design for Vorhees Road. There has been a price increase on the state contract price for the pipe sections and connecting bands needed to complete the Vorhees Road project. The state price has risen from \$21,775.07 to \$48,756.55, but the new price is considerably lower than the current retail price.

A motion by Supervisor VanDenburgh, seconded Councilwoman Ploss, to approve the purchase of the drain pipes under the state contract price was approved unanimously:

**ADOPTED** Ayes – 5  
Nays – 0

The superintendent also reported that the price for sand will be \$3.25/yard this year and the town will need 4,000 yards at a cost of \$13,000. A motion by Councilwoman Rumrill to approve the purchase of the sand, seconded by Supervisor VanDenburgh, was approved unanimously.

**ADOPTED** Ayes – 5  
Nays – 0

The superintendent also reported he had filled the mechanic position.

**Code Enforcement Officer:** During the month of August he reported attending one meeting, conducted three inspections and issued four building permits, including 2 for new garages and one new home. He reported handling many phone calls

**Town Assessor:** The Town Supervisor reported the town assessor had been out of town for most of the month. Councilwoman Rutkowski reported she attended the public meeting he had held on Sept. 3 for residents with questions or concerns about tax assessments and was pleased with the way the assessor had conducted the session

**Dog Control Officer:** The town supervisor reported that the DCO had issued two tickets for failure to license dogs during the past month.

**BTI Director:** Since the season had concluded there was nothing to report.

**Town Justice:** Judge Rissmeyer submitted a copy of his monthly report to the State Comptroller’s office.

**Town Historian:** She reported she will attend the Historian Convention in Oswego on Sept. 13-15. She said she is exploring what the Stratford Historical Society needs to do to become a non-profit organization. She said that would open the possibility of obtaining grants and other services available to non-profits. She said the Historical Society will meet on Sept. 27 at 6:30 p.m. and will be presenting a slide show of old photos of Stratford. Anyone interested is encouraged to attend

**Town Clerk:** Clerk reported has appointed Christopher Tesi who recently relocated to Stratford as his deputy clerk.

**Town Supervisor:**

**RESOLUTION #27-2021**

**RESOLUTION ACCEPTING FEMA AID FOR DAMAGES  
PERTAINING TO THE OCTOBER 31, 2019 STORM**

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

|                 |                  |              |
|-----------------|------------------|--------------|
| July 7, 2021    | Check # 08278042 | \$ 4,921.07  |
| July 7, 2021    | Check # 08307043 | \$ 19,305.33 |
| August 24, 2021 | Check # 08307043 | \$ 210.11    |

Deposit to: DA3960 – State Emergency Disaster Assistance -- \$24,346.51

**TOTAL YTD: \$375,360.27**

Motion to adopt offered by Supervisor VanDenburgh, seconded by Councilwoman Rutkowski was approved unanimously.

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

**FINANCIAL REPORT:**

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

**AUDIT OF CLAIMS:**

Motion made by Supervisor VanDenburgh, seconded by Councilwoman Rumrill, to approve payment of August’s bills.

|                             |                    |              |
|-----------------------------|--------------------|--------------|
| September 2021 General Fund | Voucher Nos. 69-73 | \$ 2,869.88  |
| September 2021 Prepaid Fund | Voucher Nos. 79-83 | \$ 2,094.40  |
| September 2021 Highway Fund | Voucher Nos. 79-90 | \$ 30,220.39 |

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

**PUBLIC SPEAKING:** The only person to speak was local contractor Don Vedder. He questioned why he has not been issued a building permit for the garage building that he applied for over 4 weeks ago. The Codes Officer Norman Wright said it was complicated situation. He said the design Vedder submitted does not provide the required setbacks and the lot is on 35 feet wide which creates drainage and snowfall questions that must be resolved. Wright said he is working with the property owner to help resolve the issue.

**OLD BUSINESS:** None

**NEW BUSINESS:**

The consensus of the Board members present was the next budget work sessions for the 2022 fiscal year would be held on Saturday, October 9.

With there being no further business to discuss, a motion by Supervisor VanDenburgh, seconded by Councilwoman Ploss, to adjourn the meeting was unanimously approved.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Lawrence Neely, Town Clerk